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## Attorney Mulls Options After Upland Criminal Case On Code Issue Fails

By Mark Gutglueck

The city of Upland on December 12 was rebuffed by San Bernardino Superior Court Judge Gerard Brown in its effort to criminalize an individual over a code enforcement matter. In this instance the individual cited and prosecuted was a lawyer with extensive holdings and resources within the

city. The grounds for the prosecution have been brought into doubt, and with the city's gambit to prosecute the matter as a criminal violation having failed, there now exists the possibility the city will face a potentially costly countersuit over the matter.

Because the lawyer is also the publisher of a local magazine and had



Marc Grossman

been active in supporting candidates for city

office during the last two election cycles, there are indicators of a political motivation behind the prosecution and the appearance that the city may have violated the lawyer's First Amendment Rights, as well.

Marc Grossman is an Upland native who set up his law practice in Upland in 1998. His firm handles personal

injury cases, family law, bankruptcies, general civil cases and criminal defense, practicing in both the state and federal courts. He has personally handled a number of noteworthy cases, the most recent and celebrated of which was his defense of Joseph Hall, the ten-year-old who shot and killed his father, Neo-Nazi Jef- See P 2

## Victorville Councilman Links Hit Pieces To BIA



Carlos Rodriguez

VICTORVILLE—Victorville City Councilman Jim Cox has linked his recently installed council colleague, Eric Negrete, to political attack ads that targeted councilman Jim Kennedy during this year's council race, which Cox characterized as false and which he said depicted the city and the remainder of the council in poor light.

The mailers took as their primary target Kennedy, an incumbent who was seeking reelection and who was ultimately successful in that bid. One of the mailers asserted that "Jim Kennedy is just wrong for Victorville." Kennedy was represented as being in favor of a "water rate increase" for the city's residents while favoring water subsidies for the Green Tree Golf Course, at which he was depicted golfing. "Taxpayers should bite the bullet and pay more," he was quoted as saying. The mailer implied that the city, under Kennedy's watch, had squandered, lost or otherwise misappropriated \$250 million, resulting in an "F.B.I. Probe." While the mailers, on their flip sides, promoted both Negrete and another candidate, Michael Stevens, both Negrete and Stevens were able to plausibly deny that they had anything to do with them in that they were put out by an See P 8

## County Ups Law Firm Contract In Suit To Recover Jail Construction Overruns

The county of San Bernardino this week increased by \$450,000 its existing \$250,000 contract with the law firm handling its lawsuit against the engineering firm it deems responsible for design flaws and excessive cost overruns on the smoke ventilation system at the High Desert Detention Center Project.

The county of San Bernardino experienced substantial cost overruns on the Adelanto Detention Center Project, which originally was a 706-inmate capacity facility owned and run by Maranatha Private Corrections, a part of the Moreland Family Trust. The Moreland Family Trust in April 2005 sold the prison, located on

9438 Commerce Way in Adelanto, to the county of San Bernardino for \$31.2 million. The county initially envisioned shouldering the lion's share of the cost of adding 1,392 new beds to the holding facility, but in March 2008 the board of supervisors approved the submittal of a proposal to the State Correction Standards Authority re-

questing available funding of up to \$100,000,000 to cover 75 percent of the cost to construct 1,368 additional jail beds at what was then dubbed the Adelanto Detention Center. In May 2008, the county was conditionally awarded the requested \$100 million for the expansion, and was ranked first on the list of public entities to be con-

ditionally awarded funds available under a state detention facility financing law, AB900. In July 2010, the board gave conceptual approval to the project and established the various obligations of the county, California Public Works Board, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as to the project's gen- See P 6

## \$158K More To Monitor Ground Contamination At Chino Airport

The county this week upped by \$158,000 its existing \$675,000 project budget for the ongoing installation of groundwater monitoring wells at the Chino Airport.

On August 5, 2014 the board of supervisors awarded a contract to Yellow Jacket Drilling

Services, LLC for the installation of thirty-two groundwater monitoring wells to determine the extent of the contami-

nation in the groundwater beneath the Chino Airport and to track the progress of future plume mitigation measures implemented as part of the ongoing groundwater assessment effort.

A host of chemicals and substances used and cavalierly handled in the past have resulted in soil contamination below and around the airfield, located at 7000 Merrill Avenue in Chino. See P 7

## Bids Rejected On Suicide/Escape Barriers At County Hospital Psychiatric Care Unit

The county board of supervisors this week rejected both bids received for the installation of safety and security barriers on the second floor balcony of the psychiatric ward at the county hospital in Colton.

The county's primary behavioral health facility is located on the second floor of the main county hospital campus, the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, a five

story structure at 400 North Pepper Avenue in Colton.

According to Carl Alban, the county's director of architecture and engineering, the "installation of security barrier fencing minimizes the risk of harm from falling or injury to patients able to access the second floor balcony and exterior east wall areas."

Accordingly, his department was looking

to complete such a project, having earmarked \$211,300 to complete the assignment. Alban estimated the county would need to spend \$15,700 on the design, another \$19,600 on project management and inspection and \$160,000 on construction, while setting aside a contingency of \$16,000. In April, the architecture and engineering department advertised for bids See P 6

## Comstock Becomes First Of Her Gender To Serve As Chino Police Chief

Karen Comstock was sworn in as Chino's first female police chief on Thursday, December 11. She replaced recently retired police chief Miles Pruitt.

Comstock began her career with the Chino Police Department in 1985 as a police explorer and then worked for the department as a cadet and as reserve officer. She graduated as a mem-



Karen Comstock

ber of the 102nd session of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy. In October 1990

she was hired as a police officer with Chino PD. In addition to serving as a police officer, Comstock held the posts of field training officer, patrol supervisor, detective bureau supervisor, and was a member of the crisis negotiations team. She has also worked as a detective in the criminal investigations bureau and in the background investigation unit assisting

with the recruitment and selection of department employees. Comstock served as a team leader and as commander of the department's mobile field force team. She was also assigned to the professional standards unit where she conducted internal investigations and supervised the operations of the evidence unit.

She was promoted to

the rank of lieutenant in January of 2007 and promoted to the rank of captain in November of 2009.

Raised in Chino, Comstock attended Doris Dickson Elementary, Ramona Junior High, and is a graduate from Don Antonio Lugo High School. She has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University See P 6

### Was Upland Criminal Prosecution Of Attorney Politically Motivated? *from front page*

frey Hall, in 2011. Marc Grossman is the son of David Grossman, another prominent Upland-based attorney of long standing.

Marc Grossman's law office functions out of two locations in Upland, an 8,000 square foot main office at 100 North Euclid Avenue, formerly the Upland Bank/Pacific Western building, roughly a quarter of a mile from the Upland Civic Center, and an 11,000 square foot building at 525 North Central Avenue, at the corner of Central and Arrow Route. His firm employs 20 people, eight of whom are attorneys. Six of the attorneys work at the Euclid Avenue office and two work out of the Central and Arrow Route building. Three years ago, Grossman set up a precious metals trading business as a limited lia-

bility company with Romie Singh as its operator, locating it within a portion of the ground floor of the 525 North Central address. He and Singh applied for, paid for and received a business license from the city and set up shop. This year, in compliance with the city code, they paid to renew their business license for that operation which was known as AAA Gold & Check Cashing.

Roughly three months later, Grossman and Singh were contacted by the city and informed that the precious metals trading business was not permitted at that location under the city's current zoning codes. He was faced with the option of shutting the business down, applying for a variance or in some fashion altering the business so that it conformed with the city's code. After contemplating and examining their options, Grossman and Singh elected to operate the business as a second hand store, which

was permitted under the city's antiquated business and zoning code and would allow them to legally engage in the purchasing and sale of precious metals.

In May, facing the reality that the trade in gold and other precious metals was not as active or lucrative as they had hoped, Grossman and Romie Singh ended entirely that aspect of the business. Shortly thereafter, the city's code enforcement division, accompanied by Upland police detective Jim Tseng inspected the downstairs operation at 525 North Central Avenue. On August 6, the city's code enforcement division cited Grossman, as the proprietor of the second hand/pawn business, with three violations. Two of those citations were for business and professions code violations, including not having a second hand dealers license on display, which are subject to the jurisdiction of and prosecution by the coun-

ty district attorney. The third misdemeanor citation was issued for not having an Upland business permit.

Grossman checked with Singh, who informed Grossman that though they had in fact paid for a renewal of the business license at that location and had a receipt from the city for the license, the city had as yet neglected to send the license to them.

Grossman checked with the city again, only to be informed that the third party company contracted to process business license applications and renewals had been instructed by detective Tseng to withhold it. Grossman informed the city that he and Romie considered the business license to be valid. Within the next few days, the city provided Grossman and Singh with the business license.

The district attorney's office declined to file charges against Grossman. Nevertheless, the city proceeded with a

### The San Bernardino County

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prosecution of the charge that Grossman lacked a business license.

Muddling the issue was the city's charge, which Grossman contested, that he shifted the location of the various business operations in the ground floor at the 525 Central Avenue location. The city asserted that any movement of operations within the building constituted a business relocation, requiring a license re-application and set of inspections. In reality,

Grossman maintained, any separation between different operations in his building are artificial and impermanent ones or are otherwise a fiction of certain city officials' imaginations.

Perhaps the most disturbing element of the case the city brought against Grossman is the consideration that the action against him was accompanied by signals from City Hall that his involvement in city politics is frowned upon, at least by some city officials.

That political involvement, such as it is, consisted of his support, during the 2012 election, of Gino Filippi in the mayoral race, and during this year's election, Filippi and Debbie Stone in their reelection bids and former city manager Stephen Dunn in his maiden political run. In addition to some monetary support, allowing his name to be used in endorsements and the use of his property for the posting of signs, Grossman provided Dunn with the opportunity to enunciate his proposals in the September edition of the monthly publication he owns, *909 Magazine*.

Grossman was born and raised in Upland. He attended and graduated from Upland High School. He believes his status as a lifelong and committed resident of the city qualifies him, and the U.S. Constitution empowers him, to speak his mind with regard to his perception of who is best qualified to serve on the city council.

Despite his function  
*Continued on Page 4*

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## Ontario, Fontana, Colton & SB PDs Equipping Officers With Body Cameras

ONTARIO — The Ontario and Fontana police departments have become the third and fourth San Bernardino County law enforcement agencies to outfit their officers with body-worn video cameras.

And the San Bernardino Police chief this week indicated his department will soon initiate trial use of the devices and will likely outfit all or most of its street officers with them by mid-year.

The cameras, which are about half the size of a five-stick pack of chewing gum, offer a video perspective virtually identical to the field of vision of the officers wearing them, documenting their field activity. The devices also record ambient sound.

The camera system Ontario has adopted is manufactured by Taser International and entails accompanying software that channels the moving images recorded by the devices to a secured cloud storage bank. That data can then be accessed by means of computer,

smartphone or Bluetooth functions. The cameras are worn on an officer's glasses, sunglasses, lapel or shoulder.

Ontario PD explored the use of the technology through trial use of eight such cameras worn by selected officers from February through October. In November, the department acquired 200 of the devices. The city is paying Taser International \$1.1 million for five years to provide enough of the cameras, mounting devices, accessories, and storage capacity for the entire force. The devices come with a warranty.

Fontana PD, at present is in the process of evaluating the cameras supplied to it by unspecified suppliers.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan this week told the city council he will undertake a pilot program testing the use of body-worn police cameras by February and acquire enough cameras for his patrol officers within four to six months.

The camera programs, at present, are funded by the state of California through Proposition 30, which passed in November 2012. Within the last several weeks,

At the federal level, President Barack Obama proposed a three-year, \$263 million investment package to boost law enforcement professionalism, including earmarking \$75 million intended as a 50 percent match for departments purchasing body cameras. Burguan said he was using AB 109 grant money to purchase the cameras for his department. He estimated the cost at \$250,000.

The city of Colton ordered dozens of the devices for its officers earlier this month.

Officers with Rialto PD have been using the devices since August 2013 and those with Chino PD were outfitted with them in December 2013.

## Questions Emerge Over Adelanto Councilman's Vote Favoring Girlfriend's Employer

Whether or not the November 19 vote by Adelanto City Councilman Ed Camargo to approve Geo Group Inc.'s proposal to establish a privately-run prison to hold 1,050 inmates from the California Department of Corrections constitutes an illegal conflict of interest will turn on whether he and his girlfriend have commingled their financial affairs, legal experts said.

Camargo's girlfriend is an employee of Geo Group Inc.

Geo Group Inc. already operates two detention facilities in Adelanto, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility and Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility. Geo Group's latest proposed prison facility would be located at the northeast corner of Holly and Koala roads.

Camargo acknowledged after the vote was taken that his girlfriend works for Geo Group. That prompted those opposed to Geo Group's bid to open a third facility in the cash-strapped city to charge him with a conflict-of-interest, particularly a violation of California Government Code 1090, which prohibits a public official

from participating in a decision in which he or she has a financial interest.

Camargo said he has kept his finances separate from his girlfriend's, and that they do not co-habitate.

The 3-2 November 19 vote in favor of the Geo Group's project must be confirmed with a second vote to be finalized. That vote is tentatively scheduled for the council meeting on January 28.

## Deputy County Counsel Gets Judgeship

Deputy San Bernardino County Counsel Steven Singley has been elevated to the bench by Governor Jerry Brown.

Singley, a Republican, returns the total number of San Bernardino County Superior Court judges to 86, as he fills a vacancy that came about with the retirement of Judge John Gibson.

Singley lives just across the county line in Claremont. He began as a deputy county counsel in 2008 and was designated the general legal counsel to the county sheriff's department in 2012. Prior to that he was a deputy district attorney with San Bernardino county from 2000 to 2008. Singley, 46, passed the bar in 2000. He is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University and the University of LaVerne College of Law.

## Rancho Cucamonga City Council Chooses Former Educator Kennedy To Succeed Steinorth

The Rancho Cucamonga City Council has selected Lynne Kennedy to fill the vacancy created when Marc Steinorth departed to take up a position in the California State Assembly.

Kennedy, who had a 36 year career as an educator ranging from teacher to assistant district superintendent, placed third in the November 4 election for city council.

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

By Count Friedrich von Olsen



Riverside Superior Court Judge Gloria Connor Trask, who is hearing a lawsuit brought against the city of Los Angeles and its airport agency by the city of Ontario which calls for ownership and authority over Ontario International Airport to be returned to the city from which its name derives, declared on Tuesday that the matter before her is a complicated one. If the bench association hands out awards for direct statement of the obvious, Judge Trask should be this year's recipient...

Let me stab at cutting through the complication. In 1967, when Ontario Airport was a struggling backwater airfield with fewer than 550 passengers passing through its gates daily and a gravel parking lot full of mites and ticks, its city council entered into a pact with Los Angeles to let its much more experienced officials essentially run the airport. Built into the agreement was the proviso that upon reaching certain goals, the airport would be turned over to Los Angeles. It took eighteen years, but by 1985, all of those goals had been met and the Ontario City Council, minus its then-mayor Robert Ellingwood, who was against surrendering the facility, voted to transfer title to the airport to Los Angeles. That transfer was made for no consideration, based upon Los Angeles's considerable outlays in building the airport into a modern transportation wonder. The airport continued to prosper under Los Angeles's ownership, just as it had under the previous eighteen years of its guidance. A second, entirely new east-to-west runway was laid down over its obsolete northeast-to-southwest runway and vast improvements were made to its existing east-to-west runway, including the widening of taxiways and the addition of storm drains. Its tower was modernized. Two ultra-modern terminals were built at a cost of \$270 million, augmented with a world class concourse. Ridership at the airport continued to grow and grow and grow until in 2007, forty years after Ontario had entered into its partnership with Los Angeles, there were over 19,700 passengers moving through its gates daily, which was 36 times the passenger traffic the airport had under Ontario's management...

Then came the economic downturn of 2007. Air travel in general, not just in Southern California, but in the United States and worldwide, declined. Los Angeles, which had embarked on its own modernization effort at Los Angeles International Airport in 2006, continued with that effort. Airlines cut back on the number of flights into and out of Ontario Airport. A few airlines ceased operations there altogether. Meanwhile, with the improvements at Los Angeles International Airport and other factors coming into play, passenger traffic into Los Angeles picked up. Ontario officials interpreted that as malignant neglect. With the situation at Ontario Airport continuing to stagnate, they initiated an effort to have Ontario Airport returned to Ontario. And they were not very civil about it, either. The effort was accompanied by what can accurately be described as a campaign of vitriol, one in which Los Angeles was rudely demonized and its airport officials and politicians portrayed as mendacious and duplicitous monsters seemingly intent on destroying the viability of Ontario Airport as a regional hub and driving the economy of the Inland Empire into the ground at the same time.

*Continued on Page 8*

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## Judge Rejects Upland's Questionable Prosecution Of Attorney *from page 2*

as a contentious litigator or committed advocate for his clients in and out of a court room setting, Grossman insists that he has shunned personal attacks in his political involvement, seeking to participate by voicing his perspective in the collective marketplace of ideas.

He stated repeatedly that he has consistently eschewed being confrontational in his interaction with city officials and officialdom in general, basically because he is seeking to achieve financial success in his endeavors and does not perceive it to be in his own interest to provoke the ire of those with regulatory authority. He expressed bafflement at the motivation of the city in prosecuting him.

He takes it as a personal offense that he has been threatened for becoming politically active.

In discussing with the *Sentinel* his reaction to the city's enforcement action against him, Grossman displayed a range of philosophical, intellectual, legal and emotive intensity, saying he wanted most "for this [the prosecution] to just go away" while insisting that he instinctively did not want to simply back down against a powerful adversary that was abusing its authority.

"My first reaction was, 'They can't be serious.' But they were. I'm not at all sure of what it was that drove this. Don't think that I didn't try to just settle this, and not on my terms but theirs. I asked, 'What is it you want me to do? Tell me and I'll do it.' But I got no clear answer back," Grossman said. "They didn't want to settle."

Grossman called the citations "very upsetting. Though there were not charges filed in connection with the craziness about me moving suites, the city of Upland is proceeding with a misdemeanor prosecu-

tion of me because the corporation I own which operates the closed gold store did not have a city business license when I had the store opened for them to inspect. Romie, who runs the stores, had paid for the renewal many months earlier at the time it was due and the city cashed my check in February, though never sent me the license that I had paid for. After I got my citation, we discovered that Upland contracted out to a third party the mailing of the licenses and that the third party handler had been told by Detective Tseng to hold on to it, presumably while he was waiting for us to pick up our second hand dealers licenses, which we did. We never received it. We were entitled to it. We paid for it, and never received any notification from anyone about there being an issue. I did receive it almost instantly when I complained to the chief of police that I had not received it. I complained because to my complete astonishment I had just been given three misdemeanor citations for utter nonsense."

With regard to the city splitting hairs over the precise location of business entities functioning out of his office, Grossman said, "There are not firm suite numbers and suite numbers are just made up by us out of convenience when we need it and to make sure mail is directed properly. When we do shuffle seats, we don't change suite numbers so as to avoid the attorneys from having to do a notice of change of address. Thus, the notion that we misidentified our location by not updating a suite number is just nonsense since there is no suite number assigned to each unit except those we choose. On one hand they seem to suggest that we did something criminal by not having clearly marked suites but there is no indication that the citation was because of a change of address as opposed to not having the license present. If it were true that the citation was because I had

moved, then why did they send me the license for the wrong address the day after the citation was issued? There was no change of suite numbers and there are no assigned suites for postal purposes. Short of providing a physical description of what part of the building I was in, what could the law have expected of me without any clarification? Certainly, a reading of the municipal code does not advise nor am I required to advise of the precise physical location beyond the street address. In this case, there was never a notice or request for me to get a new license and it is absurd that I would do this on my own for moving within my own building."

Grossman pointed out that he had made a good faith effort all along to register his businesses and have them conform with the city's zoning and other regulations and it was the city's action - failing to deliver a business license he had paid for - that directly led to his criminal citation.

"Detective Tseng is the one who caused us not to get the license we were entitled to," Grossman said. "We were never advised that Detective Tseng had told them not

to send it to us and code enforcement only first became aware we did not have a license when they were let into the store and noticed it wasn't hanging on the wall. The only notification that was ever given by anyone to anyone was our notification to the city that we hadn't received the license we paid for. That notice we sent to the city came hours after the citation was issued and we were given our license immediately without taking any further action."

Grossman said he deeply resents having been criminally charged. He suggested there was some individual abusing his or her authority at City Hall, out of incompetence, ignorance or corrupt motivation.

"Who is it that wanted to pick this fight with me?" he asked. "This was a mistake by Upland, not by me. It is entirely unheard of in the world of legitimate code enforcement to bring a criminal case for someone who is compliant. Is it my fault I did not complain about the city's neglect earlier? I used to believe that there was no sinister desire to cause me harm. I have sent over a dozen emails to city officials to try to set things straight before Upland ended up mak-

ing further mistakes that would cause me harm and cause me to have to defend myself. Though some have told me there is no such plot against me, it has become clear to me that I was being treated different by code enforcement than the other business owners who were second hand dealers."

Rhetorically, Grossman asked, "Is this the way Upland still is?" His reference was to former mayor John Pomierski, who was indicted by the federal government and convicted of shaking down individuals with applications at City Hall.

"Being a lawyer in the community who knows how the system works and knows the nature of criminal code enforcement prosecutions, it is 100 percent clear that this decision is the product of corruption," Grossman said.

One of the attorneys associated with his firm, Michael Vollandt, represented Grossman and filed a demurrer on his behalf. Judge Gerard Brown granted the demurrer, effectively dismissing the case against Grossman on December 12. Brown gave the city and its prosecutor, deputy city attorney Dan Peelman leave to amend the complaint within ten

days. At press time, the city had not amended and refiled the complaint against Grossman.

Grossman said he did not believe the city will refile the case but said he recognizes that is possible. If the city does, Grossman predicted, one of two things will occur. Either the court will dismiss all of the charges against him on his attorney's motion or the matter will go to trial and he will prevail, Grossman said. It is impossible, Grossman said, given the facts of the case that he will be convicted.

"I think it is worth noting that the complaint was dismissed by the judge," he said. "The city has 10 days to try to amend it to state an actual complaint against me if they want to. I do not think it is possible for them to do so and even if they could tell some lie to state a complaint against me, we would prevail by demonstrating my factual innocence."

Having prevailed in the criminal case against him, Grossman said a part of him just wants to accept that his ordeal is over so he can reestablish cordial relations with the officials in his home town, where he is trying to do business and prosper. He said he

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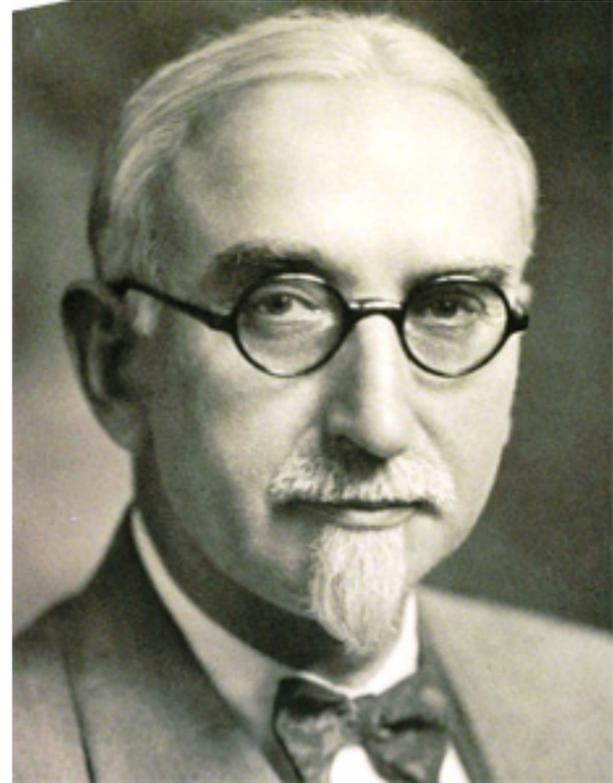
# E. H. Richardson - Inventor, Industrialist & Adelanto Founder

By Mark Gutglueck

Earl Holmes Richardson is associated with and played a role in two of San Bernardino County's 24 cities, the

inconvenience of having to constantly reheat her traditional clothes iron on the stove, Richardson utilized his knowledge of electricity to experi-

flaw in the early model of his irons was that they grew too hot in the center of the ironing plate. His wife suggested that he redesign the heating element closer to the top point of the iron to facilitate pressing around



Earl H. Richardson

geographically disparate municipalities of Ontario and Adelanto.

Born in Wisconsin in 1871, Richardson came to age in the era of Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse. As a young man in Milwaukee, which was one of the hotbeds of the latter industrial revolution, Richardson



learned a few things about practical science. He made his way to Ontario in 1895 and found a job maintaining and repairing the power plant that electrified the trolley cars that traveled up and down Euclid Avenue. Several years later he would return to the power plant and help to electrify the Model Colony.

In the early 1900s, he was employed as a meter reader for the Ontario Power Company. Inspired by his wife Mary's lament about the relative

ment with using resistive heating from an electrical current to create an electric flat iron. He designed a small, lightweight model that was easier to wield than the five to ten pound irons of the day. He distributed his model widely around Ontario, convincing his customers that offering represented an improvement on the fueled irons of that generation that utilized whale oil, kerosene, ethanol and even gasoline. He then prevailed upon the company he worked for to generate power all day every Tuesday, which he promoted as ironing day, so power customers could use his new iron. He reasoned that if sufficient electric irons were in use, customers would demand more power and through a wider customer base and economies of scale the high electrical rates then being levied could be reduced. This proved to be the case.

In 1904, Richardson left the power company and started up the Pacific Electric Heating Company on Euclid Avenue just below the railroad tracks to manufacture electric irons. An initial

test it as to its serviceability. They found "the iron with the hot point" to be indispensable. In 1905, he manufactured and sold more electric irons under the "Hotpoint" name than any other company in America.

Beginning in 1911



1927 Hotpoint Range

and continuing until 1917, Richardson found other innovative ways to electrify household appliances. These entailed the "El" line of products, with El being short script for "electric." Among them were the El Perco (an electric coffeepot), El



Chafro (a chafing dish), El Tosto (an electric toaster), El Stovo (an early hotplate), El Eggo (an egg cooker), El Teballo (an electric teapot), and El Warmo (an electric heating pad).

In 1915, Richardson sold one of his patents and purchased land in

what is now Adelanto for \$75,000. His intention was to develop one of the first planned communities in Southern California. Richardson subdivided his land into one-acre plots.

Upon America's entrance into what was then known as the "Great War" but which subsequently was called World War I, many of the combatants, known in America as "doughboys" were exposed to mustard gas. Richardson, in response to the significant number of GIs afflicted in



trance into what was then known as the "Great War" but which subsequently was called World War I, many of the combatants, known in America as "doughboys" were exposed to mustard gas. Richardson, in response to the significant number of GIs afflicted in

the others, creating the Edison Electric Appliance Company, which featured the GE Hotpoint line of products. That resulted in an expansion of the existing iron manufacturing facility in Ontario.

GE Hotpoint became the largest employer in Ontario, employing 25 percent of the city's labor force. After the merger was in effect, General Electric sought to bring Richardson back to near Milwaukee, asking him to manage its manufac-

ture of a significant invention, an early version of the crock pot, which he called the "jug cooker."

Richardson died in 1934, but the Ontario plant continued to manufacture electric irons until it closed in 1982.

In 1941, the 20 millionth iron manufactured at the plant, this one gold-plated, was presented to Una Winter, Earl Richardson's sister. When the 50 millionth iron was produced at the plant in 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower was



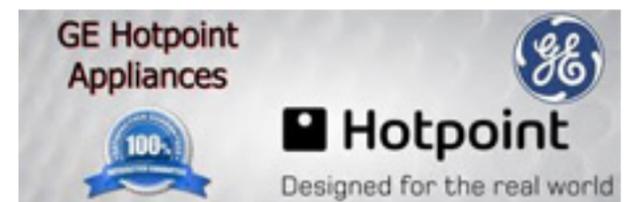
1919 Hotpoint Advertisement

turing operations in Chicago. But he was reluctant to leave Ontario and Adelanto, so he continued to manage the local Ontario plant.

Under his direction, new products were designed and sold, such as room heaters. In 1925,

looking on. In 1969 the 100 millionth iron rolled off the Ontario production line and in 1980, the 150 millionth was manufactured there.

According to legend, the last iron manufactured there was buried on the grounds of the



The GE Hotpoint Line is still being marketed

in conjunction with Hughes, Hotpoint offered the first all-white, fully enameled electric range. In 1929, GE began selling Richardson's last

Ontario plant rather than being sent back to GE's Bridgeport Connecticut plant in 1982.



**County Suing Architect & Engineer Over High Desert Jail Cost Overruns**  
*from front page*

eral terms and termination, cost, cost sharing, scope, schedule, bidding and construction, post project completion and records retention for the project.

Initially, the total cost of the project was pegged at \$120 million, which included a ten percent cost increase contingency, and the construction bill on the project was originally slated at \$90,951,937 when it was approved in 2010.

Throughout the nearly four-year construction of the project there were continual change orders

and amendments to the project, all of which benefitted the project contractor, Bellevue-Washington-based Lydig Construction. By 2012 there were recurrent rumors and reports of kickbacks relating to the project. Upon the completion of the project in March of this year, there had been a total of \$20,657,043 worth of amendments to the project contract and \$8,810,810 worth of change orders, totaling \$29,467,853 in cost overruns on the construction portion of the project. Moreover, the total price tag on the project, including engineering, architectural, licensing and inspection costs, reached \$145,451,910, which was \$25.45 million more than

the \$120 million not-to-exceed price tag for the undertaking.

A major portion of the cost overruns pertained to changes to the prison's fire control, fire alarm, fire suppression and smoke ventilation systems.

After a period of review of the matter by the county's architecture & engineering division in conjunction with county counsel, county officials concluded that the cost overruns were largely a consequence of design deficiencies by the project's architect of record, Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc. and the engineer of record, Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. A decision to sue both entities was made on

the basis of that conclusion. Following a competitive solicitation, the county selected the law firm of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP to advise and assist county counsel in the legal matters concerning the construction cost overruns on the project and concerns regarding the design of the smoke control system and other design failings. Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis firm was selected to provide these legal services because of its expertise in construction litigation and familiarity with some of the parties involved in the construction of the project. On April 22, 2014, the board of supervisors autho-

rized county counsel to initiate litigation against Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum and Jacobs for breach of contract and other issues related to the project.

This week, the board of supervisors practically tripled down on its initial retainer of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis, approving a \$450,000 increase in the not-to-exceed amount of the contract, to a total of \$700,000.

According to county counsel Jean-René Basle, the change in the contract amount is now required due to additional costs anticipated as litigation against Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum and Jacobs proceeds.

Jacobs Engineering, a once highly respected firm, has not fared well of late in court when the competence of its work has been challenged.

The city of Victorville sued Jacobs Engineering, which was doing work under the name of Carter & Burgess Engineering, on an electrical co-generation plant the city had obtained permits for and was seeking to construct. The project never came to fruition, entailing losses on the purchase and scheduled purchase of equipment. The suit was settled through a \$54 million pay out to the city.



**Bids Rejected** *from front page*

and attracted ten contractors, who attended a mandatory job walk on the project. On June 11, the county received two bids on the job, one from Angeles Contractor, Inc. of Buena Park for \$193,200 and another from Dalke & Sons Construction, Inc. of Riverside for \$208,480.

According to Alban, "Both bids received exceeded the project budget and exceeded the amount that could be awarded utilizing the informal bidding procedures. Following the

opening of the bids, staff further reviewed the project and recommends rejecting all bids and re-advertising the project to incorporate revisions and clarifications to the bid documents that should result in more accurate and lower cost bid results."

In accordance with Alban's recommendation, the board of supervisors on Tuesday rejected both bids received on June 11, 2014, approved the revised plans and specifications; and authorized architecture and engineering to re-advertise for the installation of

security barrier fencing at the ARMC Behavioral Health Center.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders is scheduled to be conducted on January 7, 2015, at 1 p.m. at 400 N. Pepper Avenue in Colton. The bid opening is scheduled for January 20, 2015, at 2 p.m. at the architecture and engineering office. Plans and specifications for the project are on file with the clerk of the board of supervisors.



**Comstock Sworn In As Chino Police Chief** *from front page*

of Phoenix and holds a master's degree in organizational management. Captain Comstock is also a graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, Class #148.

Comstock said, "It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as chief of police for the Chino Police Department. My philosophy as it related to policing can be summarized by the department's mission statement, which provides

[that] as members of the department we are personnel with daily guidance as we serve the community. We are dedicated to the safety of our community... [and] recognize our sole purpose is to protect our community, which serves as the driving motivation for the members of our department. We take ownership in the City of Chino as not only our place of work, but a place in which we are personally invested. We strive to operate as a team not only with other members of our Department, but we regard the community

as an essential member of our team as well. We recognize that we cannot police our community members without their consent and cooperation. As a community oriented policing agency, we value the partnerships we have developed with residents, business owners and community groups. Our ability to maintain a safe community is directly related to the strength of our collaboration with members of the community."

Comstock vowed to "provide excellent service with dignity and respect."

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## Victorville & Sheriff Tell Homeless Living In Riverbed To Hit The Road

VICTORVILLE— Some six dozen denizens of the Mojave riverbed homeless encampment in Victorville are about to be presented with an unwanted Christmas present, as city officials and sheriff's department officers are in the final stages of preparing an eviction notice specifically targeting them.

City officials say the move is justified by the consideration that at least some of the property where the homeless are residing is private property, that there has been a large volume of calls to the sheriff's department to quell disturbances there and that the encampment is resulting in pollution of the environs because of insufficient sanitation facilities

there.

Under the terms of the eviction notices being prepared for processing through the San Bernardino Superior Court, those served will be presented with a March deadline by which they must entirely vacate a proscribed area between the Iron Bridge near Highway 18 at the Mojave Narrows and Stoddard Wells Road. Those who do not comply with the order or who leave and return will be subject to arrest or citation on trespassing charges.

Officials have yet to spell out how they intend to document the identities of those served, as some lack identification or traditional addresses. Nor have officials specified what procedure will

be utilized against any individuals or groups who take up residence near the river after the initial set of notices are served.

People have been subsisting at that stretch along the often-dry riverbed for two decades, including at least a handful who are still in residence there.

There have been desultory and occasional enforcement actions over the years aimed at persuading the population there to move on, which has had only limited success.

The stepped-up plan of action comes less than a month after Gloria Garcia, who has been on the city council since 2012, was elevated to the position of mayor. Gar-

cia was the most visible representative of the city in the announcement of the intent to proceed with the eviction. The other entity associated with the move is the sheriff's department, with which the city of Victorville contracts for the provision of law enforcement services. The department is employing one of its more obscure divisions, its so-called "homeless outreach and proactive enforcement team" to carry out the nitty-gritty of the assignment. The department will enable the team by giving it orders to clear the riverbed. In doing so, the team is to be augmented with volunteer inmate crews from the county's detention facilities, who will be brought

in to "stand by" as the sheriff's deputies make their final pass through of the property in question in March. Those who do not leave at that point will be arrested and incarcerated themselves. The jail trustees on hand will then be called into action, and will discard all of the trash and debris at the site along with any of the remaining belongings of the evictees. It is believed that having the inmates, bona fide members of the community's criminal class, in place to look down on the riverbed's inhabitants as their living quarters are decimated, will psychologically break them of any determination they possess to return.

A city work crew will then erect k-rails at the

open points of egress to the riverbed, which will discourage any further encampments.

City and police officials have armed themselves with statistics to ward off any "bleeding heart" advocacy on behalf of the homeless to be displaced.

In essence, those talking points boil down to an assertion that the soon-to-be evicted merit the treatment they are to receive. Garcia and other members of the council, as well as senior staff at City Hall and members of the sheriff's department who will be involved in the eviction have been prompted with statistics to show that the sheriff's department has

*Continued on Page 10*

### County Intensifying Contamination Monitoring At Chino Airport from front page

On October 31, 1990, the Regional Water Quality Board issued Clean-up and Abatement Order No. 90-134 to the county of San Bernardino for suspected contamination of ground water beneath Chino Airport. At that time, it was suspected that the groundwater had been contaminated due to past usage of Perchloroethylene/Trichloroethene.

Perchloroethylene/Trichloroethene were solvents that were commonly used in the aeronautic industry from the 1930s until the 1990s.

The county complied with the order by conducting activities at the Chino Airport to identify all potential sources of contamination, characterizing identified source areas; remediating discovered soil contamination; characterizing groundwater contamination; monitoring groundwater contamination; and mitigating identified groundwater contamination within the confines of Chino Airport.

In 2008, the county installed nine monitoring wells on and adjacent to Chino Airport to assist in the vertical characterization of the suspected contamination plume. In 2010, the county installed 10 additional monitoring wells

on and adjacent to Chino Airport to assist in the horizontal characterization of the volatile organic chemical-impacted groundwater plume.

The concern about contamination at and around Chino Airport intensified after the July 22, 2010 discovery of the first three of what turned out to be 51 drums of napalm buried at the airport. The drums were found during trenching for installation of a storm drain pipeline for a Southern California Edison facility. The County of San Bernardino Department of Airports was notified and it contacted the county fire department's hazardous materials division and Tetra Tech, an environmental engineer-

ing and consulting firm. Tetra Tech retained Double Barrel, a commercial hazardous materials emergency responder, to assess the situation.

Additional drums were discovered that day and by sunset on July 22, 2010, eight buried drums had been removed from the excavation. The drums did not have lids and contained soil on top of a tan resinous material. The contents of the drums were field tested using a chemical identification kit and determined to be a non-explosive, flammable, non-corrosive, organic resin-type material.

Soil samples were delivered to Microbac Laboratory in Riverside for analysis. Microlab determined the drums contained high concentrations of benzene together with lesser amounts of toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, styrene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, and naphthalene, leading to the conclusion that the tan resinous material was a jellied fuel mixture, most likely napalm. In all, 51 barrels were unearthed.

According to a report/recommendation to the county board of supervisors coauthored by Carl Alben, the county's director of architecture and engineer-

ing, and James Jenkins, the county's department of airports director, the county should lay out another \$158,000 "with Yellow Jacket Drilling Services, LLC, increasing the total contract amount from \$565,170 to \$724,105, for unforeseen conditions that require increasing the depth of the wells and for the installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells as part of the ongoing groundwater assessment required at Chino Airport. The installation of these wells will allow the county to ensure public safety and promote development of a well-planned, balanced and sustainable county by continuing to take steps to ensure a clean and usable water supply for the region."

According to Alben and Jenkins, "The additional required work resulted from a separate potential source area of groundwater contamination that was not discovered until after the original contract was awarded, when data was received from additional groundwater borings installed at Chino Airport."

The additional work includes the collection of continuous cores during drilling required to understand the subsur-

face conditions through which the plume is migrating; an additional 1,305 feet of drilling for the 32 original groundwater monitoring wells for vertical delineation of the volatile organic compounds plume; and the installation of up to three additional groundwater monitoring wells at three additional locations to effectively monitor the plume over time.

The revised project budget of \$811,000 is comprised of multiple components, including \$12,000 for permit fees, \$3,000 for project management, the \$724,105 construction cost and a construction contingency of \$71,895.



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## Hit Pieces Linked To BIA & Councilman

from front page

independent expenditure committee, the Quality of Life Coalition.

The Quality of Life Coalition, which is specific to Victorville, is a specially-created political arm of several developer-funded groups.

Since early last year, developmental and real estate interests have grown animated over proposals related to changes in the city's residential density standards. At issue is a move by city officials to raise from 7,200 square feet to 10,000 square feet the minimal lot size requirement. The city's planning staff has pushed for that change. Staff members contend such a move would increase property values and reverse a trend that has saddled the city with a glut of smaller homes with small lots

which some have cited as an attraction for blight and crime. Neighboring Apple Valley has a minimum lot size requirement of one half acre (21,800 square feet),



Jim Cox

which is three times the size of permissible lots in Victorville.

The development community has opposed staff's effort, asserting that lot size does not have an impact on the quality of dwelling or the character of occupants. They and their lobbyists have stepped up attendance at city council and planning commission meetings when issues relating to development and density standards have been on the agenda, charging

that the city will prolong economic stagnation by intensifying or toughening development criteria.

Cox, who was city manager in Victorville for more than thirty years beginning in 1969 and oversaw the transformation of the city into the county's fifth most populous municipality, has become somewhat more cautious with regard to unbridled development and is now perceived to be supportive of staff's plan to decrease the density in residential projects to be built in the future. Last week, without taking Negrete to task specifically, Cox spelled out that it was a political faction aligned with Negrete that had tried to do a hatchet job on Kennedy, and by extension the remainder of the city council.

The Quality of Life Coalition, Cox said, had engaged in "dirty tactics" aimed not just at Kennedy but at city staff, the city council and the

city itself. The assertions in the mailers were false and misleading, Cox said. "The FBI is not investigating the city. Our budget is balanced,"



James Kennedy

he insisted. Cox referenced campaign finance statements, known as California Form 460s, which show the Quality of Life Coalition contributed thousands of dollars to Negrete and Stevens' campaigns in the form of mailers and public affairs.

The Quality of Life Coalition's statement of organization, filed with the California Secretary of State on October 17, just 18 days before the

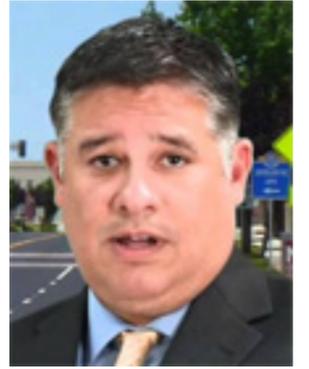
election, shows Carlos Rodriguez as its principal officer. Rodriguez is the president of the Baldy View Chapter of the Building Industry Association. The Quality of Life Coalition was funded almost entirely by development trade groups and individual developers, including \$2,500 from the Building Industry Association of Southern California's political action committee. That donation came in on October 24.

The true originator of the attack ads, Cox said, was the Building Industry Association. And, he implied, Stevens and Negrete were in league with the Building Industry Association.

The Building Industry Association provided \$2,000 each to Negrete and Stevens, on top of the independent mailings attacking Kennedy.

While Cox did not say so directly, he suggested that the Building Industry Association, by

attacking Kennedy, may have made a strategic error. The focus group working on the density issue had formerly included councilman Ryan McEachron and council-



Eric Negrete

woman Angela Valles. Valles, who did not seek reelection this year, had been the strongest advocate of lowering density. She has now been replaced by Kennedy on the focus group. The vitriolic attack on Kennedy may leave him more disinclined than he would have been otherwise to reverse the course Valles had charted on the density issue.



## The Count

from page 3

According to these representations, the number of flights into and out of Ontario Airport was not a reflection of the energy, intensity and health of the region's economy, but the primary generator of economic activity in the area surrounding it. Los Angeles was, in this depiction, a greedy and rapacious landlord with its foot strategically planted across the prostrate inland area's windpipe...

"Give the airport back!" Ontario officials indignantly demanded, and they encouraged other local officials in San Bernardino County and even across the county line in Riverside County to join them in that chorus. The next move was to insist that Los Angeles neither request nor accept any money in exchange for the return of what rightfully belonged to Ontario. This demand bypassed entirely any consideration of the improvements, conservatively estimated as representing a cost of

half of a billion dollars over 47 years without any adjustment for inflation. Ontario officials made a mantra of insisting, at least publicly, that as a public benefit asset the airport had no monetary value, and as such, should simply be deeded back...

Secretly, however, behind the scenes, Ontario officials conveyed to their Los Angeles counterparts that they would be willing to put up \$50 million in cash, assume debt service on \$75 million in outstanding bonds for past airport improvements and provide up to \$125 million to Los Angeles from future revenue to be generated at the airport over the next dozen years. But Los Angeles officials, who were still smarting over the yet raging public campaign in which they were being excoriated as rapacious cretins, were unimpressed and unmoved. Deftly, they publicly disclosed that Ontario, which was yet maintaining to the rest of the world that the airport had no monetary value, was offering to pay a

quarter of a billion dollars to reacquire it...

Ontario officials sputtered and fumed, beside themselves with rage over Los Angeles' betrayal of their confidence, seemingly incapable of understanding that their insults to Los Angeles and its officials might have consequences. In that shuffle, an opportunity was lost. Ontario Mayor Leon was a Los Angeles native who, chance would have it, knew, and knew well, Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa. Both had grown up on the mean streets of Los Angeles and survived, each achieving a rough hewn political status with a reputation for the artful dodge, capped by a veneer of eloquence. The two knew each other well enough to be able to take drives together through the cities over which they held sway and all the cities and stretches of freeway in between them. But Ontario was in fighting mode, and Leon was never tasked to negotiate, as perhaps only he could, with the political

leader of Los Angeles over the fate of Ontario Airport. That opportunity was squandered. Instead, a stalemate ensued in which Ontario pinned its hopes on the two mayoral candidates to succeed Villaraigosa, Wendy Greuel and Eric Garcetti, coaxing non-enforceable commitments from them to the effect that each would cooperate in returning the airport to Ontario under less than specific terms. But even before the victorious Garcetti was sworn into office, in the waning days of Villaraigosa's tenure as mayor, Ontario sued Los Angeles in Riverside Superior Court, using the high powered Washington, D.C.-based law firm of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, destroying whatever prospect it might have had for working with Garcetti...

Recently, during a lull in the litigation, Los Angeles responded to Ontario's \$250 million offer. It would sell the airport, Los Angeles said, for \$450 million. That threw Ontario officials into apoplexy...

From my mountain redoubt, I find this squabble both amusing and perplexing. It seems Ontario officials take us, the public, for fools. Is the airport worth nothing in monetary terms, as they claim publicly? If so, then why are they fighting so hard to get it back? And if it is worth nothing, as they are telling us, then why did they offer \$250 million for it? It seems there is a bit of disagreement over the monetary value of nothing. Nothing appears to be worth, it seems, somewhere, from what I can tell, between \$250 million and \$450 million...

Another thing is the city of Ontario's inflated ego. I shall, no doubt, leave a few deserving places off of my list here, but when I think of the world's great cities, London, New York, Tokyo, Paris, Istanbul, Munich, Rio De Janero, Cairo, Athens, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Tel Aviv, Brussels, Moscow, Shanghai, Mexico City, Chicago, Bombay, Montreal, Madrid, Copenhagen, Rome, and yes, Los

Angeles leap to mind. Ontario is a nice place and host to one of my favorite Chinese restaurants, but, alas, absent from the above list...

I believe Ontario brought Los Angeles in to run its airport 47 years ago because it did not have the wherewithal to do so on its own. I do not believe that to have changed. A few years ago city officials there had promoted their fire chief, whose name was Christopher Hughes, to serve as city manager. Mr. Hughes was, I might note, a very handsome fellow and must have turned quite a few female heads. He rather looked like a movies star, in my estimation on the order of a Clark Gable. He even had the right name for the silver screen. He would have been better off in Hollywood than at Ontario Airport. If one of the planes there caught fire, no doubt, he would have done an admirable job dousing it, and would have looked very good doing so. But I am confident he would have been

Continued on Page 12

## Congressman Elect Pete Aguilar (CA31) Runs to the Left of Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama

By Paul Chabot

The first editorial published by Congressman Elect Aguilar titled, "Executive Action Not Enough on Immigration Reform (December 14th)" is astonishingly out of touch with the real issues affecting families in the Inland Empire. Instead of addressing the core concerns that citi-

zens are worried about, including jobs, K-12 education, healthcare, public safety, social security, veterans, terrorism, rising cost of tuition, housing, etc., Aguilar instead chose to run to the left of Pelosi and Obama, which in itself is difficult for most Democrats to do, but apparently not Aguilar who has put his foot

down and said the President's Executive Order allowing 5 million un-

against an Amnesty Executive Order because he didn't have the authority,

### Guest Editorial

documented immigrants to remain in the U.S. did not go far enough. Really Congressman Elect Aguilar? The President himself said seven times in the past that he was

and today most Americans agree that Obama was wrong in using an Executive Order in such a fashion, yet you believe he didn't go far enough?

The United States

of America is a nation of laws and when we lose that foundation, we disregard the men and women who fought and died to preserve our democracy. The Constitution should be honored, preserved and valued, not disrespected and trampled upon.

The core issues affecting this district's

citizens need real leadership. Families are hurting while many struggle with unemployment or under-employment and are finding it hard to buy Christmas gifts. The Inland Empire is ripe with talented and dedicated workers who simply want to find good paying jobs. Yet, the slow

*Continued on Page 11*

Grossman from page 4

would rather not sue the city over what it just put him through and that he does not relish getting into a knockdown drag out fight with the city in which he is not the attorney but the plaintiff.

Nevertheless, Grossman said, he is contemplating his legal options. "I am unable to just turn the other cheek and let corruption bully me this way," he said, indicating he will not be satisfied until "I have a defacto apology and acknowledgement from Upland that this is all based on their error."

The only question,

Grossman said, is "How much of my money am I going to spend and how much of the taxpayers' money are they going to spend before that happens?"

Marsie Grady, the city of Upland's lead code compliance officer, this week told the *Sentinel* she had no knowledge with regard to the case filed against Grossman or any of its specifics. The *Sentinel*, however, is in possession of two emails between Grady and Grossman with regard to the 525 North Central Avenue property.

Likewise, Upland Community Devel-

opment Director Jeff Zwack, who oversees the city's code enforcement function, spurned multiple invitations to discuss the Grossman prosecution.

City manager Rod Butler said he was unable to explain the rationale for escalating the citation of Grossman's business to a criminal case. In general, Butler said, pursuing a criminal case against an individual or business deemed to be out of compliance with the city's codes is an extraordinary occurrence in Upland, "It is never our first option to use criminal charges,"

Butler said. Ratcheting

a code enforcement case up to the level of a misdemeanor is justifiable, he said, "depending on the severity of the matter and how much effort we have to make to get compliance. If there is a lack of cooperation and the party is not responsive, then we might go to the option to pursue criminal charges. We try to gain compliance through normal means before we take it to the next level."

When several email communications between Grossman and city staff demonstrating Grossman's efforts to achieve compliance or that he had already obtained, reapplied for

and paid for a business license during the relevant time frame were referenced, Butler said, "I don't know very much about this case. I will have to decline to comment on the specifics."

Butler acknowledged he knew that the district attorney's office had declined to prosecute Grossman on two of the charges the city had cited him for and that Peelman had informed him that Judge Brown had dismissed the last remaining criminal count the city was using its own authority to prosecute. He said he and senior staff would be discussing their options

with regard to amending the complaint "over the next week."

As to Grossman's view that he had been prosecuted out of some political or personal animus, Butler said, "I have had a couple of email exchanges with Mr. Grossman in regard to his comments about there being a political relationship to this case. I will be meeting with him and will give him a full hearing on that account. In the three months that I have been here [as city manager] I have not seen anything that would support his contention that there was any political retribution against him."

**LueLLa G. Hairston, Esq.**  
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# San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case # 701409324 On 12/13/14, at 2:44 PM, John Cuevas, a twenty-nine year old, resident of Ontario, was struck by a vehicle while in the crosswalk crossing the street at Inland Empire Blvd and Center Avenue in Ontario. He was transported to the Loma Linda University Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries. The Ontario Police Department is investigating the incident. [121414 2355 TC]

Coroner case # 701409329 On 12/13/2014, at approximately 11:50 p.m., 53 year-old Hanford, CA resident Anthony Richie was walking on Sierra Ave., south of Segovia Ln., in Fontana when he was struck by a southbound traveling vehicle. Paramedics from the San Bernardino County Fire Department arrived on scene and pronounced Richie dead due to his injuries at 12:08 a.m. The Fontana Police Department is investigating the traffic collision. [121501 0002 TC]

Coroner case # 701409352 On 12/14/14, at 7:55 PM, a 22 year-old female was walking on the outer roadway of Bear Valley Road and Mohawk in Apple Valley when she was struck by a vehicle. She was transported to a hospital where she died from her injuries at 10:04 PM. The name of the decedent will be released when she has been positively identified. The San Bernardino Sheriff Department is investigating the collision. [121514 0245 TC] Name corrected: Jillian Marie Dean, a 22 year old resident of Apple Valley [121614 1506 SY]

Coroner case #701409314 On 12/13/2014, a 25 year old male, assigned to the Twentynine Palms Marine Corp Base was driving a Ford Expedition northbound on Amboy Road near mile marker 26 in rural Twentynine Palms, when his vehicle left the road and overturned. At about 6:30 AM a passing motorist spotted the damaged vehicle and notified CHP. Upon their arrival, the driver was dead at the scene. It is unknown when the collision actually occurred. When next of kin has been notified, his name will be released. CHP is investigating the collision. [12132014 1510 EM] Name released: Twenty-five year old Kirk Patrick Gadsby of Mariposa, CA [121614 0810 SY]

Coroner Case #701409316 On 12/13/2014 at 7:51 AM, 24 year old Nain Ramirez, a resident of Ontario, was riding a motorcycle northbound on South Campus Avenue at Belmont Street in Ontario when he lost control of his motorcycle and struck a telephone pole. Ramirez was pronounced dead at the scene. The Ontario Police Department is investigating this traffic collision. [12132014 1510 EM]

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

## Homeless Being Evicted from page 7

received over 4,400 calls for service in or near the riverbed in the 34 months commencing in January 2012 and that in that span there were over 80 assaults, four rapes and a murder there.

Garcia and the sheriff's department made clear that a new day is

dawning in Victorville in which tolerance of the homeless is drawing to a close. "It is time for them to leave," Garcia said. The new approach will begin with relatively benign outreach, officials said, which will consist of telling those living on the riverbed, through postings and word of mouth, that they must get out of town. The ap-

proach will grow firmer and firmer until, Garcia said, "the problem is eradicated."

Cooperation of those targeted for removal is up to those individuals targeted, officials said. Those who choose to cooperate will avoid any direct enforcement action. Those who don't will face criminal charges.

Some made the observation that Victorville had awaited to institute the draconian policy until Garcia, a Hispanic, was serving as mayor and Eric Negrete, another Hispanic who was elected in November, was serving on the council, thus blunting any accusations that might follow which charge the city with taking the ac-

tion against a disadvantaged social class.

Others expressed the view that the action is long overdue and credited Garcia, the council and the sheriff's department with a "great job" in resolving to take the action now under preparation.

Still others said the evictions would prove inadequate and would

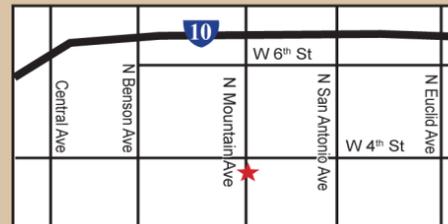
merely displace the homeless further down the road without creating any lasting solution to the homeless problem or the underlying plight of the human condition of social and economic disparity.



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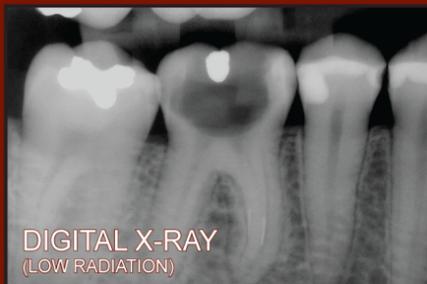


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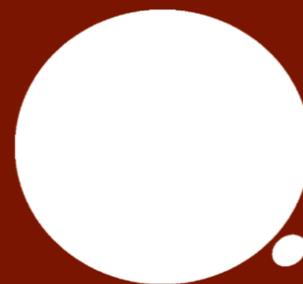
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Guest Editorial from page 9

economic recovery has largely left us all behind.

Many in the Inland Empire have lost their doctors because of Obamacare and families are finding it hard to pay for the new increases in premiums, which even the Obama administration admits will rise in 2015. A year after the



Paul Chabot

implementation of the law, it remains highly problematic and unpopular at best. At worst, families are seeing canceled health care plans and out of reach expenditures that ration health care. If the United States government cannot run healthcare effectively for our military veterans, it surely cannot do so for the entire nation. And let's not forget the words of Obamacare's Chief Architect, Jonathan Gru-

ber, who said last year that a "lack of transparency and the stupidity of the American voter helped Congress approve Obamacare." We need to start over.

Children need a great education and parents should not be forced to send their kids to failing schools. Equal opportunity for a strong education is the right thing to do. Focusing on ensuring our children can succeed is the role of every parent, teacher and elected official.

Our immigration system must secure our borders, enforce the law with dignity and respect, while addressing the core issue of illegal immigration in the first place. Mexico is a mess. Corruption is rampant with judges and police who are on the take, yet our Nation looks the other way and continues to provide foreign aid with no accountability measures. We must help Mexico help themselves and when we do, we will no longer see the flood of mothers, fathers, and children fleeing that nation. America must replicate measures of Plan Colombia of the 1980s which helped set Colombia on the right path.

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## County Wildlife Corner

# Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

Tyrant flycatchers (Tyrannidae) are relatively singless songbirds. They are a branch of passerine birds present in San Bernardino County which also occur throughout North and South America.

There are more than 400 species of these



birds, making them what is considered to be the largest family of birds. They are the most diverse avian family overall in the Americas, but are relatively less diverse in the United States and Canada. The members of this large family of birds vary greatly in shape, patterns, size and colors. Some tyrant flycatchers superficially resemble the Old World flycatchers which they are named after but are not related to. They are members of suborder Tyranni (suboscines), which do not have the sophisticated vocal capabilities of most other songbirds.

Few tyrant flycatchers have spectacular color or plumage. Most, but not all, species are rather plain, with vari-

ous hues of brown, gray and white commonplace. Obvious exceptions include the bright red vermilion flycatcher, blue, black, white and yellow many-colored rush-tyrant and some species of tody-flycatchers or tyrants, which are often yellow, black, white and/or rufous, from the Todyrostrum, Hemitricus and Poecilotricus genera. Several species have bright yellow underparts, from the ornate flycatcher to the great kiskadee. Some species have erectile crests. The crest is taken to the extreme in the royal flycatcher, which is plain but for a large black-



spotted, red-and-blue crest which it fans out like a peafowl tail when excited. Several of the large genera (i.e. Elaenia, Myiarchus or Empidonax) are quite difficult to tell apart in the field due to similar plumage and some are best distinguished by their voices.

Behaviorally they can vary from species such as spadebills which are tiny, shy and live in dense forest interiors

to kingbirds, which are relatively large, bold, inquisitive and often inhabit open areas near human habitations. As



the name implies, a great majority of tyrant flycatchers are entirely insectivorous (though not necessarily specialized in flies). Tyrant flycatchers are largely opportunistic feeders and often catch any flying or arboreal insect they encounter. However, food can vary greatly and some (like the large great kiskadee) will eat fruit or small vertebrates (e.g. small frogs). In North America, most species are associated with a "sallying" feeding style, where they fly up to catch an insect directly from their perch and then immediately return to the same perch.

The smallest family members are the closely related short-tailed pygmy tyrant and black-capped pygmy tyrant from the Myiornis genus (the first species usually being considered marginally smaller on average). These species reach a total length 2.5 inches to 2.8 inches

and a weight of 4-5 grams. The minuscule size and very short tail of the Myiornis pygmy tyrants often lend them a resemblance to a tiny ball or insect. The largest tyrant flycatcher is the great shrike-tyrant at 11.5 inches and 3.5 ounces. A few species such as the streamer-tailed tyrant, scissor-tailed flycatcher and fork-tailed flycatcher have a larger total length of up to 16 inches, but this is mainly due to their extremely long tails; the fork-tailed



flycatcher has relatively the longest tail feathers of any known bird.

They often flick their wings and tails rapidly.

Flycatchers build shallow cup nests with plant fibers, grasses, leaves and bark shreds, lined with down, soft plant fibers and hair. The nest is usually situated three to thirty feet high in a shrub or short tree.

The average clutch consists of 2 - 3 eggs, sometimes with colored spots. The female alone incubates the eggs for about 14 - 17 days. The young fledge, i.e., leave the nest, when they are about 13 - 16 days old.

When America gets serious about mandating that our foreign aid goes towards rooting out corruption, violence and lack of societal rule of law, Mexico will prosper and families will no longer flee and many already here in the United States will return to Mexico; it's a beautiful country, but in desperate need of real help.

Terrorism is spreading across the globe. ISIS grows, Russia and China advance their military capability while our United States Armed Forces are being reduced to levels of pre World War II. Reagan clearly

understood that in order to preserve our nation, we must have the mightiest fighting force in the world. His peace through strength vision lead to the fall of Soviet Union - our enemies feared us and our allies trusted us. Sadly, today, that is not

Continued on Page 12

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# California Style It All Happens In December

It's all about holiday magic this month. What to buy and what to wear?



too, when fashion is involved. Try red, it's the color of love, hope and, of course, magic. Everyone wears red in December because it's bright and magical. Red truly brightens up the spirits of the people during the holiday season. Now a days red comes in different variations too. You can wear red

The Christmas season is here, and so is the caroling, decorating, and giving. Getting into the spirit is easy and fun,



shoes, hats, coats, tops, lipstick and all in the

*By Grace Bernal*

name of holiday magic. Red is really happening this December. If you haven't dug into your closet or drawers for your red pieces, it's not too late get your red look going. It's part of the



magic and red, well, is



just the color of luck, too. Wear red and you might strike a lucky deal while shopping. I hope you are enjoying December and all the festivities that are happening. Get Magical!



*"Pure, intense emotions. It's not about design. It's about feelings."*  
— Alber Elbaz

As always, if there's anything you need, I'd love to hear from you: [Greygris@aol.com](mailto:Greygris@aol.com) or visit my page I Love Your Style on Facebook

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### Guest Editorial from page 11

the case and the world is a much more dangerous place.

America is in trouble and needs real leadership. Next month, Congressman Elect Aguilar will take an oath to uphold the United States Constitution. We can

only hope that he abides by that oath and puts his radical agenda to rest.

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*Dr. Paul Chabot is President of Chabot Strategies and the 2014 Republican Nominee for United States Congress in the 31st District. He resides in Rancho Cucamonga.*



### The Count from page 7

less fit at running an airport than I am, and that is saying something...

As I will get to below, I do not think Ontario will be wresting from Los Angeles control of the airport anytime soon, but if it does, I believe there will be a grave danger that it would soon be in far worse shape than it is today. Ontario, I am told,

has the largest budget of all of San Bernardino County's cities. But even with its large nest egg, it does not have the leverage that Los Angeles possesses, and I would predict that many of the airlines that remain in operation out of Ontario will depart if they do not have Los Angeles to offer them inducements, such as favorable gate positions at Los Angeles International Airport, to stay...

This brings us back to where I started, with Judge Trask. Yes, indeed, she has a complicated set of facts before her. But I will go out on a limb and make a prediction on how she is going to rule with regard to this motion to simply abrogate the 47-year-old agreement confirmed by the city of Ontario's willing conveyance of the airport to Los Angeles 29 years ago and have Los Angeles just return

the airport to Ontario. My prognostication is she will not grant the motion. To do so she will need to turn the custom and precedent of contractual law on its head and overturn an arrangement that both parties have accepted for moving on to nearly half a century. In the end, I believe the court will allow

Ontario to take back the airport, but only upon a demonstration that it has the means and the available resources to run it and the cash - meaning at least \$450 million or a larger figure adjusted for inflation - to pay Los Angeles what it has invested in it...



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