

Suggestions Surface Relating To Board Chairman's Drug Use, Coverup

By Mark Gutglueck

A series of events has moved allegations of drug use by San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos front and center, together with suggestions that county officials have ignored or covered up indications of that activity because of his extensive personal wealth which has been



James Ramos

used to support other elected county officials'

own political efforts.

Ramos is the former tribal chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which owns the San Manuel Casino in Highland. The money generated at the casino has left Ramos – and other tribe members – well fixed. He and members of his family and tribe have invested a considerable portion of

their money in Ramos's political career as well as in supporting a host of other San Bernardino County politicians, including Ramos's board colleagues, along with the county sheriff and district attorney. This appears to have advanced him politically and bought him a degree of immunity from prosecution.

Ramos's tribe and family members have spoken openly, at least in certain contexts, about his drug use. Buried in court files at San Bernardino Superior Court is documentation referencing the supervisor's former drug addiction. Moreover, a celebrated murder for hire case against two of Ramos's family/tribal See P 2

SBPEA Mulls Merger With Teamsters As Survival Ploy

In an effort to gain more muscle at the bargaining table and stave off further efforts to decertify it as the major union representing San Bernardino County government employees, the San Bernardino Public Employees Association is considering rechartering itself as an independent local of the Teamsters.

The San Bernardino Public Employees Association, which came into existence in 1938 as the representative of San Bernardino County and San Bernardino City employees, today handles collective bargaining for over 11,000 employees working for San Bernardino County and 3,000 others working for 16 of the county's cities – Barstow, Big Bear, Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Hesperia, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, and Upland, as well as three cities in east Los Angeles County, Claremont, Pomona and West Covina, and Banning in Riverside County.

For three quarters of a century, the San Bernardino Public Employees Association (SBPEA) had remained in a relatively secure position as the representative of the lion's share of county workers, but beginning four years ago internal and external events and pressure have threatened to shatter the association. Beginning in 2011, county chief executive officer Greg Devereaux began seeking across-the-board contract concessions from all of the county's employee bargaining units See P 8

Feinstein Introduces Bill To Catalog Another 1.6 Million Desert Acres As Monuments

Four months after President Barack Obama designated nearly 350,000 acres of the San Gabriel Mountains as a national monument, California Senator Dianne Feinstein this week introduced legislation aimed at increasing protections for approximately 1.6 million acres of desert landscapes, establishing two new

national monuments and expanding Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve.

Feinstein's bill, the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, would establish the Mojave Trails National Monument, situated between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree

National Park, and the Sand to Snow National Monument, which lies between Joshua Tree National Park and San Bernardino National Forest, and it would protect waterways such as Deep Creek and the Amargosa River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area and designate several new wilder-

ness areas.

Conservationists and desert preservationists hailed the legislation as an effective means of maintaining an important part of California's natural and cultural heritage and safeguarding a resource that should be accessible to the public for outdoor recreation activities.

Included in the public

lands to be protected by the act are some 200,000 acres of once privately-owned land purchased or otherwise acquired by The Wildlands Conservancy, which has joined with the Campaign for the California Desert and the Alliance For Desert Preservation in supporting the bill. The Wildlands Conservancy transferred the See P 8

EVWD Requests Highland Let It Move Sterling Cloaca To Del Rosa

The East Valley Water District has requested that the city of Highland allow it to relocate its planned sewage treatment plant from its previously-approved site on Sterling Avenue to another point in the Del Rosa area.

While East Valley Water District General Manager/CEO John Mura maintains the plant involves the most modern of technology and would accordingly

produce no noise and no odor, the district's effort to locate it on Sterling Avenue was nonetheless insensitive to the wishes of adjoining property owners, Mura said.

By putting the facility in the Del Rosa area instead of at the Sterling Avenue location, Mura said concerns of those around the Sterling Avenue site can be alleviated and the district can sell that property to finance purchasing the See P 3

With Red Ink Hemorrhaging Unabated, Adelanto On Brink Of Axing City Manager



Jim Hart

The Adelanto City Council is sharpening a long knife for city manager Jim Hart, with at least one member of the

council pushing his colleagues to prepare to sack him if he does not leave his post willingly, the *Sentinel* has learned.

At Mayor Rich Kerr's request, Hart on February 11 delivered Adelanto's annual state of the city address to the chamber of commerce, but was not in attendance at that evening's city council meeting, at which a closed door discussion of Hart's performance was scheduled. Word

was given that Hart was taking a two-week leave to use up accrued leave time.

No official action was taken by the council during the closed session evaluation, and there were conflicting reports about whether Hart would return at the end of his current two week hiatus.

Adelanto has been teetering on the brink of bankruptcy for some time and Hart See P 9

Upland Calls For Report To See If Cannabis Initiative Can Be Postponed To 2016

UPLAND—While acknowledging that proponents of an initiative to have Upland permit three medical marijuana clinics to operate in a confined area along the north side of Foothill Boulevard on the city's extreme west end have succeeded in forcing the issue to a vote of city residents, the city council this week voted by a 3-2 margin to delay on

scheduling that election to see if a technical detail in the initiative will require that the vote come next year rather than this year. The ordinance calls for permitting three such establishments along Foothill below Cable Airport between Monte Vista Avenue and Airport Drive while requiring each applicant to put up \$75,000 to cover the city's costs in processing

the permit.

Initiative advocates include California Cannabis Coalition President Craig Beresh and Tropical Lei strip club owner Randy Welty, who is a board member of the California Cannabis Coalition and full or part owner in at least 52 marijuana clinics throughout the state. Between October and January those working with

them collected 6,865 signatures on the initiative petitions, 5,736 of which were deemed by the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters to be valid signatures of registered voters in Upland. That number exceeds the 15 percent of registered voters in the city needed to force the city to hold a special election for the initiative, which city clerk Stephanie Menden-

hall said would cost the city roughly \$180,000.

While two of the council's members – Debbie Stone and Gino Filippi – have said they think it best to let the issue go to a vote without entailing any further delay or expense beyond the cost of the election for the city, their three council colleagues – Mayor Ray Musser and council members Car-See P 11

Intimations Of Drug Use By Board Of Supervisors Chairman *from front page*

members and a subsequent civil action filed by the target of that attempted murder has brought into focus the connection between the San Manuel Tribe and the drug manufacturing, distribution, and sales activity of the so-called Mexican Mafia. This activity, key elements of which were being staged from the San Manuel Reservation, was flourishing at the time Ramos was serving as tribal chairman.

Whispers and innuendoes relating to James Ramos's drug use have been afoot in San Bernardino County for years. That issue remained below the public radar because those most directly concerned, the members of the San Manuel Tribe, were content for the most part to deal with internal issues on their own, and within the tribe's authority

structure, Ramos himself held a high level of control.

The matter took a considerable lurch toward public exposure when Ramos in 2012 vied for Third District county supervisor. Well-funded with his own money and that of the tribe, Ramos put on a spirited campaign, augmented by support from other established county officials, including district attorney Mike Ramos, who stopped short of endorsing James Ramos but did make phone calls on his behalf to secure the endorsements of others. Through the generous application of campaign donations to other politicians, James Ramos was able to obtain their endorsements in return. Riding the political juggernaut he and the San Manuel Tribe had created with their program of generous campaign donations, James Ramos was able to fortify himself with the endorsements of Second District County Supervisor

Janice Rutherford, Highland city councilmen Sam Racadio and John Timmer, Redlands city councilmen Paul Foster, Bob Gardner and Jon Harrison, then-Colton Mayor Sarah Zamora and Colton councilmembers Deidre Bennett, Frank Gonzales, Susan Oliva, David Toro and Vincent Yzaguirre, then-Yucaipa Mayor Dick Riddell and Yucaipa city councilmembers Greg Bogh, Denise Hoyt and Tom Masner, Yucca Valley Town Councilman Merl Abel, and Big Bear councilmembers Liz Harris and Dave Careton. After a three-way race in the June 2012 primary in which no single candidate captured a majority of the vote, James Ramos cruised to an easy victory in November 2012, defeating incumbent Third District Supervisor Neil Derry in the run-off.

Largely ignored in the 2012 election season were underlying problems at the San Manuel Reservation, including

those related to illicit drug activity involving the Mexican Mafia, a whirlwind of events in which James Ramos was himself caught up in.

The 832-acre San Manuel Reservation had traditionally been one of the most impoverished districts in San Bernardino County, where modern plumbing and utilities were once considered luxuries. James Ramos grew up in a trailer on the reservation in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains above Highland, where all but two of the streets were dirt roads. Crime, consisting of petty theft and assaults as well as low level drug offenses, was rampant.

A change in the tribe's fortunes came in 1986 with the advent of a bingo hall, which generated some degree of revenue for the tribe. Sometime later, a card room was added to the bingo hall. That was successful and in the early 2000s, the tribe's leadership, which at that point

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included James Ramos, pooled their members' resources and obtained permits to convert the bingo hall and card room into a casino. That endeavor proved incredibly lucrative, and in relatively short order mansions began to sprout up on the reservation grounds, replete with luxury vehicles in their driveways.

An exact fix on the wealth generated for tribal members is hard to come by. One report was that the lowliest members of the tribe

net \$300,000 per year. Others more involved in tribal governance and casino operations are said to make more, as much as \$1.5 million per year. James Ramos, who was the tribal chairman, is generally thought to be the wealthiest member of the tribe. One report, perhaps apocryphal, was that he was earning roughly \$18,000 per day, or \$4.77 million per year.

Accompanying the tribe's newfound economic success was an intensification of some of the problems that had long dogged the reservation and its inhabitants. In some cases, tribe members used the influx of capital to bankroll an even more intensive version of the illicit drug activity they had heretofore been caught up in. This included participation in the enterprises run by international drug cartels. Whereas previously, those tribe members so involved had not merited serious attention from law enforcement, within months of the opening of the casino, members of the tribe and their associates had fallen under the scrutiny of a law enforcement task force focusing on a ring trafficking in massive quantities of methamphetamine.

On December 12, 2006, federal Drug Enforcement Agency officers, in cooperation with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and detectives and deputies from the Riverside County and San Bernardino County sheriff's departments and officers from the San Bernardino, Ontario, Rialto,

Continued on Page 4

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Alaniz Out As 29 Palms H₂O General Manager

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Tamara Alaniz has been forced out as general manager of the Twentynine Palms Water District after 23 months in that position.

Alaniz, who resides in Apple Valley and had been serving in the capacity of program manager with the Mojave Water Agency since 2008, was hired as Twentynine Palms Water District general manager in February 2013, assuming that post on March 11, 2013.

There were no overt indications of discord between Alaniz and the board during her tenure. On February 4, however, the board met in closed session, after which it was publicly announced that Alaniz was leaving the district and that operations manager Ray Kolisz would replace her, for the time being.

No details for Alaniz sacking was given, nor was there an open acknowledgement that she

had been, in fact, terminated. Rather, an announcement was made to the effect that her leaving was taking place as a consequence of “a mutual agreement” between the board and Alaniz.

The Twentynine Palms Water District’s span of jurisdiction may at least partially explicate Alaniz’s abrupt departure.

Since 1958, the Twentynine Palms Fire Department has been overseen by the water district. The department grew to include two fire stations and seven firefighters to cover the 55 square miles within the Twentynine Palms City Limits and the 33 square miles of unincorporated county area that also falls under the water district/fire department’s 88-square mile jurisdiction. But the special tax imposed on residents within the boundaries of the Twentynine Palms Water District yields

just \$1,241,000 in revenue per year and the fire department needs to function entirely within those financial parameters. This has entailed the closure of one of the department’s fire stations and department personnel being cut back to five firefighters overall, consisting of the fire chief, two fire captains and two engineers. They are augmented by a single person clerical staff position that has been vacant through attrition since March 2013 and 28 reserve/volunteer firefighters, all of whom have attended a fire academy. Four of those are local volunteers. The others are aspiring firefighters from more distant areas in San Bernardino County, or Los Angeles, Orange or Riverside counties. Each serves a one-day 24 hour shift per week in Twentynine Palms. The 24 who do not reside in or near Twentynine Palms return to their distant

abodes upon the conclusion of their shifts.

The oversight of a fire department is somewhat afield from Alaniz’s area of expertise.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and Master’s degree in public administration with an emphasis on water resource management in 2006. The professional training she received while with the Mojave Water Agency, consisting of her attending the William R. Gianelli California Water Leadership Academy, pertained entirely to water issues. With the Mojave Water Agency, Alaniz had been primarily responsible for public information provision and planning for a comprehensive regional water conservation program.

Alaniz’ departure comes as the board is considering rate increases for district customers.



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

By Count Friedrich
von Olsen



I think I have this straight, but if I don’t, I will publicly apologize to the Attorney General and buy her and her husband and their children a steak dinner at the most expensive restaurant in California...

Yesterday, that is Thursday February 12, California Attorney General Kamala Harris wrote a letter to elected and appointed leaders in all 58 of the state’s counties who have responsibility for child welfare and juvenile justice systems to inform them of the creation of the Bureau of Children’s Justice at the California Department of Justice. In that letter, she stated, “The Bureau’s mission is to protect the rights of children and focus the attention and resources of law enforcement and policymakers on the importance of safeguarding every child so that they can meet their full potential.” So far, so good...

The letter lays out a series of things the bureau will look into and oversee, shepherd and prosecute both criminally and civilly, all pertaining to the welfare of children. Most of them sound like good ideas to me, although I cannot help suspecting that this initiative has something to do with Ms. Harris’s current effort to capture the soon-to-be vacant seat of Senator Barbara Boxer...

As I said, I commend the attorney general and her office for taking this issue, in its general sense, seriously. But buried in the letter is some language that I think, in a specific sense, is not quite appropriate from a governmental official, an elected official in Sacramento and a politician who is, simply, the highest law enforcement authority in the state...

Under that portion of the letter devoted to educational rights, Ms. Harris propounds that children have the right to “attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with their age and developmental level, with minimal disruptions to school attendance and educational stability;” to “access the same academic resources, services, and enrichment activities as other students;” to “remain enrolled in and attend their school of origin pending resolution of any school placement dispute, and be protected from being penalized for school absences due to placement changes, court appearances, or related court ordered activities.” There was some intimation in news reports following the release of the letter that the attorney general’s office would “crack down” on school districts that have a demonstrated pattern of too stringently enforcing school or school district placement rules...

That is what I find troubling. School district and school attendance boundaries exist for good and practical reasons. There are rules and boundaries in place to ensure that one particular school or school district is not overwhelmed by the number of students it must accommodate and educate. Those rules also ensure that some schools or districts, in which taxpayers have heavily invested, are not underattended, thus leading to the squandering of taxpayer money and public resources...

By threatening to take action against school districts that enforce the regulations and rules of law to maintain boundary and jurisdictional integrity so that all of the students they are legally mandated to serve can achieve a quality education free of classroom overcrowding is, in my view, beneath the standard we in California want to see in the individual we have collectively elected to uphold the law...

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

EVWD Seeks To Relocate Plant Site from front page

Del Rosa property.

Former councilmembers Ross Jones and Dennis Johnson said they were in favor of the transition and four of the current council members

raised no objections.

But Mayor Larry McCallon, who is a voting member of the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission board, said the district was rushing the matter by approaching the city council for the change at this point.

“You don’t even have a state permit,” McCallon said. The Local Agency Formation Commission must examine and vote on the matter. McCallon said he did not want to prejudge the matter as a member of the council if he was going to have to pass judgment on the issue at a later date in his

capacity as a commission member.

There will also be an environmental review of locating the plant in Del Rosa.

The plant will treat effluent and then inject the treated and reclaimed water into the Bunker Hill Basin to replenish the water table. Adjoining the plant, according to Mura will be a park and community center, plus a satellite district office where customers can pay their water bills. The city council voted to accept a notice of intent for relocating the plant.

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Rumors Swirl Around Board Chairman Ramos from page 2

Colton and Redlands police departments, together with state parole officers fanned out among various Inland Empire locations to conduct raids and serve 64 search warrants and effectuate 119 arrests. Most prominent in the locations targeted was the San Manuel Reservation. Authorities said that two of those arrested that day, Salvador Orozco Hernandez and Alfred Orozco Hernandez, both identified as Mexican Mafia members, were known to have carried out their drug distribution operations from the reservation. Also arrested on December 12 were two tribe members, Stacy Cheyenne Barajas-Nunez and Erik Barajas, who are James Ramos's cousins.

Then-San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris, who was both a former prosecutor with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and a San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge, stated at the time, "Clearly, we have penetrated deep into the infrastructure of the mafia."

That raid would have significant repercussions, both on and off the reservation. Individuals affiliated with the drug distribution network, some of whom were Mexican Mafia members, others of whom were not Mafia members per se, but were involved in the drug trade at the street level or who were perhaps uninvolved but by unfortunate coincidence or circumstance had knowledge of drug distribution activity or had witnessed it, were perceived by the drug cartel's higher ranking members as having possibly been informants. Some of those people ended up dead.

One person who would fall between the drug cartel's crosshairs was Leonard Epps, who was at one time a bartender and manager of the Brass Key, a bar lo-

cated in Highland not too distant from the San Manuel Reservation. Members of the Mexican Mafia, including San Manuel tribal members, used the Brass key as a rendezvous point, often exchanging drugs or money either in the establishment itself or in its parking lot. Because of what he had witnessed while tending bar in the Brass Key, including seeing meetings between cartel members and functionaries, including at least one who was killed in a gangland hit, Epps was deemed by the cartel as a risk.

Of particular concern to the cartel was Epps' contact with James Seay, who frequented the bar. Seay was shot and wounded in front of The Brass Key on May 17, 2004. Tribal member Robert Vincent Martinez III was charged in the case, but the charges were later dismissed. Seay, however, pursued a civil case against Martinez on May 9, 2005. Martinez hired a lawyer, Trent Copeland, to contest the suit, but eventually settled the matter for slightly over \$500,000. Just days after receiving that settlement, Seay was fatally shot in front of his mother's house in San Bernardino. The killing remains unsolved.

Because of concern that Epps could shed light on the Seay murder, a contract on Epps was taken out. Through a near-miraculous series of events, however, Epps survived and the plot to kill him was discovered by the authorities. Subsequently, two of the tribal members arrested in the December 2006 raid, Stacy Barajas-Nunez and Erik Barajas, were charged with murder-for-hire in the botched attempt on Epps' life.

Barajas-Nunez and Barajas were convicted in 2008 of the murder-for hire following court proceedings in which much of the information pertaining to the drug distribution activity taking place on the reservation was excluded. Despite those convictions, district attorney Michael A. Ramos, who is no re-

lation to James Ramos, consented to Barajas-Nunez and Barajas being sentenced to probation, instead of state prison terms.

This in itself raised considerable concern about improper influence by the San Manuel Tribe over the district attorney's office and Mike Ramos in particular. Mike Ramos has received over \$70,000 in campaign contributions from the San Manuel Tribe.

Moreover, the tribe in 2008 entered into what many have said is questionable or possibly even illegal arrangement with the county of San Bernardino by which the tribe is subsidizing both the sheriff's department and the district attorney's office. Under this arrangement, which has been ratified by the county board of supervisors, between July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013, the tribe paid the district attorney \$1,048,909 to cover the cost of employing a deputy district attorney and a district attorney investigator during that span "to help mitigate the impacts of tribal gaming on the community." Currently, the district attorney's office is receiving funds in the amount of \$1,111,403 over a three

year period to offset the cost of employing a deputy district attorney and a district attorney investigator. Thus, the tribe paid the district attorney's office \$359,985 in 2013-13, is paying the district attorney's office \$370,364 in 2014-15 and will pay the district attorney's office \$381,054 in the upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year. In addition, the San Manuel Tribe is paying the sheriff's department a substantial amount of money, at least \$1,745,702 per year, for its services.

These payments to the sheriff and district attorney were initiated while James Ramos was serving in the capacity of San Manuel tribal chairman and have continued during his tenure as supervisor. He is no longer serving as tribal chairman.

This arrangement, in which the sheriff's department and the district attorney have been receiving money from an entity that is entitled to a full range of governmental service and which is not obliged to pay any special fees or taxes for that service, has led to questions about whether law enforcement and justice, or the quality thereof, is for sale. In particular, as is relevant to the issue currently at hand, is whether James Ramos,

as the tribal chairman responsible for creating the tribe's policy of bestowing upon the sheriff and the district attorney this special funding, has created for himself a special status by which he and higher-ranking members of the tribe are immune from investigation and prosecution or are otherwise due and given special treatment not accorded to others.

Ken Barajas, one of the tribe members previously involved in tribal governance who was among those responsible for the founding of the San Manuel Casino and who is also the father of Stacy Barajas-Nunez and Erik Barajas, was in attendance at the November 6, 2007 tribal council meeting chaired by James Ramos. During the meeting a heated discussion relating to the law enforcement raid at the reservation the previous December and the ensuing legal issues including the prosecutions of Stacy Barajas-Nunez and Erik Barajas took place. There ensued accusations and counter-accusations of threats between Mike Ramos on one side and Ken Barajas and Stacy Barajas on the other. Subsequently, James Ramos filed for a restraining order against Ken Barajas and Stacy

Barajas. In response, Ken Barajas filed with the San Bernardino Superior Court a sworn declaration in which he noted the "legal problems" his children were having but asserted that James Ramos had engaged in similar behavior that had led to his offspring's travails.

"James Ramos had a serious drug problem in the past," Ken Barajas stated. "Additionally, James Ramos was associating with the 'wrong' crowd. It was not uncommon for him to carry a firearm and threaten people with it, including relatives. All his family were quite tolerable (sic) of his conduct and gave him multiple opportunities to turn around his life. I was threatened by James in the past. James had pulled a gun on me when he was on drugs but I ignored those threats and lead (sic) him to get help."

In the declaration, Ken Barajas does note, "James finally turned his life around."

According to information provided to the *Sentinel* by four separate sources, however, some three years later, James Ramos appeared to have relapsed. In particular, he was described as having attended the funeral

Continued on Page 6

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Glimpse Of SBC's Past Prehistory Rocks – Part I: Where?

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

Prehistoric art in the eastern San Bernardino County region will be the focus of the American Rock Art Research



Colorado River Corridor Trail Art near Needles. The “Mojave Trail Corridor” sites include thousands of motifs and images, many archaic and many from the formative period that followed, largely attributed to ancestral Yuman speakers. This east west travel corridor crosses the Lower Colorado River north south travel corridor in our conference area.

Association’s (ARARA’s) intra-continental convocation to be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 22 – 25, 2015. Field trips bookend the Saturday and Sunday conference filled with colorful Power Point presentations and thoughtful analysis to be shared at the conference center this year held at the Colorado Belle Resort and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada. Friday and Monday’s field trip line ups are similar, so participants may select three alternatives from the list and be guaranteed participation in two of those, one for Friday and one for Monday. See the January 30, 2015 Glimpse of SBC's Past in that week's issue of the Sentinel for more information about the purpose of the ARARA conference and go to www.ARARA.org for more information about the conference.

Rock art this year will be visited largely in the region surrounding the section of the Lower Colorado River where the river canyon opens up into what is known as “Mohave Valley,” Arizona and includes the region between Laughlin and the Topock Gorge south of Needles. This region of the Colorado

River is a wide river valley that in the prehistoric past was subject to seasonal flooding before the river was dammed and channeled as you will

see it today.

Prehistorically, the Mojave Indian tribe occupied this section of the



Many Colorado River Corridor and Mojave Trail Corridor site images have the appearance of being influenced by Mesoamerican, UtoAztec or southwestern cultures of various periods that show up in the area’s archaeological and historic record: that of the the Anasazi, the Hohokam and the more recent imagery of the Nuwui or “Chemeheuvi” (Southern Paiute). What we call the “I” or “H” motif is common in Mesoamerican art and culture as is rectilinear squiggles. The archaeological evidence suggest that Mesoamerican turquoise miners and traders were in the area and should get the credit for some of the art work.

River. “Mojave” is an abbreviation and derivative of the word “Pipa Aha Macav” meaning “People of the River.” You may wonder why Mohave Valley, Arizona is spelled with an “h” and the Mojave Desert is spelled with a “j”. Basically, the spelling has to do with what side of the Colorado River you are

on. In Arizona the “h” is used. In California, the “j” is used. This gets a little confusing when it comes to the name to use to identify a tribe that a person is associated with. Generally, if one is speaking about the Pipa Aha Macav who are members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe based in Needles, California, you spell that affiliation with a “j” even if the person lives on the Arizona side of that portion of the river. In Parker, there are Pipa Aha Macav who are affiliated with and, or members of the “Colorado River Indian Tribes” (CRIT)—most of them live on the Arizona side of the river and they use the “h” spelling in the word Mohave. So, we have “Mojaves” and “Mohaves,” the first who generally live in the Needles area and the second who generally live in the

Parker area.

The Mojaves speak, or did speak, a language that is classified as a Yuman dialect of the Hokan linguistic group. Prehistorically, various dialects of Yuman were spoken by a tribes along and surrounding the Lower Colorado River. These included the Havasupai up the river and north-

east of the Mojaves in Peach Springs, Arizona;

different linguistic family, Uto Aztec, took



The presence of a massive body of water like the Colorado River in the path of foreign travelers dictated the location of trails and river crossings. Expect to find “foreign” or atypical imagery for example bighorn sheep motifs typically found further north or elongated digits (fingers and toes) typically found further south near strategic crossings like Hum-me-chomp in the Topock Gorge, also in “magnet” holy areas like Grapevine Canyon a passage way for pilgrimages made by Yuman speakers up and down the river to the creation place, the most high “Spirit Mountain”-“Avikwame.” Look from your window in Laughlin and you cannot miss it just to the north and west of the river.

the Hualapais in Kingman Arizona region; the Quechan in the Yuma region and others. The Halchidhoma, a Yuman speaking tribe, once occupied the Lake Havasu region to the south of the Mojave, however reportedly to avoid tension with their neighboring cousins to the north and south on the Colorado River they relocated to the Gila River area. Their departure left open a void in a small segment of the river to which the Chemehuevi or Southern Paiute, a tribe of Numic speakers from a

possession. The Numic expansion into Havasu



The Hole-in-the-Wall tour loops through the heart of the East Mojave National Preserve from Goffs School House, Camp Rock Spring, two extensive sites, Hole-in-the Wall and Mitchell Caverns if it reopens. May include visit to pictographs in rock shelters attributed to Desert Mojave and Nuwui (Chemehuevi/Southern Paiute).



Grapevine Canyon features massive boulders of solid granite panels of deeply pecked motifs, attributed to ancestral Yuman speaking people.

Lake and occupation of this small segment of the Lower Colorado River by Numic speakers is believed to have taken place about 500 years ago.

Prehistorically the Mojave claimed the area of the desert between the Mojave River (Barstow/Victorville) and the Colorado River. The cultural artifacts of what is described as a Desert Mojave people have been recorded by archaeologists in the east Mojave Desert in the area around Mitchell Caverns and the Hole-in-the-Wall region. It appears that older rock art was added to, altered, and, or, in some cases, scratched out by others of a different culture using a different style of artistic imagery. In the east Mojave Desert, some of this superimposition may have occurred during the Numic expansion within the last thousand years.

This year members will be able to relish the same artistic imagery

enjoyed by thousands of years of ancestral Mojave while taking breaks at water stops at springs in the desert along the Mojave Trail Corridor (MTC) linking their Colorado River villages with their relatives and trading partners on the coast.



James Ramos
from page 4

of a tribal elder in an obvious state of drugged intoxication. According to a statement indirectly obtained by the *Sentinel* from someone present, Ramos was “coked to the gills” and periodically snorting more of the drug while the service was yet ongoing.

In 2011, as word of James Ramos’s contemplated run for Third District supervisor the following year was making the rounds, there were recurrent reports that such an elective effort would prove unviable because his history of substance abuse would manifest as a liability he would be unable to overcome. That clearly did not turn out to be the case and the issue was not raised during the campaign.

Derry this week told the *Sentinel* that he was “told James had his own personal drug problem during discussions that were ongoing about drug activity and law enforcement efforts at the reservation.” And Derry said, he was given an account “of something from a few years ago, when one of the tribal leaders passed away, he came to the funeral completely ripped on cocaine.”

He had elected not to dwell on those issues during the 2012 election,

Derry said, but rather concentrated on issues relating to improving the district. “To the extent I attacked him, it had nothing to do with his personal life but I did explore how he was going to have some huge conflicts with contracts the tribe had with the county if he was elected supervisor,” Derry said.

After his election in 2012 and his assumption of the board seat, Ramos was not hounded by any accusations or insinuations relating to substance abuse. The closest such references were observations made by some that in his public life his level of intensity and focus was somewhat inconsistent, and that he seemed more articulate at certain times than at others.

It was only within the last two months that the issue resurfaced. On January 6, he was chosen board chairman by his colleagues, succeeding supervisor Janice Rutherford. Board chairman in San Bernardino County is a significantly more powerful and authoritative position than supervisor. By the terms of the county’s charter, the board chairman is designated as the county’s executive agent. Whereas in years past being the county’s executive agent was far more significant, in 1948 the county cre-

ated the position of a staff county administrative officer, relieving the board chairman of being a hands-on overseer of county operations. The county administrative officer post was re-framed as the county’s chief executive officer in 2010. The board chairman continues to embody an enhanced level of authority, conducting board meetings and signing contracts and other documents on the board’s behalf. The county charter remains unchanged and a board chairman could utilize his authority to effectuate action in some cases unilaterally, if he were to be so bold as to do so. Elevating James Ramos to board chairman thus intensified the level of scrutiny to which he was subjected.

Last week, Ramos’s field representative for the Morongo Basin, Michael Lipsitz, was arrested at the sheriff’s Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility, accused by the sheriff’s department of attempting to smuggle drugs into the facility while he was visiting a young man, Joshua Jonathan Rhodes, incarcerated there.

The sheriff’s department issued a press release concerning the arrest, which stated, “Michael Lipsitz is a field representative for

Third District Supervisor James Ramos.”

Further down, the press release stated, “Sheriff John McMahon said, ‘When I learned of this disappointing news, I contacted Supervisor James Ramos and notified him of the investigation and arrest of one of his employees. Supervisor Ramos immediately terminated Lipsitz’ employment with the county.’ McMahon further stated, “Supervisor Ramos was shocked by the news, and assured me he has zero tolerance for any type of criminal behavior.”

The manner in which sheriff McMahon, an elected official, presumed to speak for Ramos, also an elected official, and then preempted Ramos in making the announcement about Lipsitz’s firing immediately raised an alarm. As both supervisor and board chairman, Ramos holds a position of relative authority over McMahon, as the board of supervisors oversees the budget for the entire county and, in fact, controls the sheriff’s department’s purse strings. For many, McMahon usurping Ramos’s role of controlling the information relating to a personnel decision that fell within Ramos’s purview appeared to be a glaring indication that McMahon had leapt into

the breach in a matter relating to the subject of drugs because it was simply too risky from a public information standpoint for Ramos to do so himself.

In other words, it appeared that McMahon had relieved Ramos of having to issue a public statement of his own pertaining to the matter, thus avoiding charges of hypocrisy that might be leveled at Ramos by his acquaintances or others if he made a statement condemning Lipsitz for being involved in a matter involving illegal drugs. Ramos has exacerbated this perception by consistently ducking any media inquiries about the Lipsitz matter.

County spokesman David Wert told the *Sentinel* that he was unfamiliar with any suggestions or accusations that James Ramos has used or is in anyway involved with illegal drugs.

“I have never heard anything to that effect,” Wert said. Nor, Wert said, had he personally detected any behavior on the board chairman’s part that would lead him to draw that conclusion.

Wert said there had been no private discussions among the board of supervisors or within the county chief executive officer’s staff pertaining to drug use on Ramos’s part or the risk

the county might run by his appointment as board chairman.

“There was nothing in closed session,” he said of any discussions relating to Ramos’s appointment. “It was all done in public.” He added, “I don’t know what forum a discussion like that would take place in.”

Wert said he disagreed with the widespread interpretation that McMahon’s statement in the press release announcing Ramos’s action in terminating Lipsitz was an indicator that McMahon had usurped Ramos’s authority or was in some fashion running interference for the board chairman. As the spokesman for the board of supervisors and the county’s chief executive officer, Wert said, “I do press releases where I ask the sheriff to contribute a quote or ask someone to contribute a quote. I didn’t see it as unusual. In my opinion, it was handled very well in the interest of full disclosure. The sheriff doesn’t usually disclose who a suspect is employed by. The news release laid it all out there, which is what I think good government is supposed to be all about.”

Interpreting McMahon speaking for Ramos with regard to the issues in the Lipsitz arrest as an indication that Ramos was hiding his drug use behind the sheriff, Wert said, “sounds like a stretch to me.”

The *Sentinel* contacted deputy county counsel Julie Surber, who had reviewed the arrangements between the San Manuel Tribe and the county for the subsidization of sheriff’s department’s law enforcement activity at the reservation and the subsidization of the district attorney’s office’s handling of cases originating on the reservation and at the casino as to both their form and legality. Surber was atypically tight lipped about those arrangements, whether the implication of the arrangements had changed after James Ramos became

Continued on Page 7

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Rialto Police Dog In Horrifically Vicious Attack On Handler's Son

HESPERIA—The four-year-old son of a Rialto police officer was viciously attacked by the



Hunter Mastaler

police dog his father had trained and employed as part of that department canine unit.

The attack took place in the backyard of their Hesperia home around 4:30 p.m. on Sunday February 8.

Michael Mastaler,

part of whose assignment with the Rialto Police Department, is to handle the police K-9 Jango, routinely brought the dog, a 6-year-old Belgium Malinois, home. This is standard protocol for the department, which endeavors to maintain a strong relationship between police dogs and their handlers.

Officer Mastaler, who had just returned home, went into the backyard and let Jango out of his kennel before going upstairs. His wife was out shopping at the time. While officer Mastaler was in the shower, his son, Hunter, unlatched the sliding glass door at the back of the Mastaler residence and went into the backyard. He would

later say that he was looking for his mother.

At that point Jango attacked the boy. Nearby neighbors heard Hunter's screams and responded at once. The first to arrive was Jeff Houlemard. Houlemard's entry into the backyard was delayed by the fence around the Mastaler backyard. After he bulled through that obstacle, he descended upon the dog, which had Hunter's leg near the calf in its mouth. Houlemard kicked the dog, but the dog's jaws were yet locked on the boy's leg. He repositioned himself behind the dog and used his hands and arms to pry the dog's mouth open. At that point another neighbor had arrived who was able to lift the child's leg

out of the dog's mouth.

It is estimated that the

attack was ongoing for two minutes before the child was freed from the dog.

Hunter's leg at that point was severely lacerated and twisted, with much of the flesh torn.

"The injury caused severe damage to the arteries and veins in his leg," according to a family friend, Melissa Marsden Turney. "As a result of this terrible accident, Hunter's leg had to be amputated a few inches below the knee, and he will receive a prosthetic in its place."

Jango has been put into quarantine at the Rialto Police Department's dog training center. A determination of his fate



Michael Mastaler and Jango

Continued on Page 9

James Ramos from page 6

county supervisor and whether she was privy to any discussions where the topic of James Ramos's alleged drug use had been broached. "I can't comment on that," Surber said four times to all questions addressed to her related to those issues.

The *Sentinel's* call to Surber prompted a return call from Wert, who emphasized that Surber's reticence should not be interpreted to imply that the topic of drug use on James Ramos's part had been explored by county officials.

Surber, Wert said, did "not confirm she has heard anything one way or the other."

As to the issue of whether James Ramos has a conflict by being a member of the tribe and a resident of the reservation that is serviced by the sheriff's department is akin, Wert said, to considering whether supervisor Rutherford, who is now a resident of Rancho Cucamonga, has a conflict because Rancho Cucamonga has a contract for law enforcement service with the sheriff's department. No conflict exists, Wert insisted.

The *Sentinel's* efforts to engage James Ramos directly on the issue pertaining to the reports or insinuations about his drug use were unsuccessful. His deputy chief of staff, Molly Wiltshire, said she would convey the request for a state-

ment or interview along to Ramos's chief of staff Phil Paule, to determine if Paule or the supervisor thought such an exchange to be advisable. Despite further efforts to reach Wiltshire, Paule and Ramos, no statement was forthcoming by press time.

With regard to rumors about Ramos or whispering campaigns in general and the reluctance of Ramos and his staff to address them, Wert said, "I am not sure anyone is actually saying anything. Anyone can start a rumor. Anyone can whisper. When you comment on whispers and rumors you raise them to the level of an issue."

Neither district attorney Mike Ramos nor his spokesman, Christopher Lee, responded to

the *Sentinel's* requests for input with regard to whether the prosecution of the Barajas/Barajas Nunez case unearthed any information implicating James Ramos in any drug-related activity.

Curt Hagman, who was elected to the board of supervisors in November and was sworn into office in December, told the *Sentinel* he had detected nothing about James Ramos's compartment or manner that would suggest he was using drugs or was impaired in any way.

"I've only been on the board for five meetings now, but I haven't seen anything like that," Hagman said.

This is not the first go-round the county has had with such rumors regarding its board chairman. In 2006, then board of supervisors chairman Bill Postmus went missing for more than a month. Efforts to locate him were unsuccessful and reports began to drift in to the effect that he was incapacitated or undergoing drug rehabilitation. When news media outlets stepped up their inquiries about his whereabouts, seeking to get access to his official itinerary, county officials, led by then-county administrative officer Mark Uffer, spurned

those requests, criticized the inquiries as violations of Postmus's right to privacy and derided the reports of his drug use as false rumors and ill-informed gossip. The county went to court to successfully oppose having to make public Postmus's itinerary and calendar. Two-and-one-half years later, in early January 2009, Postmus, who was then the elected county assessor, confirmed that he had fallen prey to the "scourge" of drug addiction, while claiming he had overcome it. Less than two weeks later, he was arrested for drug possession.

Frank Peterson is an attorney representing Leonard Epps in a civil suit against Stacy Barajas Nunez and Erik Barajas with regard to their having contracted the Mexican Mafia to kill him. Epps and Peterson prevailed in that suit and a jury has already awarded Epps, who is still a target for Mexican Mafia executioners and has had to assume a new identity and relocate himself and his family to a secure location, \$4.5 million in compensatory damages. In April another civil jury will take up whether Epps is entitled to punitive damages.

Petersen said there

are "deep" levels of drug distribution activity emanating from the San Manuel Reservation, involving massive infusions of monetary investments from tribe members sustaining that illicit operation. He said there was information to indicate James Ramos "is, or at least was, pretty heavy into the use of drugs." But that, Peterson said, is really a minor issue compared to the drug manufacturing and distribution network that involves the reservation and some of the tribe's members, which is betrayed by the arrangements, approved by the board of supervisors, to have the tribe make payments to the district attorney and the sheriff to have them look the other way.

"They have a lot of money and a lot of power," Peterson said. "They definitely own the sheriff's department and all of the police departments in the San Bernardino area. It is pretty well established that if they get caught, nothing is going to happen. They own the district attorney's office. They own the courts. They own everybody. If you fight it, there's a pretty good chance you will end up crippled or dead."



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SPEA Mulling Merger With Teamsters *from front page*

to offset skyrocketing governmental operating costs and end what he termed an "institutional structural deficit" plaguing the county. Several of the county employee unions came to some form of terms or compromise with Devereaux, though not all were ready to accept the economies he proposed. Devereaux achieved a major breakthrough when he convinced the county firefighters union to agree to pick up the 7 percent the county had been paying into the firefighters' retirement accounts and decrease their annual promotional increases from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. But the firefighters' union had made those concessions conditional upon the other bargaining groups making concessions. In September 2012 SEBA, the Safety Employees Benefit Association, representing the county's

sheriff's deputies, made contract concessions.

In April 2013, Devereaux imposed contract concessions on deputy prosecutors and public defenders.

In July 2013, SBPEA General Manager Bob Blough was abruptly terminated and rumors began to circulate to the effect that he was under investigation by the district attorney's office.

In May 2014, two classes of county workers, nursing division supervisors and managers, accepted the county's terms. The same month, SBPEA rejected the latest contract offered to the various classifications of county workers by the county. Of the 5,524 county employees who voted on the proposal, known as a tentative agreement, 3,523 voted no. The other 2,001 members of the San Bernardino Public Employees Association who are employed by the county who participated in the vote cast ballots of acceptance. Some 7,000 county employees rep-

resented by the union did not participate in the vote.

The May 2014 vote came amidst a secession move by a relatively small but vocal portion of county workers represented by SBPEA members. They expressed dissatisfaction with SBPEA's efforts in representing them in contract talks with the county, urging their fellow union members to reject the contract Devereaux was proposing, while seeking a special election to decertify the San Bernardino Public Employees Association as the county general line employees' representative and instead installing Service Employees International Union Local 721 as their bargaining unit.

That push did not succeed and SBPEA retaliated against the dissidents by expelling those members advocating the change and obtaining a restraining order against the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in June 2014, effectively ending SEIU's

ability to lobby SBPEA members.

The San Bernardino Public Employees Association's reputation further eroded in October, when SBPEA officials disclosed that an audit indicated that between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, a total of \$595,444.82 in cash received by SBPEA was missing because it was never deposited into SBPEA's bank account and was not in SBPEA's safe. It was revealed that former general manager Blough appeared to have absconded with the money. The audit was provided to the district attorney's office, which was asked to double down on its criminal investigation of Blough. That same month, the San Bernardino Public Employees Association filed a lawsuit against Blough in San Bernardino Superior Court seeking return of the missing money and lawyers' fees.

Faced with a growing perception by many of its members that the union is ineffectual,

SBPEA this week, on February 11, announced it has scheduled a vote for later this month on whether members will consent to becoming an independent local of the Teamsters.

"Affiliation with the Teamsters will strengthen our position at the bargaining table to achieve better contracts for all members," according to the announcement. "Affiliation will allow us to fully engage in the political process on the state and local levels for... overall benefit."

That announcement, posted on the SBPEA websites said that while the association has cut an

effective swathe as an independent union for the length of its existence, the current political and circumstantial context makes affiliation with the Teamsters propitious.

"Local politicians have targeted our wages, benefits and pensions. We need to fight back to save our way of life," the website states. "If we do not evolve and progress, we may lose it all. Affiliation will give us the support and the backing of an organization that has 1.4 million union members nationally and 140,000 locally."



Feinstein Desert Protection Bill *from front page*

property to the U.S. Department of Interior to be managed for recreation, habitat and cultural resource protection, and other conservation purposes.

Opponents of large scale solar projects in pristine areas of the des-

ert are also in favor of Feinstein's proposed legislation.

San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor James Ramos, a Democrat, commended Feinstein for taking up the proposed legislation, saying, "The California desert lands are important to our community's quality

Continued on Page 12

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Adelanto Losing Patience With Hart *from front page*

and his staff have been unable to right the listing financial ship.

In 2013, the city council, as it was then composed, at Hart's urging declared the 31,765 population city was in a state of fiscal emergency. The city's residents, however, refused to consent to impose on themselves a tax that city officials insisted was needed to stave off bankruptcy and Hart's only other alternatives have been to seek out development projects that offer the prospect of fee or tax generation. In particular, he advocated the city approving the development of two privately-run prisons within its city limits. Adelanto is already host to four detention facilities. One of the two more recent proposals has been approved and the other was withdrawn. The council and Hart have been attacked for a lack of imagination in wrestling with the fiscal dilemma and for advocating bringing in more detention facilities,

which some say will further erode the city's reputation and lessen its ability to attract other types of development.

On November 4, incumbent councilmen Charles Valvo and Steve Baisden, along with mayor Cari Thomas, were unsuccessful in their reelection bids. Thus, a majority of the five-member council was freshly installed, although councilman Charley Glasper was formerly on the council. Glasper and John Woodard were sworn in to replace Valvo and Baisden, while Rich Kerr replaced Thomas.

Whatever honeymoon with Hart that ensued after the newly-composed council was installed has now faded and Hart's head is now on the chopping block.

The strongest advocate for Hart's removal, the *Sentinel* has learned, is councilman Jermaine Wright. Wright was on the losing side of several votes taken over the last two years by the Thomas-led council that included Valvo, Baisden and councilman Ed Ca-

margo.

Glasper is only slightly less critical of Hart than Wright. Among the remainder of the current council, Hart's strongest supporter is Camargo. But Camargo's political stock is in eclipse, as he is fighting off charges of being involved in a conflict of interest that grew out of his November vote in support of the prison project that was subsequently withdrawn. Camargo's girlfriend is employed by the company seeking to develop that prison.

Kerr does not appear to be strong-willed with regard to Hart, one way or the other. In the first two months of his tenure as mayor, he has been highly dependent upon Hart for orientation, and this may have left him indisposed to firing him outright.

Hart, who has been Adelanto city manager since 2004 and was city manager in Twentynine Palms and Rancho Margarita and administrative services director in Rancho Cucamonga before that, is seriously weakened by the con-

sideration that he is the highest paid city manager in the High Desert.

According to former State Controller John Chiang's latest report, Hart is receiving an annual salary and add-ons of \$280,000, together with a retirement and health care package valued at \$50,105, giving him a total annual compensation package of \$330,105. His add-ons include accrual payouts, an advance on deferred compensation, a city vehicle, cell phone and computer allowances. Without those add-ons

his salary is \$216,000.

Glasper lamented that \$330,000 annually was out of line for a city of Adelanto's size that is going broke. He said Hart had failed to move the city ahead during the time he, Glasper, was not on the council, and that he was disappointed to find, when he returned, that the city is in a deeper financial rut than when he left. He said Hart's performance had been mediocre, at best. While Glasper suggested he was prepared to keep Hart in place if he were to accept a sal-

ary cut, Wright wants Hart out, period.

Last week, aware that the newly-composed city council is dissatisfied with the city's ongoing \$2.6 million deficit, finance director Onyx Jones, who had been a key member of Hart's administrative team, resigned.

Vicious Dog Attack *from page 7*

will not be made at least until February 19. The Rialto Police Department is carrying out a follow-up investigation of the incident.

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San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701501205 On 02/08/2015, at 1:24 AM, officers' of the San Bernardino Police Department responded to a call of shots fired in the 2600 block of Lawrence Ave in San Bernardino. When they arrived, they found a male subject down with injuries to the upper torso. That subject was pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy will be conducted later this week to determine the exact cause of death. The San Bernardino Police Department Homicide Unit is investigating. The decedent's name will be released when the next-of-kin have been notified. [02092015 0825 SC]

Coroner case #701501216 and 701501217 On 02/08/2015 at 6:46 PM, Officers' from the Montclair Police Department were dispatched to the 11000 block of Monte Vista Ave. in Montclair. When Officers' arrived, they found 2 male subjects, subsequently identified as 34-year old Pomona resident Mario Padilla and 33 year old West Covina resident Livied Arturo Sanchez, down inside of a garage. Both suffered upper body trauma and were pronounced dead at the scene. Autopsies will be conducted later this week. The Montclair Police Department is conducting the investigation into the circumstances of the deaths. [02092015 1730 SC] [121315 0727 SY]

Coroner case #701501137 On Thursday, 02/05/2015, at 1:33 PM, two vehicles collided Sierra Ave., just north of Karen Lane, in Jurupa Valley (Riverside County). Both drivers were transported to Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Fontana, emergency room. The driver of the northbound vehicle, Frances Marie Armendariz, a 55 year old resident of Riverside, was pronounced dead at 2:12 PM. The collision is under investigation by the Riverside County Sheriff Department. [020615 0837 SY]

Coroner case #701501107 On Wednesday, 02/04/2015, twenty-three year old Grand Terrace resident Henry Adam Romines, Jr., was delivering parts for AutoZone in San Bernardino. He was traveling southbound along Cajon Blvd. in northern San Bernardino. As he approached the intersection with Hancock St., a northbound pick-up turned left into the path of his vehicle and the two vehicles collided. The collision was reported at 12:33 PM. Paramedics from San Bernardino Fire responded and confirmed that Romines was dead at the scene. The accident is under investigation by San Bernardino Police Department. [020515 1003 SY]

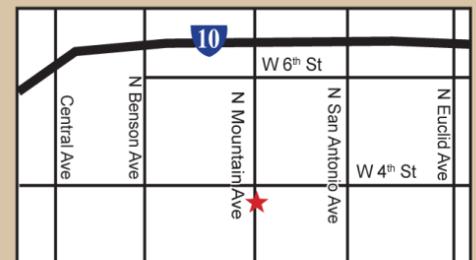
Coroner case #701501108 On 02//04/2010 at approximately 1:26 p.m., thirty-seven year-old Torrance resident Siaki Ene stepped out of his Dodge pick up into lanes of traffic southbound Interstate 15 in Victorville. At .7 mile south of Wild Wash Road he was struck by a flatbed truck. Ene was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. The Victorville office of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is also investigating.[020515 0836 SY]

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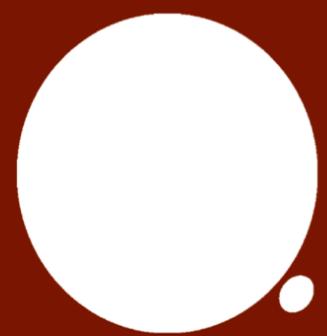
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Upland Pot Initiative from front page

ol Timm and Glenn Bozar – are philosophically opposed to allowing cannabis collectives to operate in Upland. They were intrigued by a theory put forth by city attorney Richard Adams, which holds that if the \$75,000 mandated by the initiative to be collected by the city for the processing of the permits actually exceeds the costs of background checks, inspections and clerical work on the paperwork, then the \$75,000 is to be deemed a tax. Following Adams' logic to its conclusion, an initiative involving a tax must be held during a general election rather than a special election, under the state's constitution.

The council voted 3-2, with Musser, Timm and Bozar prevailing, to have staff and Adams study the issue and file a report. It is anticipated that if the report finds that the \$75,000 is greater than the city's costs on each permit application, the council will postpone the election until the general municipal election Upland has next scheduled in November 2016.

This could be a set-

back for the initiative proponents, who are counting on being able to network among cannabis aficionados using social media and word of mouth and other means to drive them to the polls in a special election, where voter turnout is traditionally lighter than in general elections. The initiative's opponents believe that the majority of Upland residents are opposed to the initiative and the measure will lose if the vote takes place during a normally scheduled election.

Before the council's vote, Beresh appealed to the council to show compassion for patients who suffer from conditions that marijuana can alleviate, and he said that it is "time to stop wasting the city's money."

Beresh's reference was to over \$500,000 in legal bills the city has accrued in court efforts to keep marijuana dispensary owners from defying the city's ban on such uses. Despite that effort, at least 14 dispensaries are now open within the city.

Beresh's sentiments were echoed by councilman Filippi, who said the city's "ban has been

Continued on Page 12

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County Wildlife Corner

Tansy Mustard

Tansy mustard is a circumboreal biennial or annual plant that is initially one half inch to two inches tall, which bolts in the spring and produces non-fragrant yellow flowers at the top



of the plant. The plants eventually may grow as high as three feet tall, involving small orange seeds that manifest in long, narrow seed pods.

It branches sparingly and is more or less erect, with round stems covered with short glandular hairs. Young plants consist of a low rosette of basal leaves spanning four inches to eight inches across, from which there develops during the spring a flowering stalk with alternate cauline leaves. They are double or triple pinnately lobed and glabrous or slightly pubescent. The narrow lobes are oblong to oblanceolate, providing the cauline leaves with a fern-like appearance. The lobes become more narrow in the upper cauline leaves. The basal leaves are quite similar to the lower and middle cauline leaves in appearance.

The foliage of the tansy mustard is usually some shade of green. The petioles of the leaves are rather long, although they become progressively shorter as the cauline leaves ascend the stems. The upper stems terminate in racemes of flowers about two to twelve inches in length. The small yellow flowers bloom in whorls at the apex of each raceme, while the slender seedpods, known as siliques, develop below. Each flower spans about 1/8 inch across, consisting of four pale yellow pet-

als, four green sepals, six stamens with yellow anthers, and a pistil with a stout style. The petals are about the same length as the sepals; they are both oblong-lanceolate.

The blooming period for the tansy mustard occurs from mid- to late spring and lasts about 2 months. There is no noticeable floral scent. Each flower is replaced by a cylindrical silique that is about 1/3 inch long. This silique contains two rows of tiny seeds that are separated by a fine membrane. The spreading pedicels of the siliques (or flowers) are about 1/2" long when they are fully mature; the siliques angle upward



from their pedicels and are more ascending. The tiny seeds are somewhat flattened, oblongoid or ovoid, and some shade orange-brown. These are light enough to be disseminated by the wind. The root system consists of a stout taproot. This plant spreads by reseeding itself and often forms loose colonies.

Tansy Mustard is typically found in full sun, mesic to dry conditions, and sterile soil that is sandy or gravelly. It also grows readily in fertile soil in open disturbed areas, in which case the plants will be larger in size.

Tansy Mustard is widely distributed in Along railroad lines, including the ballast, this plant is rather common. It is native to both the Old World and New

World and botanists generally hold that the plant may be adventive from Eurasia. Habitats include gravelly prairies, sandstone and limestone glades, rocky bluffs and cliffs, areas along roads and railroads (including the ballast), fields, and sterile waste areas. The plant is most likely to occur in disturbed areas, but is also present in higher quality natural habitats.

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract Syrphid flies and possibly other insects. The caterpillars of the butterflies *Pieris rapae* (Cabbage White), *Pontia protodice* (Checkered White), and *Anthocharis midea* (Fal-

in large quantities over a sufficiently long period of time. Sheep and goats are more immune to the toxic properties of the foliage. Because the tiny seeds become sticky when wet, it is possible



that they are transported by the feathers of birds, the fur of animals, and the shoes of humans.

Tansy Mustard is one of the earliest plants to bloom along railroads, although it is usually rather small-sized and inconspicuous. It is somewhat similar in appearance to the adventive *Descurainia sophia* (Flixweed), differing from that plant by its greener foliage, earlier bloom, and the shape of its siliques, which are broader (about 1.5 millimeter in diameter) and shorter (about 1/3 inch in length). Flixweed has greyish blue foliage and a tendency to bloom later. Its siliques are narrower (about 1 millimeter in diameter) and longer (about 1" in length). While the seeds of tansy mustard are arranged in two rows in each silique, the seeds of flixweed are arranged in a single row. Tansy mustard and flixweed are annual broad-leaves and emerge in the fall. They grow as a rosette with finely lobed compound leaves.

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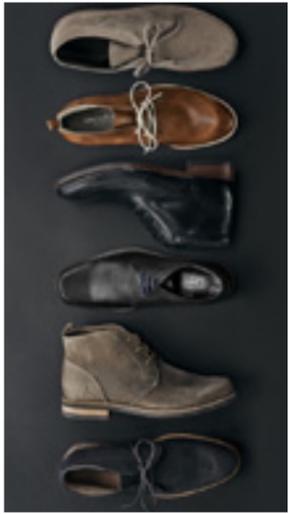


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California Style Men, Women And Romance

By Grace Bernal



People are handling the ups and downs of this season's weather



very fashionably. It's sunny and bright in Southern California.



their shoes. They love wearing the same shoes. Men can get into any weather, but stick to the same shoe. The younger boys are the daring ones but clearly men's style



can stay constant when it comes to the shoe. On a heartier note, for women looking to dress romantically this weekend, go



for the Downton Abbey theme. The 20s were an era full of classic style and romance. You don't have to do much to take a piece of it and ro-



mance your outfit. It can be a simple hairpiece, pearls, strappy shoes, or a black dress. Love



your look and love the romance this Valentine's Day 2015 keep the shoes simple and take style into the romantic era of the 20s.

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love." ~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



Fashion rarely stays the same and it's all due to the weather. Some men, however, don't change



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

Feinstein Desert Protection Bill from page 8

of life and to our local economy. This legislation will help ensure that this legacy is protected for future generations."

Feinstein is a Democrat.

The other San Bernardino County supervisor representing the county's desert area, Robert Lovingood, had not commented on the proposed legislation by

press time. Lovingood is a Republican.

Republicans differ with Democrats on the advisability of subjecting large swathes of San Bernardino County to federal protection. In the case of Obama's set-aside of area within the San Gabriel Mountains and Angeles National Forest as a national monument, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, three of whose five members are Republicans, last year

objected to Wrightwood, Mt. Baldy, the Baldy ski lodge and Cucamonga Canyon being included within the national monument boundary. Obama accordingly excised those four areas from the monument.

In the case of the San Gabriel National Monument, Obama used the Antiquities Act, first used by President Teddy Roosevelt, to create that monument by executive fiat rather than allowing a congressional bill

to work its way through the Republican-majority House of Representatives. What remains to be determined is whether Feinstein can get the Senate and Congress to

support her bill or whether she will ultimately rely upon Obama utilizing his executive authority to expand protection of the desert land. There is some question as to

whether that approach will work because the Obama Administration has sought to encourage solar energy project development in the desert.

Upland Pot Initiative from page 11

a failure."

Upland resident Warren Bowers, however, said the initiative as drafted would allow the compassion Beresh requested to be exploited.

"Two percent of medical marijuana users are in fact seriously ill," Bowers said. "The other 98 percent of medical marijuana users are using it to get high. With three dispensaries next to a strip club," Bowers continued, "you need to know what liability you will have and what it will cost the taxpayers if you approve it."

Marjorie Mikels, an attorney with an office in downtown Upland, noted that the city has failed

to effectively enforce the ban it has.

"What I want to know is where are the police?" she said. "It is illegal for those shops to be operating."

Councilwoman Timm said she believed medical marijuana had legitimate therapeutic uses,

but that it should be dispensed from a licensed pharmacy.

Councilman Boshar called the initiative flawed and poorly written. He said he objected to "the way the ballot measure is being forced on us, to do what the applicant wants."



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