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Trona ACE, State's Last Coal Fired Electric Plant, Being Decommissioned

By Mark Gutglueck

The Argus coal burning electrical plant in Trona has ceased operating and is being decommissioned.

Currently owned by the ACE Cogeneration Company, which is owned by a partnership composed of ArcLight Capital Partners, DCO Energy, and Northern Star Generation, the Tro-

na plant was the last coal burning electrical plant in California.

Known as the Argus Cogeneration Expansion (ACE) it is a coal-fired circulating fluidized bed power plant located on the northwest side of Searles Lake in Trona at the extreme northwest corner of San Bernardino County.

Originally the proj-



ect was permitted and constructed by the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation, which

filed for permission to build the plant with the California Energy Commission on January 29,

1986, seeking a special dispensation to utilize circulating fluidized bed (CFB) combustion in the design. Coal fired circulating fluidized bed systems had not been commercially demonstrated in California at that time, and Public Resources Code section 25540.6(a)(5) was used to allow ACE to be exempt from a de- See P 4

Bill By Local, LA Solons To Give Ontario Airport Bond Mechanism



Freddie Rodriguez

With the outcome of Ontario's lawsuit brought against the city of Los Angeles for the return of ownership and control Ontario International Airport yet in doubt, two members of the assembly representing those warring parties have cosponsored legislation aimed at giving Ontario the financial means to purchase the aerodrome back.

In 1967, when the airport had fewer than

County Transportation Commission Accepts EIR For SB-To-Redlands Rail Line

SAN BERNARDINO—San Bernardino County's transportation agency this week approved the environmental impact report for the Redlands Passenger Rail Project, clearing the way for the final design and construction of the undertaking, which is estimated to cost about \$242 million.

"After years of study-

ing alternatives to reduce San Bernardino County travel congestion, we have approval to move forward on a passenger rail solution that will connect residents and businesses with systems across the state," said SANBAG Board President L. Dennis Michael.

SANBAG, an acronym for San Bernardino Associated Govern-

ments, is the county's transportation agency, the 29-member board for which is composed by a representative from each of the county's 24 municipalities and all five members of the county board of supervisors.

SANBAG explicitly referenced the specific concept of a rail connection between the cities of San Bernardino and

Redlands with a 2004 ballot measure to extend the existing half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County. Projected population growth and increased congestion, along with physical barriers like the Santa Ana River and Interstate 10 led SANBAG to look at alternative cost-effective travel

options for communities along the Redlands Corridor. The Redlands Passenger Rail Study became a key selling point in the appeal to voters for continued support of Measure I, the half-cent sales tax measure to support transportation projects countywide first passed in 1989.

The environmental impact See P 8

Ambition & Opportunity Bring Luckino To 29 Palms



Frank Luckino

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Frank Luckino, the well-traveled

public official whose professional ambition three times induced him to leave high level positions with public entities along the Route 62 Corridor, is returning to take up the top staff position with a fourth. Last month the Twentynine Palms City Council unanimously voted to hire him to replace acting city manager Larry Bowden, effective March 23.

Some saw See P 4

County To Invest \$1.8M In \$26M First Phase Of Inner City SB Urban Renewal Project



Dena Fuentes

The county of San Bernardino is investing in the ongoing revitalization effort aimed at reversing the dete-

riorating economic and physical condition of the county seat. Once proud San Bernardino, which remains the county's largest city population wise, has been in eclipse for a generation. In 2012, the city of 209,000 filed for Chapter Nine bankruptcy protections, and a pendency plan has been formulated but has yet to be fully approved by the federal bankruptcy judge, Meredith Jury, hearing the case.

Efforts to resuscitate the city through the redirection of government resources have been ongoing for some time, as was evinced with the construction of the 11 story San Bernardino Justice Center, which is located at 247 West Third Street in downtown San Bernardino and into which San Bernardino County Presiding Judge Marsha Slugh last year transferred the lion's share of See P 6

County To Use \$3.94 Million State Grant To Build Mental Health Crisis Facility

The county of San Bernardino will use a \$3.94 million grant it just received from the state toward the construction of a crisis residential treatment facility in the city of San Bernardino

According to CaSonya Thomas, the director of the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, the funding will be adequate to construct and furnish



CaSonya Thomas

the facility, and there is no requirement that the county put up money

of its own to obtain the grant.

The board of supervisors this week complied with Thomas's recommendation to "accept a grant award from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority for capital funding for construction of a crisis residential treatment facility in San Bernardino for the expansion of crisis residential treatment

services, in the amount of \$3,945,906, for the period of December 4, 2014 through June 30, 2016."

Thomas told the board "The Department of Behavioral Health will use the California Health Facilities Financing Authority grant to fund construction of a new facility in San Bernardino to provide crisis residential treatment services to individuals throughout the

county. The department of behavioral health anticipates the expansion will serve approximately 332 individuals through the residential facility annually. The construction of this facility will assist the department of behavioral health in implementing statewide goals by expanding access to crisis services within the County, minimizing law en- See P 2



Jimmy Gomez

200,000 passengers pass through its gates, Los Angeles and Ontario entered into a joint powers agreement that gave Los Angeles managerial and administrative control of the airport. Los Angeles used its leverage with the airlines relating to gate positions at Los Angeles International Airport to induce more and more airlines to fly into and out of Ontario. As ridership steadily increased, Los Angeles through its Department of Airports and later the corporate entity it formed See P 2

Rodriguez & Gomez Carry Legislation To Give Ontario Airport Bonding Authority from front page

to run them, Los Angeles World Airports, made major improvements to the airport in Ontario, paving its parking lot, lengthening and improving its existing east west runway and constructing another, such that Ontario Airport became the home to the longest commercial runway in Southern California. In 1985, after all of the performance goals specified in the joint operating agreement were achieved, the Ontario City council in a 4-0 vote with then-mayor Robert Ellingwood absent, voted to deed the airport to Los Angeles for no consideration. Further improvements were made to the airport thereafter, including the construction of two modern terminals and a concourse in 1998. The airport continued to grow and

in 2007, 7.2 million passengers passed through its gates.

Following the economic downturn that gripped the nation, state and region economy late that year, however, ridership at the airport began a six-year decline, slumping steadily to 4.03 million in the year ending in July 2014. In June 2013, Ontario initiated a lawsuit against Los Angeles, alleging it has purposefully mismanaged Ontario Airport to increase passenger traffic into Los Angeles International Airport. In the suit, Ontario is seeking to take back ownership and control of the airport.

Ontario officials, led by councilman Alan Wapner, have aggressively asserted that Los Angeles has given Ontario Airport short shrift, maliciously intending to damage the local economy. They have publicly insisted that as a public benefit asset, the airport has no value as real estate in

the common sense, and that Los Angeles should simply deed the airport back at no consideration. Privately, however, the city of Ontario tendered a \$250 million offer to Los Angeles World Airports for transfer of the airport's title and operational control. That offer included Ontario assuming \$75 million of the outstanding bond debt obligations for past improvements to the airport, \$125 million in future passenger facility charges to be realized at the airport and \$50 million cash.

Los Angeles maintains that more than \$550 million in improvements have been made at the facility since 1967. At one point Los Angeles city officials indicated they would take \$450 million for the airport.

In its lawsuit, Ontario sought to bull its way past the 1985 deed transfer and the terms of the 1967 joint powers agreement, maintaining, through its law firm, Washington, D.C.-

based Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, that the terms of those commitments are not binding. Riverside Superior Court Judge Gloria Connor Trask, however, last week confirmed two tentative rulings issued in January that the 1967 joint-powers agreement is enforceable and that Ontario's opportunity to rescind the transfer of the airport once existed but elapsed in 1989 because of the statute of limitations.

Ontario has three other claims remaining intact in its suit pertaining to the contention that Los Angeles breached the terms contained in the joint powers agreement, but the smaller city's prospects of forcing Los Angeles to forsake ownership of the airport without compensation appears dim, at best.

Last week, just as the ink on Judge Trask's confirmation of her January was drying, assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, D-Chino, and assembly-

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man Jimmy Gomez, D-Los Angeles, submitted legislation, since identified as Assembly Bill 1455 that will authorize Ontario to issue bonds to finance the airport's purchase.

The effort by Rodriguez and Gomez with their legislation submitted February 27, follows by ten days a bill introduced by Melissa Melendez, R-Lake Elsinore, Assembly Bill 360, that imposes on Los Angeles a mandate that it transfer ownership of the airport to Ontario.

Pundits have not given Melendez's bill high marks and it has little prospect of passing.

State Funds To Build County Mental Health Facility from front page

forcement involvement, and reducing costs to local law enforcement and hospital emergency departments. The use of grant funding will provide for the health and social service needs of residents throughout the county and fulfill county goals and objectives by: 1) increasing access to crisis residential services; 2) effectively meeting the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the least restrictive manner possible; and 3) working collaboratively with local law enforcement, hospitals, and community based providers. The department of behavioral health intends to sustain the proposed expansion of services indefinitely, past the two-year grant funding term, through the use of Mental Health Services Act and Medi-Cal funding. In order to secure the California Health Facilities Financing Authority funding, Thomas said, "The majority of grant funding (\$3,397,500) will be used for capital costs to build a new facility, housing a new Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) program. The remaining grant funding will be used for furniture/equipment (\$500,000), information technology (IT) software and telephone infrastructure, comput-

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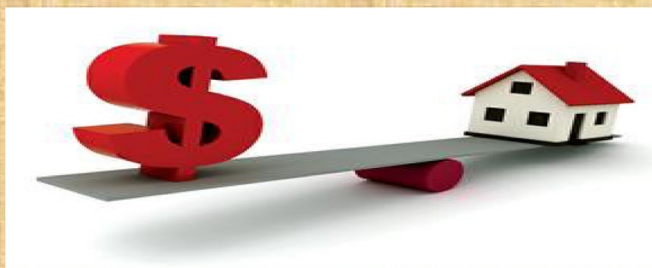
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Twentynine Palms Ups Fire Facility Impact Fees

TWENTYNINE PALMS—The Twentynine Palms community is making slow and incremental steps towards shoring up its fire department.

The Twentynine Palms City Council last month approved the first reading of an ordinance which increases the fire facilities impact fee that are already being levied on incoming residential, commercial and industrial development within the city limits. The higher fees will go into effect on May 21, pursuant to the council giving approval to a second reading of the ordinance on March 10.

Thus, the fee for a single-family dwelling unit will go from \$526 to \$566. The fee for a multi-family dwelling unit will rise from \$416 to \$446.

The fees for commercial floor space will jump from \$374 to \$401 per 1,000 gross square feet. The fees for office floor space will increase by \$19, going from \$265 to \$284 per 1,000 gross square feet. The fees for industrial floor space will go from \$147 to \$156 per 1,000 gross square feet.

In a report to councilmember, finance di-

rector Ron Peck stated the fire impact fees have been in place since 2011. Peck said they were intended to be revised annually.

"We haven't increased the fee for three years," he said.

The fire department is not a city division. Since 1958, the fire department in Twentynine Palms has been overseen by the water district. The department grew to include two fire stations and seven firefighters to cover the 59 square miles within the Twentynine Palms City Limits and the 29 square miles of unincorporated county area that also falls under the water district/fire department's 88-square mile jurisdiction. The city does not contribute to, participate in or subsidize the fire department's operational budget.

The city did, though, initiate the fire service impact fee in 2011. From its proceeds, the fire department was able to make final payments on the purchase of a fire truck.

Fire department operations are, or are supposed to be, funded entirely by a special tax, consisting of an assessment levied upon all of

the city's property owners. The current parcel tax is \$80.

In 2012, water district voters rejected Measure H, a tax increase proposal, and the water district explored surrendering authority over the fire department to the county fire department.

That same year, the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission indicated the water district would need to find augmenting funding for the fire department or relinquish control of it.

The water district and the city of Twentynine Palms worked on a proposal to have the county's fire division subsume the fire department but that goal was not achieved after county fire chief Mark Hartwig said that in working within the confines of the \$1.244 million in available special tax funding for local fire service, he would need to close down one of the fire stations and reduce the department to no more than four firefighters.

So far the water district has maintained control of the fire department but as of July 1, 2013 the district closed out its Lear Avenue Fire Station. The water district is now leasing the station to Copper Mountain College, which is using the facility to conduct fire science courses.

All of the fire department's operations are now run out of the Adobe Road Fire Station, known as Station 421, and its paid personnel have been reduced to five. Response times to certain portions of the 88-square mile fire protection jurisdiction have increased.

The water district last year made a commitment to keeping the fire department in place and under control, creating the Twentynine Palms Citizen Advisory Committee. The committee recommended that the city of Twentynine Palms pitch in with regard to making sure the fire department is adequately funded. Incorporated in

1987, Twentynine Palms has yet to evolve into a full service municipality. It contracts with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement service and the water district exists as an independent agency that provides water and sewer service as well as fire protection for the city of 25,768 and its surrounding area.

The Twentynine Palms Citizen Advisory Committee last year also recommended that the water district again seek voter approval of an increase to the parcel tax imposed on residents within the water district's boundaries.

The committee advised that the district ask their customers to approve a \$20.40 per year increase to that assessment on developed property and a \$10.20 increase on vacant parcels. The committee has further suggested that the measure authorize the increase for three years and give the district the ability to add a three percent annual inflation adjustment in the years beyond 2018.

The district, however remains somewhat skittish about going hat in hand to the city's residents.

The fire service funding proposal has not been brought forward and the district last week postponed a rate increase move on the district's water customers.

Operations on the water district's water side are supposed to be kept separate from the fire department operations. A water rate increase has been in the discussion stage for some time and the water board had tentatively set an April 1 date for a public hearing on the matter. But on February 25, with board member Roger Shinaver absent, the board voted 4-0, with Roger Shinaver absent, to move a proposed public hearing on the matter from March 25 to November 18. This will put off implementation of the new rates from April 1 to December 1.

Forum... Or Against 'em

Observations from a Decidedly Continental Perspective

By Count Friedrich von Olsen



Myopia is an all too common condition, both physically and metaphorically. I myself suffer from it, more so in one eye than the other. Here in America it is known as near-sightedness and in Britain short-sightedness. It is a condition where the light that enters the ocular orb does not focus on the retina but rather in front of it, causing the image that one sees when looking at a distant object to be out of focus, but a close object to be seen with sharp clarity...

I shall not bore the reader with the too many examples in my long life when I focused on the immediate at the expense of the long term or took a route of convenience one day that I deeply regretted the next or even ever after. I have not been immune to foolhardy blunder, and if the truth were known to the general public, the catalog of my own errors would undercut whatever air of authority I try to assume...

A benefit of living as long as I have is that it leaves one with a degree of wisdom, the ability to see error when none was perceived before, the ability to acknowledge error after having foolishly attempted to hide it for so long, and the ability to recognize myopia whereas before it seemed to be simple focus...

What brings this up is the recent appearance of Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, before a joint session of Congress. His message was that the United States, by dialoging with Iran and attempting to arrive at some accommodation over that country's acquisition of nuclear technology, is endangering Israel, the United States and the rest of the world. According to the prime minister, the greatest danger facing the globe is the marriage of militant Islam with nuclear weapons. He said that Iran is intent on imposing a militant Islamic empire first on the region and then on the entire world...

I think I can understand his perspective, as his country perceives the regime in Iran as one antithetical to the interests of his own people. And I understand, or think I understand, why he feels that Iran's possession of nuclear technology could undermine the security of his country...

At the same time, I think it is myopic for the prime minister to believe, or anyone to believe, that the nuclear genie can ever be put back into the bottle. While it may be possible for us present day nuclear-haves to delay for a few years, or maybe a decade, or even a generation, the nuclear-haves not from obtaining such technology, we cannot suspend the proliferation of that technology forever. The know-how to harness the atom exists. It is taught at hundreds of universities throughout the world. It is unrealistic to think that we can stop the spread of knowledge...

The difficulty is that we are all functioning from our own limited national perspective with little appreciation for the perspective of others or a clear understanding of what our actions are going to provoke. I am reminded of the Suez Crisis of 1956, when four countries, all of whom had far more interests in common than differences of any sort, acted and reacted in ways that immediately seemed in keeping with each's own interest but which collectively proved damaging to the long term prospects of all four...

The crisis was precipitated by Israel's invasion of Egypt, which was quickly followed up by invasions by Britain and France. Each invading country had

Continued on Page 11

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Luckino Vaults Into 29 Palms City Manager Spot
from front page

the hiring as a perfect marriage between a public administrator on the rise with a reputation for leaving his employers in the lurch to move on to other positions in the public sector and a city that has burned through four city managers in the past four years and eight in the past eleven years.

Luckino earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from West Liberty State College in West Virginia in 1992. He worked as a controller for several companies, including PACE Entertainment, Planet Hollywood International, and Gor-

don Biersch Restaurant Group. He also handled portfolio investment activity as an associate with Resource Connection.

His first significant venture into the public sector came a dozen years ago when he was hired as the director of fiscal services at Copper Mountain College in 2003. He bought a home in Yucca Valley and, with his wife Shannon, opened a mortgage loan office, Mojave Mortgage Group. He joined the Rotary Club and in 2004, he was elected to his first term on the Yucca Valley Town Council.

His experience on the politically powerful but only tokenly-remunerated town council exposed

him to a multiplicity of governmental administrative issues. Newly alive to the possibilities of a career in public administration, he used the accruing leverage he had obtained to vault into a position as finance officer with the Hi-Desert Water District. In 2011, when he was offered a promotion to the position of assistant general manager/chief financial officer paying \$139,000 in annual salary plus benefits, he resigned from the town council. At that point, he had enrolled at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was pursuing a Master's Degree in public administration.

In May 2013, Luckino learned that the position

of finance director with the city of Blythe, which paid between \$94,000 and \$117,000 per year, was open. He was further informed that the city manager's position in the same Riverside County city on the banks of the Colorado River was also likely to open up later that year and that the finance director would stand a decent chance of assuming the city manager post. Luckino took the pay cut, resigning from the Hi-Desert Water District.

Luckino's departure from the water district came as that entity was struggling with the financial challenges of having Yucca Valley comply with a state mandate to convert from its

traditional septic systems to a sewer system in several phases over the next decade. Town voters in 2012 had voted down a sales tax measure put forth by town officials which those officials said would be primarily devoted to funding the sewer program.

Though his abandonment of Yucca Valley left the town in a bad way, his gamble in departing for Blythe paid off for him personally. By October 2013, he had his Master's Degree in public administration and the Blythe City Council, torn over elevating him or city clerk Mallory Sutterfield to the position of interim city manager, in a closely split 3-2 vote chose Luckino.

He was subsequently made full-fledged city manager and Sutterfield was made assistant city manager. With his scheduled arrival in Twentynine Palms later this month, Luckino will shortly be making, on his own initiative, an abrupt departure from Blythe, the fourth such exodus in his public career.

He is moving into a position in Twentynine Palms where most of those holding it have limited longevity.

In May 2011, Richard Warne assumed the city manager's post. One

month shy of his two-year anniversary with the city, Warne was terminated without cause and given one year's worth of pay to depart. The city brought in Joe Guzzetta, the former director of the Joshua Basin Water District, to replace Warne. Guzzetta lasted only about half as long as Warne, until May 13, 2014. He too was given one year's worth of pay as a severance. The city's finance director, Ron Peck filled in for Guzzetta. On June 19, 2014, Andrew Takata, who was up to that point working as the interim city manager in Calexico, was hired to serve as Twentynine Palms City Manager. In November 2014, Takata abruptly resigned as city manager to become the chief of staff for San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford. He was replaced by former Twentynine Palms High School Basketball Coach Larry Bowden, who was serving as the city's recreation director.

Luckino will replace Bowden.



Trona Power Plant Being Dismantled
from front page

mand conformance finding so that the CFB technology, air pollution reduction techniques, alternate solid fuels, and their operational and economic performance characteristics could be ascertained. Proving out of the design, it was thought, might accelerate the deployment in California of large coal facilities that could meet California's stringent air emission standards. The cogeneration plant was intended and eventually did produce steam for use by the Kerr McGee Chemical Corporation's Argus chemical production plant near Trona. The plant also generated 96 megawatts of electricity for sale to Southern California Edison.

The project was permitted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on January 8, 1988 and began commercial operation in January 1991. Over the years the plant was owned and operated by Kerr McGee, Searles Valley Minerals, Constellation Energy, Nirma - an Indian multinational chemicals and minerals corporation, and most recently ARCLight Capital, DCO and Northern Star.

ACE Cogeneration Company's existing

Power Purchase Agreement with SCE will expire in November 2015. Under California's greenhouse gas emissions requirements, the project will no longer be economically viable using coal as a fuel once the power purchase agreement expires.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the SCE service territory, ACE Cogeneration Company signed an agreement with SCE to terminate operation of the ACE project in December 2014. The plant ceased operations as of October 2, 2014 and has been placed in an outage condition.

The ACE Cogeneration Company has formulated a decommissioning plan that was submitted to the California Energy Commission. On November 24, 2014, ACE Cogeneration Company reached an agreement to transfer the ground lease for the ACE site and sell some of the equipment and structures, as well as the property occupied by the ash landfill, to Sabco Inc., a California corporation.

In compliance with the decommissioning plan, the power plant and other facilities will be demolished and removed and the license terminated.

While ACE Cogeneration Company intends to sell the landfill site,

lease, and related facilities, ACE Cogeneration Company will continue to hold the California Energy Commission license and be responsible for compliance with the California Energy Commission's conditions of certification until decommissioning is completed and ACE Cogeneration Company surrenders the license to the California Energy Commission. ACE Cogeneration Company will be responsible for implementing the decommissioning plan and

complying with any conditions required by the California Energy Commission until the decommissioning is completed and the license is surrendered.

Based on the intended future use of the site, Sabco, Inc. will obtain any required land use and environmental permits from the appropriate local or state agencies.

In a typical year, the plant had 987,241 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and 110 of sulfur dioxide emissions.

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Glimpse Of SBC's Past Not Ascaresd In San Bernardino County

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

It's funny how I think of my Aunt Miriam and Aunt Pauline whenever I hear someone use the word "ascared." I always liked that word... "ascared." To me, it means both "afraid" and "scared" so it gives the feeling of really being frightened...I must have heard that word from my mother. But, when I was just a little girl, my aunts (my mother's sisters)

rected me for.

Now later on in my life, as an anthropologist, I rather enjoy hearing the use of this American slang. I also love the very recent new wave of "stateside" regrouping of words to form new words like Disney's "imagineering," one I heard on Family Feud, "fish-cation" and the one that is on my husband's manly Old Spice deodorant "Believe in

sisters went to Upland College, a "Brethren in Christ" church college that is no more but did once occupy the complex that does now still exist on the southeast and southwest corner

positions at schools in the Upland area when they returned and were quite successful. Pauline, passed away last year. She had taught school in the Ontario-Upland School District

ma—near the southern region of Kansas where my mother and her sisters were from.

This all makes sense from an anthropological "glottochronology" perspective. Anthropologists who specialize in linguistics, will take a word like "ascared" to track and connect cultural groups and to make inferences about movement of cultural groups through time. This is called glotto for "tongue" or "language" and chronology for "time" and involves lexicostatistics dealing with the chronological relationship between languages--language changes over time.

You might wonder what all of this has to do with rock art in San

that appears to be one of the oldest if not the oldest language families in California and western states.

The Voegelin & Voegelin (1965) Native American language classification was the result of a conference of Americanist linguists held at Indiana University in 1964. This classification identifies 16 main genetic units of which Hokan is one. There's been some variations on this idea, but depending if you are a lumper or splitter, it is generally agreed that the Hokan language family includes ten or fifteen "phylums" one of which is the Yuman language which is used by the tribes on the lower Colorado River including our San Bernardino County



Pauline, country girl from Kansas, educated in Upland, traveled to Africa and taught English in a mission school near Matopo, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in the 1940s. Definitely not "ascared" or "chicken" for that matter.

fresh back from the African mission field where they had worked side by side with real English people from the UK told me that to use that word

your Smellf." I think of variations, new accents and dialects as "tracers" of cultural movement either by migration (people moving) or diffusion

of San Antonio and Arrow Highway in Upland. Both of the younger sisters became English teachers, and then went "abroad" to Africa for five or ten years to teach English at the Matopo "Brethren in Christ" mission in a country that was then called Rhodesia.

I was a young girl in the 1950s when my aunts returned. Later I understood them to say that the English were turned out of the newly reformed country that eventually became known as "Zimbabwe" with governance

and her only child, a daughter, Marjeanne, is also a grade school



"After" DStretch on petroglyph photo images taken by Archaeologist Anne and George Stoll at Nanke Cave, Motopos, Zimbabwe. Note copious over painting, many giraffes, kudu and strange tube-like shapes referred to as "formlings."

teacher today. The other aunt, Miriam, now retired from teaching, is living in an assisted care facility in the Upland area.

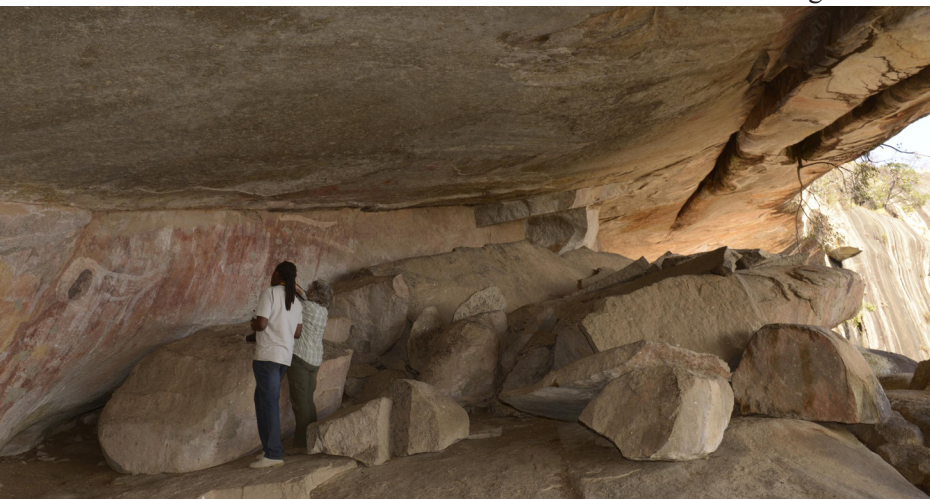
I haven't heard the word "ascared" for years but this week, we had a guest in our home and I was pleased to hear him using the word "ascared." He used that word to describe his little doggy's reaction when she had obviously become spooked by some dolls with big eyes sitting on a little chair in the corner of my kitchen. Later in the conversation, the young man told me that he was from Oklaho-

Bernardino County. The study of language connections and changes through time, glottochronology, is important to understanding who made the prehistoric rock art not just in San Bernardino but in other places in the world.

For example, we have an "archaic" style of rock art in San Bernardino County that no one really knows who made. Yet this archaic style and the abstract art that characterizes it is found broadly dispersed throughout the west, often underlying newer art motifs. We also have a linguistic family, the Hokan,

Pipa Aha Macav or "Mojave." Linguistically, the Yuman-Cochimi are related to other Hokan speakers in northern and coastal California, including the Pomoan, Washo, Shastan, Salinan, Karuk, Himariko, Palaihnihan, Yana, and Esselen. South of the Yuman-Cochimi are the Seri.

Coincidentally, a young visitor accent engaged me in an intellectual conversation that got me thinking again about what glottochronology and lexicostatistics can tell us about who made the rock art here in



Anne Stoll recording rock art in Africa with assistant. She and her husband George will be presenting their findings at the 2015 ARARA conference in Laughlin Nevada, where field trips to adjacent San Bernardino County rock art sites will be offered.

"ascared" would be IMPROPER...an improper use of the English language and would make me sound uneducated. "Ain't" was another of these "forbidden" words that they concerned themselves with and cor-

(ideas moving).

My mother's younger sisters who followed in her footsteps and left the family farm in the mid-west, also migrated to California on Route 66 during the 1940s from the southern Kansas/Oklahoma area. Both

returned to its native people. Nonetheless, there were apparently an abundance of Brits in Africa at the time Pauline and Miriam were there, from whom they could learn very proper English.

Both found teaching

Continued on Page 9

Hi-Desert Chooses Carollo Engineers To Manage YV Wastewater System Construction

YUCCA VALLEY — The Hi-Desert Water District Board of Directors has chosen Riverside-based Carollo Engineers to manage the construction of Yucca Valley’s wastewater collection system and treatment facility.

The community of Yucca Valley is under a mandate by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to complete, or have made substantial progress toward completion of, the first phase of the town’s sewer system in less than 14-and-one-half months.

The water district board made a commitment to the arrangement with Corollo, which will pay the firm \$2.8 million over the next three-and-a-half, despite there not yet being in place an assessment district or other set means of financing the undertaking.

In 2007, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state agency responsible for protecting water quality, adopted a resolution identifying the town of Yucca Valley as one of 66 communities throughout the state with groundwater threatened by the continuing overuse of septic systems. Lacking the financial wherewithal to undertake the construction of a sewer system, local officials resisted taking immediate action. Nor did the city have the will to impose any kind of building or development moratorium that would stabilize the problem. Town and water district officials delayed the imposition of state mandates by forging a memorandum of agreement with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to allow interim

permits for new septic systems while planning for a wastewater system proceeded.

By 2010, Yucca Valley’s population had zoomed to 20,700, an increase of 3,835 or 22.7 percent over the 16,865 town residents counted in the 2000 Census, and the following year the town was firmly informed it had only five years to take a definitive step toward water quality compliance.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board at that point imposed three progressive phases of septic discharge prohibitions on Yucca Valley. Under the state mandate, phase 1 of a waste water system must be completed or significantly on its way to completion by May 19, 2016 or enforcement action will be initiated. The first phase of the project is to cover the

downtown area of Yucca Valley, the area most proximate to the heart of the groundwater basin. Similarly, phase 2 must be completed or nearly completed by May 19, 2019 and phase 3 must be completed by May 19, 2022. The last two phases lie further out where future concentrated development is most likely to occur.

The imposition of that deadline four years ago was intended as a wake-up call to local officials to undertake an effort to avert the growing water quality crisis. But little progress toward the goal of planning and funding the system has been made and there has been absolutely no physical progress with regard to establishing it.

In 2012, the Yucca Valley Town Council tested the community’s willingness to pay for

or otherwise finance the construction of system, sponsoring Measure U, a once cent sales tax initiative, the lion’s share of the proceeds from which town officials said would be devoted toward building the sewer system. The measure failed.

Cost projections have been made, with one covering the price for a contractor building the system and another sizing up the cost of having water district staff carry out the project. It will cost, according to this documentation, between \$133,248,401 and \$140,651,089 for the design and construction work to be performed by Atkins North America and somewhere between \$111,539,901 and \$117,736,562 for the district to construct the project using Atkins North America’s proposed design. The sys-

tem would consist of a water treatment plant and a collection system entailing over 400,000 linear feet of pipe.

Within the last fortnight, a wastewater treatment assessment schedule has been drawn up, showing variable contributions from different landowners depending on the value of each parcel. Those total assessments would run from roughly \$4,000 to \$19,000.

Carollo was chosen to serve as the project manager because it has been involved in planning for the wastewater project for years, having represented the Hi-Desert Water District with companies considered as potential contractors or sub-contractors on the project.



Mental Health Facility *from page 2*

ers and other IT equipment (\$48,406).

The crisis residential treatment facility will contain 16 beds, specializing in providing crisis intervention for individuals diagnosed with mental health and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Services will

include, but will not be limited to, assessments, treatment plan development, collateral services, crisis intervention, medication support services, and individual and group therapy. The goal of the program is to improve the appropriateness of care, increase access to community based mental health crisis services, reduce recidivism, and mitigate the burden on

hospital and law enforcement resources.”

Thomas said the county applied for a grant in 2013, but that “the department of behavioral health did not receive an award for that submission; however, on July 9, 2014, CHFFA announced it would reopen the filing period for the programs” The county reapplied and was given preliminary notice on

November 6, 2014 that it would get the grant. Official notice from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority came on February 4, 2015.

The department of behavioral health intends to use an existing county owned location in the 700 block of Gilbert Street in San Bernardino as the location for the facility.

Urban Renewal In SB *from front page*

the 20,000 square mile county’s civil cases.

This week, the board of supervisor leapt once more into that effort, agreeing to loaning \$1.81 million toward the project’s \$26 million first phase of what has been dubbed the Waterman Gardens revitalization effort. According

to county officials the gamble is justified by the consideration that the county’s participation will coincide with the city of San Bernardino’s own \$1.5 million loan stake in the effort as well as an even larger federal show of faith in the form of a \$10.45 million loan.

According to Dena Fuentes, the county’s director of community development and housing, “This project, located at the corner of Valencia Avenue and 9th Street in the city of San Bernardino, is the initial phase of the Waterman Gardens revitalization effort. The borrower’s managing partner is National Community Renaissance of California and is coordinating with city of San Bernardino (City), County of San Bernardino and the Housing Authority of the county of San Bernardino to finance this project.

The total budget for construction and fees for this development is \$26.6 million. The borrower received an allocation of \$1,139,951 of 9% low income tax credits over a ten-year period from the California Tax

Continued on Page 7

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Upland City Attorney's Ploy To Keep Marijuana Initiative Off Ballot Until 2016

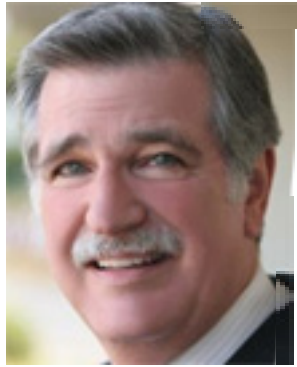
Upland city officials next week will inform both the public in general and advocates of an initiative to allow three marijuana dispensaries to function within the city limits specifically that the vote on that matter will not take place until the November 2016 election.

That development comes as a setback for the initiative's advocates and others who want to see the sale of marijuana in the City of Gracious Living legalized.

In October, a group of Upland residents, nominally headed by Nicole DeLaRosa and James Velez and sponsored by the California Cannabis Coalition, Craig Beresh and Randy Welty, undertook a petition drive to qualify for the ballot in Upland an initiative aimed at overturning the Upland's ban on mari-

juana dispensaries.

On January 14, Beresh and Welty on behalf of



Richard Adams

the California Cannabis Coalition and those involved in the signature-gathering effort came to Upland City Hall and handed over to Upland administrative services director/city clerk Stephanie Mendenhall the initiative petition endorsed with 6,865 signatures gathered in Upland. Welty, Beresh and another member of the California Cannabis Coalition, Michael Cindrich, who is also an attorney, said

the signatures were sufficient to require the city to hold a special election to overturn Upland's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries. The registrar of voters office subsequently verified that most of those signatures were, indeed, valid.

Welty, Beresh and Cindrich were met with Mendenhall's assertion, based on information provided to her by city attorney Richard Adams, that the coalition did not file the proper notice that a special election was being sought at the time the petition drive was initiated in October. She informed them that the ballot measure would come before the city's voters at the next general election in 2016. The initiative advocates overcame that obstacle in short order by virtue of the intercession of Cindrich and another

attorney, Roger Diamond, who is officially representing the California Cannabis Coalition. Diamond, a top constitution issue lawyer whose reputation as a tenacious legal representative of advocates for controversial but constitutionally protected activities and enterprises such as adult entertainment and medical marijuana dispensaries proceeds him, convinced Adams that the city's theory that the lack of a notification and request for a special election on the summary for the petition filed in October obviated the need for a special election was not legally sufficient.

Nevertheless, three of Upland's city council members - Mayor Ray Musser, councilman Glen Bozar and councilwoman Carol Timm - who are resistant to the concept of permitting cannabis dispensaries in the city, instructed Ad-

ams to redouble his efforts to find some justification for postponing the



Roger Diamond

election until next year.

The timing of the election, that is, whether it will be a specially scheduled one held this year or whether it will be consolidated with the regularly scheduled municipal election to be held next year, is a significant one for two reasons. The first is the cost. The county registrar of voters would charge the city as much as \$180,000 to handle the election as a stand-alone event this year. The city would reap

considerable savings by putting the election on the 2016 ballot, when the mayor's post, a single city council position and city treasurer spot are up for reelection. Moreover, advocates of the initiative see a special election as the forum in which sale of medical marijuana within the city limits of Upland is most likely to gain acceptance of the voters participating. Informal surveys of Upland voters show that, on balance, the city's residents are against the initiative. But special elections normally have poor voter turnout and the initiative's advocates believe that through the aggressive and energetic use of social media and networking among that portion of the city's electorate most favorably inclined to the accessibility to medical marijuana and marijuana

Continued on Page 11

County Investing In SB Urban Renewal from page 6

Credit Allocation Committee to assist in financing the development of the project. Currently the borrower is securing all funding resources in order to commence construction in March 2015.

Fuentes continued, "Through this loan agreement, the county will be underwriting four units to remain affordable with a 20-year HOME affordability term and an additional county-imposed 35-year affordability term, for a total of 55-year terms from completion of the

project. The remaining 72 units will also remain affordable for a period of time, as required by the other affordable funding sources.

The project's proposed financing sources are a tax credit investor equity contribution of \$12,424,223; a Housing and Urban Development, Title 24 Section 221 (d) (4) Loan of \$10,447,263, an estimated city of San Bernardino HOME Loan of \$1,500,000; a loan of \$1,000,000 from the housing authority of the county of San Bernardino; an additional \$810,000 county HOME Loan from the county

and a deferred developer fee estimated at \$438,665.

Fuentes said, "The project's proposed financing sources are estimated, Fuentes said, adding, "It is the responsibility of the borrower to secure all commitments from the proposed financing sources. Failure by the borrower to secure all required commitments will not allow the project to move forward and may result in an item being brought to the board of supervisors for consideration of its commitment of the funds to the project. The HOME funds will be disbursed

in three progress payments. The first two payments will be disbursed over the course of pre-development phase when all pre-development conditions are met by the borrower. The final payment is to be released after receipt of the project's certificate of occupancy, issued by the city at construction completion, which is estimated to be Spring 2016."

In January, the board of supervisors considered but held off on a recommendation by Fuentes to approve a "sub-recipient revenue agreement" between the city of San Bernardino and the county in the amount of \$834,999, pursuant to the federal HOME Investment Partnership Program. Fuentes had requested that the county assume the city's investment and risk in the project, she said "because the city is in the process of restructuring its financial position." Fuentes said that "the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) asked the county to assist the city

in investing its Fiscal Year 14-15 HOME funds towards a project that meets HUD's national objective of providing low and moderate income housing."

In January, the budget slated for the project followed the schedule initially laid out for the undertaking, which was \$23 million. That cost has been reassessed and now stands at \$26,620,151. While the city of San Bernardino's economic circumstance remains bleak, city officials have agreed to participate in the project.

The developer involved in the Val 9 Apartments rehabilitation is National CORE, I.e., National Community Renaissance, a non-profit corporation founded by Jeff Burum to provide affordable housing to low and moderate income home buyers. Steve PonTell is currently serving as its president and chief executive officer.

"In October 2014, National Core Renaissance and its development partners received an allocation of \$1,139,951 of 9% low income tax

credits over a ten-year period from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee to assist in financing the development of the Val 9 Apartments," Fuentes said. "The project consists of 70 affordable housing units on 4.65 acres at the corner of Valencia Drive and 9th Street in the city of San Bernardino. This project is the initial phase of the Waterman Gardens revitalization effort sponsored by the Housing Authority of the county of San Bernardino.

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SANBAG Commits To Build \$242M SB-To Redlands Rail Line

from front page

report accepted at the SANBAG meeting on Wednesday, March 4 outlined SANBAG's detailed process of reviewing and eliminating alternatives based on environmental and social impacts. SANBAG studied significant potential effects like land use and planning, air emissions, noise levels, visual aesthetics, floodplains, and hydrology. Other transit alternatives, like light rail and bus rapid transit, were removed from consideration due to additional property acquisition requirements and longer travel times.

SANBAG came up with what was designated as a locally preferred alternative, which runs along the existing railroad right-of-way from E Street in San Bernardino east to the City of Redlands, roughly a

nine-mile extension of passenger rail service ending at the University of Redlands. Other features of the environmental impact report include passenger rail service of up to 25 average daily trips, connecting to other regional transit modes with access to Los Angeles, employment and shopping centers throughout the Inland Empire, and destinations in the San Bernardino Mountains and high desert; majority use of existing right-of-way already acquired by SANBAG; new track and replacement/retrofit of existing bridges; passenger boarding at four new stations, with station stops at five locations; the use of existing train layover and maintenance facilities; safety improvements at 22 at-grade crossings, including quiet zones determined by memorandums of understanding with the cities of Redlands and San Bernardino on February 4, 2015; and five public

at-grade crossings closures for added safety.

Funding for the project will include local, state and federal contributions.

Three of the four stations would be constructed in Redlands — where the line crosses New York Street, downtown and at the University of Redlands. The fourth station will be at either Waterman Avenue or Tippecanoe Avenue in San Bernardino.

SANBAG is estimating that between 720 and 820 daily riders will use the Redlands route in 2018 and between 1,120 and 1,340 daily riders in 2038.

In the early portion of the 20th Century, The Pacific Electric Railway had established the Red Car system, a network of rail lines which included a line that ran all the way from Los Angeles through San Bernardino to Redlands. That system reached its zenith in the 1920s when it was the largest electric rail-

way system in the world. It declined with the rise of the automobile era and met its demise as the Southern California freeway system was established.

A revival of the rail link between Redlands and San Bernardino was considered and given at least nominal promotion at the time of the campaign on behalf of Measure I — the half-cent sales tax proposal for county transportation improvements — in 1989

SANBAG in 1992 used Measure I funds to purchase the historic Redlands Loop from the Santa Fe Railway.

The Redlands Rail Project will utilize a portion of the Redlands Loop alignment. With county voters supporting the extension of Measure I in 2004, a commitment to actuating the earlier promise of a new San Bernardino to Redlands rail system was made, growing out of the overwhelming support of voters in the city of

Redlands — more than 79 percent — for the tax extension.

In September 2010, ESRI, Redland's most successful corporation, hosted a meeting to promote the San Bernardino to Redlands rail concept. The concept picked up steam as SANBAG held public meetings to discuss the concept in 2010 and 2011. A draft environmental impact report was drawn up in 2012. After his election as San Bernardino County Third District supervisor in November 2012, James Ramos formed the Rail to Redlands Working Group, seeking wider input from the community.

Despite enthusiasm for the project in many quarters, there has been opposition. The Redlands Tea Party Patriots and the more recently formed Inland Empire Transit Alliance in Redlands group have questioned whether the benefits of the line will justify the expense and if the

benefits will outweigh the impacts such as noise, interference with vehicular circulation and congestion in Redlands historic downtown.

Regional critics say it would have been better and more logical for SANBAG to have invested the money it is now putting into the San Bernardino to Redlands line on the extension of the Gold Line from Los Angeles County eastward into San Bernardino County, getting that portion of a comprehensive rail network completed before investing in and completing the more eastward portion of the line, which ultimately would tie into the Gold Line to make it a truly regional system.

The San Bernardino to Redlands line will allow travelers to catch a bus from the Waterman or Tippecanoe station to achieve the San Bernardino terminus of the MetroRail System, which runs to Los Angeles.

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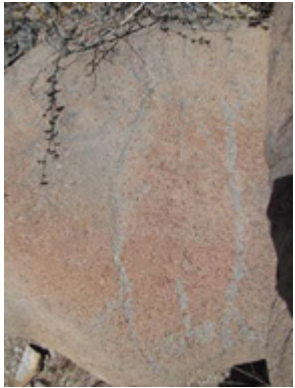


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Glimpse from page 5

San Bernardino County. Since we are both interested in the prehistory of the East Mojave Desert, we were discussing



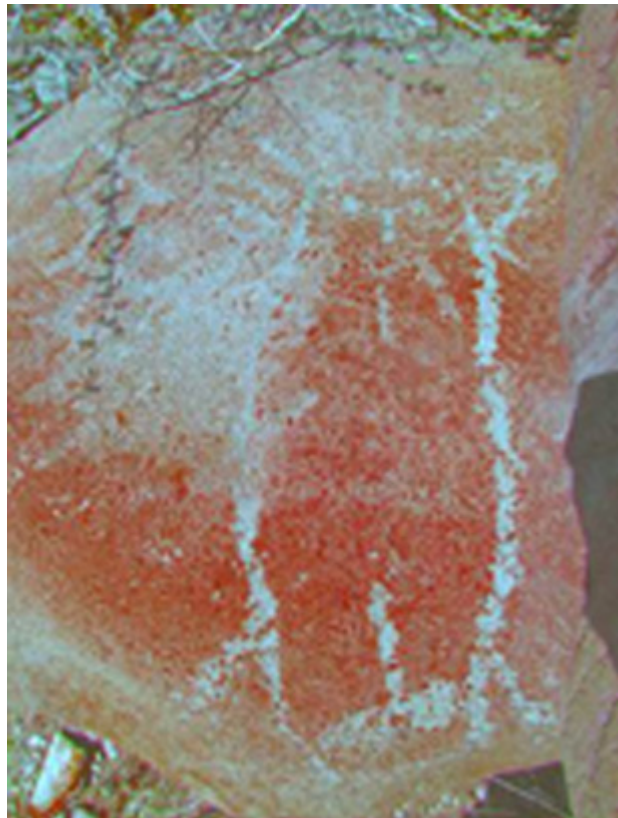
“Before” DStretch on petroglyph photo images taken by Archaeologist Anne and George Stoll at Los Coyotes, Baja, California.

the possible direction of migration of the Yuman speakers who lived along the lower Colorado River, including the Mojaves. He was of the opinion that glottochronology would prove that the tribes would have moved up the river from the ocean, the Bay of California, and that the oldest branch would be the ones living closest to the ocean, down the river from Needles to the south near the border of Mexico—that would be the Seri. My friend’s supposition could be shown if the southernmost tribes shared the most root words common with other related phylum dialects.



From Smithsonian Institution, a portion of a 1967 map of “Early Indian Tribes, Culture Areas, and Linguistic Stocks” by William C. Sturtevant.

I suggested that, on the contrary, lexicostatistics indicate that the pattern of movement was overland for the Hokan speakers who I asserted were the likely occupants of the western pluvial lakes of the Mojave Desert and Great Basin during the archaic period and that I believed that the Needles area would be shown to have the most root words in common with all of the other tribes along the river since the Hokan speakers entered the Colorado River area from inland. I suggest-



“After” DStretch on petroglyph photo images taken by Archaeologist Anne and George Stoll at Los Coyotes, Baja, California.

ed that they would have subsisted off of the pluvial lake resources after the ice age and wound up

on the lower Colorado River as warming and dessication of the desert lakes continued. I suggested to him what the late Dr. Clement Meighan, founder of UCLA’s Archaeological Survey, who studied under the great anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber, said to me: the Needles area/Mohave Valley is the cultural hearth for the river tribes of Yuman-Hokan speakers.

Theoretically, the Hokan speakers (lime color on map) that include the Mojave of San Bernardino County, were much

more widespread in the archaic period but were split apart after waves of Penutian tribes (Yokuts, etc.) (peach color on map, Figure 8) from the north and Uto-Aztekan tribes (Shoshonean/Paiute) (plum color on map from Mesoamerica to the south moved into the area. In my “Who made the Archaic Rock Art” theory, this split would account for the blanket of older archaic rock art, which the Hokan are responsible for, underlying newer imagery throughout the California and Great Basin area. On the Lower Colorado River however, the stronghold of Yuman-Hokan speakers, like the Pipa Aha Macav (Mojave), there is archaic art but a lack of the type of representational rock art motifs and images that are linked

with these later groups, such as bighorn sheep imagery and blanket people. There are other stylistic clues as well which I do not have room to expound upon here.

Similarly, style patterns, changes and differences in prehistoric rock art are used by anthropologists all over the world to make determinations as to authorship: Who made it?

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will be meeting to discuss topics surrounding rock art and report new findings. The conference will be held just beyond the easternmost edge of San Bernardino County, in Laughlin, Nevada, at the Colorado Belle Resort and Casino on May 22 – 25, 2015. I intend to present findings with regard to stylistic clues that suggest the ancestral Pipa Aha Macav (Mojave) should be credited with the archaic rock art predominant throughout the desert area.

Coincidentally to my “African Aunts” story above, one of the Archaeologists/Rock Art researchers to be making a presentation at the conference is Archaeologist Anne Stoll who, along with her husband George, conducted research in 2013 at Nanke Cave, in the Matopo Hills National Park, western Zimbabwe not far from where my aunts had taught 50 years prior.

Anne provided the *Sentinel* with a preview of her upcoming presentation (See Figures 2 – 6). She writes “The rock art in the shelters in the Matopo Hills (See Figure 2) was painted by the San people perhaps thousands of years ago and it has faded with time. George and I use a method of photographic enhancement called “DStretch” on all painted sites because it brings out important interpretive details which are often otherwise virtually invisible.

“The image in Figure 3 is the ‘normal’ color. To make the faint paint visible DStretch was used and you are able to see the result in Figure

4, an enhanced, brightly colored panel with imagery and motifs that were not readily visible before. Note the copious over painting and the many giraffes and kudu. The strange tube-like shape in the art work is called a ‘formling’ -- just because no one really knows what these represent. There has been some good research done



Rock art from San Bernardino County's National Register site, Lanfair Buttes, in the Mojave National Preserve managed by the National Park Service. Photo supplied by David R. Nichols, MA, RPA, Park Archaeologist. This site is on the tentative list of sites to be visited by members of American Rock Art Research Association ARARA during the May 22 - 25, 2015 conference.

recently with the idea they are beehives or termite nests.”

“Formling?” –now there’s another new combo word to track.

Anne is very eager to freely pass on the DStretch technology. “Honestly, if we could get people to use Jon Harmon’s DStretch more, we’d feel very good about our message (www.dstretch.com). It’s FREE and easy to use and replaces tracing or (horrors!) wetting a surface to bring out an image (widely done in Africa, for tourists). We’re well aware that not everyone can travel to Africa but there are many interesting painted sites closer to home that would benefit from photographic enhancement, permitting faint details to be seen, and it does work on some

petroglyphs where the patina has a reddish cast as well.

“For example, the before and after DStretch of the curious motif from Los Coyotes, Baja, Mexico.”

Both Southern Californians are officially retired now from professional careers in teaching archaeology and engineering. For many

years Anne and George photographed painted sites across the western US and now in over sixteen countries. The last four years the team has focused on the San painted art of southern Africa – specifically South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

San Bernardino County is very fortunate to have such high caliber rock art experts like the Stolls coming to see rock art in our county’s East Mojave. The Stolls presence elevates the ARARA conference to be held here over Memorial Day weekend which may awaken the attention of the local community as to the important work we have here at home that attracts visitors from around the world. The Stolls appearance at the conference lifts the

Continued on Page 12

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner Case #701501826 On Monday 03/02/15, at 8:49 PM, officers' from the Barstow Police Department were dispatched to the area of the 200 block of south 1st. St. in Barstow for a "mandown" call. When they arrived, officers found a male subject down in the street with upper body trauma. Paramedics responded to the location and transported the male subject to the Barstow Community Hospital, Emergency Department. The male subject was pronounced dead at 9:40 PM. The Barstow Police Department is investigating the circumstances of the death. The name will be released when the next-of-kin are notified. An autopsy will be conducted later this week to determine the cause of death. [030315 1010 SC]

Coroner Case #701401789 On 03/01/15 at 11:38 AM, Officers' from the San Bernardino Police Department responded to the 100 block of west Highland Ave. in San Bernardino to a reported attempted vehicle theft. When they arrived, they found a 33 year-old male subject who had been pinned between a Honda sedan and a cement filled steel pillar at the location unresponsive. Paramedics from the San Bernardino Fire Department arrived and pronounced the subject dead at 11:44 AM. It appeared that the subject was attempting to get away from the assailants who attempted to take the car when he became pinned. The name of the decedent will be released once positive identification has been established. An autopsy will be conducted later this week to determine the cause of death. The San Bernardino Police Department Homicide Unit is investigating the circumstances related to the death. [030215 1100 SC]

Coroner Case #701501729 On 02/26/15 at 11:11 AM, emergency personnel responded to a residential fire in the 40000 block of Fox Farm Road in Big Bear Lake. During a search of the residence, firefighters located Puangmanee Neatherlin, a 71 year old resident of Big Bear Lake, and removed her outside. She was subsequently pronounced dead at the scene a short time later. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department Bombs and Arson Division is investigating the incident. [022715 1315]

Coroner case #701501740 On 02/26/15 at 6:49 PM, Tammy Mae Seagraves, age: 43 from Chino Hills was driving a Saturn southbound on Carbon Canyon Road north of Canyon Hills road in Chino Hills and collided head on with a northbound Honda. Paramedics transported her to Chino Valley Medical Center where she was pronounced dead at 7:53 PM. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the collision. [022715 1315]

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

School Dispatcher Awarded \$6.5M Over Sexual Assault By District Police Officer

SAN BERNARDINO—A jury on March 2 awarded Fontana Unified School District administrative technician/police dispatcher Amanda Vandervoort \$1.487 million after a 21-day trial in her lawsuit in which

she alleged negligence on the part of the district and sexual assault by former district police officer John Frank Garcia. Before the punitive damages phase of the trial was to begin on March 3, the jury was informed

that the attorney for Garcia, Michael Marlatt, had agreed on \$5 million punitive damages stipulation. Unless the district appeals the award amount, Vandervoort will indeed receive the \$1.487 mil-

lion, which will be paid out by the district. Her prospect of receiving the \$5 million is dim, since it was assessed against Garcia, who does not have sufficient assets to make such a payment. The school district,

while liable for actual damages, as a public agency is immune under the law from having to pay punitive damages. Vandervoort and three other female district employees claimed that Garcia, a former co-

ordinator of the Fontana Leadership Intervention Program (FLIP), either sexually assaulted or harassed them while they were at work and in the field. According to statements on file with the court, Garcia repeatedly made sexual advancements to the women while making reference to his sexual prowess and bragging about his sexual conquests of two mothers of FLIP students.

Vandervoort's ordeal with Garcia culminated in three incidents, one on November 25, 2010 and two others on unspecified dates in February and April 2011. In the first encounter, Vandervoort was working as a dispatcher for school police services during the evening shift. When Garcia's shift ended at 11 p.m., he attacked her, forcibly disrobing her and raping her. He repeated that action some three months later and five months later.

Vandervoort eventually reported what had occurred to Fontana School Police Chief William Megenney. An internal investigation of Garcia was conducted, but he remained in place as a police offi-

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Upland To Delay Marijuana Initiative Until Next Year from page 7

use in general, they can drive enough voters to the polls to prevail in a special election while a significant portion of the city population opposed to the concept of open access fail to participate.

In this political crucible, with Musser, Bozar and Timm anxious to see the vote delayed to next year and the two-member minority of the council - Debbie Stone and Gino Filippi - more favorably inclined to a special election, Adams researched the issue and in January tentatively found what he said was potential grounds for delaying the initiative vote until the next regularly scheduled municipal election.

The initiative imposes a set of limitations on the dispensaries and a protocol for their application and licensing. Under the terms of the initiative, the number of dispensaries in the city would be limited to three and they would have to be located within the relatively confined area north of Foothill Boulevard, south of Cable Airport, and between Airport Drive to

the east and Monte Vista to the west. Each of the applicants for the three dispensaries would have to pay a \$75,000 non-refundable licensing fee intended, the initiative's sponsors say, to cover the city's costs in carrying out background checks and making other inquiries and efforts to process the applications.

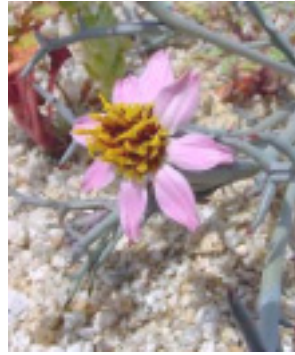
It was with regard to this last point that Adams in January said the city might yet have what he called a "profound" basis for holding off until a regular election to let the city's voters consider the initiative.

"This particular measure calls for only three medical marijuana dispensaries to be established in the city," Adams said. "A special \$75,000 licensing fees is to be paid annually for each dispensary. The State Constitution indicates that if the fee exceeds the cost of providing the services, licensing and inspection, it is not a fee. It is a tax."

According to the California Constitution, Adams said, a vote on a tax cannot be held in the venue of a special ballot but must be held during a regularly scheduled election.

The city council, in

The Mojave hole-in-the-sand plant, bears the Latin name of *Nicolletia occidentalis* and is of the asteraceae or sunflower family. It is a desert-adapted perennial herb with a skeletonlike appearance. The plant grows from a deep taproot in the des-



ert sand and the stem is sometimes surrounded by a depression in the sand, a trait that gives it

its common name. This plant bears showy flow-



ers with curving bright pink ray florets and yellow centers.

The leaves are narrow and fleshy and end in a bristle. They have large oil glands which



exude a strong unpleasant scent.

They range from the Mojave Desert to the



High Sierra Nevada and most commonly inhabit sandy desert soils, such as dunes and washes at



elevations of 1,800 feet to 4,200 feet. They flower from April until June.

Nicolletia occidentalis, is a dicot, native only to California, although there are other plants with deep taproots referred to as hole-in-the-sand plants.



The Count... from page 3

its own motives, but all shared the common aim of removing Egyptian President Gamal Nasser from power, attenuating Soviet influence in the region and regaining Western control of the Suez Canal. And while the Israeli, British and French military forces executed well, with the Israelis overrunning the Egyptian Sinai, the British and French using that as a pretext to issue a joint ultimatum

a split 3-2 vote, with Musser, Bozar and Timm in ascendancy and Stone and Filippi dissenting, directed Adams and city staff to ascertain if in fact the \$75,000 specified in the initiative would exceed the city's actual costs in carrying out background checks and processing the applications.

The *Sentinel* has learned that city staff's survey of the costs associated with such a background check and application processing has determined that \$75,000 "substantially exceeds" the anticipated city outlay to perform that work, which Upland Administrative Services Director Stephanie Mendenhall quantified as \$3,822.

for a cease fire followed by the landing of paratroopers along the Suez Canal and the defeat of Egyptian forces, the move proved a debacle. Despite the denials of their governments, it became clear that the Israeli invasion and the subsequent well-coordinated Anglo-French attack had been planned beforehand by the three countries. As the fighting progressed, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations forced the three invaders to withdraw.

As a result, Adams next week is set to offer his recommendation that the city hold off on the election until November



Randy Welty

2016. While it is anticipated that Musser, Bozar and Timm will follow that recommendation, the city clerk's office has given the council three other options, including simply adopting the initiative as proposed

Shipping through the canal was blocked entirely until March 1957. Nasser remained in power. President Dwight Eisenhower, miffed at the British action which he had previously warned against, threatened action against the British financial system, opening up a rift in the Western Alliance. The Soviets then exploited this to the detriment of the West, using the opportunity the disarray presented to crack down on growing dissent in Hungary, where the populace was progress-

without change; scheduling for June 16, 2015 a special election pertaining to the initiative; scheduling for June 16, 2015 a special election at which the city's voters will be faced with the DeLaRosa/Velez/Welty/Beresh/California Cannabis Coalition initiative and a competing initiative sponsored by the city council which will ask city voters whether an "ordinance, to affirm existing local law which prohibits both medical marijuana dispensaries as well as prohibits mobile medical marijuana dispensaries, within the City of Upland, be adopted?"

The *Sentinel* has learned that city officials anticipate the likelihood

ing toward throwing off the yoke of communism. Many historians believe that the Suez Crisis, more than any single other event, precipitated the utter demise of the British Empire...

In the current circumstance involving Iran, all parties need to remind themselves that precipitate action, while perhaps useful in stemming what may be perceived as an immediate threat, carries with it a long term implication that may saddle all of us with a legacy we would rather not bear...

that Welty and the California Cannabis Coalition, represented by Diamond, will file suit to enjoin the city from delaying the initiative vote until 2016. Nevertheless, Adams has told city officials that the city's position is well fortified and based upon Section 17.158.100 of the coalition sponsored initiative, Article XIII C section 1(e) of the California Constitution and Proposition 26 approved by California's voters in 2010, the city will withstand any challenge against holding the vote in November 2016 and will be able to recover its legal costs from the plaintiffs after standing down that challenge.

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No one turned blue this past week with the



cold rising temperatures of San Bernardino County and SOCAL for that matter, but the color is in. Blue has been in the works since around the holiday time. It really is a wonderful color that helps turn any sea-



son around. Its looking cheery in blue and it's only March. With everyone utilizing blue lately the imagination is head-

California Style True Blue

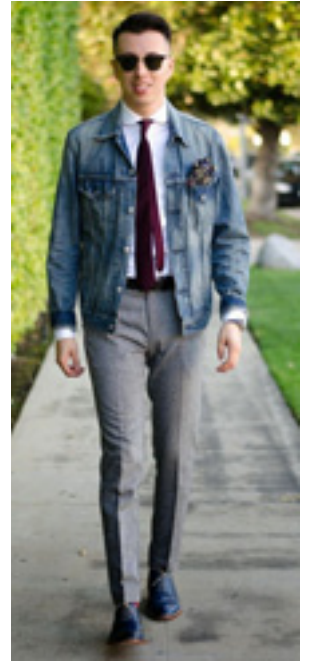
By Grace Bernal

ing in a fun yet gentle direction. Since the development of the color has been in the making for a while it really does look great when experimenting with it. Blue isnt here as a trend but in a truer



cheery way. The spectrum of the blue color from handbags, hats, coats, jeans, socks, and more are phenomenal. Blue helps cheer up the mood after the swing of

the weather. Blue mixes beautifully with black. It's really neat and the imagination of how an outfit is put together makes it all the more appealing. Since we're in the blue don't go wild and buy a blue piece but look in your wardrobe and if you have it, blend it into your outfit. It's al-



ways lovely to see new things happening with fashion and people here in sunny California. The weather is turning a new leaf and we're headed into a big shift I feel the blue already. Until next time enjoy your week!

"I love fashion and there is no easier way to express yourself than through the clothes you wear."

Victoria Justice

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

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\$6.5M Settlement from page 10

cer. Vandervoort took a stress leave in November of 2011, and sought and received psychological treatment, according to court testimony.

The district considered Garcia, who was hired by the district in June of 2008, an "award winning" officer. After he was assigned to Fontana A.B. Miller High School, Garcia was rec-

ognized for several arrests he effectuated on weapons and drug possession and drug sales charges, which involved activity in close proximity to a school or city park. Due to "his commitment to duty," Garcia received the district's Excellence in Policing Award on May 21, 2009.

Garcia, however, had a somewhat checkered history as a police officer prior to landing with FUSD. He went to work for the Riverside

Police Department in April 2001 and resigned in October 2005 for undisclosed reasons, perhaps to take a job with the Fontana Police Department, which hired him the same month. He did not make it past his 18-month probationary term after he was accused in September 2006 of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old female police cadet. He also briefly worked for the Riverside Sheriff's Department.

A complaint relating

to Garcia's sexual assaults of Vandervoort and another district employee went to the district attorney's office, which declined to prosecute him over either matter.

Vandervoort did not leave the employ of the district, and continues to work as an evidence clerk for Fontana Unified's police division. The district indicated it might appeal the jury's damage assessment, though that was seemingly contradicted by a public statement to the effect that the jury's award was for less than 10 percent of the amount Vandervoort and her attorneys, Brian Hannemann, Angel Plaus and Joshua Milon, sought. The district sought to put the best face on the situation, declaring, "Fontana Unified School District is committed to ensuring a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment in the workplace and is doing everything in its

power to help ensure a safe environment for all

employees, students, and parents."

Glimpse from page 9

status of rock art in the local region and lends credibility to the importance of protecting rock art on and along the Lower Colorado River.

Theirs is a "vision" for our youth which by-the-way, ARARA is now promoting a "rock art" poster contest for

young people, with cash prizes. Categories are 1) new imaginative imagery/motifs and 2) site etiquette/respect. The deadline for entry is April 15. Winners will be recognized at the conference on the evening of May 23. Learn more about the ARARA conference and the contest at www.ARARA.org



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