

## Within Sight Of Trial's End, Merritt's Defense In A State Of Exhaustive Collapse

By Mark Gutglueck

With momentum building toward the concluding crescendo in the McStay family murder trial that is anticipated perhaps as early as May 15, the defense for Charles Merritt on the 47th, 48th, 49th days of testimony called its own licensed forensic auditor to the witness stand. The defense intended that expert witness, Dennis

Shogren, to match and offset the testimony provided by the financial expert called earlier in the trial by the prosecution, Scott Weitzman. Thereafter, with the remainder of the 49th day and the 50th day of testimony, the defense called to the witness stand four of the homicide investigators who had ferreted out much of the circumstantial evidence assem-

bled by the prosecution against the defendant.

Monday through Thursday of this week, as it had done since March 13 when it began the presentation of its version of events following the prosecution's presentation of its case over the nine-plus weeks from January 7 until March 12, the defense continued in its methodical fashion to

seek to dismantle virtually every element of the entirely circumstantial case that was laid out against Merritt. Nevertheless, the prosecution, in a rearguard action by the junior member of its three-lawyer team, Deputy District Attorney Melissa Rodriguez, succeeded in landing occasional stinging rabbit punches that were intended to refocus the

jury's attention to the prosecution's narrative of guilt.

Called on to testify on Monday was Dennis Shogren, a forensic auditor and certified public accountant licensed in New York and California, who examined the financial records of murder victim Joseph McStay, Merritt and Daniel Kavanaugh, who is alleged by **See P 2**

## SB Solons Extend Contract With Firm That Botched Cannabis Licensing

Courting even further controversy, San Bernardino's elected leadership this week extended its arrangement with a consultant that has already bollixed the effort to license some 15 entities that are to be permitted to traffic in cannabis within the city.

Having retained Brea-based HdL to advise them on how to go

about selecting which applicants for marijuana-related business operating permits would ultimately be provided with those potentially highly-lucrative privileges, city officials ushered the city council toward a decision in that regard at its February 21 meeting.

Working from a secretive protocol based on criteria that have yet to

be disclosed, the council rejected 24 of the 39 applicants. At that meeting, the council gave the nod to Empire Connect, Pure Dispensaries, Have a Heart, JIVA, and PTRE Management, all of which were entrusted with retail permits. Orange Show Cultivators, which is to engage in cultivation, manufacturing and distribution;

SOCA Farms, involving retailing, cultivation and distribution; Central Avenue Nursery, a cultivator, retailer and distributor; and Nibble This, which is to entail retailing, manufacturing and distribution, were all given microbusiness licenses the same night. Nibble This, notably, was provided with two separate microbusiness

permits at two separate locations. Accessible Options, 14 Four, GWC Real Estate Services and Organtix Orchards were granted cultivating permits. AM-PM Management was the recipient of a manufacturing permit and Blunt Brothers, a wholesale distributor, was given on the same night permission to operate. **See P 5**

## Freight Communication System For Gold Line Passes Muster

This past Sunday, April 28, the Gold Line Construction Authority successfully completed the initial phase of testing for the newly installed underground communication system for the freight train system that runs through the Glendora to Montclair Gold Line segment. Sunday's testing was the first of three phases that will be conducted to test

the new system that will eliminate the use of the current overhead pole line system. The testing involved several trials with an active Metrolink train to ensure the new communication system would activate and deactivate the train signals at all street crossings in the test area.

The Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Montclair will **See P 7**

## Sheriff's Task Force In Nightmarish 5-Day Search Of Landfill For Six-Year-Old's Body

A substantial task force of volunteers and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department personnel, including the department's search and rescue team, this week have devoted themselves to the gruesome undertaking of searching the county's Victorville landfill for the body of six-year-old Duke Flores.

On Thursday, April 25, at approximately

10:06 pm, deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department stationed in Apple Valley as members of that town's police department responded to a residence in the 22000 block of Cherokee Avenue following a request for a welfare check from one of Duke Flores' relatives. Upon arrival, deputies were told by Duke Flores' mother, Jackee

Contreras, 29, that her son had not been seen for approximately two weeks. Deputies immediately began a search of the area. Jackee Contreras was arrested, transported and booked into the High Desert Detention Center for child neglect, stemming from her delay in reporting her son missing. She was later transferred to the West Val- **See P 7**

## \$24.6 Million Seismic Stability Retrofit For Lake Gregory Dam Completed

What started out as a relatively modest \$4 million refurbishing of the now 82-year-old Lake Gregory Dam has been completed as a major \$24.6 million upgrade. The Lake Gregory Dam Rehabilitation Project is intended to maintain the safety and stability of what is a major edifice within the San Bernardino Mountain Community into the middle

of the 21st Century and beyond.

After being deemed a "high hazard dam" by the California Division of Safety of Dams, the County of San Bernardino Special Districts division undertook an effort to retrofit the existing dam to meet state earthquake safety standards.

Dam rehabilitation included adding a 40-foot earthen buttress to the

downstream side of the dam that now extends 62 feet beyond the toe of the embankment. The buttress is composed of 70,000 cubic yards of earthen material. To add the buttress, overgrown vegetation and sediment that formerly filled the dam was removed.

Work on the project began in July and truck hauling for the undertaking began in earnest in

September. Hauling consisted of a daily transport of 80,000 cubic yards of material up Highway 18 through Crestline to the Lake Gregory Dam worksite. In October, a large piece of compaction equipment was delivered to the worksite.

As work on the west abutment of the dam was nearing completion in December, seasonal rains started to compli-

cate the effort. While the project was under construction, the county was legally required to keep the lake at a level roughly five feet below normal. After a thorough assessment of the Lake Gregory Dam buttress, the Division of Safety of Dams in early January gave the county permission to raise the lake level by 5 feet from the restricted level **See P 7**

## \$6.6 Million In State Grants To Assist The Homeless Go To 15 Entities In SB County

More than \$6.6 million in grants available under the State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program has been apportioned to 15 entities throughout San Bernardino County, as approved by the board of supervisors on Tuesday.

A total of 44 entities applied for the grants. After considering the applications, county officials recommended that the state consider 22 of those. It recommended against 22 of the others.

Of the 22 recommended, the state came through with funding for all but seven of those. The fifteen chosen were: Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside Counties, which is to receive \$362,000; the City of Barstow, which is to get \$376,580; the City of Rialto, which is set to take in \$600,759; Family Assistance Program, to be provided with \$525,600; High Desert Homeless Services, Inc., which is to claim \$150,343.30; Inland Valley Council of Churches, dba Inland Valley Hope Partners, which will get \$307,170; Knowledge, Education for Your Success, Inc., which is to get \$320,000; Mental Health Systems, Inc., approved for \$520,160; Mercy House Living Centers, which is slated to get 457,184; Morongo Unified School District, which was granted \$195,000; St. Mary Medical Center, promised \$140,350; Step Up on Second, Inc., slated for \$720,000 in funding; The Chance Project, which is to get the most among **See P 3**

## Merritt Was Getting 65% Of Company Proceeds With Proviso He Purchase Materials from front page

the defense to be the actual killer. Shogren said he had done so with an eye “to determine relationships [of the three parties] from a financial perspective.”

In the more than two-and-a-half years he had been working on the matter, Shogren said, he had been provided with “a truckload of data.” Nevertheless his insight into the entire circumstance surrounding the interlocking financial relationships of the three – McStay, Merritt and Kavanaugh – had improved substantially with the set of financial records provided to him by another expert hired by the defense, Brian LaRock, a computer forensic analyst who had succeeded in retrieving ledgers kept by Joseph McStay on a desktop computer in the McStay household that had been seized by the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department as a consequence of its investigation into the McStay family’s 2010 disappearance. That computer eventually made its way into the possession of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department after the matter was pursued as a homicide investigation following the discovery of the family’s bodies in 2013.

Shogren testified on Monday, April 30 that on April 13 LaRock sent him ledgers compiled by Joseph McStay “outlining costs and revenue for projects he worked on with Mr. Merritt.” He had not before seen significant evidence relating to the case that was so detailed, he said, explaining that the ledgers were key in adding depth to his analysis.

McStay, Shogren said, kept a ledger for calendar year 2007, listing the jobs that Charles Merritt participated in for McStay’s company, Earth Inspired Products. Those jobs, consisting of the design, fabrication and delivery of water features such

as water fountains and artificial waterfalls, involved \$330,375.97 coming into the enterprise and \$204,666.98 going to Merritt.

Shogren said that the customized water features Merritt built for and with McStay did not account for all the business that Earth Inspired Products did that year, as revenue reported on McStay’s and Earth Inspired Products’ tax filings reflected higher receipts for Earth Inspired Products.

In addition to the custom waterfalls built by Merritt, Earth Inspired Products also sold prefabricated water fountains it served as a middleman on by purchasing them from manufacturers and suppliers and then delivering them to customers.

Joseph McStay’s records reflected “checks and cash payments to Chase [Charles Merritt] against his share of payments that accumulated,” Shogren said, with the 2007 spreadsheet that McStay had prepared displayed on the courtroom’s overhead visual monitors. “Joseph was keeping a tally of what was needed to fill the spreadsheet.”

“Was it your understanding in reviewing the records that customers for custom jobs would pay in a certain way?” Merritt’s defense co-counsel Raj Maline asked.

“Yes,” said Shogren.

“How was that?” Maline asked.

“So, the invoices were issued, and 50 percent down was the standard, from what the records that we viewed, 50 percent down was standard payment, and on that payment then Joseph would begin to pay Chase for work, because the work would not begin until that 50 percent deposit had been made,” Shogren said.

In 2008 the customized water feature work done by Earth Inspired Products generated \$342,099 in sales with \$224,615 of that going to Merritt.

In 2009, at the height of the nationwide economic downturn that

began in 2007, Earth Inspired Products sold \$297,954 worth of customized water features, with \$158,210 going to Merritt.

Joseph McStay received roughly 35 percent of the proceeds, with which he used to carry out the marketing, promotion and customer-coordination and customer-satisfaction end of the business. Joseph McStay would take orders and record the specifications outlined by the customers, and upon receiving a 50 percent deposit toward the order, either pass the money along to Merritt, from which Merritt would purchase the materials and components needed and begin fabrication, or Joseph would write a check to a vendor to secure the needed materials for fabrication. In all such latter cases, the purchases of material were logged as revenue to Merritt. According to Shogren, there was a very loose and free-flowing monetary arrangement between McStay and Merritt with regard to the customized water feature operation within Earth Inspired Products. Merritt was originally provided with roughly 65 percent of gross proceeds from the business, from which he was responsible for purchasing the material, components and equipment needed to fabricate the final product. At various times, as the demand for Earth Inspired Products water features grew, multiple projects would be under way and in various states of completion. Thus, the ledger sheet as it was being composed would reflect, variously, that Merritt was owed money by McStay or that McStay was owed money by Merritt.

“Could there be an amount due to Chase or an amount owed by Chase at any given time?” Maline asked.

“Yes, that amount varies, literally by the day” said Shogren.

Such a fluctuation was an intrinsic part of the way Earth Inspired Products was conducting business, Shogren said.

“This was a proj-

ect-based business,” Shogren stated. “The custom business is a project business and the payments came in in lumps, if you will. So fifty percent of a project would come in, and the spending for that project didn’t begin until after that deposit had been made. Spending was continuing on projects that had already been paid, so you could have payments a month or two or more in advance and that money would be used and maybe used up. It may still have a balance available, and then another amount comes in. When that amount comes in, it changes the math of what’s owed back and forth.”

“And it really isn’t until the end of the year, or until they stopped working with each other, that you could actually give an account of where they stand in terms of finality?” Maline said.

“Certainly,” Shogren said. “As long as the work continued, you would always have that variance that was available, based on the date and timing of receipts and payments.”

“Would it be accurate to say that at any given time in the year 2008 or any year for that matter, picking any date you want, there could be an amount owing to Chase or an amount overpaid to Chase, which means an amount owing to Joseph?” Maline asked.

“That’s correct,” Shogren said.

Based on McStay’s use of a Schedule C in his tax filings, Shogren said, Earth Inspired Products was a sole proprietorship with Joseph McStay as the owner registered with the county as a fictitious business name and not with the state as corporation, or limited liability company or partnership or other legal entity. Merritt was not considered an employee, but rather an independent contractor, Shogren said. Merritt had his own company, I Design, which was dedicated primarily to the construction of water features, artificial waterfalls in particular. Earth Inspired checks were is-

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sued to Merritt and I Design.

An element of the prosecution’s case relating to motive pertains to the contention that at the time of the McStay family murders, Merritt owed a significant amount of money to McStay. Attending the prosecution’s contention is the suggestion that the amount owed stemmed from an alleged embezzlement or series of embezzlements that Merritt had engaged in. This week, Shogren was able to shed light on the circumstance relating to the tally sheet balance the prosecution has represented as a debt situation, indicating there was no embezzlement, but rather an unforeseen situation involving a dissatisfied customer.

That matter involved an artificial waterfall that was ordered for Provecho Restaurant in Los Angeles. The initial invoice for the project indicated the waterfall was to cost Provecho \$29,720, with \$19,500 supposed to go to Merritt, according to Shogren. There were some possible augmentations to the project that would have pushed the final cost to \$34,000, according to notations in Joseph McStay’s computer entries. Provecho provided the 50 percent deposit on the project and Merritt began fabrication work on it, proceeding well toward completion. Prior to actually taking delivery of the waterfall, however, Provecho canceled the order, in so doing reversing payment of the 50 percent deposit on the original \$29,720, which was thereafter logged on

the Earth Inspired Products/Joseph McStay PayPal account as a \$14,860 charge. Complicating things further, McStay, because the job was nearly completed and anticipating no glitches in the final delivery of the waterfall to the customer, had paid Merritt the full \$19,500 he was owed for work on the project.

In more than one place where McStay alludes to the matter in entries on his computer logs and notations, he refers to it as the “Provecho disaster.” The monetary notation he makes in conjunction with it is \$34,000.

Previous testimony and evidence presented at trial indicated that McStay and Merritt had agreed to split the loss sustained on the Provecho project between them.

According to Shogren, banking, QuickBook and PayPal documentation he has examined showed that Merritt received a series of three payments - \$1,463 \$10,000 and \$8,037 – relating to the Provecho project. That Merritt was paid in full the amount he was due on the project was most likely an indication Merritt had completed the Provecho job, Shogren said.

With Shogren on the witness stand, Maline displayed on the courtroom’s overhead display monitors an email sent from McStay to Merritt on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 11:42 am with “PM & SA” in the subject line.

*Continued on Page 4*

## SB Council Hesitating In Pulling The Final Trigger On Travis-Miller

The San Bernardino City Council this week kicked the can down the road for two more weeks, discussing but taking no action with regard to firing now-suspended City Manager Andrea Travis-Miller or, alternatively, reinstating her to her active role as the county seat's top municipal administrator.

Since December 19, Travis-Miller's continuing tenure with the city has been in jeopardy. That day former Third Ward Councilman John Valdivia was elevated to mayor following his November electoral victory in which he turned out the city's immediate past mayor, Carey Davis. Valdivia was joined on the dais by newly elected First and Second Ward council members Theodore Sanchez and Sandra Ibarra. At Ibarra's urging, the council that day took up an evaluation of Travis-Miller's continuing performance in her role as the city's top staff member. That

evaluation took place behind closed doors after a public session during which a cross section of the community, including Davis, voiced confidence in Travis-Miller.

That day in December, as again in January and again in February and then once more in March during similar closed door meetings, the council considered the wisdom and efficacy of leaving Travis-Miller in place as the city's top administrator. Reliable sources inform the *Sentinel* that the most pointed criticism of Travis-Miller emanated from the mayor, who is not empowered under the city's current charter to vote on issues that come before the council under normal circumstances. At that point, there was not sufficient support for cashiering Travis-Miller, as she enjoyed the solid backing of councilmen Fred Shorett and Jim Mulvihill as well as the confidence, if less than fully enthusiastic en-

dorsement, of Councilwoman Bessine Richard and Councilman Henry Nickel.

Playing out at that time was a power struggle in which Valdivia, Mulvihill, Shorett and Travis-Miller were principals. Valdivia's ascension to the mayoralty was spoiled in no small measure by the charter reform that had taken place with a city-wide vote in 2016 that scrapped the municipal charter that had been in place since 1905. The revamped charter had significantly attenuated the mayoral power that had existed under the 1905 charter. For more than 110 years, the mayor had significant political power and administrative reach to match it. While the 1905 charter did not give the mayor a vote on the council, it did provide him with the power to veto any vote that passed by a 4-to-3 or 3-to-2 margin, translating in actuality to the mayor possessing two

votes. The mayor wielded the gavel at council meetings, conferring upon him the power to control the ebb and flow of debate, and the power to recognize both members of the council and of the public during public discussions leading up to council action. As significantly, the mayor under the previous charter had the power to hire and fire city personnel, which put him on a par with the city manager in terms of administrative reach.

The 2016 charter reform, in addition to transforming the positions of city attorney and city clerk from elected ones to appointed positions, dispensed with the mayor's administrative role, such that he was no longer empowered to hire or fire city personnel and no longer had the status of being with the city manager the co-regent of the city.

Upon coming into office, Valdivia was casting about for a way to infuse the mayoralty

with some or all of the power that had been taken away. This included beefing up the support staff the council then had – consisting of four city employees who were answerable to the city manager as they were to the elected leadership – into 13 positions, including the mayor's chief of staff who would oversee eight staffers serving at the mayor's pleasure.

When he assumed office, Valdivia had the backing of what appeared to be a sure majority of the council – consisting of Nickel, Richard, Ibarra and Sanchez. But by looking to consolidate power too soon and more than triple the depth of the mayoral/council staff in a way that appeared to empower himself further, Valdivia generated resistance that has complicated his tenure. That included a measure of pushback from Councilman Nickel, who over the previous four years had evolved to become

Valdivia's strongest and most reliable ally on the council. Nickel balked at going along with the mayoral staff increases. Valdivia's maneuverings to overcome Nickel's defection from the Valdivia reservation created more tension still. This included an episode in which Nickel, Shorett and Mulvihill simply walked off the dais in the middle of a meeting to prevent the council, which is already functioning at six-sevenths strength because of the vacancy in the Third District as a result of Valdivia's resignation from that post to assume the mayoralty, from maintaining the requisite quorum to be able to vote. That matter, relating to hiring the staff Valdivia wanted, appeared to be headed toward a 3-to-3 deadlock with Nickel, Shorett and Mulvihill opposed and Richard, Sanchez and Ibarra in favor. Valdivia would then have been

*Continued on Page 7*

### State Homeless Program Grants from front page

any of the 15 recipients,

a whopping \$1.4million; Victor Valley Family Resource Center, which was allotted \$150,000; and the Water of Life

Community Church, provided with \$393,000.

According to Dena Fuentes, the deputy executive officer for the San Bernardino County Community Development and Housing Agency,

"The State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program is a one-time \$500 million block grant program authorized under Senate Bill 850 to provide direct assistance to cities and counties to address the homelessness crisis throughout California. With the Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding, the recommended entities will be able to expand rental assistance and rapid rehousing programs, street outreach and housing navigation, family reunification programs, prevention and eviction prevention programs, emergency and transitional housing solutions, diversion programs, homeless youth programs, and other sup-

portive services."

Fuentes said she recommended that the board of supervisors use its authority "to allocate \$6,618,146.30 of State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program grant funds to 15 entities to provide services to an estimated 3,400 homeless individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness throughout San Bernardino County."

Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside Counties is supposed to use the money it will receive to assist the homeless or avert homeless for those at risk of losing their homes in Adelanto, Colton, Grand Terrace, Hesperia, Loma Linda, Montclair, Ontario, Redlands, San Bernardino, Upland, Victorville, and Yucaipa and seek to prevent 60 households from being evicted in the coming year provide 23 households with motel or hotel vouchers this year and rapidly rehouse 16

households this coming year

The City of Barstow is supposed to use the grant money it receives to hand out motel or hotel vouchers for 250 nights per year, provide rental assistance for three months to 38 households per year; pay the security deposits for nine households this year; give 12.5 households utility assistance this year and provide transportation assistance tickets to approximately 25 individuals this year.

The Chance Project is expected to offer diversion housing counseling to at least 1,000 individuals/families experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness in San Bernardino County to help them resolve their immediate housing crisis so that at least 60 percent of participating individuals/families successfully achieve stable housing without relying on housing provided or subsidized through the homeless service sys-

tem. At least 70 percent of participating individuals/families are to achieve stable housing within 30 days. At least 75 percent of participating individuals/families that achieve stable housing are not to return to homelessness within one year. The average cost to facilitate successful housing outcomes with diversion will be less than \$2,000 per individual/family.

The Family Assistance Program that will turn the now-shuttered 2,760-square foot Fire Station 35 in Joshua Tree, located on Sierra Avenue in the Panorama Heights area, into a day-use homeless facility. Family Assistance Program has said it will use the station, which it is renting for \$1 per year from the county, to provide a place for the homeless to rest, bathe or shower, and eat.

*-Mark Gutglueck*

### Should County And Local Government Make A U-Turn?

A radio program broadcast in the Inland Empire has taken up the questions of whether county and local municipal government is on the right path or whether it would be best for all concerned that our elected leadership get the message and make a U-turn.

KCAA Radio (1050 AM, 102.3 and 106.5 FM)

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# San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

News of Note  
from Around the  
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in the Lower  
48 States

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## **Restaurant Backed Out Of Waterfall Purchase, Costing Merritt & McStay \$34K from page 2**

For the prosecution, the information contained in that email carried with it an indication of Merritt's sinister intent in the days that followed, a self-evident elucidation, the prosecution maintains, of Merritt's financial desperation, which drove him to kill a family of four.

Shogren provided a far more benign interpretation of the email. He said the subject line "PM & SA" referred to two ongoing projects, the first of what was to be many waterfalls to be built for the Paul Mitchell cosmetology product and salon school giant and the second for a wealthy client in Saudi Arabia. Shogren interpreted the upshot of the email as an indication that the money previously paid out to Merritt for the Provecho job and another canceled undertaking for a customer identified as "Levine" would be made up by routing Merritt's future anticipated earnings or some of his future anticipated earnings on the Saudi Arabia and Paul Mitchell projects back to Earth Inspired Products.

The language in the February 1 email from McStay to Merritt reads:

"PM 15% \$4725 Savings \$3050 Total \$7775

SA 15% \$7725 Savings \$6500 Install \$4000 Total \$18,225

Total \$26,000  
As of 2.1.2010  
Chase paid \$173,255  
Chase owed \$158,210  
Overpaid \$15,045  
Plus \$8800 (Levine)  
Plus \$19000 (Provecho)

Total \$42,845  
Sincerely,  
Joseph McStay"

This email, the prosecution has implied, was a demand made by McStay upon Merritt for \$42,845. That was a gross misreading of the email, Shogren indicated.

All of the information contained in the email, Shogren said, "did not make it to a spreadsheet." an indication it was a rough size-up of a portion of an ever fluctuating financial balancing of the ebb and flow of Earth Inspired Products activities.

"As of February 1 when this email was written, the 50 percent of both of those jobs [the Paul Mitchell and Saudi Arabia waterfalls] had been received," Maline said. "Is that correct?"

"That's correct," Shogren said.

With regard to the reference to Provecho and Levine in the email, Shogren said, "It is my opinion that these are jobs that there are claims that exist," Shogren said. "So the customer is making a claim against Earth Inspired Products for something involving the installation, the workmanship. And so they've been listed here as claims, but there has been no demand for payment made."

When Maline asked

Shogren about documentation relating to the Provecho matter, Shogren said "It was an ongoing issue."

For the first several years that Merritt was working as an independent contractor for Earth Inspired Products, the arrangement by which he was paid 65 percent of the gross income on the customized product sales and he covered the material acquisition costs prevailed. In October 2009, that changed with regard to most, but not all, of the customized jobs. He was paid thereafter roughly 15 percent of the gross receipts per job, and was no longer required to pay for purchasing the materials to complete the job. Sometime prior to that, Merritt had left the foundry in Pomona where he had previously done the work for Earth Inspired Products and his company I Design, and relocated to a foundry in Azusa, Metro Sheet Metal. Metro Sheet Metal, during the last several months of the arrangement when Merritt was receiving 65 percent of the customized product proceeds, was supplying sheet metal for the projects. When the arrangement transitioned to Merritt no longer being responsible for buying the materials, Metro Sheet Metal remained as a materials supplier to Earth Inspired Products.

Since 2007, Joseph McStay had two QuickBooks accounts, one which was linked to the email address [contact@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:contact@earthinspiredproducts.com) and one affiliated

with the email address [custom@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:custom@earthinspiredproducts.com).

For more than two-and-a-half years, McStay handled virtually all of the accounting for Earth Inspired Products using the [contact@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:contact@earthinspiredproducts.com)-affiliated QuickBooks account. As of February 1, 2010, just three days before the McStay family's disappearance, Joseph McStay ceased using the [contact@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:contact@earthinspiredproducts.com)-affiliated QuickBooks account and transitioned to using the [custom@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:custom@earthinspiredproducts.com)-connected QuickBooks account. Shogren testified that at the time McStay switched QuickBooks accounts for his accounting purposes, Metro Sheet Metal was added to the [custom@earthinspiredproducts.com](mailto:custom@earthinspiredproducts.com)-connected QuickBooks vendor list.

With the spreadsheets for Earth Inspired Products account activity displayed on the courtroom's overhead monitors, Maline asked Shogren how the transition to the arrangement by which Merritt was paid 15 percent of the proceeds from the jobs changed Joseph McStay's accounting of Earth Inspired Products' activity.

"These checks are now being made directly from Joseph to Metro Sheet Metal," Shogren said. "And in the past, those payments came from Chase's portion of the proceeds."

"Objection, speculation," said Deputy Dis-

trict Attorney Melissa Rodriguez.

"Sustained at this time for lack of foundation" ruled Judge Michael A. Smith.

"And I move to strike the last answer," Rodriguez said.

"The last answer is stricken," Judge Smith said.

"Well, based on your review of the records, did the issuance of Metro Sheet Metal checks take away the issuance of checks and amounts to Chase?" Maline asked.

"The amounts issued to Chase changed because these payments were made for materials and fabrication directly from Joseph," Shogren said. "In the past, they had been made from Chase's share."

"So the formula – and we had a bunch of payments in 2007 and 2008 – was there a percentage that you could gather from your review of those exhibits in the 2007 and 2008 exhibits ledgers, what percentage Chase was gaining on each one of those job orders?" Maline asked.

"So, starting with the first date we had on the ledger, which was January 23 of '07 through this October 2 date, of '09 – So, there was a change made here between 8-25-09 and 10-2-09, there's no jobs recorded. What changed was the percentage of revenue that was credited to Chase from Joseph," Shogren said. "From January of '07, through that October [2009] timeframe, the standard was 65 percent of the revenue per job

was to be Chase's, and that money then went to pay Chase for his efforts and he was to then buy materials and fabrication and so those payments..."

"Objection," said Supervising Deputy District Attorney Sean Daugherty. "That lacks foundation, that last response."

"It's also speculative," Supervising Deputy District Attorney Britt Imes chimed in.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

Shogren, picking up from where he had left off, said, "So, we ran those as a percent of that off of these ledgers, Chase's percentage, his dollars, and then took as a percentage of revenue, and the average during that timeframe is 64 percent."

"So, just to be clear, from January of 2007 to September/October 2009, the percentage that went to Chase of those jobs was approximately 65 percent," Maline said.

"Approximately," Shogren said. "It appears to have been the target, but there were numbers that were different from that for a variety of reasons."

"And then, let's say from October 2nd 2009, can you illustrate the changeover to the jury?" Maline asked.

"Here on October the 2nd, the job was \$3,100, and Chase's portion of that job was listed as \$504, which rounds to 16 percent. The amounts vary during this time, but it would appear the target is about 15 per-

*Continued on Page 6*

**Despite Cannabis Licensing Debacle, SB Extends Consultant's Contract**  
*from front page*

Though a representative from HdL was at the meeting that night, he did not introduce himself or take part in the proceedings. Nor did city officials deign to identify him or engage him in the public process. Even with controversy enveloping the process and the meeting, the HdL representative remained silent. Indeed, after the meeting, the *Sentinel* erroneously reported that no representative from HdL was present. City officials have yet to identify who the HdL representative was, refusing to disclose his name.

In short order, flaws in the approval process were identified. Specifically, it was learned, six of the companies granted licenses - Organtix Orchards, AM-PM Mgmt. Inc., Orange Show Cultivators, both Nibble This operations, Blunt Brothers, and Accessible Options are out of compliance with the city's codes, policies, municipal plan, zoning codes and/or general plan. It was not clear how several of those given licenses

and others were not determined by the San Bernardino Community Development Department as being a requisite 600 feet or more away from schools, parks, churches, youth centers, operations where alcohol is served or sold as well as residences before the process of selecting licensees was undertaken. What is known is that at least seven of those operations that were rejected were in compliance with the city's codes and regulations.

Publicly, members of the San Bernardino community openly suggested that the entire selection process was tainted by graft and that the council was cynically utilizing HdL as a shroud behind which bribe-taking was going on. It did not help matters that several of those provided with the licenses had made hefty donations to the city's elected leadership.

Jeff Augustini, an attorney representing one of the applicants passed over in the selection process, Connected Cannabis Co., also known as EEL Holdings, LLC, filed suit against the city. According to that suit, "the credibility of the city's selection process" has come into question "amid growing rumors and allegations of cor-

ruption, cronyism, political maneuvering, and the use of the process to score political points and to carry out political vendettas." Augustini demanded that all 16 businesses granted licenses on February 21 be prohibited from proceeding.

The city's management, its council and its community development department defied Augustini's call, doubling down, insisting that those selected proceed, which will place them in better stead to demonstrate further largesse toward the council.

Another of the spurned applicants, Washington LLC, represented by attorney Ben Eilenberg, also filed a lawsuit against the City of San Bernardino, in not so many words alleging that city officials are on the take.

"The effects of the 'pay for play' corruption led to the city issuing a large number of licenses that were illegal," Eilenberg articulated in the suit. "Over 50 percent of the issued licenses were illegal, thereby throwing the entire process into doubt."

According to the suit, money originating with applicants for the licenses was being passed around to the city's elected officials, and on occasion city staff in positions as high ranking as the city manager were coordinating how the money, disguised as political donations, was to be vectored and to whom, in return for which the licenses were granted.

Proof of the allegations consists, according to Eilenberg, in the form of texts and emails that passed between city officials and cannabis operation applicants or their representatives in which preparations for the exchange of approval for money took place. For proof of the allegations, Eilenberg said, one needed to merely consider that several of the cannabis operations that are out of compliance with the city's standards were given permits while others which were in com-

pliance came away empty-handed at the end of the February 21 special meeting.

In what struck some as a halfhearted effort to refute those accusations and justify the provision of those permits to the entities that are out of compliance with the regulations which the council's members had themselves instituted last year, they stated they had merely relied upon a ranking of the applicants and their qualifications provided by HdL.

This week, on Wednesday night, the full council took up a proposal, put forth by city staff to lock the city into a relationship with HdL that would keep the company as San Bernardino's "cannabis consultant" for five years at a cost of \$765,000.

Councilman Theodore Sanchez offered an alternative motion to pare the contract extension back to a minimum of six months, with the option to extend it another six-months beyond that.

The ostensible justification for staying the course with HdL, for at least another half year, is that having the firm's guidance is crucial to continuing with the ongoing cannabis operation licensing processes in the city. Sanchez proposed, and three of his colleagues went along with, having city staff seek other companies to fill the role HdL is, and then invite them, through a process known as a request for proposals, to bid on providing that service.

HdL is working under a \$167,000 per year contract as the city's consultant, exclusively on the marijuana business licensing application issue.

Councilwoman Sandra Ibarra voted against extending HdL's contract. Councilman Jim Mulvihill did not participate in the vote. Based upon what HdL was previously carrying out and what was proposed under the five-year contract, HdL is to carry out a battery of determinations as to whether the

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businesses to be given the final occupation and operating permits are in compliance with the city's codes and regulations, including but not limited to the inspection of the premises from which they will operate. HdL is to also make financial audits of those operations prior to the one-year anniversary of each business starting up, such that all revenue due to the city from taxes applied to the marijuana and cannabis products sold is realized and accounted for.

Dr. Majid Seraj, a Redlands-based biochemist and pharmacist, had applied for a microbusiness permit that would have allowed his company to manufacture cannabis-based medical products for the wholesale market in San Bernardino. His application was denied, despite his having assiduously prepared his business proposal to be in compliance with the city's regulations. Seraj told the council the application process was "a stress test" for the city and HdL which turned out to be a "compete and utter failure" for both. HdL had been tasked, he said, with "phase two scoring," turning in what Seraj said was "a disgraceful performance. The city council lost faith in the phase two scores and the scores were ultimately vacated. The applicants paid \$80,000 for phase two scores and received nothing in return. If the

\$80,000 came from the city's coffers, I am sure Ms. Ibarra and Mr. Sanchez would be asking HdL tough questions."

Seraj said the phase three scoring was done by city staff paid for by the applicants. He said HdL was supposed to be excluded from that process but had submitted a \$17,500 invoice for work on phase three evaluations, which he said suggests the company was involved in Phase Three scoring. That was, he said, "a violation of the guidelines. If any other phase three fees went to HdL it needs to be disclosed to the city council. He called for an audit "of every penny paid to HdL" before the city enters into any further contracts with the company.

Others indicated they found it suspicious that the city was entering into the contract with HdL on the same night that promotions of five of the city's police department command staff to community policing sector posts were made, which they suggested was a move to buy the silence of the police department. Furthermore, some citizens were disturbed that Mayor John Valdivia abandoned the council dais prior to the item with regard to the extension of the HdL contract being taken up by the city. Councilwoman Bessine Richard, the city's mayor pro tem, officiated over the hearing.

-Mark Gutglueck

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## Kavanaugh Grossed \$206,000 By Commandeering McStay's Company After His Death, Auditor Testifies

from page 4

cent," Shogren said.

Shogren said that prior to the fall of 2009 checks had been written to Metro Sheet Metal but that it was at that time that a new formula for apportioning the costs was applied.

"Joseph was then paying a fabricator – Metro Sheet Metal – at that point, correct?" Maline asked.

"Correct," said Shogren.

"As payments come and go and payments are made to Chase, those amounts, whether it is overpaid to Chase or underpaid to Chase, changes." Maline said. "Is that correct?"

"That is correct," Shogren said. "You can see the interaction between these is an ongoing balance for each of these transactions," Shogren said. "So anytime we have a period of time where there are a number of jobs that money is received for and money has come in, that causes that underpaid amount to go up and offsets any overpaid up to that point."

With this running ledger between Merritt and McStay, Shogren said, "At any given point in time that number is going to change, depending on the what the most recent payment received or payment owed would be."

Shogren testified that the checks that were issued to Merritt or on Merritt's behalf before September/October 2009 were not always issued to Charles Merritt, but were often issued to third parties. When those checks to Merritt were made out to a third party, they were reflected as an amount paid to Charles Merritt in the books kept by McStay.

According to Shogren, on the ledger kept by McStay, from November 2008 until January 28, 2010, the highest amount overpaid to Merritt at

any given time, that is the highest amount that Merritt owed McStay at any time along that time frame, was \$20,990.19 as of December 31, 2008. The highest amount underpaid to Merritt and therefore owed to him by McStay was \$23,251.66 on January 15, 2009.

Reference to the Saudi Arabia job first appears on an invoice dated October 28, 2009 for a job with a total cost of \$61,542.50 toward which a deposit of \$30,771.25 was made by means of a wire transfer on January 22, 2010. Payments at once began to flow to material suppliers. On January 22, 2010 \$9,250 went to Metro Sheet Metal drawn on Earth Inspired Products' account, which was noted as being 50 percent of what Metro Sheet Metal was to be paid on the project.

For his part on the Saudi Job, not including installation, Merritt was provided with a \$2,495 check on February 2 with the memo "Deposit SA 1001" along with a \$6,500 check on February 4 with the memo "Saudi Arabia final" as well as a \$2,350 check on February 4 with the memo "Install Lighting SA(1001)."

Those check numbers were 4240, 4241 and 4242.

Shogren also testified with regard to a number of disbursements from the Earth Inspired Products account around the time of the McStay family disappearance.

A \$16,839.27 wire transfer was made to Daniel Kavanaugh on March 5, 2010 by an entity identified as "Kocache," the customer who had ordered from Earth Inspired Product's the construction of the waterfall valued at \$61,542.50, according to Shogren.

Another wire transfer for \$13,862 was made to Merritt from the customer identified as Kocache on March 5, 2010, according to Shogren.

The total amount of money received by McStay, Merritt and Kavanaugh for the Saudi Arabia job was \$61,434.50,

according to Shogren. The original sales amount on the Saudi Arabia job was \$61,542.

The Paul Mitchell total job amount was pegged at \$31,500, according to an invoice dated January 4, 2010. A deposit of \$15,750 was received toward that assignment on January 25, 2010.

A check to Metro Sheet Metal for \$6,350 was drafted on February 1, 2010, presumably for the Paul Mitchell waterfall.

Fifteen percent of the \$31,500 Paul Mitchell job equals \$4,725, Shogren pointed out. He said a check dated February 4 2010 was written to Charles Merritt on the Earth Inspired Products account for \$4,500.

There was a wire transfer from Paul Mitchell on February 22, 2010 for \$5,000, according to Shogren.

Shogren testified that after the McStay family's disappearance, the 15 percent model that had been adopted in the fall of 2009 no longer attained and the situation reverted to Merritt making payments he would have made under the 65 percent model. Included in that were material purchases for the Saudi Arabia and Paul Mitchell projects.

Maline fought tooth-and-nail while Shogren was on the witness stand to undercut a crucial element of the prosecution's theory pertaining to an allegation that Merritt had forged checks made out to himself on the Earth Inspired Products account.

Shogren testified that there were gaps in check sequence numbers in 2009 and 2010, which had a direct bearing on a portion of the prosecution's case which suggests that an inconsistency in the sequencing of checks written to Merritt in the days just before, of and shortly after the McStay family's disappearance supports the contention that Merritt forged those checks.

"Would the fact that there's gaps in Joseph's checks over the history be consistent with Jo-

seph giving blocks of checks to an individual or individuals to issue checks for materials and so forth?" Maline asked Shogren.

Rodriguez and Imes simultaneously uttered objections, with only Rodriguez's "speculation" grounds audible in the cacophony that created.

"The objection is sustained," Judge Smith said. "The answer to the last question is stricken."

Maline came at it another way. After again establishing the gaps in check number sequences in 2009 and 2010, he asked, "Did you get a sense by reviewing Joseph's account that he would allow Mr. Merritt to write checks on his account?"

"Objection," Rodriguez protested, "improper opinion."

"The objection is sustained," Judge Smith said.

"Did you also get to review Mr. Merritt's account?" Maline asked.

"Yes," said Shogren.

"Did you become familiar with the way Joseph would issue his checks, his handwritten ones?"

"Yes," Shogren responded.

"And did you become familiar with the way Charles Merritt issued his checks?" Maline asked.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"Would it be fair to say there was instances where Chase would write out checks on Earth Inspired Products checks?" Maline asked.

Rodriguez and Imes again protested simultaneously. "That calls for speculation; lacks any kind of foundation," Imes said.

"Sustained," ruled Judge Smith. "If there was an answer it's stricken. The jury is instructed to disregard it."

The closest Maline came to illustrating that McStay and Merritt had an arrangement by which Merritt was able to write checks on the Earth Inspired Products account came when he was able to bring to the jury's attention once more a peculiarity in

the way McStay made out handwritten checks as opposed to producing them on a printer. Maline referenced the testimony of a recurrent prosecution witness, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Sergeant Ryan Smith, to that effect.

"You heard the testimony of Sergeant Smith here where he described how Joseph would issue checks: capital C capital M and then [when] he wrote out the amount it would all be lower case. Did you notice that Joseph wrote out checks with a capital C when it was handwritten and then he would capital[ize] the C, capital[ize] the M?" Maline said in referencing the capitalization of Charles Merritt, when Merritt was the payee on one of the checks.

"Yes, I have seen that," Shogren said.

"And then when he would write out the amount it would all be in lower case," Maline said.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"And that seemed to be consistent with Joseph writing out checks, correct?" Maline said.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"And did you see checks in that account that were not like that?" Maline asked.

"H a n d w r i t t e n checks?" Shogren clarified.

"Yes," said Maline.

"Yes," said Shogren. "There were handwritten checks that were not like that."

Having gotten that far without a prosecution objection, Maline reached for the brass ring.

"Now, when you looked at the handwritten checks that were not like that, did that handwriting appear to be Chase's handwriting?" Maline asked.

"Objection, calls for speculation; lacks foundation," Imes said.

"Sustained," Judge Smith said.

Getting what he could, Maline asked Shogren, "Did you notice that Joseph would make deposits into Chase's account?"

"We did see that," Shogren confirmed.

"Did you see instances where Chase would

make deposits into Joseph's account?" Maline asked.

"We did," Shogren said.

"And how did you see that?" Maline asked.

"The deposit slips," Shogren said.

"Actually, I'm going to object," said Imes. "Lacks foundation and is speculative."

"Overruled," Judge Smith said. "The answer remains."

In addition to looking at the Earth Inspired Account activity involving McStay and Merritt, Shogren was tasked as well with examining how Daniel Kavanaugh fit into the Earth Inspired Products business picture.

Kavanaugh, who had a degree of expertise with regard to the internet, had been employed by McStay to enhance the effectiveness of the Earth Inspired Products website, including placing the site at the top of various search engines' registries when potential customers went online to look for available water features, including waterfalls and fountains. McStay was paying Kavanaugh for that service, but a falling out between the two occurred in 2009, and testimony during the trial indicated that McStay wanted to take back control of his website and buy out whatever interest Kavanaugh had in the company. After McStay's disappearance, Kavanaugh muscled in on the Earth Inspired Products operation, took it over, ending, essentially the production of custom waterfalls, and acting as a middleman in selling prefabricated waterfalls and fountains to customers found primarily on the internet. It is the defense's contention that Kavanaugh, who profited substantially as a result of McStay's demise, is the actual killer of the McStay family, and that Merritt is being wrongfully prosecuted.

Shogren said, "We looked principally at PayPal and banking records for Daniel Kavanaugh" from the third quarter of 2005 through

*Continued on Page 13*

## Travis-Miller Still In Limbo from page 3

eligible to vote, as in addition to veto power the mayor also carries tie-breaking authority.

Early last month, five months after the November election and a decent interim for the city to acclimate to its new political reality, Richard evolved to a willingness to support Valdivia in forcing Travis-Miller's exit. During a closed

session on April 3, she joined with Ibarra and Sanchez in voting to place the city manager on paid administrative leave, resulting in a 3-to-3 deadlock, with Shorett, Mulvihill and Nickel on the other side of the question. Valdivia, using his tie-breaking authority, tipped the scales to suspend Travis-Miller.

An issue facing Valdivia in orchestrating Travis-Miller's sacking is that when she was hired in August 2017 as a replacement for the

previous city manager, Mark Scott, the council unanimously voted to confer upon her a \$253,080 annual salary and \$93,000 in yearly benefits and a three-year contract. Those terms require that unless a city council majority can cite cause for terminating her at any point before the three years elapse, she must be paid the balance remaining on her contract. Only by firing Travis-Miller for cause can the city avoid having to pay her the \$425,000

she would now otherwise have to be paid as a severance.

The *Sentinel* has learned that those advising Valdivia believe there are bulletproof grounds for cashiering her that could be publicly cited. Whether or not public disclosure of that rationale might carry with it certain complications, procedural and political, is another matter. In addition, the city would want to make a clean break of the relationship with

Travis-Miller, meaning that doing so on a 3-to-3 deadlock decided by the mayor's action could cloud the circumstance, subjecting Ibarra, Sanchez and Richard to potential obloquy down the line they would rather not deal with.

Next week, on Tuesday, the mail polling in the race to fill the gap left by Valdivia's departure from the council ends when the city's post office's close at 5 p.m. No later than Friday, then, after the last of any

straggling ballots have arrived to be counted, it will be known whether the voters in the Third District will have chosen Anthony Aguirre, who initially signed up for the contest but then withdrew after it was too late to remove his name from the ballot, or Juan Figueroa or Treasure Ortiz will take a place on the council dais later this month.

The election results should have some impact

*Continued on Page 18*

## Lake Gregory Dam Project Completed from front page

to an elevation of 4,520 feet, which is approximately three feet below the spillway.

A deluge during the third week of January resulted in the water level in Lake Gregory reaching the Division of Safety of Dams' limit,

requiring the county to open the outlet valve to drain water beginning the morning of January 17. The outlet valve was closed the morning of January 22 when the water level stabilized near the Division of Safety of Dams' limit.

Due to another heavy storm that involved rain, sleet, hail and snow, the county from February 11 through February 24 halted work on the Lake Gregory Dam buttress to

protect the integrity of the dam and ensure the safety of crews and residents.

Work on the project, which included a 40-foot-wide earthen buttress added to the downstream side and what is referred to as a rock or riprap layer over the slope of the dam, was essentially completed as of April 4. The project widened the dam to twice its previous span from the top to the bot-

tom of the buttress. This width increase give the structure greater stability, as it was previously vulnerable to seismic mishap. New valves and pipelines were layered into the structure to effectuate better and faster control of the lake level, including rapid emergency drainage.

The completion has allowed the reopening of Lake Gregory Drive, which had been closed to traffic since the initiation

of construction last summer.

Originally completed in 1938, the dam is 97 feet high and has a 2.5:1 upstream slope and 2:1 downstream slope. Through the placement of the dam, Lake Gregory was created, as it collects water from Houston Creek.

Lake Gregory now forms the heart of the Crestline community, and features fishing opportunities, swimming,

waterslides, boating, and a walking trail along the lake's perimeter.

"This is a huge step for Lake Gregory Regional Park," Beatha Davis, the county's director of regional parks, said. "We are really excited about the completion of the dam. If you look behind you, you can see how classic and beautiful the lake looks."

*-Mark Gutglueck*

## Appearances Are Mother & Aunt Were Involved In Death Of Six-Year- from front page

ley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga. On Friday, April 26, detectives from the homicide detail of the sheriff's department's specialized investigations division responded to the Cherokee Avenue residence to conduct an investigation. The search

continued for the child and canine units were requested and responded to the location. Detectives gathered evidence and conducted multiple interviews throughout the day with family members. On Saturday, April 27, homicide detectives interviewed Jackee Contreras and at the conclusion of her interview she was booked for murder, PC 187, and was held without bail. Later on April 27, detectives arrested Jennifer Contreras, described as Jackee Contreras' twin sister and Duke's aunt,

transported and booked her into the High Desert Detention Center on a PC 187 charge. She, too, was held without bail.

The department says there is reason to believe the child's body was disposed of in a dumpster. It has not been disclosed why investigators believe that is the case.

At 7:15 am on Monday, April 29, a crew involving an unspecified number of homicide detectives, sheriff's department volunteers and landfill personnel were actively searching the landfill in Victorville for

the body of Duke Flores.

By 1 pm that day, the search team had swelled to four homicide detectives, 36 sheriff's department volunteers, three canines, and 17 additional sheriff's department members as well as landfill personnel. The primary area being searched was approximately 70 feet x 70 feet x 10 feet in depth, involving some 600 tons of material.

On April 30, Jackee Contreras and Jennifer Contreras were brought before Superior Court Judge Lisa Rogan for arraignment in Victorville Superior Court. With more than a dozen of Duke Flores' family

members present, they each entered a single not guilty plea to one count of murder. Judge Rogan set their bail at \$1 million each.

At 8 am that morning, the search at the Victorville landfill resumed, entailing a team of homicide detectives, 19 sheriff's department volunteers, two search dogs, 15 sheriff's deputies and county public works division employees. The search concluded at 5 pm without success.

At 8 am May 1 the efforts of homicide detectives, 16 volunteers, three search dogs, 12 additional sheriff's deputies and landfill work-

ers continued. At 5 pm Duke Flores' body had not been turned up.

Yesterday, May 2, detectives, 17 volunteers, three dogs, a dozen deputies and county personnel employed at the landfill sifted through some 1,200 tons of rubbish, again to no avail.

As of 7:45 am this morning, homicide detectives, nine volunteers, two search dogs and 12 deputies were back at the landfill.

*Mark Gutglueck*



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## Gold Line Freight Communications Test

*from front page*

add new light rail stations to the Metro Gold Line system in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The 12.3-mile extension will connect to many regional destinations,

including two dozen colleges and universities within a short walk, bike or bus ride from one of the future stations, the Los Angeles County Fairplex, Raging Waters, several regional parks, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, historic downtowns, as well as many museums.



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**Public Notices**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190003199 The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Knowledge Vision Strength Designs, KVS Designs, KVS Apparel, 16521 China Berry Ct. Chino Hills, CA 91709, Sherrill L. Anderson, 16521 China Berry Ct. Chino Hills, CA 91709, Delano A. Anderson, 16521 China Berry Ct. Chino Hills, CA 91709 Business is Conducted By: CoPartners

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Sherrill L. Anderson  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/15/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 2/14/2016

County Clerk, s/DOM  
NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/12/2019, 4/19/2019, 4/26/2019, 5/3/2019

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190004247

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Tax MD and Services, 7201 Haven Ave Ste. E-203, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701, Cherry M Brown, 7201 Haven Ave Ste. E-203, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

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s/Cherry M. Brown  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/5/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/EF

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4/12/2019, 4/19/2019, 4/26/2019, 5/3/2019

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190004377

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Ponderosa Carwash, 16860 Valley Blvd, Fontana, CA 92335

Mailing Address: 16843 Valley Blvd #E-113, Fontana, CA 92335-6666, Kyong W Pak, 5420 Stoneview Rd, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

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s/Kyong W Pak  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/9/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 4/15/2009

County Clerk, s/BA

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**Public Notices**

or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/12/2019, 4/19/2019, 4/26/2019, 5/3/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1910941

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Kasia Maria Dones Salas filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Kasia Maria Dones Salas to Kasia Maria Marsal

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 05/22/2019 Time: 8:30 a.m. Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 10, 2019  
Michael A. Sachs  
Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in San Bernardino County Sentinel on 4/12/19, 4/19/19, 4/26/19, 5/3/19

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190004544

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Chic Fashion, 333 E. Arrow Hwy #1889, Upland, CA 91785, Shideh Azarnoosh, 333 E. Arrow Hwy #1889, Upland, CA 91785

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Shideh Azarnoosh  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/11/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/BI

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/19/2019, 4/26/2019, 5/3/2019, 5/10/2019

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190004724

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Street and Track Motorsports, 4731 Brooks St, Montclair, CA 91763, Jairo Lopez, 2742 Fairmount St, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information,

**Public Notices**

mation, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Jairo Lopez  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/16/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/BA

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/19/2019, 4/26/2019, 5/3/2019, 5/10/2019

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO-20190001880

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Omas Production, 3420 E Fourth St Unit 2032, Ontario, CA 91764, Chioma Ebinum, 3420 E Fourth St Unit 2032, Ontario, CA 91764

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Chioma Ebinum  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/12/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/EF

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
2/22/2019, 3/1/2019, 3/8/2019, 3/15/2019

FBN 20190004500

The following entity is doing business as: GAMESTOP 3971 1100 S. MT. VERNON AVENUE, SUITE E COLTON, CA 92324 GAMESTOP, INC. 624 WESTPORT PARKWAY GRAPEVINE TX 76051

Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Troy Crawford  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/10/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: October 16, 2008

County Clerk, s/SH

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19, 2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1912024

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JESUS NATIVIDAD LOPEZ filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: DENIS YANEZ to DENISE YANEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change

**Public Notices**

of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: MAY 31, 2019 Time: 8:30 a.m. Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 19, 2019  
Michael A. Sachs  
Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL on 4/19/19, 4/26/19, 5/3/19 & 5/10/19.

FBN 20190004806

The following entity is doing business as: ARROWHEAD SMOKE SHOP 27175 HIGH WAY 189 UNIT G BLUE JAY, CA 92317 RAMI A AKARY 14821 REEDLEY ST MOORPARK, CA 93021

Business is Conducted By: AN INDIVIDUAL

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Rami A Akary  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/18/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/SH

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19, 2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1912024

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JESUS NATIVIDAD LOPEZ filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: DENIS YANEZ to DENISE YANEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: MAY 31, 2019 Time: 8:30 a.m. Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino

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County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 19, 2019  
Michael A. Sachs  
Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL on 4/19/19, 4/26/19, 5/3/19 & 5/10/19.

APN: 1089-281-25-0-000 TS No: CA08000917-18-1 TO No: 02-18100138 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED July 26, 2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On June 5, 2019 at 01:00 PM, at the main (south) entrance to the City of Chino Civic Center, 13220 Central Ave, Chino, CA 91710, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on August 11, 2004 as Instrument No. 2004-0577647, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Bernardino County, California, executed by PRINCIS B SCOTT, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST

The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11534 BARI DR, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$463,551.39 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California

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Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call In Source Logic at 702-659-7766 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08000917-18-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: April 12, 2019 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08000917-18-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Myron Ravelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.insourcelogic.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. ISL Number 58836, Pub Dates: 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, SAN BERNARDINO SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ES-

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TATE OF TERRY JOSEPH DEROUEN, AKA: TERRY DEROUEN, CASE NO. PROPS1900340 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of TERRY JOSEPH DEROUEN, AKA: TERRY DEROUEN and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by TERI JO DEROUEN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that TERI JO DEROUEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of TERRY JOSEPH DEROUEN, AKA: TERRY DEROUEN. Decedent died intestate. (The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. This will avoid the need to obtain court approval for many actions taken in connection with the estate. However, before taking certain actions, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action. The petition will be granted unless good cause is shown why it should not be.) The petition is set for hearing in Dept. No. S36 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT - PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212 on June 13, 2019 at 08:30 AM

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 58 of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery of the notice to you under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may request special notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Section 1250 of the California Probate Code.

Petitioner: TERI JO DEROUEN 7507 LAUREL-GROVE CT. NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605 Telephone: 818-877-2736

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel April 26, May 3 & May 10, 2019.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT DEL REAL, CASE NO. PROPS1900341 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of ROBERT DEL REAL and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by MICHAEL ADRIAN DEL REAL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that MICHAEL ADRIAN DEL REAL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of ROBERT DEL REAL. Decedent died intestate. (The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. This will avoid the need to obtain court approval for many actions taken in connection with the estate. However, before taking certain actions, the

**Public Notices**

personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action. The petition will be granted unless good cause is shown why it should not be.) The petition is set for hearing in Dept. No. S35 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT - PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212 on June 4, 2019 at 08:30 AM

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 58 of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery of the notice to you under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may request special notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Section 1250 of the California Probate Code.

Attorney for Petitioner: Berl Hillel Selski, Esq., SBN 54531 24832 Elena Dr. Laguna Hills, CA 92653 Telephone: (714) 404-3104

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel April 26, May 3 & May 10, 2019.

**Public Notices**

s/Marcela G. Lerma  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/10/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 1/01/2017

County Clerk, s/RS

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/26/19, 5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO- 20190004621

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: American Focus Team, 516 N. Imperial Ave #D, Ontario, CA 91764, Jihyang Fang, 516 N. Imperial Ave #D, Ontario, CA 91764

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/Jihyang Fang

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/12/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/EF

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
4/26/19, 5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1912024

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Jesus Natividad Lopez filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Denis Yanez to Denise Yanez

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 05/31/2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 19, 2019

Michael A. Sachs

Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in San Bernardino County Sentinel on 4/26/19, 5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19

ORDER TO SHOW

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CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1911661

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Lorraine R. Reyes filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lorraine Rita Reyes to Lorraine Vitali

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 05/30/2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 17, 2019

Michael A. Sachs

Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in San Bernardino County Sentinel on 4/26/19, 5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1912030

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JULIE LYNN FRASURE has filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JULIE LYNN FRASURE to ZOE BONES

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: MAY 31, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: April 19, 2019

Michael A. Sachs

Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SEN-

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TINEL on 4/26/19, 5/3/19, 5/10/19 & 5/17/19.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALLEAN FRANCES BLOUNT, AKA: ALLEAN F. BLOUNT, CASE NO. PROPS1900399

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of ALLEAN FRANCES BLOUNT, AKA: ALLEAN F. BLOUNT and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by MATTHEW RAY BLOUNT in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that MATTHEW RAY BLOUNT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of ALLEAN FRANCES BLOUNT, AKA: ALLEAN F. BLOUNT. Decedent died intestate. (The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. This will avoid the need to obtain court approval for many actions taken in connection with the estate. However, before taking certain actions, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action. The petition will be granted unless good cause is shown why it should not be.) The petition is set for hearing in Dept. No. S37 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT - PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212 on June 3, 2019 at 08:30 AM

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 58 of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery of the notice to you under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may request special notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Section 1250 of the California Probate Code.

Petitioner: MATTHEW RAY BLOUNT 2161 BLAKE ST. UNIT # 1 SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92407 Telephone: 909-547-9648

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/3, 5/10 & 5/17, 2019.

FBN 20190003676

The following person is doing business as: JEIMY RAMIREZ INSURANCE SERVICES 16555 BUTANO PL FONTANA, CA 92336 THE INSURANCE GODDESS INC 16555 BUTANO PL FONTANA, CA 92336

Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ Jeimy P Ramirez Figueroa

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/26/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/SH

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19, 2019 Corrected 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

FBN 20190003528

The following entity is doing business as: YOGURTLAND Franchise No. CA278 9844 SIERRA AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 CHOPRA INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC 20355 VIA SANOVINO PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

Mailing Address 20355 VIA SANOVINO PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

State of Inc/Org./Reg: NE-VADA

Business is Conducted By: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/NITIN PAUL CHOPRA

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/22/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 01/20/2017

County Clerk, s/SH

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19, 2019 Corrected 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

FBN 20190003527

The following entity is doing business as: YOGURTLAND Franchise No. CA292 13325 MAIN ST SUITE 107 HESPERIA, CA 92345 CHOPRA INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC 20355 VIA SANOVINO PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

Mailing Address 20355 VIA SANOVINO PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

State of Inc/Org./Reg: NE-VADA

Business is Conducted By: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/NITIN PAUL CHOPRA

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/22/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 01/20/2017

County Clerk, s/SH

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19, 2019 Corrected 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO- 20190005245

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: South Pacific Truck and Trailer Repair, 9135 Tangelo Ave, Fontana, CA 92335, Mailing Address: 1313 Kingsmill Ave, Rowland Heights, CA 91748,

**Public Notices**

Epifanio D Rodriguez, 9135 Tangelo Ave, Fontana, CA 92335

Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ Epifanio D Rodriguez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/26/2019

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 2/28/2014

County Clerk, s/GM

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).  
5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19, 5/24/19

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVDS1912671

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Hiwote Worku filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Kidus Zewdu Yohannes to Nathaniel Zewdu Yohannes

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 06/06/2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: June 6, 2019

Michael A. Sachs

Judge of the Superior Court.

Published in San Bernardino County Sentinel on 5/3/19, 5/10/19, 5/17/19, 5/24/19

FBN 201904201

The following person is doing business as: D&T MOTORS. 1680 S. E ST #B-5 SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 9240824881 ALLICIA PKWY SUITE E #357 LAGUNA HILLS, CA. 92653

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information on this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ DAN HAMM, PRESIDENT

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/04/2019

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2019, 04/19/2019, 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019 CNBB15201943CH

FBN 20190004037

The following person is doing business as: AMERICAN APPLIANCE. 1635 PENNSYLVANIA AVE COLTON, CA. 92324

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information on this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JUAN M ALEJO, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/03/2019

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2019, 04/19/2019, 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019 CNBB15201942CH

FBN 20190004531

The following person is doing business as: CIGARETTE PLUS. 12079 CENTRAL AVE CHINO, CA. 9171034043 GOLDEN CROWN WAY YUCAIPA, CA. 92399

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

**Public Notices**

By signing, I declare that all information on this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ ANJANA PATEL, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/11/2019

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2019, 04/19/2019, 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019 CNBB152019451R

FBN 20190004076

The following person is doing business as: HILL CONSTRUCTION. 1695 HARDT ST LOMA LINDA, CA. 92354

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information on this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JOEY L HILL, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/03/2019

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another







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San Bernardino County  
**Sentinel**

News of Note  
from Around the  
Largest County  
in the Lower  
48 States

**Public Notices**

The following person is doing business as: LASTING BEAUTY BY JUDY, 560 NORTH MOUNTAIN AVE SUITE A UPLAND, CA, 91786; MAILING ADDRESS 238 WINN DRIVE UPLAND, CA, 91786; JUDY A TIRRE 238 WINN DRIVE UPLAND, CA 91786 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JUDY A TIRRE, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/17/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201908MT

FBN 20190004755 The following person is doing business as: SO CAL SALES GROUP, 13641 CENTRAL AVE, SUITE O CHINO, CA, 91710; SO CAL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC, 13641 CENTRAL AVE, SUITE O CHINO, CA 91710 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ MARK A CARRERA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201904IR

**Public Notices**

Information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ SANDRA ODDO, SECRETARY Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/17/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201907MT

FBN 20190004860 The following person is doing business as: MEXASIAN CATERING, 9130 TANGELO AVE FONTANA, CA, 92335; MARK A CARRERA 9130 TANGELO AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ RAMI A AKARY Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201905CH

**Public Notices**

Information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ DANIELLE HOWARD, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201906CH

FBN 20190004806 The following person is doing business as: ARROWHEAD SMOKE SHOP, 27175 HIGH WAY 189 UNIT G BLUE JAY, CA, 92317; RAMI A AKARY 14821 REEDLEY ST MOORPARK, CA 93021 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ RAMI A AKARY Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201904IR

FBN 20190004791 The following person is doing business as: MILOSAVLJEVIC EDUCATION CONSULTING AND TUTORING, 2250 JOHN MATICH DRIVE COLTON, CA, 92324; IGOR N MILOSAVLJEVIC 2250 JOHN MATICH DRIVE COLTON, CA 92324; FLORA S MILOSAVLJEVIC 2250 JOHN MATICH DRIVE COLTON, CA 92324 The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ISELA VILLEGAS, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201902MT

**Public Notices**

FBN 20190004849 The following person is doing business as: THE STERLING HOME, 2431 S. SEAGULL AVE, ONTARIO, CA, 91761; DANIELLE HOWARD 2431 S. SEAGULL AVE, ONTARIO, CA 911761 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ DANIELLE HOWARD, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201903MT

FBN 20190004816 The following person is doing business as: HERB FOR LIFE, 2436 5TH ST HIGHLAND, CA, 92346; ISELA VILLEGAS 2436 5TH ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ISELA VILLEGAS, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201901MT

**Public Notices**

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ IGOR N MICOSAVLJOVIC Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201902MT

FBN 20190004818 The following person is doing business as: CCW & ASSOCIATES, 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA, 92373; CHRIS C WHITE 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373; TAMMY M WHITE 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373 The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CHRIS C WHITE, HUSBAND Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201901MT

**Public Notices**

Information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ PATRICIA GONZALEZ Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/22/2019 I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Began Transacting Business: N/A County Clerk, s/SH NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

FBN 20190004937 The following entity is doing business as: FULL CIRCLE 152% [and] BEEYOND PREPARED [and] HEAVENLY INSPIRATIONS MINISTRY [and] REAL DEAL 9901 NIAGARA AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 Mailing Address: POST OFFICE BOX 311200 FONTANA, CA 92331 FULL CIRCLE 152% 400 S RAMONA AVE #212R CORONA, CA 92879 Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ Patricia Gonzalez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/22/2019 I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Began Transacting Business: N/A County Clerk, s/SH NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

**Public Notices**

Information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ PATRICIA GONZALEZ Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/22/2019 I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Began Transacting Business: N/A County Clerk, s/SH NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 2019.

FBN 20190004818 The following person is doing business as: CCW & ASSOCIATES, 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA, 92373; CHRIS C WHITE 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373; TAMMY M WHITE 424 W OLIVE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373 The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CHRIS C WHITE, HUSBAND Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/18/2019 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/26/2019, 05/03/2019, 05/10/2019, 05/17/2019 CNBB17201901MT

**Kavanaugh Seized \$10,900 In Two Days After Hacking Into Dead McStay's PayPal Account**  
*from page 6*

the end of 2010. Payments from Earth Inspired Products to Ka-

vanaugh in January and into early February 2010, the last month of Joseph McStay's life, were relatively modest ones, according to Shogren. McStay had provided Kavanaugh with a \$600 payment on January 4, 2010; \$200 on January 11, 2010; \$50 on January 18, 2010; \$100 on January 25, 2010; \$75 on

January 29, 2010; \$62 on January 30, 2010; \$40 on February 1, 2010; \$25 on February 3, 2010. Thereafter, following the disappearance of the McStay family, the PayPal transferences from Joseph McStay to Kavanaugh escalated substantially, with a \$900 transference on February 10, 2010; a \$200

transfer on February 11, 2010; two transferences on February 12, 2010, one of \$3,000 followed by another of \$800; and a \$3,000 transference from Joseph McStay through PayPal to Kavanaugh of \$3,000 on February 12. "Were you able to review the PayPal records and determine how these payments were made

from Joseph to Dan Kavanaugh on February 10, if it's Joseph's account?" Maline asked. "Yes," Shogren said. "He would have had to have hacked into the account..." Shogren was unable to complete his answer, as his utterance that far blasted Imes into orbit. "Objection," Imes

thundered, "calls for speculation. Move to strike the answer and admonish the witness." "The last answer is stricken," Judge Smith said. "The jury is instructed to disregard the last answer." "That's not what I asked," said Maline. "I asked if you had re-

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## Kavanaugh Muscled In On McStay's Company After His Death

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viewed those records and determined how those transfers were effectuated starting on February 10 [2010]."

"We did review the records," Shogren said.

"And what did you see?" Maline asked.

"We saw that those were made by Daniel Kavanaugh," Shogren said.

"Objection; calls for speculation," Imes asserted.

"Overruled," said Judge Smith.

"Lacks foundation and expertise," Imes followed up, seeking to widen the judge's catalog of options for excluding Shogren's testimony with regard to the issue, which augmented that provided two weeks previously by two other defense witnesses, forensic computer analyst Bryan LaRock and PayPal custodian of records Sarah Kane, who offered testimony and evidence indicating Kavanaugh had hacked into McStay's PayPal account and had changed the password some six days after the disappearance of the McStay family, utilizing a computer operating from Kavanaugh's IP address to do so.

"Subject to a motion to strike," Judge Smith said, indicating his ruling would be held in abeyance, and he allowed Maline to proceed. "It sounds like the next question will be 'How did you determine that?' So go ahead."

"How did you determine that?" Maline obliged the judge.

"We determined that by looking at the records in PayPal..."

"Objection; misstates the exhibit as well as the PayPal records; lacks foundation," Imes intoned.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

"Did you notice there was a password reset on February 10?" Maline asked.

"Yes," answered

Shogren.

"Is that what you meant by hacking in?" Maline asked.

"Objection; calls for speculation; argumentative," Imes said.

"Sustained," Judge Smith said.

"Had there ever been a time that you noticed in the PayPal records from the very beginning that Mr. Kavanaugh went in himself and took money out of Joseph's PayPal account?" Maline asked.

"Objection," Imes said. "Again calls for speculation; lacks foundation."

"Sustained," said Judge Smith.

"Did you ever see in any of the PayPal records that you examined that Daniel Kavanaugh went in and did a password reset..." Maline began.

"Objection; calls for speculation; lacks foundation," Imes broke in.

"Dan Kavanaugh was paid on several occasions through PayPal prior to February 10 [2010], correct?" Maline asked.

"That's correct," Shogren said.

"How did that usually occur?" Maline asked

"It generally occurred by a request from Daniel Kavanaugh to Joseph for payment," Shogren said.

"And then that would either be accepted or denied," Maline said.

"That is correct," Shogren said.

"If it were accepted, then Joseph would then send the money," Maline said.

"That's correct," Shogren indicated.

"With these transactions after February 3, starting on February 10, were those done differently than the previous transfers?" Maline asked.

"They were," Shogren said. "There was no evidence of a request."

"No evidence of a request and also evidence of a password reset," Maline said.

"That is correct," Shogren said.

"Did additional transfers from PayPal to Dan Kavanaugh occur after February 13?" Maline asked.

"Yes," Shogren said.

For Earth Inspired

Products there were two accounts, one for customized fountains such as those built by Merritt and one for off-the-shelf, prefabricated water features sold on-line.

Shogren said water features purchased through the online branch of the business were paid for through PayPal or other online credit card transfers that went into Joseph McStay's account.

"Now, after Joseph disappeared, did that business continue? Did people keep ordering waterfalls?" Maline asked.

"It did," Shogren said. "That business did continue."

"Did that money go into Joseph's account at Union Bank?" Maline asked.

"There was a period of transition, so it did for a period of time and then it went into a different account," Shogren said.

"When did it stop going into Joseph's account, all those online orders?" Maline asked.

"My recollection was that transition was a March/April kind of a transition," Shogren said.

"2010?" Maline sought to verify.

"2010," Shogren confirmed.

"Then did the payments start to go to a different location after that?" Maline asked.

"They did," Shogren said. "They went to Kavanaugh."

"So, do you know how long all those orders and all those payments went into Kavanaugh's account?" Maline asked.

"The records that we examined went through to the end of 2010," Shogren said.

"Do you know what the total amount that Dan Kavanaugh took in when it came to these online orders from let's say February 10, 2010 until when he sold the company, which would be in July of 2011?" Maline asked.

"The PayPal orders that came in were \$127,000" Shogren said.

"I'm talking total," Maline said.

"So there would have

been, in addition to that, there were some wires that came in," Shogren said. "There were ATM deposits, and in total the income was \$206,064."

"And that went into Kavanaugh's account?" Maline asked.

"That's correct," Shogren said.

"For the online orders, based on your review of the records, when Joseph was in charge and he got an online order... did you see after payments would come in from his online orders, would there be corresponding orders to such suppliers as Blue World?" Maline asked.

Blue World is a supplier of prefabricated water fountains and other water features.

"Yes," said Shogren, who said accountants would catalog such off-the-shelf or prefabricated supplies as "cost-of-goods-sold."

"So were you able to review Joseph's costs of goods on the payments that he received for online business as a percentage?" Maline asked.

"Objection; vague as to time," Rodriguez said.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

Based upon the Schedule C lists for McStay's 2007 and 2008 tax filings showing the difference between costs and gross income thereby showing gross profit, Shogren said McStay showed a gross profit percentage of 29.8 percent in 2007 and 41.1 percent in 2008.

"Did that number change when it came to Kavanaugh?" Maline asked "He received \$206,000. Did you get a cost of goods sold percentage for Mr. Kavanaugh?"

"We did," said Shogren. "We calculated a cost of goods sold for that \$206,000 of \$58,677. That gross profit then was \$147,487, and it was 71.5 percent."

Maline, after noting that for every \$100 in prefabricated fountains that Joseph McStay sold, he spent roughly \$70 purchasing them and that Kavanaugh spent roughly \$30 to purchase the fountains he sold for

\$100, asked Shogren, "Were you able to account for that or determine why that big difference?"

"Objection, calls for speculation," said Imes.

"Sustained," Judge Smith said.

"Did you break down the \$206,000 on how that money was accounted for from an accounting standpoint?" Maline asked.

"We did determine from where it came," Shogren said.

"What about how it was spent?" Maline asked.

"The total spending during that same timeframe was \$173,000," Shogren said.

"We're talking about a ten-month timeframe, is that correct?" Maline asked.

"Approximately, yes," Shogren said.

"Of the \$173,000 that was spent, you said \$58,000 was spent on buying waterfalls..."

"Objection; misstates his testimony," Imes said.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said. "He can answer if that's correct."

"That's correct," Shogren said. "I said, \$58,677."

"How much was attributed in an accounting way for personal expenses?" Maline asked.

"Objection," Rodriguez and Imes said in chorus, with Imes citing "relevance; violates the court's order."

"Sustained on both grounds," Judge Smith reacted.

"Well, just as a yes or no, were you able to..." Maline began

"Objection; not relevant," complained Imes.

"Well, I haven't heard the question yet," Judge Smith said.

"You were able to account or at least put into accounting categories how the money was spent, correct?" Maline asked.

"We split the money into five different categories," Shogren said.

"And to split those into five different categories you were able to look at Dan Kavanaugh's PayPal records, correct?" Maline inquired.

"Yes," said Shogren.

"You were able to look at Dan Kavanaugh's bank statements, correct?" Maline asked.

"Correct," Shogren said.

"Your analysis went until what date?" Maline asked. "You started – the \$206,000 that he received – what was your end date for that?"

"The last payment that we have record of from PayPal is 12/7/2010," Shogren responded.

"There was testimony that the company was sold in July of 2011," Maline said. "Was there any activity in the company after December 2010 until July 2011?" Maline asked.

"Objection, lacks foundation as phrased," Imes said.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

"We didn't find any records past December, PayPal records," Shogren said.

"December 2010?" Maline sought clarification.

"December 2010," Shogren said.

"Do you know if the company was transacting business?" Maline asked. "Was there any record of that through the bank statement or any records that you reviewed, that the company EIP [[Earth Inspired Products] was transacting business from December to July of 2011?"

"We don't have any records of sales during that period of time," Shogren stated.

Shogren said he and his colleagues in his accounting firm had examined well over 10,000 pages of discovery documents that had come into the possession of the defense, including profit and loss detail, balance sheets, client lists, transaction lists, income by customers, sales by customers, invoice lists, check details, deposit details and activity logs for Earth Inspired Products.

Under cross examination by Deputy District Attorney Melissa Rodriguez, Shogren was asked about how much money he was making as an ex-

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## Four Backdated Checks Were Made Out To Merritt After The McStay Family Disappeared from page 14

pert witness in the case.

"You indicated you had billed approximately \$31,000 up to date. How much do you make per hour?" she asked.

"Objection; relevance," Maline said.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

"So, at the time the agreement was struck on this engagement, my billing rate, my personal billing rate, was \$250 an hour," Shogren said.

"Approximately how many hours do you think you have to add to what you billed thus far?" Rodriguez asked.

"We haven't stopped to add that up, so I don't know," he said. Shogren said his firm was billing \$90 an hour for administrative and clerical help and \$155 for a staff accountant other than himself.

Shogren testified that he had not seen the February 1, 2010 email from Joseph McStay to Merritt until some point within the last month.

He said that before his office was provided by the defense's computer forensic analyst Bryan LaRock with the the ledgers from Joseph McStay's computer, there was "very little data to look at" in terms of providing meaningful context to what was going on within the Earth Inspired Products operation.

"The initial report that you did, you were asked to focus primarily on Dan Kavanaugh, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"That was the records we had at the time we produced that and we had very little to look at from Chase," Shogren responded.

"You only looked at what you were given by the defense," she said.

"Yes," he said.

"So, if there was other information that wasn't provided to you that ex-

isted, that could be relevant to your analysis, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"Yes," Shogren said. "I'm not sure how to answer that. If you didn't send me something I should have had, I didn't get it."

"Well, you were hired by the defense, right?" she asked.

"Yes," he said.

"You're not working for the prosecution, right?" she asked

"Right," Shogren said.

"And you only did one page of your report - just a few paragraphs - related to the defendant, right?" she asked.

"That's correct," Shogren said.

"And nothing in there looks even remotely at any of his gambling, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"Correct," Shogren said.

"Because you didn't consider that to be relevant, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"Objection; asked and answered," Maline said.

"Sustained," Judge Smith said.

According to the prosecution's theory of the case, Merritt, driven by financial desperation, on February 1, 2010 gained unauthorized access to Joseph McStay's QuickBooks program for Earth Inspired Products and issued himself two checks against the company's account, each for \$2,500, and on the following day, February 2, 2010, again obtained unauthorized access to the Earth Inspired Products account through its QuickBooks accounting system and issued himself another check, one for \$2,495.

When he learned of what Merritt was up to, either shortly before or perhaps even on February 4, 2010, Joseph McStay traveled to Rancho Cucamonga, where Merritt was then living and confronted him about his larceny, threatening to alert authorities, prosecutors allege. After Joseph McStay returned to San Diego County, the prosecution's theory continues, Merritt early that evening drove to the McStay residence in Fallbrook where he killed Joseph McStay,

his wife Summer and their two sons, four-year-old Gianni and three-year-old Joseph, Jr.

Merritt then secreted the bodies for two days, in the meantime again fraudulently accessing Joseph McStay's QuickBooks account for Earth Inspired Products, the prosecution maintains, and on February 4, 2010 issued a check made out to himself for \$4,000 and three others on February 5, 2010, each of which was written to himself and backdated to February 4, one for \$4,500 and another for \$6,505 and a third for \$2,350. Shortly after the murders, the prosecution alleges, Merritt embarked on a gambling binge at a number of casinos throughout Southern California. His gaming frenzy was punctuated only by his transporting of the corpses of the McStay family up into San Bernardino County's High Desert, an area with which Merritt was familiar since having grown up in Hesperia and attended Apple Valley High School for three years in the 1970s, where on February 6, 2010 he buried all four along with the sledgehammer he had used to bludgeon his victims in shallow graves he dug in a wash off a rarely-traveled dirt road. Also on February 8, Merritt again accessed Joseph McStays QuickBooks accounting system for Earth Inspired Products, making another check out to himself, this time for \$6,500, backdated to February 4, the prosecution claims. To confuse the situation, throw authorities off his track and delay a serious investigation into the matter, the prosecution maintains Merritt then drove the McStay family's 1996 Isuzu Trooper, which yet contained the child seats for Gianni and Joseph, Jr., to San Ysidro, where he left the vehicle in a shopping center parking lot roughly a quarter of a mile from the Mexican border.

This week, Rodriguez insinuated that as someone working for the defense, Shogren lacked

impartiality, objectivity and integrity, not to mention that he was dishonest and a dissembler.

"When you do work for probate court and family court and things like that, you do that in a neutral way, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"That's correct," Shogren said.

"Because you're just basically looking at numbers, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"And so when you looked at the information in this case, did you do that in a neutral way?" she asked.

"We did our best to do that in a neutral way," Shogren said.

"So when you wrote in your report and used the language related to Mr. Kavanaugh and you wrote in there 'and perhaps most damning is the evidence shows McStay was terminating his relationship,' was that objective to you and impartial?" Rodriguez pounced.

"I think it was a fair comment," Shogren said. "It was not meant to be prejudicial."

"So using that language - 'perhaps most damning' - to you doesn't imply you're leaning one way over the other?" Rodriguez asked.

"No," Shogren said.

"That to you is an impartial statement, objective?" Rodriguez pressed.

"So, I think I'm allowed to reach conclusions," he said. "And if I do that work to get to that conclusion in a neutral way, I can still reach conclusion that may not seem neutral."

"Were you aware that same thing was happening with respect to the defendant?" Rodriguez asked.

"I'm sorry," Shogren said. "What same thing?"

"Were you provided information that Joseph McStay was looking at different welders and things of that nature and potentially terminating his relationship with the defendant?" she asked.

"Objection; assumes facts not in evidence," Maline weighed in.

"Overruled," said

Judge Smith. "He can answer if he was made aware of that."

"I was not made aware," Shogren said.

"Would that be important to you?" Rodriguez asked.

"It probably would have been important in terms of understanding the framework of, you know, how the numbers matter," Shogren said.

Shogren said he was not aware of any business partnership information pertaining to McStay and Kavanaugh.

Presented with documentation, Shogren acknowledged that on February 19, 2010, Geist Construction of Cleveland, Ohio had made a wire transfer of \$6,250 into Kavanaugh's account and on the same date there was a transfer out of Kavanaugh's account of \$5,000 to Merritt.

In response to Rodriguez, Shogren said with regard to the payments made to Merritt by Joseph McStay over the years for his work for Earth Inspired Products "Many of the checks were written without reference to jobs."

In wringing that concession from Shogren, Rodriguez appeared to be angling at showing that several of the February 2010 checks written to Merritt were forgeries, since they contained references in the subject line of the checks relating to a customer.

Rodriguez endeavored, without substantial success, to show that Shogren had been selective or arbitrary in his auditing procedure and examination of the record and had with regard to certain points made in his testimony under direct examination by Maline tailored his presentation to the benefit of the defendant. In his responses on certain specific issues that Rodriguez raised in this regard, Shogren pointed out that she was blurring the distinction between what was contained in the banking records as opposed to what was shown in the spreadsheets prepared and notes made by Joseph

McStay. The spreadsheets prepared by McStay, while substantially accurate and in large measure consistent with the banking records and bank statements, were neither exhaustive or complete in all respects, Shogren pointed out.

Shogren acknowledged the activity log for the QuickBooks account associated with the email address custom@earthinspiredproducts.com showed Merritt being added as a vendor on the account on February 1, 2010, and that checks to Merritt had been added and deleted on that date.

"In this entire activity log you did not see any other checks that had been deleted, did you, beside the one[s] to the defendant, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"I don't recall there were any others," Shogren said.

"In fact there were no checks written out of this account other than the ones that were written to the defendant and Metro Sheet Metal," she said. "Those are the only checks that are also written off of that account, right?"

"In this exhibit, yes," Shogren replied.

"In that activity log," said Rodriguez.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"Several of those checks were written after February 4, right?" she asked.

"Yes," he said.

"And were you provided any information in terms of when the family disappeared?" she asked.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"So, was it relevant to your analysis that checks were written to the defendant after the family disappeared?" she asked.

"Yes," he said.

"And you considered that in your analysis of Dan Kavanaugh and the defendant in terms of your report, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"Yes," Shogren said.

"Did you put anywhere in your initial report about those particular checks?" she asked.

"I don't recall," he said.

When shown his

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## Prosecutor Needles Auditor For Ignoring Merritt's Gambling Activity

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report, Shogren said "Those checks would have been included in the amount I stated here that Mr. Merritt received."

"But you didn't put anything in there about the fact that some of those checks were received after the family disappeared, right?" Rodriguez pressed.

"I did not," said Shogren.

"But you did consider that?" Rodriguez asked.

"I didn't dispute who wrote those checks or that they were valid or anything else," he responded. "I just said that was money that he received."

"So that wasn't part of your analysis in terms of looking at those checks to determine whether or not they were forged," she said.

"I did not look to see whether they had been forged," Shogren said. "They had been cashed or otherwise processed."

"And if you look at some of the records, would it be important to your analysis to determine whether or not any of those checks had been backdated to the date of February 4?" Rodriguez queried.

"Yeah," Shogren began. "My understanding is that there were a couple of those that were backdated, I think maybe three of them. I don't recall a precise number. Again, what we were looking at was how much money had been received, not whether they had – we weren't reporting on issues about backdating them or anything else."

"So you didn't look at that as part of your analysis?" Rodriguez said.

"I did," Shogren said. "I didn't include it in my analysis."

"Because if the defendant had actually forged those checks, you would agree that would also be some pretty damning evidence, right?" Rodriguez asked.

"Objection," Maline said.

"Sustained, calls for speculation and a conclusion," Judge Smith ruled.

In something of a risky move, Rodriguez displayed on the courtroom's overhead viewing monitors a document showing the names of individuals associated with Joseph McStay's PayPal account tied in with Earth Inspired Products, which included his wife Summer under the last name of Martelli, Merritt and Kavanaugh listed as added "third parties." Without drawing attention to Merritt's presence on the list or the potential interpretation that the defendant's name being thereon gave him legitimate access to McStay's business account, Rodriguez asked Shogren, "Were you aware that Dan Kavanaugh was listed as an authorized user?"

Rodriguez's apparent purpose was to knock down a central pillar in the defense's suggestion that Kavanaugh looted far more money out of the Earth Inspired Products account than Merritt is accused of taking. Kavanaugh logged onto McStay's PayPal account on February 10, 2010, six days after the family's disappearance, to change Joseph's password to the PayPal account. He then transferred to himself \$7,900 from McStay's PayPal account over the next two days. This, the defense maintains, represented highly suspicious or even felonious activity that merited investigation by law enforcement personnel and the cataloging of Kavanaugh as a suspect in the McStay family disappearance/murders.

Rodriguez was not able to progress very far, however. Maline objected, pointing out "First of all that's not authorized user information. That is titled 'addresses' and I think the PayPal representative [Sarah Kane, who testified two weeks previously] adequately explained what those mean."

Judge Smith sustained Maline's objection, say-

ing "This calls for speculation and conclusion as to what is shown in that record."

Rodriguez then disputed Shogren's assertion that Kavanaugh had realized \$206,064 in proceeds from having commandeered control of Earth Inspired Products in the ten months after the McStay family's disappearance, claiming the actual money coming into Kavanaugh as the proceeds from Earth Inspired Products activity "was actually only \$126,000 or \$127,000."

Shogren corrected her, saying the \$126,000 to \$127,000 figure represented money associated with the Earth Inspired Products enterprise that came in as revenue to Kavanaugh through PayPal as opposed to further revenue he received from the Earth Inspired Products venture through other modes of payment. "That's what we represent from PayPal," Shogren said. "There were also projects that had been paid by cash. Those would have been sales revenue as well, so it's more than the 126 [thousand dollars]."

When Rodriguez expressed skepticism that such cash receipts by Kavanaugh could be documented, Shogren referenced \$28,174 in cash or check deposits into one of Kavanaugh's accounts. "The deposits were into an account he used for EIP [Earth Inspired Products] purposes," Shogren said.

Additionally, \$25,622 in deposits was made into yet another of Kavanaugh's accounts during the same March to September 2010 timeframe, Shogren testified.

When Rodriguez pressed Shogren on how, exactly, any of the revenue beyond \$127,000 could be documented as coming from customers purchasing water features, he indicated he did not have the invoices or receipts to establish the money in question as water feature sales-generated income beyond its placement into an account established for that purpose. In the same ten-month timeframe,

Shogren said, Kavanaugh paid \$58,677 to buy off-the-shelf waterfalls and fountains. Accepting Rodriguez's insistence that only the "proven" water feature sales receipts of \$127,000 be used in calculating Kavanaugh's profit ratio, Shogren said Kavanaugh was turning a 61.1 percent profit during the March to December operation of Earth Inspired Products.

To an inquiry by Rodriguez, Shogren said he had not analyzed Merritt's gambling activity around the time of the McStay family's disappearance or at any other time.

Rodriguez referenced a March 8, 2010 \$3,600 cash withdrawal from an ATM at the Commerce Casino, which Shogren in another context during his testimony indicated would cover the \$3,400 balance owed to Metro Sheet Metal for the provision of material and services relating to the waterfall Earth Inspired Products was then engaged in completing for Paul Mitchell studios.

"Would it be relevant to your analysis to know that \$3,600 was actually taken out at a casino?" Rodriguez asked Shogren.

"We did know it was taken out at a casino," Shogren replied.

"You did?" Rodriguez came back. "So you attributed that to a job, despite the fact that that money was taken out of a casino?"

"I think you are mischaracterizing what we did here," Shogren said. "I didn't say it was applied to the job. I said there was sufficient funds to pay that debt."

Rodriguez was stymied in pursuing with Shogren the degree to which Merritt's gambling activity had impacted his financial position, after a multitude of objections by Maline to her questions pertaining to Shogren's analysis of the gambling issue were sustained by Judge Smith. At last, she did provoke from Shogren that "We never did any analysis, I never did any analysis about gambling,

What I did is look at the movement of cash. So any withdrawals, from wherever they were made, would have been reflected in any analysis we did. I did not assume a withdrawal at an ATM at a casino was necessarily for gambling."

"So you're indicating to us that if somebody withdrew money at a casino, you made an assumption it didn't necessarily mean it was for gambling," Rodriguez said.

"I didn't care whether he was buying lunch or buying a poker chip," Shogren said. "It was not what I was looking at."

"So, you didn't think that would be important in terms of your financial analysis in this case to look at the defendant's spending history?" she asked.

"Other than to divide spending into business and personal, we would not have made any other considerations," Shogren said.

Through her questioning, which related to two of Merritt's checking accounts being closed out by two different banks when he had numerous checks returned for insufficient funds and was running negative balances for extended periods, Rodriguez established that Merritt was poor at managing money.

"Would you agree with me that the defendant, based on his bank records, appeared to have some financial issues back in November of 2009?" she asked.

"I didn't form an opinion about his financial health," Shogren said.

When Rodriguez attempted to pursue questions about McStay having covered some of Merritt's gambling debts, she was stopped by sustained objections.

On redirect examination, Maline asked if it was still worthwhile for Merritt to work for McStay and Earth Inspired Products under the 15 percent arrangement.

"The big distinction between the 65 [percent] and 15 [percent] was who was primarily responsible for paying for fabrication," Shogren

said. "In the past when it was 65 percent - on average; that appears to have been the target - Chase was the person who was doing the fabrication and therefore buying the materials for the fabrication, performing the labor for the fabrication. So then when the model was changed from 65 [percent] to 15 [percent], the principal supplier for the fabrication was Metro Sheet Metal or someone else. So Mr. McStay would be paying for the fabrication, and therefore the [cost of buying] materials that went into that fabrication [went] to someone else other than Chase. That amount of money then, with its work and the purchase of the materials and so on, bypassed him, but he was still paid a fee for pulling it together."

"In this case when the model switched from 65 to 15 percent, when Chase was getting 15 percent, I think you said that was October 2009, he no longer had to pay Metro Sheet Metal, correct?" Maline asked.

"Correct," Shogren said.

"And that was a huge cost, correct?" Maline asked.

"He no longer had to pay Metro Sheet Metal or to buy materials for fabrication," Shogren said.

Shogren said it was possible for Merritt to clear more money by the 15 percent arrangement than when he was getting 65 percent and had to defray by himself the cost of material acquisition.

The 15 percent arrangement changed after the family's disappearance and paying for the fabrication, testing crating and shipping of the products again fell to Merritt."

Maline asked if Shogren had done a "gain or loss" analysis to see if Merritt or Kavanaugh benefited or suffered as a consequence of what befell the McStay family.

Shogren confirmed that he had run the numbers available to him "to see whether either Mr. Kavanaugh or Mr.

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## Kavanaugh Profited By McStay's Death, Accountant Says

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Merritt gained from the disappearance and subsequent death of Mr. McStay. We didn't look for loss, necessarily, but we looked for gain to see whether there was something unusual that accrued to either one of those outside of what their normal ordinary business activity had been. They both had a business activity and they had business interactions and there would have been monies earned by both of them in the ordinary course of that relationship. So we were looking to see if there was something that was outside the pattern that had been established over time."

Shogren said a report on that issue was provided as a status update of his work in July 2018

"Based on the records that you reviewed and that question, did you have an opinion or not as to whether Mr. Kavanaugh benefited or didn't benefit from the disappearance of Mr. McStay?" Maline asked.

"I did form an opinion about that," Shogren said. "It was my opinion that following his death there were things that were outside of the normal relationship that had been demonstrated over time. We examined a lot of records and looked at his relationship and his earnings as a service provider for Earth Inspired Products. There was a period of significant income in what I referred to as a growth period and there was a decline in that, and for the last year or so [that McStay was alive], he earned significantly less money than he had previously. And then almost immediately after the disappearance [of the McStay family] his [Kavanaugh's] income from Earth Inspired Products went up significantly."

"So, did you have an opinion whether or not Mr. Kavanaugh gained

from the disappearance of Mr. McStay?" Maline asked.

"So under the parameters we were working with, I called that a gain," Shogren said.

"You testified yesterday that Mr. Kavanaugh continued receiving payments after Mr. McStay disappeared, after February 4, 2010," Maline said. "Mr. Kavanaugh, I think the term you used may have been redirected, the money to his PayPal account that was coming in from the online orders through PayPal, is that correct?" Maline asked.

"That's correct," Shogren said.

"Objection; misstates testimony," Rodriguez said

"And is speculative," Imes added.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

"And in addition to PayPal, you indicated there was a second source where he would get the money and take the money in for these orders," said Maline. "Is that correct?"

"I did," Shogren said.

"And what was that source?" Maline asked.

"We also saw cash deposits outside of PayPal," Shogren said.

"Objection; speculation," Rodriguez said.

"The sheet we looked at yesterday indicated there was a specific account," Shogren said. "There were two accounts. There were cash receipts. One of those was a business account. It was a business checking account with Bank of America. In my opinion, deposits made into a business account are business related. The second one was a personal account that was used — that account commingled personal and business funds, and there were substantial deposits that were business-related. There were some deposits that were cash deposits. We couldn't identify them. They were made at an ATM. We don't know whether they were checks deposited or cash."

What was the total amount of that from the

February 2010 to December 2010 ten-month period?" Maline asked.

The amount we attributed to business revenue over that period of time was just under \$207,000."

Shogren said over \$147,500 of that was gross profit.

Maline attempted to ask multiple questions about Kavanaugh's personal spending, but those questions were objected to and sustained.

"As far as Mr. Merritt is concerned, you did review his records as well, correct?" Maline asked.

"That is correct," Shogren said.

"In terms of after the disappearance of Mr. McStay, did you have an opinion as to whether Mr. Merritt either gained or lost from that disappearance financially?" Maline asked.

"My opinion was he completed the jobs that were under way," Shogren began.

"Objection; calls for speculation and misstates evidence," Imes intervened.

"Overruled," said Judge Smith. "He was asked to state his opinion."

"So the jobs that we had visibility to were completed, to the best of our knowledge," Shogren said. "We found no evidence of any claims for unfinished work. Payments were made in full on those jobs. The gain would have come just through the normal completion of the jobs rather than anything extraordinary."

"So did you have an opinion on whether he gained or did not gain from the disappearance of Mr. McStay, financially?" Maline pushed.

"So, as I stated before, we were looking for things that were outside the ordinary scope of business," Shogren said. "We didn't find any gains outside the scope of business with his relationship to Earth Inspired Products."

Gregg Stutchman, the owner of Napa-based Stutchman Forensic Laboratory and a forensic analyst specializing in the examination, en-

hancement and clarification of recorded audio and video evidence, testified last week. A former officer with the Calistoga Police Department who subsequently served as a captain with the Pacific Union College Police Department, Stutchman returned to the witness stand this week. His previous testimony and that he provided this week related to the photometric analysis he had done with regard to one of the basic elements of the prosecution's case, consisting of the postulation that Merritt was at the McStay residence the evening of February 4, 2010, which prosecutors maintain was the night of the murders. The strongest evidence in support of that proposition is that at 7:47 pm that evening, two video cameras that were part of the home security system Jennifer Mitchley had installed at her home located across and slightly up the street from the McStay residence caught a fleeting and partial electronic glimpse of a vehicle which the prosecution maintains was that belonging to Charles Merritt at that time.

Stutchman this week essentially repeated what he had said last week, which was that certain features of Merritt's vehicle excluded it as a match for the one seen on the Mitchley home security cameras.

Stutchman expounded upon a series of photos consisting, variously, of stills taken from the Mitchley video and ones of the truck Merritt owned in 2010 taken by a member of the sheriff's department's scientific analysis division, Michael Russ. The headlights in the two sets of photos did not match, Stutchman said, in that the headlights on Merritt's truck are distinct from the running light below the headlights, and those running lights extend beyond the headlights toward and around the side of the truck, whereas no running lights are visible on the vehicle in the Mitchley video.

Stutchman dismissed

the contention of the prosecution's expert witness, Eugenio Liscio, that a light seen toward the back end of the vehicle in the Mitchley video which does not correspond as a feature of Merritt's truck is simply a reflection of some nearby light. Liscio said that the disappearance of the light in four frames of the Mitchley video could be an indication that the light seen on all of the other frames of the video is light being mirrored into the camera, perhaps by a handle/latch of the cargo box toward the rear of Merritt's truck. Stutchman said he believed the disappearance of the light on the Mitchley video is a function of the inferior quality of the security camera and the compression of the video data uploaded to the security camera's digital recorder that was done to accommodate that system's limited digital memory capacity. He referred to this loss of image as "artifact compression."

Stutchman said the vehicle on the Mitchley video did not have cargo boxes toward the back end. "We do not see any detail of the bed in the Mitchley video," Stutchman said.

Stutchman was subjected to cross examination by Imes, who focused on what he suggested was a damning similarity in the vehicles which indicated they were one and the same. Imes' reference was to what was characterized as an electrical plug box on the front bumper of both trucks, and that they appeared to be located in the same position on the bumper on the passenger side of the vehicle.

Stutchman was asked if he was able to find a model of truck extant in 2010 which had the plug box in the same position that corresponded to its location on Merritt's truck. He reported that he had been unable to locate such a vehicle model.

"So you were not able to find one with this electrical box located in a similar or same position as is found on the defen-

dant's truck," Imes said.

"18 years later, that's correct," Stutchman said.

"So that would again limit the number of hypothetical trucks in the universe that would have that as a characteristic," Imes said.

"It would," Stutchman said.

Stutchman nonetheless insisted the vehicle captured on Mitchley's video did not match Merritt's truck.

Stutchman said the sheriff's department's measurement of Merritt's truck from the ground to the bottom of the headlight was 32 inches and height to the top of the headlight was 39 inches, while the height to the bottom of the marker light on the top of the cargo box at the back of Merritt's truck was 60 inches. "Using the measurement tool in Adobe Photoshop CS6/CS5, the bottom of the headlight was marked, the top of the headlight was marked and a custom scale was set," Stutchman said. With that as a measuring standard, Stutchman said, "Using the custom scale, I measured down 32-and-a-half inches, which is where the ground would be, and then from the ground measured up 60 inches, which is where the side marker light on the top of the box would be. This showed it would have been above the overhang [of the porch on Mitchley's house, which obscured the top portion of the vehicle caught on the video], taking it out of sight, making it not visible."

The sidelight on the vehicle depicted in the Mitchley video was well below the overhang that obscured the video's field of depiction, Stutchman said. He thus determined the sidelight was at a height of 39 inches, excluding Merritt's truck as a match to what is captured on the video.

Sergeant Daniel Hanneke, who had previously testified as a prosecution witness, was called by the defense on May 1.

*Continued on Page 18*

## San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner's Report # 701902886 On 04/26/2019, at 6:59 AM, officers of the California Highway Patrol responded to U.S Route 95, near mile marker 79, Needles, to investigate a head on collision between a motorcycle and a motor vehicle. Baker Ambulance personnel arrived on scene and declared the rider motorcycle, Jason Shergold, a 48-year-old citizen of England, dead at 6:59 AM. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [04272019 1915 JL]

Coroner's Report #701902604 On 04/15/2019, at 2:27 am, a male riding a bicycle in the 3100 block of West Kendall Drive in the city of San Bernardino, was struck by a Jeep sport utility vehicle. The man was transported to Community Hospital of San Bernardino where he was pronounced dead. The identity of the male is being withheld pending notification to family. San Bernardino Police Department is investigating the incident. [04152019 0800 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902484 On 04/09/2019, at 3:30 pm, Johnny Lee Hartfield III of Victorville, was travelling north on Interstate 15 in Hesperia when he struck the rear of a tractor trailer. He was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. California Highway Patrol Victorville office is investigating the incident. [04102019 0730 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902474 On 04/09/2019, at 1:09 p.m., officers with the Rialto Police Department responded to a vehicle collision in the intersection of Etiwanda Avenue and Cedar Avenue in Rialto. The passenger of the 2000 Nissan Sentra, 75-year-old Soledad Brambila, was pronounced deceased at the scene at 1:36 p.m. Rialto Police Department is investigating the collision. [04102019 0730 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902407 ON 04/06/2019 at 4:38 PM a 911 call was received reporting a pedestrian hit by a semi-tractor trailer rig on the southbound lanes of Interstate 15 north of Afton Canyon Rd in rural Baker. Emergency crews responded to the scene and Casey Jolly, a 42-year-old resident of Temecula, was pronounced dead on scene. The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of the next of kin. The Barstow office of the California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [04072019 0930 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902404 On Saturday, 04/06/2019, at approximately 3:53 PM, Gladys Bettencourt, an 83-year-old resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, was a passenger in a vehicle collision. The collision occurred at the intersection of Silica Dr. and Seventh Ave., in the city of Victorville. Bettencourt was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the collision. [04072019 0930 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902394 On Saturday, 03/09/2019, at 12:13 am, San Bernardino County Deputies responded to the 7262 block of Sterling Avenue, in Highland, regarding residential fire. Benjamin Silva, 77-year-old, resident of Highland, was transport to a local hospital with injuries. On Thursday, 03/28/2019, at 10:00 am, he was pronounced dead. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Bomb and Arson Unit, investigated the residential fire. [04072019 0930 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902390 Eliseo Navarro, a 65-year-old resident of San Bernardino, died on 04/05/2019. Anyone with information regarding Navarro's family is encouraged to contact the Coroner Division at (909) 387-2978. [04072019 0930 JK]

Coroner's Report #701902372 On 04/05/19, at 4:54 AM Fontana Police Department Officers and emergency medical service personnel responded to the intersection of Jurupa Ave and Redwood Ave in Fontana, regarding a traffic collision. Ricardo Martinez, a 35-year-old Fontana resident, was transported by ambulance to the Kaiser Foundation Hospital Fontana emergency room where he was pronounced dead at 5:25 AM. Fontana Police Department is investigating the circumstances of the collision. [04072019 0930 JK]

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### Defense Seeks To Counter Suggestion Merritt Left McStay Family Vehicle In San Ysidro from page 17

In response to questions from Maline, he testified that he had gone to a paintball recreational facility on the grounds of Camp Pendleton on

August 20, 2014 to look at records there relating to liability release waivers signed by those using the facility. His intent was to verify a claim by Merritt, made during an interview with San Diego County Sheriff's detectives Troy DuGal and Suzanne Fiske on February 17, 2010, that he had traveled with Joseph McStay there in the McStay family's Isuzu Trooper

to play paintball at the facility less than 60 days before the family had disappeared. With some difficulty, Hanke said, he succeeded in digging through boxes stuffed with hundreds of waivers to find a recreational activity release of liability filled out and signed by Merritt on December 10, 2009, as well as another signed by Joseph McStay on January 10,

2009.

For the purpose of the defense, establishing that Merritt had truthfully related to DuGal and Fiske that he had ridden to Camp Pendleton in the Isuzu Trooper a month or so before the family's disappearance is of some moment, since a trace amount of Merritt's DNA was found in the vehicle. The prosecution maintains that the

presence of his DNA in the Trooper indicates Merritt was the one who drove it to San Ysidro on February 8, 2010, where it was found abandoned in a mall parking lot in close proximity to the international border with Mexico. That only a trace amount of DNA was present on the steering wheel and gearshift, the defense contends, demonstrates that Mer-

ritt did not actually drive the Trooper, but was merely present inside it, which is consistent with the testimony of experts knowledgeable about the detectability of DNA spread by contact.

Maline also explored with Hanke what he had learned from his trip to the San Ysidro mall on August 18, 2014 to look

*Continued on Page 19*

### No Decision Yet On Travis-Miller's Fate from page 6

with regard to Travis-Miller, as Juan Figueroa is closely allied with Valdivia. Figueroa's ascendancy to the council would likely mean curtains for Travis-Miller, including a vote to state a public reason for her firing. Ortiz is reportedly far more favorably disposed toward Travis-Miller. Ortiz's presence

on the council, assuming Travis-Miller would want to remain in place as city manager under circumstances that include a sharply divided elected city leadership in which four of those leaders have expressed a lack of confidence in her, might restore Travis-Miller to her post and keep her in place for another two years.

Wednesday night, May 1, after the city council filed into the city's meeting chambers

just before 7 pm after adjourning out of its closed session that had started at 5:30 pm, the first item on the panel's agenda following the invocation and pledge of allegiance was a closed session report in which the city attorney was to tell whether or not any reportable action had been taken with regard to seven issues enumerated on the closed session agenda, those being conferences with legal counsel relating to three

existing lawsuits - People of the State of California v. MJ Dispensary, Inc; Redevelopment Agency of San Bernardino v. DMC Investment Holdings, LLC; Placo San Bernardino, LLC v. City of San Bernardino, a conference with legal counsel relating to one unspecified case of anticipated litigation, the employee evaluation of the city manager, the dismissal of the city manager, and a conference involving real estate

property negotiations relating to a portion of the surface parking lot area of the former Carousell Mall. Upon the conclusion of the pledge of allegiance, however, Valdivia skipped over the closed session report and went directly to the next item on the agenda, entailing presentations and the issuance of proclamations. Neither councilmembers Sanchez, Ibarra, Shorett, Nickel, Richard nor Mulvihill protested. Acting City

Manager Teri Ledoux, elected City Attorney Gary Saenz, appointed Assistant City Attorney Sonia Carvalho and elected City Clerk Georgeann Hanna acceded to Valdivia's parliamentary legerdemain, and there has been no official reporting of what action or non-action took place in the council's closed session.

*-Mark Gutglueck*

## Investigator Says Kavanaugh's Ha- waii Alibi Satisfied Him *from page 18*

into the circumstances relating to the Isuzu Trooper having been abandoned there on February 8, 2010.

In response to Maline's questions, Hanke acknowledged that he considered it important to determine with as much provision as he could when the Trooper had been left in the mall parking lot.

Hanke spoke with Bruce Carter, the owner of the security service that patrolled the mall and its parking lot, and David Jackson, one of the other security personnel employed in patrolling the mall at the time. The best determination that could be made as to the Isuzu being there was that it was first noted at 9:18 p.m.

Hanke's testimony furthered the defense's contention that Merritt did not drive the Isuzu Trooper to San Ysidro on February 8, as his cell phone records show him in the Rancho Cucamonga area throughout the latter part of that day.

Sergeant Gary Hart, who was then a detective assigned to the McStay family murder case in 2014, testified this week as well. His assignment included picking up from the FBI evidence that had been transferred to it by the San Diego Sheriff's Department that had been collected when the matter was being investigated as a multiple missing persons case.

Among those items were two cordless phones that had been in use in the McStay household at the time of the disappearance. Hart testified that upon charging the phones he had attempted to access their memory and phone message functions. On one of the devices, he said, "There was nothing in the memory. It was blank." He said that he could not say with any certainty whether the

messages had been manually deleted or "wiped," because when some phones' internal batteries become completely discharged, the memory self-erases, he said.

He had better success with the other phone, Hart testified.

On February 1, 2010, he said, the phone recorded a call at 10:06 pm involving a number associated with Patrick McStay, Joseph McStay's stepfather. Between February 1 and February 4, there were 12 calls logged on the phone. The last call on February 4 was at 5:39 p.m.

The phone log did not provide information as to whether the calls were incoming or outgoing, Hart said, and it did not show the duration of the calls. On February 5 at 9:42 am a call with no name provided was shown on the log. At 10:39 am there was a call with a number associated with DR Horton. At 11:29 am on February 5, Hart said, there was a call from Mortgage Protection.

Under cross examination by Imes, Hart testified that the phone, which was confiscated and removed from the home when the San Diego County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant on February 19, 2010, showed 50 calls logged between February 1 and February 18.

Imes asked Hart, of those "How many were from 909 374 0102?"

"I don't see any" Hart said.

909 374 0102 was Merritt's cell phone number.

Sergeant Edward Bachman, who was one of the investigators originally assigned to the case and later became the "case agent" relating to the McStay family murder investigation, was called to the witness stand by the defense this week, as well. He had testified as a prosecution witness earlier in the trial. His testimony this time around had not concluded on Thursday, May 2, and he is anticipated back next week.

The function of the case agent, he said, was

not so much a supervisory one but rather entailed responsibility for compiling or assembling "the book" containing the compendium of various reports relating to the case. Generally, Bachman said, about four detectives were working on the McStay family murder case, but that the personnel assigned to it changed. Over time there were "in excess of ten" investigators who were assigned to the case in one capacity or another, he said.

Initially, Bachman acknowledged, it was thought that the vehicle seen in the Mitchley security video leaving the McStay residence was the Isuzu Trooper. He said he saw that the exhaust pipe on the Isuzu Trooper's driver side did not match the exhaust pipe on the passenger side of the vehicle in the Mitchley video. He said that his efforts in examining the Mitchley video extended to seeking to exclude the McStay family's Isuzu Trooper as a match. Conversely, he said, he had sought to make an inclusion of Merritt's vehicle as a match to the one seen in the Mitchley video.

On October 15, 2014, Bachman said he and then-detective Ryan Smith and perhaps then-detectives Brian Zierdt and David Hanke went to the residence of an individual identified only by the last name of Brubaker who had come into possession of the worktruck that was owned by Merritt in 2010. At some point, according to Bachman, a FARO scan – a three-dimensional imaging – was done of Merritt's truck as well as the streetscape in the 3400 block of Avocado Vista Lane where the McStay and Mitchley families lived in February 2010. The intention was to lay the image of the truck into the image of the streetscape to see if Merritt's truck could be matched to the vehicle seen on the Mitchley security video, he said.

Maline asked why the investigative team had gone to Avocado Vista Lane.

"To conduct the FARO scan of the front of the residence in order to be able to mesh up the video to see if we could plug the truck into the FARO scan to be able to say that was the truck in the video," Bachman said.

Maline questioned Bachman about the potential similarities between Merritt's truck and the image of the vehicle captured on the Mitchley video. Measurements were taken and some similarities between the images were noted, Bachman testified.

One of those similarities was an electrical box on the front bumper of Merritt's truck, he said.

At the time of Merritt's arrest, Bachman testified, a photogrammetry expert had not yet been brought in to positively ascertain whether the vehicle on the Mitchley video could or could not be excluded as a match to Merritt's truck.

"After October 15, 2014, did you do anything further than what we're looking at here to either exclude or include Mr. Merritt's vehicle as being the one in the Mitchley video?" Maline asked.

"I did not, no," Bachman said.

"But you were the case agent at the time, correct?" Maline asked.

"Correct," Bachman said.

"You would have been aware of what the other detectives would be doing, correct?" Maline asked.

"Yeah, that's a pretty fair statement," Bachman said.

"Okay, so are you aware of any other detectives that did anything after October 15 to either include or exclude Mr. Merritt's vehicle as the vehicle in the Mitchley video?" Maline asked.

"At the time we were trying to find someone to be able to mesh the FARO scans together and do image overlay of the surveillance video to be able to try and include or exclude," Bachman said. "At the time that I left, I don't believe we had any of that complete

to show whether it was a positive or, you know, show consistencies or whatnot."

"Are you aware of when Mr. Merritt was arrested? Maline asked.

"Yes," Bachman responded.

"When was that?" Maline asked.

"November 2014," Bachman said.

"A month after this, correct?" Maline asked.

"Yeah, two weeks to a month after this," Bachman said.

"So, my question actually is: Between the time of October 15 and to the time Mr. Merritt was arrested, are you aware of any efforts by you or other detectives to either include Mr. Merritt's vehicle or exclude it from the Mitchley video?" Maline asked.

"Objection; asked and answered," Imes protested.

"Overruled," Judge Smith said.

"I don't think so, sir," Bachman said.

Bachman said he authored the warrant for Merritt's arrest. He also acknowledged that he had mislabeled a photograph in the case summary.

Dan Kavanaugh's name came up, Bachman said, during the second day of the excavation of the McStay family graves when San Bernardino County sheriff's investigators were briefed by San Diego County sheriff's investigators.

Kavanaugh was subsequently interviewed, Bachman said, and eliminated as a suspect based upon his cell phone records and an alibi provided by Kavanaugh's then-girlfriend, Lauren Knowles, which placed Kavanaugh in Hawaii at the time of the McStay family's disappearance.

Bachman said Knowles did not care for Kavanaugh, but that she had nonetheless satisfied the investigators that Kavanaugh was not a viable suspect in the murders of the McStay family.

Bachman in initially answering the question of how Kavanaugh was excluded as a suspect said GPS data was avail-

able to place Kavanaugh in Hawaii at the time in question. He backed away from that claim as his testimony continued.

"How were you able to verify his alibi?" Maline asked.

"We talked to his girlfriend at the time," Bachman said.

"What else?" Maline asked.

"We obtained his phone records," Bachman said.

"And what would his phone records tell you about him being in Hawaii?" Maline asked.

"Whether or not he was in Hawaii at or around the time of the disappearance," Bachman said.

"But what about his phone records would show that?" Maline asked.

"The cell site location," Bachman said.

"It's your testimony as the case agent that you had cell site data for Dan Kavanaugh?" Maline probed.

"I don't remember exactly what we have for Kavanaugh as far as his GPS location at the time," Bachman said. "We talked to his girlfriend Lauren Knowles, who said he was in Hawaii. She did not care for Mr. Kavanaugh, and had no problem providing the alibi. She provided us with an image that showed them on the beach while they were there, and his phone records indicated that he was making multiple calls to businesses in Hawaii to show he was not in California at the time of the disappearance."

"Do you have to be in Hawaii to make calls to numbers in Hawaii?" Maline asked.

"You don't, but I think that supported his statement, especially given the fact, like I said, Miss Knowles was not a fan of Mr. Kavanaugh, yet she was still honest and provided an alibi for him."

Bachman said that "Somebody from Hawaiian Airlines verified that Kavanaugh's flights to and from showed that he would have likely been in Hawaii at that

*Continued on Page 20*

# California Style Men Unfolded

By Grace Bernal

Just when you feel summer is coming, spring pulls you back in. And you suddenly find yourself asking what to wear?! We don't get much ice cold weather in Southern California, but this season we have had cold temperatures along with a lot of color.



want to be trapped with the traditional. When I observe how they put a wardrobe piece together I have to admire them going for it all. They are wearing fitted shaped shirts, coats and pants

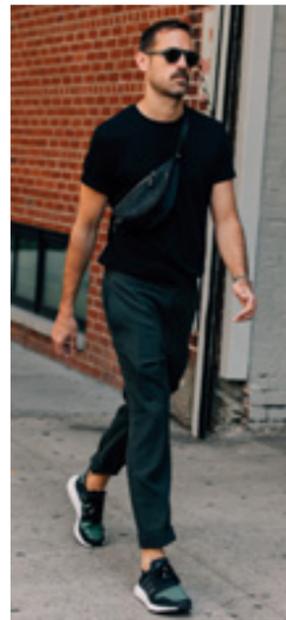
along with exaggerated seams. You can't help but notice how they are rewriting the language of fashion. The male of



today knows himself and is in tune with a new fashion sense. Young men's sneakers are like the women's handbags and they are wearing



are wearing outfits. Men are unfolding themselves faster than the weather can shift.



sneakers as innovative adornments. Admittedly, some sneakers are more decorative than others, and they can look fabulous dressed up or dressed down. Can't wait to see more of how men

*"Know, first, who you are, and then adorn yourself accordingly."*  
-Epictetus



And the spring pallets are coming to life with a splash of color. With that said, I'm going to shift into the revolution of men's fashion which is still happening when it comes to what they wear while both at work and at play. Seems that the man or boy of today doesn't

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

## Dedication To Their Client Tak- ing A Heavy Toll On Defense Team from page 19

time."

Maline asked about the sheriff's department's focus on Kavanaugh's commandeering of Earth Inspired Products after Joseph McStay's death. Bachman indicated the department did not take a deep dive into that issue.

"Are you aware of whether you or a member of your team looked into where the money was going from the on-line sales of fountains from the McStay business?" Maline asked.

"Are you talking about the business while they were alive?" Bach-

man asked for clarification.

"No," Maline said. "After they disappeared, the business continued operating, correct?"

"I believe Susan, Kavanaugh and Merritt – Susan Blake [Joseph McStay's mother], Kavanaugh and Merritt – tried to keep the business going, but they ultimately weren't able to keep the business afloat, so to speak." Bachman said.

James McGee, who is Merritt's defense co-counsel along with Raj Maline and Jacob Guerard, fell ill last week. Reports vary as to whether McGee's case is simply one of exhaustion or something more serious. To Maline has since fallen the burden of handling the examinations that McGee was intending to carry out. Given

that Maline already had a demanding workload in dealing with the examinations that were his bailiwick, there is a perception that the Merritt defense team will not be able to execute the climactic finish of its case as intended, unless McGee can recover before Maline, who has put on a veritable tour-de-force over the last two weeks, also collapses. The centerpiece of the defense's ending flourish, the *Sentinel* has learned, will involve the playing of several hours of excerpts from an eight-hour-long interrogation of Merritt by Bachman and Hanke that was carried out on October 23, 2024, during which Merritt steadfastly denied having any involvement whatsoever in the deaths of the McStays. Accompanying

that will be the testimony of Dr. Leonid Rudin, who was retained as an expert witness for the district attorney's office but who was then shunned by the prosecution when his scientific analysis led him to the conclusion that the vehicle seen in the Mitchell video does not match Merritt's truck. It was the defense team's intention that McGee would carry out the examination of Rudin.

After testimony concluded on Wednesday, a bleary-eyed Maline explained to the *Sentinel* why he, McGee and Guerard are being so exacting and driving themselves to the point of disintegration.

"In most cases, the defense needs only to demonstrate to the jury that there is reasonable doubt

about the defendant's guilt to prevail," he said. "This case is different, way different. You have babies – a three-year-old and a four-year-old – whose heads were beaten in with a hammer. Showing that there

is some doubt our client did this will not suffice, not in this case. We have to prove by a country mile that he is absolutely innocent. We can't let anything that the prosecution does or says go unchallenged."

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