

## U.S. Military Looking To Wipe Out Large Numbers Of Mojave Desert Ravens

More than 12,000 ravens living in San Bernardino County's desert area are most likely doomed if the U.S. Military gravitates, as it seems on a trajectory to do, toward the most efficient method of protecting the Desert Tortoise on and around the five military posts located in the Mojave.

As part of the arrangement the Army, the Navy, the Marines and the Air Force have to

utilize land in Southern California, the services individually and collectively have been committed to protecting, to the extent possible, the ecology and environment around its various bases.

One of the most vulnerable species in the Mojave Desert is the desert tortoise. The gravest, most direct and lethal threat to the tortoises are ravens, which are present throughout the desert

in massive numbers far in excess to those of the tortoise. Given that there are few other viable remaining habitats for the tortoise, the proliferation of the ravens in the Mojave Desert represent an existential threat to the tortoise.

The report was commissioned by the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command as well as U.S. Marine Corps Major General A. E. Renforth, the com-

manding general of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center headquartered in Twentynine Palms; Captain Troy Searcy, the director of environmental affairs at the Combat Center; Kristina Brown, the deputy director of governmental external affairs at the Combat Center; Captain Jacob Spaulding, the deputy director of the Marine Corps Logistics

Base; Stephen Watts, the chief of environmental resources and planning at Edwards Air Force Base; David Housman, the National Environmental Protection Act planner at Fort Irwin; Julie Hendrix, the natural resources specialist/installation biologist at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station; Bill Berry, the regional conservation program manager at the Marine Corps Installa- **See P 2**

## Redlands Council Hesitates A Third Time On England Grove Estate Development

According to the lawyer for Jeff Burum and Matt Jordan, the contemplated conversion of the historic 8.8-acre England Grove and its more than 650 trees to a 28-unit housing development does not constitute spot development.

A contingent of Redlands residents feel differently, and they feel the property in its entirety, the orange grove and its

irrigation system and the structures on the property, should be preserved.

Burum says it is unrealistic for an agricultural property that is no longer economically viable to be salvaged, and that for the historic structures to be refurbished and maintained, the vast majority of the grove must give way to the homes that are to be built there.

The city council,

which twice in the past was unable to decisively resolve the diametrically opposing aims of the city's preservationists and those intent on developing the property, this week deferred a vote on the development proposal.

Beginning in 1891, Thomas Y England began cultivation of naval oranges on a lot at the corner of Palm and Al-

varado avenues in Redlands. The grove itself involved a gravity-fed irrigation system, and in 1893 he set within the grove a home in the Victorian style, which included a carriage house immediately behind it. In 1914 the house was altered by a subsequent owner, Guy Hunter, into a prairie style home. England had also established on the property

a Queen Anne cottage built on that part of the property facing Alvarado Street.

The England Estate containing all of its historic and still-functioning assets was sold by the Hunter Family to James and Annie Attwood in 1922. The Attwoods in turn passed it along to their daughter, Mary Attwood Heeney and her husband **See P 5**

## SB Police Find No Substance To Accusations Leveled At Aquinas Drama Teacher

There is no substance to the accusations leveled at Aquinas High School drama and music teacher Paul Reed regarding what a parent took as his untoward interaction with a student actress he was directing in this year's fall play.

Several of those familiar with the circumstance who were present when the incident took place insisted there

was nothing to what occurred, and that Reed had been maligned ignorantly and needlessly.

The mother of the girl alleged to be the victim overreacted to Reed's effort to provide a visualization of what should take place on stage during a wedding scene in what were then to be upcoming live performances of the Junior University student play Little

Mermaid Jr., which was performed at the Aquinas High School Performing Arts Center between November 6 and November 21. Multiple Aquinas students were cast members.

Junior University Musical Theater was founded by William and Patricia Dixon with the help of the Henley family in 1963 and has existed as the sponsor of live musi-

cal theater productions specifically designed for family audiences since that time. The first venue for the performances was the Roosevelt Bowl in Perris Hill Park. After more than a half of a century, the Junior University Musical Theater changed its venue to the San Manuel Performing Arts Center located on the Aquinas High School Campus.

The Little Mermaid Jr was adapted from the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney Studios rendition thereof, which deals with a young mermaid, Ariel, willing to give up her life in the sea to gain a human soul. The plot involves her passion to live with her prince suitor on land and her ties to the underwater kingdom of her birth and the **See P 3**

## \$5.4 Million Settlement In Colton Police Officers' Shooting Death Of Father Of 3

Short of going to trial, officials with the City of Colton have agreed to pay \$5.4 million to the family of an unarmed man who was shot to death by Colton police officers Bryan Acevedo and Gregory Castillo in 2016.

Christian Vargas, then 25, was the passenger in a stolen vehicle driven by Joseph Carter, then 32, in the early evening

of September 12, 2016. A police pursuit ensued after one of the officers spotted the car around 5:30 p.m. Carter took evasive action when an effort to pull him over was made, but he was unable to ditch the pursuing officers, as more and more officers joined the chase.

Carter had apparently given up on his attempt to flee when he was sur-

rounded by multiple police cars near Washington High School. He stopped the car he was driving near a patrol car in the 900 block of East C Street. As he was parking, the car lurched forward, hitting a patrol car. In turn, the patrol car jerked forward into a police officer, at which point both Acevedo and Castillo began discharging their service firearms

at Carter. Vargas was hit, wounded fatally.

Vargas' wife, Alicia Guzman, retained the law firm of Douglas Hicks to represent her and the three children she had with Vargas.

Douglas Hicks consists of Carl Douglas, one of O.J. Simpson's attorneys during his 1995 murder trial and Jamon Hicks.

Douglas Hicks filed

suit on behalf of the plaintiffs against the defendants in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on September 13, 2017. Motions on the case were heard by Judge Kenly Kiya Kato, while the matter was scheduled to go to trial before Judge Jesus Bernal.

The City of Colton, Acevedo and Castillo were repre- **See P 3**

## Hostetter To Represent Himself In Speedy Federal Insurrection Trial In D.C.

Former Fontana Assistant Police Chief Alan Hostetter will represent himself in federal court against the U.S. Justice Department in seeking to fend off charges that he was an architect and primary instigator of the January 6 Capital insurrectionist riot aimed at overturning the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The soldier-turned-law-enforcement officer-turned-yogi-turned-political firebrand appears confident that he will be able to acquit himself of the treason charges that could land him a two-decade term in Fort Leavenworth. And though some of his most ardent supporters believe Hostetter has powers of persuasion that will allow him to convince a jury of his peers that he is an innocent crusader for democracy and fair play who has been victimized by a liberal and Democratic Party bastardization of the American ideal and values, there are members of Hostetter's own circle who believe serving as his own attorney will inevitably lead to his conviction and imprisonment, and further discrediting of the Donald Trump Presidential Restoration Movement for which he has been one of the most vocal sponsors.

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth, who is overseeing Hostetter's case, sought to dissuade Hostetter, who had no fewer than two attorneys representing him in the initial aftermath of the charges being levied at him in June, from undertaking to **See P 2**