

## Kerr To Plead Guilty To Taking Bribes From Adelanto Marijuana Merchants

Former Adelanto Mayor Rich Kerr yesterday, Thursday January 12, agreed to plead guilty to a federal criminal charge of accepting more than \$57,000 in bribes and kickbacks in exchange for approving ordinances authorizing commercial marijuana activity within the city, and ensuring his co-schemers obtained city licenses or permits for their commercial marijuana activities, the

Justice Department announced today.

Kerr, whose full name is Richard Allen Kerr, 65 of Adelanto, acknowledged guilt on a single count of honest services wire fraud, a crime that carries a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison.

United States District Judge John W. Holcomb scheduled a February 17 change of plea hearing for Kerr.

According to his plea

agreement, based on his employment and duties, Kerr owed a duty of honest services to the city and its residents. Among other things, Kerr voted on ordinances governing zoning regulations in the city, and served on the city's cannabis dispensary permit committee, which determined the number of dispensary permits that would be issued, and determined which applicants would receive a dispensary per-

mit.

From at least November 2015 to June 2018, Kerr executed a scheme to deprive the city of the honest performance of his duties as mayor. Kerr secretly used his official position to enrich himself and his co-schemers by passing ordinances authorizing various types of commercial marijuana activities, including marijuana cultivation, marijuana distribution and transportation, and

retail sales of marijuana via a dispensary.

Kerr also voted to approve the drafted zones for commercial marijuana activities to include locations used by his supporters, ensured his supporters obtained the licenses or permits they sought; all in violation of conflict-of-interest prohibitions, in exchange for bribes, kickbacks, gifts, payments, and other things of value.

Among See P 3

## Second Ice Slip Death Of The Winter Season On Frigid Mt. Baldy Trail

Over the span of less than two weeks, two hikers on Mt. Baldy were killed after falling and sliding on hard ice.

The identity of the first hiker to suffer a fatality this winter season has not been released.

The second victim was Crystal Paula Gonzalez-Landas, 56 of Covina, an experienced hiker and mother of four. She died under challenging conditions on January 8.

Gonzalez-Landas grew up in Covina and ran marathons in her teens and into her thirties. After a back injury, she reduced her running schedule and took up hiking more than a decade-and-a-half ago. She had hiked to the top of Mt. Baldy in the past and had also backpacked in the Sierras, hiking on one of those excursions to the peak of Mt. Whitney. In recent years, she had taken to videotaping portions of her hikes and posting the video snippets to her Facebook page. She made a video of herself as she began the January 8 hike in early morning darkness, while she was wearing a headlamp. She can be heard saying in the video clip, "It's time to go. Lots of people out today."

A bit later, after the sun has risen, Gonzalez-Landas captured a video that documented the dangerous conditions on the mountain that day. That video shows a column of ice flowing down the side of the mountain within yard of where she stood.

Gonzalez-Landas, who was in the company of others, See P 6

## No Nepotism In Councilman's Daughter's Contract With Union, Redlands Officials Say

By Mark Gutglueck

What some Redlands residents say is a nepotistic circumstance at City Hall involving Councilman Paul Barich and his daughter came to light last month, just days after Barich rotated out of a two-year term as the 73,288-population city's mayor.

City officials and Barich were dismissive of suggestions that an

arrangement between Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions LLC, in which Megan Barich, Paul Barich's daughter, is a principal, and Teamsters Local 1932, which is the collective bargaining unit representing Redlands city employees, entailed nepotism or impropriety of any sort.

Paul Barich owns Redlands' premier insurance agency and

mentored his daughter in the insurance brokerage profession before she struck out on her own in partnership with Arynne Glaze.

Over a decade ago, Councilman Barich's company, Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc., held a contract for facilitating health insurance for Redlands city employees.

Since the issue of nepotism was publicly raised last month, there has been a lack of clarity with regard to the specifics of the situation, as a number of city residents have conflated Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc. owned by Paul Barich, with Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions LLC, in part owned by Megan Barich. The

companies are two separate entities. The circumstance is made more opaque by the consideration that the current city manager and city attorney, who were not yet employed with the city when the arrangement involving Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions LLC and Teamsters Local 1932 was entered into, have only a vague knowledge of See P 2

## In Fontana School District, Serving The City's Political Establishment Is As Much Of A Priority As Education

More than six months after former Fontana Unified School District Superintendent Randall Bassett was forced out of his post by a troika of the district's board members, Miki Inbody has been chosen as his long-term replacement.

Inbody's contract is to go into effect officially on February 1.

Bassett was felled by

vicious crosscurrents among his masters on the district's board. Bitter, sharper and deepening political divides between those on the board, as well as the demands of an ultimate master to whom Bassett did not officially answer but whom he dared not disappoint – Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren – led to Bassett's demise.

It now falls to Inbody to see whether she can carry out the district's basic mission of educating the students within the Fontana community while simultaneously seeing to it that district policy, including hiring decisions among administrators, teachers and non-teaching staff include individuals those with political See P 8

## Cattle Rustling Yet A Reality In Third Millennium San Bernardino County

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in compliance with mandates from both the California legislature and the California Department of Food and Agriculture has stepped up monitoring and examination of livestock transport through the region.

That activity has included frequent traffic

stops of trucks hauling livestock trailers as they transit Highway 395 and Highway 58 through the Mojave Desert.

According to the state, throughout California in 2022, cattle theft increased by 22 percent over the previous year.

Cattle rustling has been a steady phenomenon in California since it was ruled by See P 4

## Holohan Acknowledged Having Election Worker Remove Opponent's Campaign Sign

Slightly more than two months after Patty Holohan's reelection to the Redlands School Board, the Redlands Police Department has released a series of reports, interviews and evidence summaries documenting that Holohan herself was involved in campaign tactics that have already tainted her victory.

Now under way is an examination of that

evidence and documentation to determine if Holohan's action constituted prosecutable criminal conduct.

Holohan has been a member of the Redlands Unified School District Board of Trustees since just after her initial election to that panel in 2006. She was reelected handily in 2010 and 2014, while positions on the school board were yet

ones elected at large by all of the voters in the district. By 2018, the school district had switched to by-district elections, and Holohan competed to remain on the board in the District 1 contest. She comfortably turned back her challenger, Libbern Cook, capturing 6,522 votes or 63.5 percent of the total 10,273 votes cast to Cook's 3,751 or 36.5 percent.

In 2022, two candidates challenged Holohan, Erin Stepien and Victoria Oginrinu.

Holohan had little reason to believe that her path to confirmation by the voters would be any more difficult than it had been during the previous four races over sixteen years. By late September, owing to the energetic approach of several of Stepien's supporters

and the relative sophistication of her campaign manager, Candy Olsen, it was apparent to many in the community, as it was to Holohan, that Stepien was making inroads in capturing the attention of the electorate that Holohan had not needed to contend with in any of her previous easy walks to victory.

In elections – national, state and local – See P 8

## Before He Was A Councilman, Barich Buttered Some Of His Bread By Brokering Heath Insurance To Redlands City Employees; Now His Daughter Through Those Employees' Union, Is Selling Them Optional Insurance Coverage *from front page*

the specifics involved.

Much of what can be discerned of the matter has been pieced together by the Sentinel based upon the available public record and the disparate recollections of former city officials as well some of those within Paul Barich's circle. There are discrepancies between what has been circulating on the streets and the version of events offered by others, including city officials.

Prior to Nabar Martinez's 2007 hiring as Redlands city manager and well before Paul Barich was elected to the Redlands City Council, Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc., on a contractual basis coordinated the delivery of health coverage to the city's employees. Sometime after Martinez had settled into the role of city manager, subject to the periodic competitive bidding the city does with regard to the provision of services, Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc. lost that contract and the city contracted with another entity for the provision of that service.

In 2014, Paul Barich made a spirited and ultimately successful run for city council.

Roughly a year-and-a-half after Barich had become a member of the city council, his daughter, Megan, whom he had mentored in the insurance business, founded her own insurance service company, Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions LLC, in conjunction with Aryne Glaze. The following year Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions LLC obtained the contract for handling the delivery of optional life insurance, hospital indemnity, cancer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage to Redlands city employees through their

union.

In 2020, Paul Barich acceded to the appointed position of mayor in Redlands. Redlands does not have an elected mayor as a feature of its governance model. Instead, that honorific is conferred upon a member of the council by his or her colleagues, traditionally on a two-year term basis.

Upon Barich's replacement as mayor in December following the November 2022 election in which he was reelected to the council as the representative of the city's District 5, references were made to what some city residents said was the nepotistic circumstance involving Barich and his daughter. According to word circulating on the street, there was something improper about the way in which Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions had landed the contract for the coordination of the optional delivery of life insurance, hospital indemnity, cancer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage to Redlands city employees. With Barich's departure as mayor, city employees said the time was ripe for an examination of what they said was Nabar Martinez's decision, when he was yet city manager, for terminating the contract Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc. had for coordinating the delivery of health coverage to Redlands city employees. Some residents alleged that it was Barich's animus over this termination that had led to his resolve to run for the city council in 2014. Moreover, it was suggested, the awarding of the Teamsters Local 1932 contract to Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions for the coordination of the delivery of optional life insurance, hospital indemnity, can-

cer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage for Redlands city employees was one of the spoils of Paul Barich's council victory.

Those persisting with the assertion of nepotism growing out of Megan Barich's company providing services to Redlands city employees referenced what they characterized as a "smoking gun," a document the Sentinel independently located and which is making the rounds among a number of city residents, a "Side Letter of Agreement amending the July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2023 Memorandum of Understanding between Teamsters Local #1932 and the City of Redlands." Dated November 20, 2018, the document bears three signatures, the first being that of Paul Barich, who as Redlands mayor pro tem signed on behalf of the city, the second being that of Richard Smith, the president of Teamsters Local 1932 who was representing the union, and the third being that of Redlands City Clerk Jeanne Donaldson, whose signature was meant to attest the document. The side letter reconfirms the contents of the original memorandum of understanding, which had previously been signed by then-Mayor Paul Foster. The memorandum of understanding touches on the provision of the health insurance coverage to the city's employees.

The Sentinel sought from City Manager Charles Duggan, City Attorney Yvette Abich Garcia and Paul Barich a full dimensional account of the circumstance which some members of the community perceived as a nepotistic situation.

The Sentinel further sought to determine whether Garcia's predecessor as city attorney, Dan McHugh, undertook an examination of the questions relating to nepotism or a potential conflict of interest inherent in the arrangement under which Barich &

Glaze Insurance Solutions was engaged in coordinating the delivery of optional life insurance, hospital indemnity, cancer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage to Redlands city employees. The Sentinel inquired as to whether McHugh had generated a memo or any finding with regard to the questions relating to the nepotism implication or any potential conflict of interest inherent in the contractual arrangement by which Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions was involved in coordinating the provision of life insurance, health coverage, hospital indemnity, cancer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage to Redlands city employees.

Duggan and Garcia were unable to ascertain whether Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services, Inc. had, previous to Paul Barich's election to the city council, a contract for facilitating the delivery of health insurance to city employees. Garcia confirmed that Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions currently is involved in coordinating the provision of life insurance, hospital indemnity, cancer insurance, short-term disability, accident coverage and critical illness coverage to Redlands city employees through the Teamsters Union.

Both Duggan and Garcia emphasized that any contractual relationship Barich & Glaze has relating to delivering services to city employees is with the Teamsters Union and not with the city.

On January 5, Duggan told the Sentinel, "I did have staff do some preliminary checking and what I received back is that we don't have a record of any recent times Barich & Glaze Insurance having any active agreements for services with the city, no history with the agency in our computer system. I'm not sure Barich and Glaze have done anything. I don't have any information personally

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about what happened before I got here."

Garcia told the Sentinel, "My understanding is that the city does not have a contract with Barich & Glaze Insurance Solutions or Barich & Associates. As you know, the city and the city's collective bargaining units are separate entities. Any questions regarding the business operations and their contracts should be directed to the individual bargaining units and not the city. The other matters pre-date my arrival and I have no information regarding them."

The Sentinel inquired of Garcia about the distinction between nepotism and a conflict of interest. Under California Government Code Section 1090, a public official is prohibited from having a personal financial interest in any governmental decision he becomes involved in or vote he makes. As California is a community property state in which a husband and wife are considered to hold all of their assets in common, an officeholder cannot vote or take action with regard to a matter in which his or her spouse has a financial interest. The law appears less than clear when other familial relationships are in question, such as when a vote or action taken by an elected official has a financial impact on the officeholder's parent or offspring. A rule generally applied is that unless it can be demonstrated that a parent and his or her progeny have assets or shared financial interests, if one is an of-

ficeholder, he or she is at liberty under California law to vote on a matter involving his or her parent or son or daughter.

The Sentinel asked Garcia whether, as long as there is no commonality or mingling of Paul Barich's financial interests with those of his daughter, if Councilman Barich acting in his capacity as a member of the city council with regard to the conferring of a contract on Megan Barich's company would or would not be a financial conflict of interest under the rubric of California law relating to public officials, in particular Government Code Section 1090.

Garcia responded, "To the extent that your email requests my legal analysis/opinions or that of the prior city attorney or any other attorney concerning the matters, I am not authorized to provide such opinions to members of the public, but only to the city and its departments/officials if they should request such opinion(s)."

The Sentinel asked Garcia if she could say with definitude that Paul Barich and Megan Barich have no financial interests in common.

Garcia did not respond to that inquiry.

The Sentinel referenced documentation provided by Teamsters Local 1932 both in hard copy documents and on the union's website showing Megan Barich's company was and still is profitably facilitating the provision of optional insurance services to City

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## After A Century Of Marijuana Prohibition, Legalization Triggering Governmental Schizophrenia

By Mark Gutglueck

For decades medical and mental health professionals warned about the toll that long-term or even shorter duration use of marijuana could have on an individual, impairing his physical and psychological well-being, power of recollection, cognitive skills, reasoning ability and sanity. And while the scientific data to back those caveats remains scattered, incomplete, inconclusive and less than fully convincing in all of its aspects, significant evidence accumulated over the last six years since California's legalization of marijuana for its intoxicative effect shows that the widespread availability of the substance in the Golden State has resulted in a collective psychosis, one in which governmental function has become outright schizophrenic and compromised by clouded institutional memory.

For nearly a century in California and elsewhere in the United States, the growing, harvesting, curing, warehousing, refinement, sale, possession or use of marijuana for any purpose was a crime. Those convicted were subject to harsh punishment, including, in some cases, decades-long prison sentences. In 1996, against the sentiments of the state's governmental, social and legal establishment, California's voters, through the passage of Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use of Marijuana Act, legalized marijuana use for medical purposes for those who could obtain a prescription from a licensed doctor. This had some impact around the margins, but the vast majority of the state's more than 58 counties and 470 municipalities refused to provide permits for marijuana dispensaries operating within their respective jurisdictions. There was widespread suspicion that those who were seeking and obtaining prescriptions on medical grounds were malingering, feigning or faking symptoms or illnesses to obtain the drug

not for its palliative or curative effects, which many considered in any event to be a chimera, but so that they could use it recreationally, i.e., to get high. In many cases law enforcement officers and agencies monitored closely the dispensaries that did exist, learning who those outlets' suppliers and customers were, subjecting them to further investigation, action or arrest based upon still existing prohibitions against the substance. Doctors who issued prescriptions for marijuana were subject to close scrutiny by the state's medical licensing board. Those physicians who routinely issued such prescriptions fell under suspicion of engaging in malpractice. Some had their medical licenses revoked. All were subjected to at least occasional accusations of quackery. "Patients" who obtained prescriptions and customers who shopped at existing dispensaries were required to provide both sellers and the government identification, leading to their being placed in a database of known marijuana users and a watch list. Politicians and community leaders, somewhat unrealistically but in many cases convincingly, spoke about or threatened action to rescind the marijuana liberalization that came with the passage of Proposition 215, creating the specter of future arrest and im-

prisonment of those who were foolish enough to purchase their medical marijuana from state licensed dispensaries.

Simultaneously, the popular appetite for marijuana far outran the practical means of the government and those who manned the government to control it, although such an effort was still being made.

Reliable statistics on the use of marijuana during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are not easily available. Based on arrest, prosecution and conviction data, there was a modest uptick in the general public's involvement with marijuana in the 1950s, one which was minor in comparison to the relative explosion of marijuana use in the 1960s, particularly by the then-younger set. The trend continued but at a slower pace into the 1970s and 1980s, with use leveling at relatively stable levels in the 1990s and tapering off slightly at the Millennium, if surveys, in which self-reporting by people who were yet subject to harsh penalties for marijuana use or simple possession was a primary feature, are to be believed.

Whereas throughout the 1960s and right into the early 1970s, the vast majority of illicit marijuana available for sale on the streets was cultivated outside of the United States, primarily in Mexico or elsewhere in Latin America and

smuggled into the country, by the mid-1970s, a domestic cultivation culture had developed. In short order, the amount of U.S. homegrown marijuana burgeoned such that by the mid-1980s, more than half of the marijuana being sold in America was a product, albeit unregulated, undocumented and untaxed, of the U.S.A. Continuing and only slightly reduced in terms of overall volume were importations of the substance grown elsewhere. Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies found themselves having to deal with, and overwhelmed by, traffickers in both foreign and domestic marijuana.

In 2000, California and seven other states had legalized marijuana for medical use, though none had legalized its use for outright intoxicative purposes. At that time, as is currently the case, marijuana was yet under federal law a Schedule I narcotic, on paper no different than heroin, morphine, cocaine or methamphetamine. In 2001 and in 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the broad application of the Controlled Substances Act, first in *U.S. v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Co-Op* and then in *Gonzalez v. Raich*, ruling, respectively, that neither medical need nor prescription creates an exception to federal marijuana prohibition and the federal govern-

ment's power to enforce marijuana prohibition in states that had legalized medical marijuana use remained intact. In California, both local government officials and law enforcement employees coordinated with, cooperated with, encouraged and abetted federal authorities in operations and raids against medical marijuana facilities that had opened up in compliance, or virtual compliance, with California law.

Entrepreneurs who sought to live within the State of California's legal rubric applying to marijuana sales met with varying degrees of success and failure, including failures which entailed being subject to federal prosecution and ultimately financial ruin and incarceration. Paralleling, indeed dwarfing, those efforts was the traditional "black market," the variously independent or loosely knit or highly coordinated network of underground marijuana growers, transporters and sellers.

If officialdom had been thwarted in eradicating problems represented by marijuana proliferation previously, it was during the first decade of the current century that marijuana use in general throughout the United States and in California specifically raged to a level entirely beyond control. In 2000 and 2001, marijuana use among virtually all age

groups in the country, including the crucial bloc of high school students, had dipped, though not substantially, from what had been the case in the mid-1990s. Then, however, surveys indicate, between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013, frequent use, defined as once a week or more, more than doubled.

Resentment among marijuana consumers/customers and would-be cultivators and retailers arose, as the perception that local governmental officials were defying the public will as expressed with the passage of Proposition 215 by blanket policies denying operating permits for marijuana dispensaries. There soon followed a reaction.

In San Bernardino County, most notably in the larger cities and particularly in the county seat of San Bernardino, a new phenomenon put itself on display: entrepreneurs who took to heart the spirit of Proposition 215 and began operating dispensaries by simply registering each store as one featuring health products or botanicals, or as a tobacconist, smoke shop or general retail establishment without explicitly disclosing that marijuana was being offered as a commodity for purchase. A discovery curve for the municipal authorities would ensue, lasting anywhere from a day or to several days to a week, weeks, a month or even longer before the sale of marijuana at that particular retail was noted, which would then be followed by code enforcement officers descending on the business or a police department raid in which the marijuana on hand would be seized and a civil injunction against the operation in that location would be sought from the Superior Court and issued, resulting in the shuttering of the store.

In short order, the store operators would seek and obtain a city business license for another location and the process would repeat itself. The money to be

### Kerr Pleading Guilty from front page

Kerr's co-schemers was David Serrano, an attorney and the owner of the Jet Room marijuana dispensary that has been established in Adelanto. Through his law firm, Serrano paid Kerr \$35,000 in the days, weeks and months before and after Kerr voted to confer upon the Jet Room permits and licenses to sell marijuana from its 17499 Adelanto Road address, including expanding the city's marijuana sales zones

to include the district where the dispensary is located. Serrano is identified in court documents as "Person A."

Another person involved in Kerr's illegal activity was Manny Serrano, the spokesman for the High Desert Cannabis Association and the brother of David Serrano, identified as "Person C."

The bribes and kickbacks were disguised by Kerr and his co-schemers as gifts, donations to a charitable fund, donations to Kerr's election campaign, or advance payments for the proceeds of planned litigation

associated with a motorcycle accident.

On September 22, 2016, David Serrano and his wife, Julia Orama-Serrano, initiated the purchase of the 2.23 acre lot and existing structure at 17499 Adelanto Road, the northeast corner of Adelanto Road and Joshua Avenue from the owner, Dmitri Manucharyan, entering into escrow on October 3, 2016 and completing the transaction on October 11, 2016. David Serrano, who was affiliated with, variously, the Law Offices of David Serrano and the Professional Lawyers Group,

San Bernardino, had declared his intention of transforming the structure on the property, which had formerly been a tavern known as the Jet Room that had done a brisk business among airmen more than two decades previously before George Air Force Base was shuttered in 1992 but which had lain fallow ever since, into a law office.

On October 26, 2016, the Adelanto City Council gave initial approval to Ordinance 553, which allowed medical marijuana dispensaries into

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## Sheriff's Department Stopping Livestock Carriers In Operation To Curtail Cattle Rustling

*from front page*

Spain.

By the 1930s, rustlers were using motor vehicles to steal livestock in San Bernardino County.

In many cases, cattle taken away live. In others, cattle rustlers, acting independently or in unison and most likely from the back of a pickup truck, have been victimized ranchers in San Bernardino County. There are known instances of livestock thieves rolling up on a large animal, perhaps

luring it with a bag of feed, then roping it. In such cases the animal will be slaughtered on the spot and then dressed out. Generally, evidence left at scene shows the animal was butchered, with the hide left behind after the meat was cut up and trimmed. Predictably, this type of rustling predominantly takes place under the cover of night. The Sentinel has a record of one such known incident occurred on the night of July 24 or early morning of July 25, 2018 in the southeasternmost extreme of San Bernardino County near the Orange County frontier. The sheriff's department was alerted at 6:48 a.m. on Wednesday July 25,

2018 that the remains of a cow were discovered in a holding pen on Rancher Joann Friend's property on Carbon Canyon Road between Chino Hills Parkway and Turquoise Circle. Available information is that an individual or individuals unknown gained access to the pen, which is proximate to Friend's pasture where a herd of cattle graze. While a common tactic to ward off cattle rustling is the branding of cattle, that stratagem does not work against those engaging in field butchering, as the hide bearing the earmark of a local cattle ranch is left behind, along with the entrails, hooves and head.

More recently the

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Rural Task Force has been working with Victor Valley Sheriff's Station and the Sheriff's Rangers in seeking to catch or deter rustlers intent on bagging more than a single steer or cow. There focus has been on livestock carriers full of live animals.

That effort has concentrated on Highway 395 and Highway 58.

Highway 395 runs through Hesperia, Victorville, Adelanto onto Kern County and through Inyo County to the agricultural area around Bishop and then into Mono County. Highway 58 from its eastern terminus in the Barstow/Lenwood area

runs westward toward Kern County, intersecting Highway 395. Both highways are sometimes utilized by criminals who are moving stolen cattle from one place to another. Those include dairy cows from areas in Kern County and Tulare County that are pirated, carried away and ultimately, at what state agricultural officials suspect are out of state locations, slaughtered for meat.

Under the authority of the California Food and Agricultural Code, law enforcement officers have authority to carry out vehicles hauling horse, pigs, cattle and poultry to carry out routine spot inspections. This includes examining

the bills of sale or lading to determine if the cargo carried matches the descriptions in the documentation.

According to the sheriff's department, "The enforcement focused on stopping and identifying livestock violations and inspecting cattle and documents, to locate and recover stolen cattle. During the enforcement 18 transportation vehicles were contacted and inspected. During the inspections, 16 Livestock Transportation Reports were issued. All stops and inspections were conducted in accordance with the Department of Food and Agricultural guidelines."

## Kerr from page 3

the City of Adelanto. Because of a series of delays, the ordinance did not come up for a second confirming vote it needed to go into effect until May 2017. Prior to that second reading of the ordinance, on November 29, 2016, the city council held a public discussion relating to the pending passage of Ordinance 553 allowing the sale of medical marijuana in Adelanto, in particular the boundaries of the city's marijuana dispensary overlay zones, which were to govern where dispensaries could be located. As a result of that discussion, the council articulated the intent to expand the marijuana dispensary overlay zone to include the property at 17499 Adelanto Road. The same day, November 29, 2016, David Serrano's wife, Julia Orama-Serrano, cut Kerr a \$5,000 check drawn against the Law Offices of David Serrano Real Estate Trust Account at the Bank of America, with the designation "Adv Xmas Fund" in the memo line.

On January 14, 2017, while Kerr was riding his own dirt bike and being trailed by his children and grandchildren outside Stater Bros. Stadium in Adelanto during

the Adelanto Grand Prix event being held inside the Stater Bros. Stadium his front wheel hit a soft spot in the dirt and he was thrown from the cycle. Kerr broke his left collarbone, cracked several ribs and suffered a partially collapsed lung in the accident.

Kerr retained David Serrano's law firm to prepare a potential lawsuit against the sponsors of the Adelanto Grand Prix event.

On February 27, 2017 a check for \$10,000 was made out to Kerr against the Professional Lawyers Group, San Bernardino account bearing the indication "Plaintiff Advance" in the memo line. On May 17, 2017, a revised version of Ordinance 553 relating to allowing marijuana sales to take place in Adelanto, which updated the version of the ordinance first voted upon on October 26, 2016, was given its first reading, passing by a vote of 3-to-1, with Kerr voting in support of the ordinance. That version of the ordinance included a general plan amendment, which expanded the marijuana dispensary overlay zone to include the Jet Room property in the district where the operation of marijuana dispensaries is permitted. On May 24, 2017, the second and final reading of and the vote on the

revised version of Ordinance 553 took place at that evening's city council meeting, passing 3-to-1. That vote included the acceptance of the dispensary overlay zones in which the Jet Zone property was included. Kerr again supported the ordinance allowing the operation of marijuana dispensaries in the city and ratifying the marijuana dispensary overlay zones, which included the Jet Room property. At the same May 24 meeting, the city council passed Resolution 17-12 on a unanimous 5-to-0 vote, establishing the Adelanto Cannabis Dispensary Permit Committee to be charged with determining which applicants for medical marijuana dispensary permits would be granted what was then supposed to be a limit of four such permits. On June 16, 2017, another check for \$10,000 written against the Professional Lawyers Group, San Bernardino account was made out to Kerr, bearing "Advance" in the memo line. On August 23, 2017, then-City Manager Gabriel Elliott publicly announced how the Adelanto Cannabis Dispensary Permit Committee created by the passage of Resolution 17-12 on May 24 of that year was too be fleshed out. The committee, Elliott

said, would consist of the mayor and the mayor pro tem, the city planner and two members of the public to be chosen by the city manager. That same day, August 23, 2017, a check was written for \$10,000 against the Professional Lawyers Group, San Bernardino account to Kerr. Between March 9, 2015, and November 6, 2017, there were 30 deposits into Kerr's US Bank 0917 account, primarily cash, totaling \$21,757. In this same timeframe, Kerr's wife, Mistey, was collecting "donations" from the public for a never fully specified charitable cause. Much of the money provided to her during this time consisted of cash-stuffed envelopes provided to her while she was in attendance at the city council meetings her husband was presiding over. On March 17, 2017, Kerr opened another account at US Bank, with an account number ending 9895. Beginning in August 2017 and running until October 12, 2017, Kerr deposited \$32,500 in checks made out to "Re-elect Rich Kerr Mayor of Adelanto 2018" from various businesses and business owners in Adelanto into that account. On October 4, 2017, Kerr transferred \$22,580.25 from the 9895 account into a

third US Bank account, which was designated as Kerr's official 2018 campaign account, otherwise known as "Richard Kerr DBA Committee to Reelect Richard Kerr," which bore an account number ending 5129. In the months of October and November 2017, which were roughly one year before the next election for Adelanto mayor, Kerr withdrew \$4,980 from his campaign account, using the money for what appears to have been non-campaign related living expenses.

On January 14, 2019, Kerr, represented by two attorneys from David Serrano's Professional Lawyers Group, Keith Adesko and Philip Rios, filed suit against Malcolm Smith Racing, American Motorcycle Association, Grand Prix Series, So. Cal. M.C. and Adelanto Grand Prix, alleging they were collectively and individually responsible for injuries he had sustained when he was involved in the motorcycle crash at the Adelanto Grand Prix two years previously. The lawsuit was filed on the last day before California's two-year statute of limitations on civil suits elapsed.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, "In exchange for the bribes and kickbacks, Kerr provided favorable official

action on behalf of the city to Person A, Person C, and other co-schemers with business interests in the city by authorizing various types of commercial marijuana activities, ensuring his supporters obtained the licenses or permits they sought, and interfering with enforcement activities by city officials.

In May 2018, the FBI conducted a raid on Kerr's home and at Adelanto City Hall. On August 13, 2022 Kerr was arrested by the FBI on a federal grand jury indictment alleging he accepted more than \$57,000 in bribes and kickbacks in exchange for approving ordinances authorizing various types of commercial marijuana activity within the city, and ensuring his co-schemers obtained city licenses or permits authorizing certain commercial marijuana activities. He was taken into federal custody without incident and charged with seven counts of honest services wire fraud and two counts of bribery.

Assistant United States Attorneys Sean D. Peterson, chief of the Riverside Branch Office, and Julius J. Nam of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section, prosecuted the case against Kerr.

## Collective Marijuana Schizophrenia from page 3

had from marijuana sales was in most cases substantial enough to allow those operators to recoup their rental, start up and marijuana stock purchasing outlays and secure a profit of lesser or greater extent. A lien against the property would be filed, though such an imposition did not hurt the marijuana sales business operator but rather the landlord. Cities would seek to impose fines and penalties of up to \$1,000 per day against the business operators, many of whom walked away and could not be tied to the property in question. Efforts to collect the fines were met with repeated challenges of their constitutionality, and the courts proved unwilling to issue orders for payment, based upon state voters' approval of Proposition 215. While the fines were not banned, per se, they weren't collected.

With dozens, then scores and then hundreds of iterations of operations opening, being discovered, being closed down, popping up elsewhere and then going through the operational and shuttering process again and again, San Bernardino City Attorney Gary Seinz in 2014 at last made an open public declaration that the effort to prevent dispensaries from operating in the city was "futile. We continue to expend valuable and limited police, code enforcement and attorney resources with frustratingly insignificant results," he said, adding that the expenditure of money, time and resources in the effort to keep the dispensaries from operating had "little effect on the entire city."

Meanwhile, the efforts to deal with the would-be dispensary operators who were ready to function in the open, selling "legal" medical marijuana and abide by both state and local regulations diverted the resources that had historically been applied by law enforcement agencies to bring drug

dealers to justice. Virtually anyone who wanted to obtain marijuana could buy it from a local drug pusher or duck into any of a number of unlicensed dispensaries operating out of storefronts, if only for a short duration before the authorities would put the kibosh on them and send them to another short-lived storefront operation.

In some cities in San Bernardino County a decision was made or was about to be made that rather than trying to beat those intent on becoming medical marijuana entrepreneurs, they should join them.

In Needles, San Bernardino County's smallest city population-wise located at its extreme east end, across the Colorado River from Arizona, the city council in 2012 chose to let that city become the first jurisdiction in San Bernardino County to permit medical marijuana to be sold. The council gave approval to five dispensaries. In time, the city welcomed, as well, marijuana cultivation facilities.

In November 2014, voters in Adelanto's municipal election made a clean sweep of incumbents Mayor Kari Thomas and councilmen Charles Valvo and Steve Baisdan, replacing them with Rich Kerr as mayor and John Woodard and Charley Gaspar as councilmen. In November 2015, Kerr and Woodard, with the enthusiastic support of then Councilman Jermaine Wright and the less enthusiastic support of Gaspar, voted to accept 25 applications for what was said would ultimately be no more than six to eight marijuana cultivation operations that would be limited to operating in a strictly circumscribed portion of the city's industrial zone. In order to get Gaspar, who had retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant after 28 years' service before working as a civilian employee with the U. S. Army Airworthiness Flight Test Directorate at Edwards Air Force Base, to support entangling the city in a tax revenue produc-

ing scheme involving marijuana, Kerr, Woodard and Wright assured him the program would be limited to the growing of marijuana that would be wholesaled to retailers located outside the city and that marijuana would not be sold within city limits.

In December 2015, the day the city began to accept those applications for the marijuana cultivation permits, scores of people showed up at City Hall to file their applications at the city's planning counter, so many of them, in fact, that the line they formed snaked through the building into the foyer and out the front entrance. Many of those applicants bore briefcases load with cash.

Part and parcel with the cultural ethos that was long imposed on California's residents by its politicians and the social establishment in control of the government was the basic belief that marijuana is bad. As once articulated by Senator Jeff Sessions, who would become under Donald Trump the U.S. Attorney General, "Good people don't smoke marijuana." The drug was, marijuana availability opponents felt, plain and simply "immoral." It was anathema to the rule of order and a civilized and peaceable society, and decent people simply did not use it or tolerate its use by others. Those participating in the marijuana culture tended to be or were on the brink of becoming, those within officialdom felt, elements of the criminal underworld, and that encompassed anyone who used the drug and possessed it in relatively minute quantities for personal use, as well as those who sold it and those who transported it, grew it or imported it into the country from elsewhere. Those members of the subculture who were caught by law enforcement at whatever level of their involvement were deservedly subject to harsh, even brutal penalties to suppress their urge to use it. Pot smoking was not

only illegal but a severe moral failing, those advocating against its general social acceptance maintained, and those who profited by the sale of the substance were parasites feeding upon society and trafficking in human misery such that they were deserving of the decade-long prison sentences which had formerly been imposed by the state legislature and the courts rather than the molycoddling that they were receiving in the wake of the passage of Proposition 215, which should be rescinded. They and those in league with them throughout officialdom, including the overwhelming majority of San Bernardino County's elected local officials, believed holding the line on the issue and maintaining a ban on the permitting of dispensaries was the right thing to do and the will of the majority expressed in the passage of Proposition 215 was an irrelevancy. If people wanted to indulge themselves in intoxicating themselves, the establishment consensus was those so intent should seek to do so through a bottle.

Moving toward 2016, a groundswell of California residents who were completely out of step with the values and attitudes of the local government establishment in San Bernardino County and elsewhere recaptured the intensity and intention toward cultural and social change that had manifested nearly 20 years earlier with the passage of Proposition 215. In this instance, marijuana was again the focus, but they would take things much further. Gone were the pretensions that marijuana was to be embraced as a curative or medicine. By their reckoning, intoxicants have been with the human species since time immemorable. To them it was clear: On the list of benign, or relatively benign, intoxicants, marijuana ranks well above alcohol, indeed near the top and on the list of malignant intoxicants it falls at or near the bottom, far below al-

cohol. The measure they sought to place on the ballot was dubbed "The Adult Use of Marijuana Act" and it called for allowing anyone over the age of 21 to purchase and possess up to one ounce of the drug and to be able to use it for intoxicative or recreation purposes. Needing 365,880 valid petition signatures to qualify the measure for the statewide ballot, its sponsors gathered more than 600,000 signatures. When then-Secretary of State Alex Padilla's office performed a signature-sampling tally that project at least 402,468 of the signatures submitted were valid, equal to 110 percent of the required number, those assigned to the task quit counting and declared the measure eligible for the ballot.

Placed before California's voters in all 58 counties as Proposition 64 on November 8, 2016, it passed with 7,979,041 votes in favor or 57.13 percent to 5,987,020 votes opposed or 42.87 percent.

As much as Proposition 64's passage represented a cultural and social watershed in California and the United States, it was an even more drastic turnaround in San Bernardino County, where the official and establishment attitude toward marijuana was far more serious and the penalties for its use, possession and trafficking more harshly applied.

Elements of that turnaround would prove highly hypocritical and outright shocking.

In Adelanto, hardly had the applications for the marijuana cultivation operations been filed than the three-member ruling coalition on the council – consisting of Kerr, Woodard and Wright – began discussing and openly ruminating upon how the city's limited set of programs relating to commercial cannabis were unequal to the opportunity that lay at Adelanto's feet. The city had taken in 25 applications in December 2015 from among the nearly 170 individuals, entities or compa-

nies that had shown up to make those applications. Amid speculation that cash contained in the briefcases of many of those who had materialized at City Hall on the day the city began accepting those applications had been provided to city officials to influence their decision on which six to eight of those applicants would be granted permission to proceed, the city announced it was ready to accept any number of such applications going forward and that there would be no limitation on the number of indoor marijuana-growing nurseries that could be built in the city's industrial zone.

In 2016, with Proposition 64 qualified for the ballot, Kerr, Woodard and Wright, knowing they had three votes to prevail in any vote of the council, were no longer concerned about keeping Gaspar lined up in support of their stated agenda to get cash-strapped Adelanto in on the ground floor of the coming marijuana-based economic boon. They floated the idea of dispensing with the artificial limitation of just allowing the growing of marijuana in the city's industrial areas and instead opening the way for companies that wanted to utilize the available supply of marijuana to refine it, extract the resins and cannabinoids it contained for use in manufacturing or producing medicinal compounds, liniments, salves, or edible forms of the drug. Moreover, Kerr said, the city needed to seize the day and alter its earlier game plan to embrace the reality that marijuana would soon be accepted as a fully legal intoxicant. It should clear the way, before the November 2016 election, he said, for the permitting of medical marijuana dispensaries in the city's commercial zones. Upon the anticipated passage of Proposition 64, those dispensaries could be converted to full-scale marijuana emporiums, ones where marijuana for medical use and rec-

*Continued on Page 7*

## Two Sheriff's Helicopters Urgently Responded To The Area Above The Baldy Bowl, But Elements, Weather And Her Head-Cracking Injuries From Striking The Hard Ice Doomed Hiker *from front page*

covered a considerable distance up the 10,064-foot elevation mountain, at which point freezing temperatures, heavy winds and low cloud cover brought those in her party to the conclusion that it was unsafe to proceed. They turned back.

While she was on the rim of the Baldy Bowl, she slipped and fell down an ice chute more than 500 feet before hitting a tree.

She was severely injured, having suffered repeated trauma to her head and other parts of

her body from the hard ice and tree.

The slickness of the ice made getting to her difficult.

Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from the California Office of Emergency Services relaying distress message from a Garmin InReach device. The message reported that someone had fallen down the Baldy Bowl in Mt. Baldy. The Fontana Sheriff's Station was contacted for immediate response. The sheriff's aviation division was requested to assist in locating the

fallen hiker using coordinates from the Garmin InReach device.

Sheriff's patrol helicopter, 40 King, with pilot Deputy Doug Brimmer and tactical flight officer Deputy Jonathan Holt aboard, responded to the scene and visually located the endangered hiker with the provided coordinates. It was estimated that she slid 500 feet to 700 feet down the icy Baldy Bowl. Gonzalez-Landas was down on a steep and icy hillside, surrounded by numerous hikers attempting to render aid.

40 King hoisted Holt down to the scene to assess her injuries. The medic requested sheriff's air rescue for a hoist and transport due to Gonzalez-Landas's substantial

injuries. Air Rescue 306 piloted by Deputy Doug Brimmer and carrying crew chief Deputy Greg Hanrahan, medic Eric Rose and medic Gordon Yee responded, but because of low clouds was delayed in being able to reach Gonzalez-Landas, not getting under the clouds until the fifth attempt.

As a landing was not possible and carrying Gonzalez-Landas was inadvisable because of the slope angle and the ice made it too dangerous to hike while carrying her, the craft lowered an additional medic and gear.

A decision to hoist her was made at that point and the crew began to construct a rope system to do so. However, given

the extent of her injuries and her continuing exposure to the elements, Gonzalez-Landas expired.

Shortly after, the weather cleared, allowing Air Rescue to complete the hoist. Gonzalez-Landas's body was flown to the sheriff's aviation headquarters and subsequently transported to the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office.

"Our mother was a kind, loving, lively soul," her daughters said in a statement. "She had a thirst for adventure that she instilled in all of us during our childhood. She inspired those who met her on the trails. She loved life and life loved her back. She's known in the community for her fearless hikes, and

daily dose of inspiration. More importantly she was an amazing mother of four, a sister and a friend to everyone she met. She is the personification of strength, love, and beauty."

Sheriff's deputies said that they average three to four rescues a week on Mt. Baldy and one to two every weekend during winter months. They emphasized that Mt. Baldy represents a hostile hiking environment in the dead of winter to even the most experienced of hikers and that challenging the mountain should only take place if hikers have the requisite equipment, including crampons, head protection and warm clothing.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Daughter's Contract With Union Representing City Employees Was Not Approved By The City Council, Barich Says *from page 2*

of Redlands employees through the union and that a cross section of Redlands residents were interpreting the circumstance as an instance of nepotism.

Asked to offer a refutation of that interpretation and if the Redlands residents who had used the term nepotism in cataloging the connections running amongst Paul Barich, the city, the city's employees, the city's employees' union and a business owned by Barich's daughter were incorrect in their perception and interpretation, Garcia said, "I have no further response," and referred the Sentinel to Carl Baker, the city's public information officer.

Baker told the Sentinel, "As has already been represented to you, the city has no recent record of any contract or transactions with Barich and Glaze Insurance Solutions Group. To the extent that any historical record exists predating the current city executive staff's employment, we have initiated a re-

search on your behalf and will provide any responsive records should any exist."

Baker added, "Regarding any transactions involving the Teamsters Union, I'm sure I don't need to enlighten you that the Teamsters are a separate entity and the city has no oversight or control over their organization or financial dealings. As a union, the Teamsters are organized to represent the interests of certain employee groups in negotiations with or grievances against the city. They are otherwise unaffiliated with the city and their financial transactions as an organization are not subject to review or approval by the city's management staff or its elected officials. If you have questions regarding the Teamsters transactions with the subject company, I suggest you contact them."

On January 10, in response to the public records request filed on behalf of the Sentinel relating to documentation pertaining to Barich and Glaze Insurance Solutions, Amy Edwards, the city's senior administrative assistant, wrote to the Sentinel, "[T]he city has determined it has no records responsive to your request."

Paul Barich, who was provided by the Sentinel with an early draft of this

article, responded today, disputing a number of precepts of those engaging in the nepotism accusation, rejecting the description of nepotism as applicable to the circumstance and asserting that his daughter's company's contract with Teamsters Local 1932 extended to all 14,000 members of the union beyond the roughly 230 Redlands city employees who work for the city and have Teamsters Local 1932 as its collective bargaining unit. The city, city council and he had no hand in Teamsters Local 1932 contracting with his daughter's company, he insisted.

"A lot of background to the article is true but your conclusion about nepotism is wrong," he said. "You should try to get your facts right."

It was accurate that his company previously had a contract with the city for the provision of health insurance to city employees, he said, but that was long before he was a member of the city council.

The supposition that Nabar Martinez, when he was Redlands city manager, had canceled or terminated the city's contract with Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services was off the mark, he said.

"The contract I had was way before I was on the city council," he said.

"It wasn't taken away. There was a bidding process and I lost the bid."

Martinez had no say in terminating the contract, Barich said.

The city contract represented but a minor portion of the Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services clients, Barich said. He said the suggestion that there was some conflict involving his company was absurd, since he was not on the council when he had the contract and the inference that some were drawing that his company had a contract with the city while he was on the city council was plain wrong.

"I would never jeopardize my livelihood for a little piece of business," he said.

While he said it was true that "I would not have run if I had the contract," it was entirely misleading and inaccurate to say he ran for city council to exact revenge on Martinez, who in any event had no input with regard to his company having lost the bid for the city contract.

"I ran for city council because I didn't want Neil Derry on the city council," Barich said. "I honestly knew I could beat him, which I did. Every two years for last 30 years, someone has asked me to run for city council."

Barich said his sup-

porters are more enthusiastic about his presence on the city council than he is.

"I've been involved with Redlands for a long time," he said. "I avoided being on the council because of things like this, the collateral damage to my family."

The nepotism angle to the residents' concern and the Sentinel's coverage is on a one-way street to nowhere, Barich opined.

"I know what you're trying to get at, but it's flat out wrong," he said.

Of Teamsters Local 1930's contract with Barich & Glaze, he said, "I had nothing to do with that. The council had nothing to do with that. She doesn't do health coverage. Those are all volunteer plans. Not a dime of that comes out of the city. You can claim nepotism or characterize it as nepotism, but you flat out lie in saying the city went along with that arrangement. That was done wholly through the union. The city doesn't pay for the employees' voluntary coverage through the union."

Barich said his daughter was being dragged into the controversy wrongfully because of her familial connection to him. Her contract is for all members of the union and not just those in Redlands, he pointed out.

"She works with some large unions," he said. "They do sell volunteer coverage but not health. The city does not pay her. That is an arrangement between the union and Barich and Glaze Insurance Solutions. It looks like you are trying to connect the dots that are not necessarily connected. The City of Redlands had nothing to do with her getting the contract. The Redlands City Council didn't even know about it, quite honestly. We have no right to know about and they [the union] weren't obligated to even tell us."

Barich said, "I told my daughter this is a two-way situation, that having a father who was in political office would open some doors for her and would shut some for her. I understand and I accept that I am fair game. It goes with the territory. I'm not going to complain, but to imply there was a side deal made that benefited my daughter is blatantly untrue."

It is undeniable that he has a connection with his daughter, Barich said. "I started her and got her into the business," he acknowledged. Nevertheless, he said, "The implication that we had anything to do with that [Teamsters Local 1932 contracting with Barich and Glaze Insurance Solutions] is wrong."

## Marijuana Legalization Sent Some Cities & Officials, Who Had Used Activity Involving The Drug As A Justification For Throwing Tens Of Thousands Of Californians In Prison Over The Years, Scrambling To Get A Piece Of The Sale Profits *from page 3*

reational use could be sold to the public. The city had the opportunity to become, he said, “the marijuana capital of California.” He recommended that preparations be made to found a college or university in Adelanto, an institute of technology devoted to analyzation of all things related to marijuana and cannabis, a research facility where the extent to which and how marijuana can be used for medical, industrial, clinical and social purposes is determined and cataloged.

In San Bernardino, then-Third Ward City Councilman John Valdivia, who celebrated himself as a fiscal and social conservative, had long before gone on record as being determined to counteract the proliferation of unpermitted dispensaries throughout the city. In 2016, city residents used the petition process to place an initiative, designated Measure O by the county registrar of voters, on the November ballot, on which Proposition 64 also appeared. Measure O called for allowing marijuana sales to take place in San Bernardino subject to a set of regulations. Measure O passed with 26,037 votes or 55.12 percent in favor and 21,196 votes or 44.88 percent in opposition. The city challenged the terms of Measure O in court, obtaining a ruling from a San Bernardino County Superior Court judge invalidating it. An appeal to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, however, vacated that ruling and Measure O was restored.

In the meantime, Valdivia in 2018 vied successfully for mayor. While serving as mayor he also operated a lobbying/consulting business known as AAdvantage Comm LLC. After the city got around to accepting that it would need to welcome marijuana-

related and cannabis-related business in the city, it conducted an application process for 17 such businesses beyond the two dispensaries that had been established in the immediate aftermath of Measure O’s passage and before the eventually overruled decision by the Superior Court that temporarily invalidated Measure O. By late 2019 and into 2020 there was revelation after revelation indicating that Valdivia, through Aadvantage Comm, was working on behalf of at least eight of the applicants for the marijuana-related and cannabis related permits in San Bernardino. Despite both the San Bernardino Police Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department being presented with evidence that Valdivia was engaging in a conflict of interest involving his public position as mayor by representing entities with business before the city, both agencies declined to investigate the circumstance further.

By mid-2016, Adelanto was rife with rumors, reports and descriptions of Kerr, Woodard and Wright receiving bribes and kickbacks from many of the more than 50 applicants for commercial cannabis-related and commercial marijuana-related permits that were eventually granted by the city. At council meetings over which Kerr presided as mayor, often in front of dozens of witnesses, applicants for some of those permits would provide Kerr’s wife, Misty, with envelopes stuffed with cash. When questions about the practice surfaced, those inquiring were told that the money was intended as donations to Mrs. Kerr’s charity.

The City of Adelanto had once boasted its own police department. In 2002, the city dissolved its municipal police force and contracted with the

sheriff’s department for the provision of law enforcement services. That is still the case. Efforts to interest the sheriff’s office in delving into the kickback arrangements involving the marijuana-related businesses that had set up in Adelanto and the members of the city council were unsuccessful.

In November 2017, Adelanto Councilman Jermaine Wright was arrested by the FBI and charged by the U.S. Attorney’s Office with accepting a \$10,000 bribe delivered to him by an undercover FBI agent who was posing as an applicant for a permit for a marijuana distribution/transportation business. Wright had accepted the money, consisting of 200 \$50 bills, in exchange for his assurance that he would see to it that the city’s marijuana business zone would be expanded to include a warehouse the FBI agent represented he had secured for the trucking operation’s base and his promised intercession to prevent the city’s code enforcement division from interfering with that business when it was engaged in carrying its marijuana cargo. Wright was jailed immediately and removed from office in January 2018. He went to trial on the matter earlier this year and was convicted in June.

In May 2018, the FBI raided Kerr’s home as well as his office at Adelanto City Hall. In 2018, Kerr along with Woodard failed to achieve reelection. In August 2021, Kerr was indicted by a federal grand jury on seven counts of honest services wire fraud and two counts of bribery relating to votes he had made in supporting the cannabis-related and marijuana-related commercial permits of individuals and entities kicking money back to him. This week, he signaled his intention of entering a guilty plea with prosecutors on a single bribery charge to bring that matter to a close.

In 2017, the City of Hesperia passed an ordinance which, while maintaining its long-

standing ban on storefront retail sales and the outdoor growing of marijuana, allowed companies based in a circumscribed district within the city, the so-called “green zone” between Santa Fe Avenue East and I Avenue, and Juniper and Smoke Tree streets along with a few parcels running along I Avenue between Juniper and Lemon streets, to operate marijuana delivery services.

City Manager Nils Bentsen assigned one of his highest-ranking underlings to oversee the city’s energetic enforcement and regulation regime relating to the 21 commercial cannabis delivery companies operating in the city. That individual developed a taste for some of the products those companies were delivering. In his function as a regulator, he grew what was termed “way too close to certain businesses in the cannabis industry” while he was, the *Sentinel* is told “going after others.” A circumstance had evolved where that staff member was “getting free edibles from the cannabis companies he was supposed to regulate,” according to an individual familiar with the situation. This proved to be highly embarrassing to Bentsen. Those companies providing the Hesperia city employee who was supposed to be regulating them with some of the projects they sold was interpreted, widely, as a form of bribery that had compromised Hesperia city staff and the city’s cannabis delivery program.

In early 2019 more than two years after the passage of Proposition 64, officials with the City of Barstow, prompted by citizens inquiring as to when the city was going to get around to updating its ordinances regarding both medical and recreational marijuana sales, quietly formed an ad-hoc committee to look at whether eliminating the city’s ban on commercial marijuana activity was worth considering, and what the ins and outs were of allowing the cultivation, sales, distribu-

tion, and manufacturing of marijuana, cannabis or cannabis-based products in the city, pursuant to a licensing or permitting regime, one that would entail requirements that such operations meet a set of criteria, be licensed as businesses within the city and be subject to a tax specifically levied on the growers of marijuana or the manufacturers and purveyors of cannabis or cannabis-based products. The ad-hoc committee’s discussions were not done publicly. Unbeknownst to the public, at least initially, was that Councilman Rich Harpole was the chairman of the ad-hoc committee. Eventually, the existence of the committee was revealed, and shortly thereafter it was learned that Harpole was its chairman.

For many, this was troubling. Harpole had been a member of the council since his initial election in 2012, which had followed his retirement from the Barstow Police Department, with which he had worked for 24 years.

Harpole had first come to the Barstow community in 1983 at the age of 25 as he was nearing the end of his hitch in the U.S. Army. His military occupational specialty was that of a field 31 military policeman, and he had been assigned to Fort Irwin as an investigator. It was at that time when he met his future wife, Donna, whom he married just about a year later. Shortly thereafter, he was discharged from the Army, and he hired on with the Barstow Police Department as a police officer. Over the next two dozen years he rose to the rank of lieutenant before retiring.

During that time, in various capacities with the department, Harpole had either directly or indirectly dealt with well over 1,000 marijuana law offenders of all types, from major traffickers who were caught while transiting through Barstow to large scale dealers to petty dealers to pot smokers to those discovered to be in possession of a minute quantity of the contraband. A

primary element of his assignment during his last decade-and-a-half with the police force was overseeing drug interdiction efforts. In essence, Harpole spent a significant portion of his law enforcement career participating in throwing people in prison for their involvement with marijuana and disfiguring them with criminal records that in some fashion compromised or destroyed their reputations and ability to obtain employment.

By 2019, he had been retired for just about ten years and was pulling a \$77,700 per year pension. In April of that year it was disclosed that he was the head of the city’s ad-hoc committee looking into whether and how Barstow would get in on a piece of the marijuana action, that is the city availing itself of revenues to be generated from the sale of marijuana, money which as a pensioner with the city, he will share in. It was not lost on at least some Barstow residents that in just about a decade Harpole had done a 180-degree flip in which he went from locking anyone who had involved himself with marijuana up to arranging, as a city official, for the city to turn a profit off allowing the sale of marijuana within its municipal limits.

Boldly, some people asked whether, in the aftermath of the change in California law and Barstow officials’ acceptance of a taxing scheme on using marijuana sales as revenue source, Harpole felt he could justify to himself having engaged in applying the authority of arrest and initiating the prosecutions of individuals who had previously used the sale of marijuana as a revenue source for themselves, which had the potential for subjecting, or actually subjected, them to incarceration. In the face of that question, Harpole remained mute.

When queried directly about whether he saw any contradiction or conflict in his role as the city’s prime mover toward enabling the availability *Continued on Page 9*

### Fontana School District's Time, Money, Energy & Intensity Has Been Historically Diverted From Educating Kids To Maintaining The Community's Political Status Quo *from front page*

power in the former steel town want to see employed for either personal or political purposes.

In Fontana, the school district has been considered a political plum that in addition to existing for educational purposes, serves to advance the interests of those with standing in the municipal, social, commercial and industrial establishment. Those in control of City Hall have been able, through the school board,

to provide employment as rewards to supporters of members of the city council. Moreover, the school board over the last several decades has on occasion served as an incubator for future city council members.

In 2012 Warren initiated a recall effort against two of the district's board members, Leticia Garcia and Sophia Green, culminating in the successful recall of both on July 16, 2013. From that point forward, Warren asserted tremendous influence over the school district. For Warren supporters, the mayor's efforts were seen as a benign influence, one that sought to establish traditional Republican values in the community's primary educational institution. Others, how-

ever, questioned Warren's true motivation, believing she had ulterior motives. Some alleged she was using the school board as a recruiting ground for politicians who would adhere to her policy and philosophy dictates. Others believed she was misusing her influence to intensify what was an already-established aggressive development policy in the city. The district over the decades had accumulated substantial property, upon which 30 elementary schools, seven middle schools/junior highs, five high schools, two alternative high schools and a single adult high school had located their campuses. In addition to those campuses, the district had other properties for housing equipment

and where potential future campuses might be located. According to her critics, Warren had designs on some of those properties, which she wanted the district to declare as surplus and sell off to her political supporters who were looking to snatch it up at a rock-bottom price and develop it, in many cases as warehouses, at a handsome profit. To those critics, Warren was working at cross purposes to the best interest of the community. At some future date, they predicted, the school district would have need of that property to construct more schools. But by the district selling that property, the opportunity to put that land to a beneficial educational use was being lost, they said, and

carried with it the further disadvantage that the district would have to pay a substantial amount of money in the future to purchase property, at an escalated and inflated cost, to obtain land for those future campuses. In this way, Warren's detractors said, she betrayed herself as being more dedicated to helping those bankrolling her political career by pouring money into her political coffers than the residents she was elected to represent.

In 2013 Cali Olsen-Binks, the daughter-in-law of former long-time board member Kathy Binks, left the district and was replaced by Dr. Leslie Boozer. Boozer, however, departed in July 2016 to take on the superintendent's

position in the Northern Central California community of Dublin. Upon Boozer's departure, the school board had promoted Bassett, then the district's associate superintendent of business services and the district's chief technology officer, into the position of interim superintendent while the district contracted with the Cosca Group to undertake a search/recruitment for Boozer's replacement. Relatively soon after Bassett had moved into the acting superintendent's role, Mayor Warren, who had achieved primacy as Fontana's leading political figure with here election as mayor in 2010 after eight years on the city council, satisfied herself *Continued on Page 16*

### Redlands School Board Member Implicated Herself In Campaign Sign Theft *from front page*

efforts at countering an opponent's advantage or perceived advantage or momentum are routine, less common, indeed, than straightforward electioneering efforts by one candidate or his or her campaign to promote himself or herself, but still a part of the electoral process. Offsetting an opponent's advantage can take the form of rhetorically attacking an opponent in stump speeches out on the hustings; distributing handbills that emphasize a competing candidate's previous actions or voting history or personal foibles; similar television, radio or newspaper ads; mass mailed "hit pieces" that trash an opponents reputation, character or good name; and so-called push polls using phone banks where voters are asked questions in a leading or suggestive way, implying something unflattering about the opponent of the candidate sponsoring the opinion survey, which is not really a sincere effort to measure voter attitudes but rather a ploy to trick the voters who answer and participate into voting against the sponsoring candidate's

opposition. While all of those tactics are or can be distasteful, they are not illegal. Employed virtually as frequently as those those legal but costly negative tactics are ones that cost much less but cross the line to what is against the law: campaign sign vandalism or stealing.

Early in October, those involved in her campaign noticed that Stepien's signs were not only knocked down but were disappearing.

At \$5.40 apiece for standard 15-inch by 44-inch or 22-inch by 30-inch lawn signs when ordered in bulk and a cost of anywhere from \$34 to \$110 for 4-foot by 8-foot board signs, the theft of Stepien's signs represented a challenge to those who wanted to see Stepien elected. Believing in their candidate and resigning themselves to the reality that the opposition would not let up, the Stepien team kept their heads down and pressed on, continuing to look for optimum sign locations at which they sought and sometimes received permission to post, and monitoring as best they could where the signs went missing and moving quickly to replace them.

During the course of the campaign, Dorothy Lohman, one of Stepien's volunteers, phoned

William Buster Sr, who with his two sons, William Buster Jr and Mark Buster, owns and operates the Plaza Las Palmas shopping center at 1150 Brookside Avenue, located at the intersection of Brookside Avenue and San Mateo Street near downtown Redlands. Lohman, after telling Buster she represented the Stepien campaign, asked his permission to post an Erin Stepien campaign sign on the shopping center property. Buster gave her permission to do so.

In reaction to the disappearance of the Stepien campaign signs, Olsen, as Stepien's campaign manager, in October inserted electronic tracking devices, known as Apple Air Tags, in several of the signs, including one that was mounted at Plaza Las Palmas.

At 7:40 p.m. on the evening of October 17, a Monday, Olson noted that one of Stepien's campaign signs, one which had been placed at the Plaza Las Palmas shopping center, was being moved. She traced it to a location on Sonora Circle Drive, proximate to or at Holohan's residence. Olson contacted the police to inform them of the theft. According to the department, Olson's relaying of the tracking data related to the sign sufficed as evidence of a

"violation of Penal Code section 484(a) petty theft occurrence at 20:04 hrs [8:04 p.m.] on October 17, 2022, at 1150 Brookside Avenue, Redlands." Records obtained from the Redlands Police Department indicate its officers were dispatched at 8:55 p.m. to the Sonora Circle Drive location. While they were en route, at 8:58 p.m., the tracking device gave indication the sign was being moved once more, ultimately to a location in the 900 block of Thomas Avenue in Redlands, whereupon Olson texted the police, alerting them to the sign's repositioning. According to the department, its officers diverted from their intended destination on Sonora Circle Drive to instead drive to the location of the sign, the Thomas Avenue residence of Mary Ethel Bell, 62, where she was found to be in possession of four Stepien campaign signs, including the one removed from Plaza Las Palmas and three others. "On Monday night, Oct. 17, a school board candidate reported that her political signs had been stolen from the corner of a shopping center at the corner of Brookside Avenue and San Mateo Street," the Redlands Police Department's weekly update for October 13 to October 20 states. "The victim had

an Apple Air Tag inside one of the signs and received notification when it was moved. She traced the sign to an address in Redlands. Police responded and found the suspect in possession of four signs. She was arrested and the signs were returned to the victim." Redlands City Attorney Yvette M. Abich Garcia told the Sentinel that Bell had not been taken into custody and booked but rather was subjected to a cite-release arrest. With regard to the factual circumstances surrounding the arrest, the amount of bail set, the charge the arrestee was facing and the time and manner of release, Abich Garcia said there was no bail and that a "citation [was] issued in the field and [Bell was] released." According to one of the officers dispatched to Bell's home to locate and recover the sign in question on October 17, Bell acknowledged having coordinated with Patty Holohan in removing the sign and three other Stepien campaign signs that were recovered at the same time. The police officers' write-ups of the incident were initially withheld, despite public requests lodged shortly after the incident. There were press reports of Bell's citation and anecdotal allusions to her connection to the Ho-

lohan campaign, but no official confirmation of those reports.

The Sentinel has now come into possession of several documents relating to the case, including the department's primary report, written by Officer A. Lomelin, the first officer detailed initially to the address of Holohan's residence but then ultimately to Bell's house on the evening of October 17; a supplemental report by Assistant Police Chief Travis Martinez; who on the morning of October 18 spoke with Holohan about Bell's arrest the previous night and then with William Buster, Jr and Mark Buster about their family company's policy with regard to the mounting of campaign signs at Plaza Las Palmas and what they knew about the October incident; a supplemental report by Detective J. Valdivia, who after reviewing the previous reports with regard to the case and confirming that Bell was employed with the Holohan campaign on the afternoon of October 18, in the company of Detective D. Frisch, arranged with Holohan to meet her at the Bricks and Birch coffee shop and interviewed her and then on October 19 interviewed Stepien, Olson and Lohman; and

*Continued on Page 18*

## The Profit To Be Had By Selling Marijuana Led Would-Be Purveyors Of The Drug To Bribe Public Officials Left & Right For Commercial Cannabis Operation Permits *from page 7*

and sale of marijuana for its intoxicative effect vis-à-vis his past efforts to prevent marijuana availability to individuals and the public or if he perceived there was for him any sort of personal moral dilemma and if he felt any qualms with regard to it, he steadfastly maintained his silence. Nor was he willing to say whether he had abandoned his earlier belief that the sale of marijuana was rightfully deemed a felony that mandated prison time, and he was equally reticent in the face of inquiries as to how he felt it justifiable for the city and city officials to participate in a financial free-for-all and be recipients of a windfall involving the sale of marijuana.

Unwantedly, Harpole found himself to be the poster child for the hypocrisy that was bedeviling California officials, in particular California law enforcement officials, over the marijuana legalization question. In December of that year, Harpole resigned as a member of the Barstow City Council, saying he and his wife were going to move to Texas to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren.

In 2000, Bill Postmus was elected to the position of First District San Bernardino County Supervisor. Four years later, Postmus was re-elected to the supervisor's post and chosen to serve as the chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee, as well. In his original configuration as a rock-ribbed conservative, Postmus was adamantly opposed to both the legalization and the availability of marijuana. As far as Postmus was concerned, the liberalization that had come with the 1996 passage of Proposition 215 was unwelcome, wrongheaded and should have been rescinded, since giving marijuana the status of medicine merely provid-

ed a way for those who wanted to obtain it for its intoxicative effect a means for doing just that. Throughout his time on the board of supervisors, Postmus was at the forefront of those holding the line against cannabis legalization. Legalized availability of marijuana would never happen in San Bernardino County as long as he was in office, Postmus vowed, because the use of the drug was "immoral." When anyone suggested that marijuana dispensaries be permitted to operate within the county, Postmus dismissed the suggestion, and he derisively characterized those who made such suggestions as indolent potheads who either bordered on or had crossed the line into being degenerate drug addicts and/or criminals.

Postmus had substantial political support throughout the county. In 2006, he successfully ran for assessor, the county's highest taxing authority. In 2008, however, Postmus's once-promising political career imploded. In 2009, he was shown, despite his rhetorical denunciations of liberals and the drug culture, to be hopelessly addicted to methamphetamine. He resigned his position as assessor that year and in 2011 pleaded guilty to 14 felony political corruption charges.

In 2013, Postmus began the long climb back to political rehabilitation. No longer able to hold elected office in California because of his criminal conviction on a violation of the state's public official conflict of interest code, he reinvented himself as a political consultant and lobbyist to get himself back into the political game, doing so under the guise of Mountain States Consulting Group, a limited liability company he had registered with the Wyoming Secretary of State's office.

Postmus's previous condemnation of mari-

juana and all that it represented has been nowhere in evidence since he donned the persona of a political influencer.

With his longtime political affiliate and business associate, John "Dino" DeFazio, Postmus has a financial interest in a marijuana cultivation operation in Needles.

In 2017, Postmus and Mountain States Consulting Group were instrumental in convincing Hesperia city officials that they should consent to allowing Hesperia to become the third city in San Bernardino County to permit commercial cannabis businesses to operate within its confines. This was no mean feat, as the community of Hesperia, even before its 1987 incorporation, was among the most socially conservative spheres in what has historically been one of the more socially conservative counties in the entirety of California. Through his personal connections with two of the Hesperia City Council's members, Paul Russ and Rebekah Swanson, whom he had assisted in their respective 2014 and 2016 successful election campaigns, he was able to convince the Hesperia Council that it should take the baby step toward accepting the "new morality" that permits marijuana use among the population, not by permitting industrial scale cultivation operations or retail outlets, but rather by approving an ordinance allowing cannabis product delivery companies to function out of a circumscribed area within the city's industrial district.

Postmus had not been out front, at least initially, about being involved in Adelanto's original effort to transition to a partial cannabis-based economy that took place under Kerr, Woodard and Wright. Nevertheless, Postmus had been a mentor to Jesse Flores, who had served first as Adelanto's contract economic development director during the first part of Kerr's tenure as mayor. Kerr and Flores had devised the inten-

sive pay-to-play system by which applicants for marijuana-related and cannabis-related business licenses could translate generosity to the city's politicians into approvals of those applications. Kerr and his council colleagues had the city enter into a contract with Flores for his services as Adelanto's economic development director by which Flores was given the assignment of recruiting businesses to set up shop in the city's various commercial and/or industrial/manufacturing zones. Under the terms of that contract, Flores was not restricted from entering into a separate professional relationship with any other entities, including the businesses he was courting to locate in the city.

Consequently, Flores was free to accept money from any businesses which were based in Adelanto. Flores was given to understand very early on that Kerr, Woodard and Wright were looking to put the welcome mat down for business looking to grow marijuana, refine marijuana, manufacture cannabis-based products, warehouse marijuana, distribute marijuana, wholesale marijuana and ultimately retail marijuana. He conducted himself accordingly. The extent to which Flores went to work as well for the applicants for the city's marijuana-related and cannabis-related commercial operating permits is not known, since as a contract employee, he was not required to disclose his various sources of income. Ultimately, Kerr and Woodard along with Joy Jeannette, their ally on the city council who was elected in a special election to replace Wright, promoted Flores into the city manager's post, a position he yet retains.

In the November 2018 election, Kerr and Woodard were voted out of office and Gaspar, who was descending into the throes of dementia, did not seek reelection. They were replaced, respectively, by Gabriel Reyes, Steevonna Evans and

Gerardo Hernandez, all of whom had offered themselves as reformist candidates intent on ridding the city of the corruption fueled by the money that was being handed around by the investors looking to get rich off of marijuana-related and cannabis-related businesses they were seeking to establish in the city.

A promised first order of business for the newly-elected trio was to be the firing of Flores, to then be followed by the city's methodical disengagement from the marijuana-related and cannabis-related commercial enterprises that Kerr, Woodard and Wright had entangled the city with and who had been responsible for the bribe-provision half of the formula that had led to Wright's arrest and prosecution and which created the atmosphere in which Kerr and Woodard were yet being cut in on Adelanto's marijuana bonanza.

The will to cashier Flores failed to effectively materialize. He was left in place. With Kerr, Woodard and Wright out of the picture, the effort to influence the Adelanto City Council to stay the course and give the strategy of transforming Adelanto more fully onto a marijuana-based and cannabis-based economy a chance recontexted itself. Within six months, the city council collectively, with the lone exception of Councilman Ed Camargo, who had consistently over the previous four years resisted the efforts to convert Adelanto into a staging grounds for marijuana production, was parrotting Kerr about how marijuana offered the city economic benefits that were available in no other way.

In addition to running the city, Flores took as one of his primary responsibilities facilitating the introduction of the members of the council with the marijuana/cannabis entrepreneurs who were making such a huge gamble by investing in their city.

At least some of that effort blossomed into

something fruitful.

Word soon spread that Evans, a single mother, was dating Brad Eckweiler, the chief executive officer of Lifestyle Delivery Systems, a Canadian company that was establishing a laboratory and production facility in Adelanto for the extraction of cannabinoids and resins from marijuana being grown in the city and then used to create concentrates and to infuse edibles and other products to be marketed internationally. There were further reports that after Flores convinced the city council to expend some \$126,000 in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security funding, also known as CARES Act proceeds, on a

2020 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van, Flores would regularly use that luxury vehicle to chauffeur Reyes and Hernandez and then later Reyes and Councilman Daniel Ramos on tours of the city's marijuana and cannabis operations in which the elected officials became familiar with the businessmen who were setting up operation in their city and familiarized themselves with the wares they had to offer. Flores also used the van to drive Reyes and Hernandez and then Reyes and Ramos along with entrepreneurs contemplating a move to the city on excursions to various spots within the city where those business might conceivably locate.

By 2020, it was recognized that Postmus had inserted himself into the Adelanto commercial marijuana frenzy, perhaps from the beginning, representing various entities who were interested in adding their companies to the roster of marijuana-related and cannabis-related businesses operating there. Postmus was able to tell his clients that based on his long-extant relationship with Flores, he could ensure that the city manager would escort their proposals through the approval process. On at least one occasion, Postmus told a prospective *Continued on Page 15*

**Public Notices**

FBN 20220011559  
The following entity is doing business as JOHN DUKE MUSIC 11660 CHURCH ST #156 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: JOHN K. O'NEILL 11660 CHURCH ST #156 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730  
Mailing Address: 11660 CHURCH ST #156 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

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/ JOHN K O'NEILL  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/20/2022

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 G8420

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 on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

FBN 20220011466  
The following entities are doing business as SLICK PRODUCTIONS [and] SLICKQUAL [and] SLICK DIGITAL 14932 BOBCAT LN FONTANA, CA 92336: SANJAY RAJAN 14932 BOBCAT LN FONTANA, CA 92336 [and] BEN T BOBEN 1900 COLORADO ST REDLANDS, CA 92374

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 15, 2022.

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/ SANJAY RAJAN, General Partner  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/16/2022

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 J3108

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 on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

FBN 20220009648  
The following entity is doing business as C&M PAINTING 9250 LOCUST AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 principally in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: CESAR MARTINEZ 9250 LOCUST AVE FONTANA, CA 92335  
Mailing Address: 1440 S.E. ST #E SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

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/ CESAR MARTINEZ, Owner  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 10/17/2022

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 I8090

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

**Public Notices**

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 on November 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2022. Corrected on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**MICHAEL THAMES**  
Case NO. PROSB2201724

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of MICHAEL THAMES

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by IVORY THAMES in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that IVORY THAMES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. S 36 at 9:00AM on 01/24/2023 3 Room: at Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER at 247 W. THIRD STREET, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415 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 decedent, 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 section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

IVORY THAMES  
18284 LAGUNA PLACE, FONTANA, CA 92336 Telephone No: 6263182794 Published in the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL on: 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**JAMES**

**Public Notices**

CATALANO CASE NO. PROSB2201746  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JAMES CATALANO has been filed by CHRISTOPHER JAMES CATALANO in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHRISTOPHER JAMES CATALANO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests that the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted into probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held JANUARY 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S36 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: December 23, 2022  
Sabrina Munoz, Deputy Court Clerk

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 decedent, 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 section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Filed: December 23, 2022  
Attorney for Christopher James Catalano: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 300 E STATE STREET SUITE 620 REDLANDS, CA 92373  
Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 8800 sam@pricelawfirm.com  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

**AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING RELATING TO DEFENDANT'S ESTATE OR TRUST**  
**ESTATE OF: FRED TROY WILLIS CASE NO.**

**Public Notices**

PROSB2100817  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of FRED TROY WILLIS and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both:

This notice is required by law. You are not required to appear in court, but you may attend the hearing and object or respond if you wish. If you do not respond or attend the hearing, the court may act on the filing without you.

Notice is given that LEHANNA LESHAN GRIMALDI has filed a petition, application, report or account: REPORT OF SALE AND PETITION FOR ORDER CONFIRMING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (Filed 11/18/22) WITH SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT OF SALE AND PETITION FOR ORDER CONFIRMING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.

A hearing on the matter will be held as follows: JANUARY 09, 2023 AT 9:00 in Department 37 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT - PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212.

If the filing described is a report of the status of a decedent's estate administration made under Probate Code section 12200, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PETITION FOR AN ACCOUNTING UNDER SECTION 10950 OF THE PROBATE CODE.

Attorney for the Petitioner Lehanna Leshan Grimaldi: MARY M. BADER 9227 HAVEN AVENUE, SUITE 368 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 Telephone: (909) 945-2775 Fax: (909) 945-2778

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 30, 2022 and January 6, 13 & 20, 2023.

FBN20220010950  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ANTHONYS TRUCKING 16404 EMBARK WAY CHINO, CA 91708, primarily in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: ANTHONY J OCHOA 16404 EMBARK WAY CHINO, CA 91708.

This 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/ANTHONY J OCHOA  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 11/30/2022

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, J2286

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 on 12/30/2022, 01/05/2023, 01/12/2023 and 01/19/2023.

FBN20220011783  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Q SCREW PRODUCTS 1512 E. FRANCIS ST. UNIT A ONTARIO, CA 91761, primarily in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY:

AMY N. QUINONEZ 28175 WELLS FARGO RD LAKE EL SINORE, CA 92532 [and]

VICTOR R. QUINONEZ 28175 WELLS FARGO RD LAKE EL SINORE, CA 92532

This Business is Conducted By: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

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

**Public Notices**

guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/AMY N QUINONEZ, Partner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/29/2022

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

Began Transacting Business: NOVEMBER 28, 2007  
County Clerk, J2286

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 on 12/30/2022, 01/05/2023, 01/12/2023 and 01/19/2023.

FBN20220011469  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: the table fellowship THE TABLE FELLOWSHIP 1318 W 9TH ST UPLAND, CA 91786, primarily in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY:

CANVAS CHURCH OF UPLAND, INC. 1318 W 9TH ST UPLAND, CA 91786

Mailing Address: 8413 ORCHARD ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

This 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/NATHAN LOBDELL, President

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/16/2022

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, J3108

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 on 12/30/2022, 01/05/2023, 01/12/2023 and 01/19/2023.

FBN20220011390  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PLUMBING 8378 BRITTANY LANE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701, primarily in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY:

PIPE DREAM ROOTER & PLUMBING, INC 8378 BRITTANY LANE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

This Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION registered with the STATE OF CALIFORNIA under the number 2505184

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/DANIELLE LEYTON, Secretary

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/14/2022

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, J3108

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 on 12/30/2022, 01/05/2023, 01/12/2023 and 01/19/2023.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY [Pro-**

**Public Notices**

bate Code Sec. 10300]  
CaseNo. PROSB2100817  
In re the: Estate Of FRED TROY WILLIS

Notice is given that LEHANNA LESHAN GRIMALDI, as Personal Representative of the Estate of FRED TROY WILLIS, will set at private sale subject to confirmation by the Superior Court of San Bernardino, on JANUARY 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Superior Court of San Bernardino 247 W. Third Street, San Bernardino CA Department S37, of the following real property of the Estate:

10800 PLUMAS ROAD RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

Legal Description: TRACT NO. 11606-3 LOT 41 in the City of Rancho Cucamonga, County of San Bernardino, State of California, as per Plat Recorded in Book 188, Pages 1 through 4, Inclusive of Records of Said County. APN: 1076-421-77-0000.

The terms and conditions of sale are: The amount of the sale is \$676,412.00. Deposit of \$15,000.00 with total down payment of 25%, or \$169,103.00. Balance of \$507,309.00 to be financed at 6.375%. AS IS SALE. The required amount of the first overbid is \$710,732.60. At least ten percent (10%) of the amount bid must be paid with the offer, and the balance must be paid on close of escrow after confirmation of sale by the Court.

Bids or offers for this property must be made to the Court at the time and date shown above. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

Dated: November 18, 2022

Signed: Lehanna Leshan Grimaldi

Attorney for Lehanna Leshan Grimaldi:

MARY M. BADER 9227 HAVEN AVENUE, SUITE 368 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

Telephone: (909) 945-2775

Fax: (909) 945-2778 officemarybader@verizon.net

Posted on the San Bernardino County Sentinel website January 4, 5 & 6, 2023. Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel January 6, 2023.

**Notice Of Sale Of Real Property [Probate Code Sec. 10300]**

CaseNo. PROSB2100817  
In re the: Estate Of FRED TROY WILLIS

Notice is given that LEHANNA LESHAN GRIMALDI, as Personal Representative of the Estate of FRED TROY WILLIS, will set at private sale subject to confirmation by the Superior Court of San Bernardino, on JANUARY 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Superior Court of San Bernardino 247 W. Third Street, San Bernardino CA Department S37, of the following real property of the Estate:

10800 PLUMAS ROAD ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

Legal Description:

**Public Notices**

TRACT NO. 11606-3 LOT 41 APN: 1076-421-77-0000

The terms and conditions of sale are: All cash, the amount of the sale is \$676,412.00. The required amount of the first overbid is \$710,732.60 At least ten percent (10%) of the amount bid must be paid with the offer, and the balance must be paid on close of escrow after confirmation of sale by the Court.

Bids or offers for this property must be made to the Court at the time and date shown above. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

Dated: November 18, 2022

Signed: Lehanna Leshan Grimaldi

Attorney for Lehanna Leshan Grimaldi:

MARY M. BADER 9227 HAVEN AVENUE, SUITE 368 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

Telephone: (909) 945-2775

Fax: (909) 945-2778 officemarybader@verizon.net

Posted on the San Bernardino County Sentinel website January 4, 5 & 6, 2023. Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel January 6, 2023.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT BISHOP CASE NO. PROSB2201737**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of ROBERT BISHOP has been filed by TRESE BISHOP in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TRESE BISHOP be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests that the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted into probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held JANUARY 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S37 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: December 22, 2022  
Brittney Spears, Deputy Court Clerk

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 decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a

**Public Notices**

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 section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Filed: December 22, 2022 Attorney for Trese Bishop: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 300 E STATE STREET SUITE 620 REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 8800 sam@pricelawfirm.com Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 6, 13 & 20, 2023.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHNSON HEMBREE CASE NO. PROSB2201751**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOHNSON HEMBREE has been filed by JEFFREY HEMBREE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JEFFREY HEMBREE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests that the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted into probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held FEBRUARY 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S35 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: December 29, 2022  
Valerie Uruena, Deputy Court Clerk  
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 decedent, 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 section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2)

**Public Notices**

60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Filed: December 29, 2022 Attorney for Jeffrey Hembree: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 300 E STATE STREET SUITE 620 REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 8800 sam@pricelawfirm.com Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 6, 13 & 20, 2023.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ANGELINE LEDBETTER CASE NO. PROSB2201711**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of ANGELINE LEDBETTER A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KAPOLANI ANN CASTILLO in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KAPOLANI ANN CASTILLO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests that the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted into probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. No. S-35 at 9:00 a.m. on JANUARY 26, 2023 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

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 decedent, 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 section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2)

**Public Notices**

of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Kapiolani Ann Castillo: ANTONIETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624) 1894 S. COMMERCENT-ER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408 Telephone No: (909) 890-2350 Fax No: (909) 890-0106 Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 6, 13 & 20, 2023.

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2223055**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ANDREA MARIE NUNEZ filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JOSEPH RUBEN SERENA to JOSEPH MICHAEL NUNEZ

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: FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM Department: S16 The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

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.

Filed: 12/7/2022 Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court: Veronica Gonzalez Andrea Marie Nunez, In Pro Per

11786 Cedar Avenue Bloomington, CA 92316 (951) 204-4941 Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023.

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2300040**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JACOB JOSHUA REYES filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JACOB JOSHUA REYES to JACOB JOSHUA DIAZ

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

**Public Notices**

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: FEBRUARY 17, 2023 Time: 8:30 AM Department: S16

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

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.

Brian S. McCarville, Judge of the Superior Court Filed: January 6, 2023 Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court: Brianna Johnson Jacob Joshua Reyes, In Pro Per

Balfour Court Redlands, CA 92374 (909) 557-6536 jacobdiaz204@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NOTICE** FBN 20220011076

The following person(s) is(are) doing business in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY as:

DAMION'S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC 1649 MAGNOLIA AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 9241: DAMION'S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 6709 LA TIERRA BOULEVARD #551 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

Mailing Address: 6709 LA TIERRA BOULEVARD #551 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

Business is Conducted By: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202252019387

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/ DAMION WILLIAMS, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/05/2022

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

Began Transacting Business: September 28, 2022. County Clerk, G8420

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 on 01/06, 01/13, 01/20 & 01/27, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NOTICE** FBN 20220011240

The following person(s) is(are) doing business in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY as:

CAR HAPPY AUTO SALES 170 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVE STE E-127 RIALTO, CA 92376: RAMI ENTERPRISE LLC 7054 HARVEST LN RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

Mailing Address: 7054 HARVEST LN RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

Business is Conducted By: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202253317452

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/ JOSE A RAMIREZ, MANAGER

**Public Notices**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/09/2022

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

Began Transacting Business: November 15, 2022. County Clerk, G8420

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 on 01/06, 01/13, 01/20 & 01/27, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NOTICE** FBN 20220011240

The following person(s) is(are) doing business in SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY as:

CAR HAPPY AUTO SALES 170 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVE STE E-127 RIALTO, CA 92376: RAMI ENTERPRISE LLC 7054 HARVEST LN RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

Mailing Address: 7054 HARVEST LN RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

Business is Conducted By: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202253317452

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/ JOSE A RAMIREZ, MANAGER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/09/2022

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

Began Transacting Business: November 15, 2022. County Clerk, G8420

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 on 01/06, 01/13, 01/20 & 01/27, 2023.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California that the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/20/2023 09:00 AM Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State) 18 HYUN KMHGN4JE-5JU230866 7ZCM893 CA To be sold by AIR EXPRESSWAY TOWING 17393 JASMINE ST VICTORVILLE CA 92395

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale. Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 13, 2023.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California that the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/27/2023 09:00 AM Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State) 17 NISS 3N1A-B7AP2HL646189 646189X CA To be sold by NINO'S NUMBER ONE457 W. 10TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO 92410

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 13, 2023.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California that the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/27/2023 09:00 AM Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State) 14 FREI 3AKJGLD57ES-FN2172 4QM745 CA To be sold by CONTINENTAL RADIATOR 14601 VALLEY BLVD FONTANA 92335

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising

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and expenses of sale. Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 13, 2023.

**SUMMONS - (CITACION JUDICIAL)**

**CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO): CIV SB 2209193**

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**

**(AVISO DEMANDADO):**

LA VERNE HOWARD, Individually and as Successor Trustee to the BEDFORD M. YOUNG AND LORENE H. YOUNG REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST DATED SEPTEMBER 9, 1992

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

FLOYD WIRTHLIN, JR.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entregue esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no le protege. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted puede usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida si secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede

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llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y la dirección de la corte es):

San Bernardino Justice Center 247 West Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Philip H. Dyson, Esq. SBN# 097528 8461 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942 Phone (619) 462-3311 DATE (Fecha): May 27, 2022

Clerk (Secretario), by Charlene Johnson, Deputy (Adjunto) Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel January 13, 20, 27 & February 3, 2023.

FBN 20220011500

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as MY MISSION 30833 LIVE OAK DRIVE RUNNING SPRINGS, CA 92382: MY MISSION LLC 30833 LIVE OAK DRIVE RUNNING SPRINGS, CA 92382

Mailing Address: 30833 LIVE OAK DRIVE 1755 RUNNING SPRINGS, CA 92382

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 201731110010.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ GLORIA WOLCOTT, CFO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/19/2022

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 J3108 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 on January 13, 20, 27 & February 3, 2023.

FBN 20220011404

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as SUNDAYHAIRBAR 921 N MILLIKEN AVE #1016 ONTARIO, CA 91764: OZIOMA ODUNZE 921 N MILLIKEN AVE #1016 ONTARIO, CA 91764

Mailing Address: 30833 LIVE OAK DRIVE 1755 RUNNING SPRINGS, CA 92382

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 6, 2022.

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





The San Bernardino County Sentinel Offers The Lowest Prices For The Publishing Of Legal Notices Among All Of The Newspapers In San Bernardino County

Are you looking to publish a Fictitious Business Name Notice? An Order To Show Cause? Notice Of A Trustee Sale? Notice Of A Petition To Administer An Estate?

Publish your notice at a reasonable rate.

Call (909) 957 9998 for a quote on all of your legal noticing needs.

The Sentinel is a legally adjudicated newspaper of general circulation for both the City of Rancho Cucamonga and San Bernardino County.

Main Business Address & Editorial Office: 10788 Civic Center Drive,

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730



San Bernardino County Sentinel

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

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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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CNB-B22023151R

FBN 20230000075 The following person is doing business as: GENES MARKET & LIQUOR, 103 E. 9TH ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO J.N & J GROUP INVESTMENT LLC 15413 MEMPHIS DR FONTANA, CA 92336 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. 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/ HARWANT SINGH, MANAGING MEMBER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 04, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CNB-B22023141R

FBN 20230000038 The following person is doing business as: PRECISION REMODELING, 866 N THRID PL UPLAND, CA 91786;[ MAILING ADDRESS 2058 N MILLS AVE #633 CLAREMONT, CA 91711]; PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO WILLIAM R CARRASCO 866 N THRID PL 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: MAY 01, 2004 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/WILLIAMRCARRASCO,OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardi-

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no on: JANUARY 04, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CNB-B22023131R

FBN 20230000202 The following person is doing business as: CHAMPIONS DECORATIONS AND CRAFTS, 30979 GRANITE STREET MENTONE, CA 92359 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO FARRAH F CHAMPION 30979 GRANITE STREET MENTONE, CA 92359. 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/ FARRAH F CHAMPION, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 09, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB220231HMT

FBN 20230000179 The following person is doing business as: DALTONS AC, 6810 PLUM WAY RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO DONAL J DALTON 6810 PLUM WAY RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730. 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/ DONAL J DALTON, OWNER

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Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 09, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202310MT

FBN 20230000235 The following person is doing business as: VAZQUEZ PAINTER, 8964 JUNIPER AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO PEDRO A PALESTINO VAZQUEZ 8964 JUNIPER AVE FONTANA, CA 92335; REBECA ENRIQUEZ 8964 JUNIPER AVE FONTANA, CA 92335. 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/ PEDRO A PALESTINO VAZQUEZ, HUSBAND Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 10, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202309MT

FBN 20230000206 The following person is doing business as: CALIFORNIA IRON DESIGN WORKS, 13273 PALMIDA DR, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO RAFAEL A SEGOVIA 13273 PALMIRA DR RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739. 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

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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/ RAFAEL A SEGOVIA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 09, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202308MT

FBN 20230000208 The following person is doing business as: CAR HAPPY, 170 N. ARROWHEAD AVE STE. E127 RIALTO, CA 92376 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO RAMIENTERPRISE LLC 7054 HARVEST LN RIVERSIDE, CA 92506 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 15, 2022 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/ JOSE A RAMIREZ, MANAGER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 09, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202307MT

FBN 20230000012 The following person is doing business as: AQUA POOL MASTICS, 17967 IVY AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO CHRISTIAN R FRIAS 17967 IVY 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: 11/03/2017 By signing, I declare that all infor-

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mation 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/ CHRISTIAN R FRIAS, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 03, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202306MT

FBN 20230000067 The following person is doing business as: DIVINE BEAUTY & BEYOND, 8569 SIERRA AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO LINDA M SOLIS LOPEZ 8569 SIERRA 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/ LINDA M SOLIS LOPEZ, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 04, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202305MT

FBN 20230000197 The following person is doing business as: FANTASTIC WOOD COATINGS #1, 517 W HOLT BLVD ONTARIO, CA 91762 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO FANTASTIC WOOD COATINGS #1 517 W HOLT BLVD ONTARIO, CA 91762. The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names

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listed above on: 09/07/2016 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/ LINDA M. SOLIS LOPEZ, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 09, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202304MT

FBN 20230000027 The following person is doing business as: DIY GLAM LASH, 9340 SANTA ANITA AVE. #105 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO LEGACY CO. LLC 9340 SANTA ANITA AVE. #105 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. 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/ MELISSA Y. BARBOZA, MANAGING MEMBER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 03, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202303MT

FBN 20230000029 The following person is doing business as: PERRY & CO REAL ESTATE GROUP; L PERRY LOANS & HOMES; PERRY RE GROUP; PERRY GROUP PROPERTIES; PERRY REAL ESTATE SERVICES; PERRY & CO REALTY; PERRY-DISE PROPERTIES, 8047 DAY CREEK BLVD. SUITE 100 RAN-

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CHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO LYNN M. PERRY & COMPANY INC. 8626 BUGGY WHIP RD. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701 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/ LYNN M PERRY, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 03, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CN-BB2202302MT

FBN 20230000150 The following person is doing business as: MIAS FACIALS, 16155 FOOTHILL BLVD. SUITE 205 FONTANA, CA 9233513651 KINGS CANYON CT FONTANA, CA 92336 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO MIREYA REYES 16155 FOOTHILL BLVD SUITE 205 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/ MIREYA REYES, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 06, 2023 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 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023, 01/27/2023, 02/03/2023 CNBB2202301R

## Some Who Formerly Crusaded Against Marijuana On Moral Grounds Are Now Cashing In On Its Legal Availability from page 9

marijuana cultivation business operator that he need not fret that the City of Adelanto would discontinue its policy of facilitating the nascent marijuana/cannabis industry, as was demonstrated by Flores not letting the federal corruption charges lodged against Wright and Kerr deter the city in granting marijuana/cannabis-based companies operating permits in the city.

While some of the revenue that was promised to Adelanto as a consequence of its energetic marijuana cultivation and cannabis-product marketing permitting strategy has been realized, there have been multiple complicating factors that have prevented the city from reaping the spectacular financial rewards that have been touted all along as the justification for taking center stage in California's marijuana exaltation.

Indispensable to a marijuana cultivation operation, let alone a thriving one, are dual water and electrical utilities. Adequate light and water are needed to grow marijuana. One condition posed upon licensed marijuana cultivators in Adelanto and virtually everywhere else in the state is that the cultivation take place indoors. Unless a marijuana growing nursery is to incorporate glass greenhouses or buildings with sunroofs, a significant amount of electricity is required to operate high luminescence lights. Moreover, given the deviation from natural sunlight patterns that is used to allow growers to harvest not just one but three crops per year, growers can use as much as 18 to 20 hours of lighting during the vegetative stage of the plants to get them to grow and create adequate leaf development before converting them

to a 12-hour lighting/12-hour darkness schedule to induce flowering. This entails a substantial need for electricity.

Water must be available for irrigating the plants. In many cases in Adelanto, indeed in more cases than not, the properties purchased for marijuana cultivation and provided permits for doing that do not have any utility hook-ups. Some such properties have hook-ups but those are not adequate for the industrial scale cultivation the owners of the businesses intend to carry out. Consequently, those businesses have lain fallow, have not produced any actual income for the business operators and have not generated any revenue for the city beyond the initial fees paid for the application process and basic operating permit.

Moreover, the record keeping and accounting the city has undertaken to monitor the marijuana-related and cannabis-related businesses permitted in the city is plagued by inadequacies. In some cases, it appears that fees were either waived or their payment delayed. The listing of businesses between 2018 and 2019, between 2019 and 2020 and between 2020 and 2021 is inconsistent. The accounting on receipts for six businesses in 2019 is not provided or unavailable. The accounting on 13 businesses in 2020 show no receipts or wholly unavailable information.

In 2018-19, the city reported collecting \$268,457 in gross receipts from its cannabis tax. In 2019-20 the city reported collecting \$600,000 in gross receipts from its cannabis tax, which was more than the \$100,000 it had projected receiving at the start of the fiscal year. In 2020-21, the city reported collecting \$1,500,000 in gross receipts from its cannabis tax, which came in above the \$500,000 the city projected it would receive. In 2021-22, the city reported collecting \$2,085,000 in gross receipts from its cannabis tax, which was below the

2,545,000 the city hoped for at the start of the fiscal year. In 2022-23, the city is projecting it will bring in \$1,950,250 in cannabis tax.

In Fontana, Mayor Acquanetta Warren has been a central political figure since she was appointed to the city council in 2002. She was then elected to the council in her own right in 2004, reelected in 2008 and elected mayor in 2010 and thereafter reelected mayor in 2014, 2018 and in 2022. A no-nonsense pro-law enforcement Republican and close Donald Trump associate, Warren from the outset of her time in public office took a stand against allowing cannabis to seep its way into her city. She repeated over and over her adamant opposition to allowing dispensaries to set up in Fontana. She reiterated that principle in the aftermath of the 2016 passage of Proposition 64. Marijuana, for either medical or recreational purposes, is not going to be for sale in Steel Town, she vowed.

That commitment was made before her "friend," Bill Postmus went to work on her two years ago. Warren has now come to understand that marijuana is the wave of the future, and resisting that reality is pointless, she maintains.

After years of blocking the city council from considering or even so much as discussing permitting any form of commercial cannabis activity in the city, Warren consented to the council taking up an ordinance on the issue at its July 12, 2022 council meeting. That ordinance calls for the city continuing to ban, at least for the time being, cultivation, manufacturing, testing labs or combined operations. The city will, however, permit business that engage in the sale of the final product by delivering it to customers or by selling it out of no more than three brick-and-mortar locations, one of which is to be located north of Baseline Avenue, another between Baseline and Valley Boulevard and another south of Valley

Boulevard.

Warren had authorized Assistant City Manager Phil Burum to state, during the presentation of the ordinance prior to the city council's discussion and vote, that city leaders had come to the conclusion that cannabis liberalization entailed "community benefits in the form of income to the city generated by legally authorized cannabis retailers." Those benefits would include, Burum predicted, "additional police officers... social services... [and] general community benefits," which he said would extend to funding "park maintenance and upgrades" and city "operational expenses."

During the council discussion, Warren utilized an explanation that Postmus suggested she make, one that implied that she was not opposed to marijuana use by members of the public now that she understood, after having assimilated the results of the vote on Proposition 64, that it was her constituents' will that it be made available to those who want to use it.

"I have researched this issue for years since this first came up," she said. "I was in shock when they released the data on the voting when this first came before all of us in the state. Fontana came out high in terms of supporting this effort."

She made no repetition of her past insistence that pot smokers were moral reprobates and that use of the drug would transform normal and functioning people into indolent and aimless personalities, burdening the society with costly problems that could not be redressed before she voted to approve the ordinance.

In January 2021, then-Sheriff John McMahon had his department embark on an aggressive and concerted marijuana eradication effort that would subsequently, in September 2021, be dubbed "Operation Hammer Strike." It targeted unlicensed and unpermitted marijuana cultivation activity. Generally speaking, the operations pursued

by McMahon's department were ones located within the desert areas of the county. Initially, that effort was primarily carried out in the Mojave in the area mostly west and northwest of the San Bernardino Mountains, in the areas in and around Cajon, Phelan, Pinon Hills, Oak Hills, Hesperia, Baldy Mesa, Victorville, Apple Valley, Lucerne Valley, Oro Grande, Helendale, Silverlakes, Hinkley, Four Corners, Barstow, Yermo, Newberry Springs and Ludlow, with occasional forays elsewhere, including some bootleg farms in the San Bernardino Mountains and operations in the metropolitan areas of the county.

The lion's share, indeed virtually all, of the operations taken down were ones that were outdoors, functioning in the relative open, generally using sunlight to cultivate the plants, with a handful involving glass greenhouses. In some cases, the natural sunlight was augmented with artificial lighting. In some cases, the operators of the farms were pirating electricity through bypasses, tapping into nearby power lines or rigging connections to electrical outlets on nearby properties. Virtually all involved questionable diversions of water, including thefts from nearby systems or drafting water through existing wells outside the required reporting of that water use to the Mojave Water Agency as was required under the adjudication of water rights in the region that took place in the 1990s.

The sheriff had been encouraged in that effort by local officials as well as then-Assemblyman Thurston Smith, who represented the High Desert in Sacramento.

The board of supervisors took note of what McMahon had begun and in June 2021, just prior to McMahon's resignation as sheriff, which was followed by the elevation of Undersheriff Shannon Dicus to replace him officially beginning in July 2021, the supervisors at the last minute adjusted

the 2021-2022 county budget with a \$4 million earmark generically intended for "code enforcement," but which was meant to empower Dicus to continue with Operation Hammer Strike.

By that point, the program had begun to range beyond the western Mojave and had moved over to the desert area east of the San Bernardino Mountains, including Johnson Valley, Landers, Wonder Valley, Twentynine Palms, Desert Heights, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin.

Dicus and his department were lauded for the effort.

Supervisors Paul Cook and Dawn Rowe, in whose First and Third supervisorial districts the county's desert area is located, were among the most vociferous elements in advocating action to shutter the illicit marijuana farms.

In some cases, those planting marijuana on a patch of ground out in the desert did so on property they actually owned or had some right to occupy. In many instances, the farms had materialized on land without the knowledge of the property owners. Boldly, banking on the possibility that an absentee landowner would be unlikely to visit property located in such remote reaches of the county's harsh desert outback very often, outlaws would trespass without regard for the implication of what they were doing and the violent reaction their action might provoke.

In some cases, the cultivators went to elaborate and dangerous lengths to protect their crops from poaching or interference, including arming themselves and those overseeing the crops, booby-trapping the periphery of the cropland or the property involved and threatening, intimidating or outright assaulting adjoining or nearby property owners.

To ward off plant-eating bugs, growers commonly utilize pesticides during the growing process, which when used unregulated, injudicious-

*Continued on Page 17*

## Inbody's Survivability As FUSD Superintendent Will Depend On How Well She Can Navigate Fontana's Fickle Political Waters *from page 8*

that he would make a suitable superintendent and that he would prove amenable to her dictates.

There were three votes on the school board supporting Warren in her favoring of Bassett - Matt Slowik, Peter Garcia and Jesse Armendarez. Armendarez had first been elected of the school board with Warren's assistance in 2014 and who was vying, again with Warren's support, assistance and guidance, for the Fontana City Council in 2016. School board members Mary Sandoval and Jason O'Brien, however, were less than convinced that Bassett would make the best superintendent, concerned that he was being promoted less because of his comprehensive qualification to lead the district and more because he would be a rubberstamp for anything that Warren wanted done.

The Cosca Group, meanwhile, was being methodical in its recruitment, interviewing and vetting of candidates, and would not allow itself to be stamped into making an early recommendation. By the time the Cosca Group had completed its rankings and recommendations of those competing for the position, which included Bassett, the 2016 election season had unfolded and proceeded to its conclusion, during which Armendarez had proven successful in his candidacy for city council. It was not until December 14, 2016, which was the day after Armendarez's December 13 swearing in as city councilman, that the Cosca Group presented its findings to the school board. It had been both Warren's and Armendarez's hope that the board would be able to come to a quick agreement, based upon the rankings of the can-

didates presented by the Cosca Group, to hire Bassett as the district's full-fledged superintendent. While there was a general impression that Bassett was a good fit or perhaps, given his lengthy history with the district and his institutional knowledge, the best fit for the district, the board held off on making the appointment that night, primarily because the agenda for that meeting did not clearly specify that a hiring decision was to be made during the course of the meeting, and appointing anyone as superintendent on the spot could be construed as a violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California's open public meeting law. Instead, the district scheduled a hearing to decide on whether the board should ratify an employment contract with Bassett for its meeting on January 18, 2017. So intent was Warren that Bassett should be hired as the superintendent that she was not willing to risk Armendarez resigning from the school board at that point, which would have reduced the school board to four members, thus creating a possibility that Bassett might not be confirmed as superintendent. Armendarez, having already taken up a position on the Fontana City Council, asserted that California did not clearly designate being a council member and a school board member in overlapping jurisdictions as incompatible. He carried on as if he could remain as a member of the school board. What Armendarez was doing went against the advice of then-Fontana City Attorney Jeffrey Ballinger and Fontana Unified School District General Counsel Mark Thompson, both of whom said that he was out of step with the "incompatibility clause" contained in California's Government Code and that simultaneous holding of a position on a school board and city council where the borders of the district and city are congruent, coterminous, common

or overlap constitutes the holding of incompatible offices and is a violation of Government Code Section 1099. Two of the school board's members - Mary Sandoval and Jason O'Brien - objected to Armendarez's intransigence, while members of the community were preparing to go to the California Attorney General's Office to initiate a quo warranto proceeding which would ultimately, they said, force Armendarez to give up either his council post or his school board position. In the meantime, and until such a remedy could be applied, Thompson said, Armendarez had the school district over a barrel because under California's Government Code and Elections Code, a position held by a duly elected official cannot be vacated until the officeholder officially resigns, even though elsewhere in the Government and Elections Code the holder of incompatible offices forfeits the prior office he holds upon entering the second elected office. Even though Fontana's city attorney was both privately and publicly counseling Armendarez and Warren that Armendarez had to give up his school board position, Warren encouraged Armendarez to stand firm. Despite all of the grumbling and contretemps going on around him, Armendarez continued to serve as both a councilman and school board member until January 18, 2017, at which point he voted, together with board members Matt Slowik and Peter Garcia, to hire Bassett, with Sandoval and O'Brien voting in opposition. Thereupon, Armendarez resigned. In this way, Bassett came into office beholden not only to Armendarez, Slowik and Garcia, all of whom were members of Warren's political machine, but Warren as well. Over the years, in response to Warren's dictates, ones which were conveyed quietly and out of public view, Bassett did his best

to comply with them. In time, Garcia, like Armendarez, was promoted by Warren and elected to a position on the Fontana City Council, where he is now a member of her ruling coalition. At present, there are two members of Warren's political machine serving on the city council - Joe Armendarez, who is Jesse Armendarez's brother, and Adam Perez. At the same time, the board currently boasts three members - Mary Sandoval, Marcelino "Mars" Serna and Jennifer Quezada - who do not automatically fall into Warren's camp.

Bassett's ascendancy to the superintendent's post was an outgrowth of the Warren political machine's once-ironclad grip on the district. His descent was paralleled by the waning control Fontana City Hall, which is yet dominated by Warren, now exercises at the district. Nevertheless, Warren still exercises control over two-fifths of the school board. It appears that as the power struggle between the city's divergent political factions intensified, an atmosphere evolved in which Bassett's continuing tenure as superintendent became questionable.

Exacerbating the circumstance was that this summer an administrative investigation into the conduct of then-Fontana School Police Detective David Wibert, who had been with the district since 2008, was reaching a critical stages. Wibert was accused by Officer Christian Shaw of having punched an unruly Summit High School student in 2012 and had been unreasonably aggressive toward a student involved in the district's Fontana Leadership Intervention Program. Shaw maintained that District Police Sergeant Dennis Barnett had for years failed to rein in Wibert.

The degree to which Bassett needed to navigate treacherous political waters is illustrated by the consideration that Wibert is the son of former Fontana City Coun-

cilwoman Lydia Salazar Wibert, who was one of Acquanetta Warren's rivals on the city council.

As the factions never allied with Warren were examining the action the district took under Bassett's administration that were forced upon him by the Warren team's previous command over the district, Bassett found himself scapegoated for those policies that were no longer operative or which had questionable applicability with only two of Warren's extended team members on the board.

Without fanfare and without explanation, Bassett ceased to be a presence at the district in early July 2022. It was announced a few weeks later that he would leave the district as of August 1, 2022. In the immediate aftermath of Bassett's absence, Ryan DiGiulio, the district's associate superintendent for business services replaced him. Beginning in September, with the new school year under way, Juan M. López served as interim superintendent. He is now to be replaced by Inbody.

Whereas Bassett was a technocrat, Inbody is an academic. Bassett, who began with the district in 1998, was an educator but handled the nuts and bolts of running an organization on the business side, handling issues relating to finance and communications technology.

Inbody earned her bachelor's degree, master's degree and administrative services credential from Cal State San Bernardino. She taught in the Fontana Unified School District in the 1990s and later took on the role of assistant principal and principal with the district. She left the district to go to the Redlands Unified School District in November 2011 as the director of curriculum and instruction and moved into the assistant superintendent post overseeing educational services in July 2013 administrative role in the district office. She then returned to Fontana Unified in July 2017 as an associate superintendent

of teaching and learning. In October 2020 she was hired as the assistant superintendent of education support services with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools since October 2020.

Inbody was educated in the Fontana Unified School District, where she attended Maple Elementary, Alder Junior High and graduated from Fontana High School. She studied at Chaffey College before attending San Bernardino State.

"Like many," Inbody said in a press release from the district, "I am an example of Fontana's hope for all their students. We are resilient, compassionate and committed. My personal and professional journey has prepared me to serve Fontana Unified School District and lead it to its next level. Having been raised in Fontana, I know firsthand the struggles of many of our families. As a first-generation college graduate, I am proof that success in school is not dependent on your zip code nor conditions in your home."

"The Board of Education is proud to bring back home one of its own students and employees to lead the district," Serna, who is at present the board president, said. He said that Inbody "is known as a strategic leader with strong collaborative leadership skills. She has an unwavering belief that all students have promise, as well as a history of refining and improving curriculum and instruction."

In November 2022, Serna and Sandoval, who are not members of Warren's political network, were reelected, as was Perez, who is aligned with Warren. In 2024, the terms of Armendarez and Quezada will expire.

If Warren succeeds in getting Armendarez reelected and can field a candidate who is successful in replacing Quezada, it is likely that Inbody's tenure as superintendent will end shortly thereafter.

## Sheriff Preventing Bootleg Marijuana Growers' Crops From Reaching Maturity Assists Licensed Cultivators, Who Are Paying Off Politicians, To Function At A Profit from page 15

ly or indiscriminately can represent an environmental hazard.

In myriad ways, the illicit marijuana farms represent a hazard to the well-being of county residents, most particularly those who live in the area where the illegal activity is taking place and the property owners whose land has been commandeered, who are therefore subject to danger when seeking to access their own property, either by armed and hostile intruders or by the booby traps strewn about their land, some involving particularly vicious means, including explosives and anti-personnel ordinance that can blind, maim or kill, not to mention the legal risk a property owner uninformed in any such cultivation on his or her property is subject to if law enforcement officers or prosecutors resolve to redress the situation on the assumption he or she is involved.

For those and other reasons, the effort by the department, first under McMahon and subsequently under Dicus, was and is positively received.

Nevertheless, there are aspects to it that are highly problematic.

One consideration is the cost effectiveness of the effort.

A factor at play is what is accomplished by having law enforcement expend its resources in chasing down marijuana offenders in the current legal atmosphere.

Previously, arresting a prolific marijuana grower, if followed by what was at that time likely to be a successful prosecution, could put the offender into prison for years, with a five-year sentence at the low end and more typical sentences running to closer

to ten years. Today, the penalty for growing marijuana, even in massive quantities, is comparatively slight.

Proposition 64 made it legal for anyone to grow up to six plants. Furthermore, it reduced the penalty under California law for illegal cultivation of more than six cannabis plants from a felony to a misdemeanor with a maximum six months in jail and no more than a \$500 fine, whether the cultivation in question consisted of seven plants or 70 or 700 or 7,000 or 70,000. Law enforcement officers' reward or incentive for engaging in marijuana interdiction no longer consists of getting a perpetrator off the streets for an extended period of time and thus making life on the streets safe for law abiding citizens. Rather, that reward amounts to simply reducing the flow of marijuana to the public, a seemingly meaningless accomplishment considering the flood of marijuana flowing through the marketplace.

For decades, while marijuana was a strictly illegal substance, law enforcement was in constant pursuit of those who were importing, smuggling and transporting it; growing it and refining it into concentrated forms such as hashish and hash oil; warehousing, wholesaling and retailing it; and those buying, possessing and smoking it.

Law enforcement over the years had obtained information about the culture that had grown up around those they were pursuing, and they applied protocols, means, methods and technologies, including the development and adaptation of devices and equipment, scientific and otherwise, to ferret out where marijuana is being grown, stored, stashed or used.

For their part, traffickers, cultivators, dealers and users had been equally, and in some cases even more, observant of those who were pursuing them. Those who purchased and sold marijuana, particularly in high volumes as a way of life, ran the risk of

spending many years, indeed more than a decade in some cases, in prison. Yet over the decades, beginning in the 1960s among those who smuggled and sold the drug and starting in the 1970s among those who were cultivating it, a degree of sophistication had developed which included the means of countering the methods and technologies being used by law enforcement against marijuana offenders. No sooner would authorities find or adapt some technical innovation they could and did use in their favor in the anti-marijuana campaigns they and their colleagues throughout the country were undertaking than the traffickers and dealers would learn of it and adopt an offsetting strategy or technique of their own to stay ahead of those who were pursuing them.

A case in point was, and is, the application of multispectral imaging.

In addition to covering the range of light visible to humans in the 380 nanometers-to-780 nanometers wavelength range, a multispectral device is capable of further detecting electromagnetic wavelengths beyond what the human eye can capture, including those in the ultraviolet spectrum ranging from 10 nanometers up to 380 nanometers as well as those in the 700 nanometers-to-1,100 nanometers near infrared range, 1,300 nanometers-to-3,000 nanometers mid-infrared range and the 3,000 nanometers-to-1 micrometers far infrared range.

The radiant green coloration of marijuana is distinct from that of in excess of 99.9872 percent of all other known and cataloged plants on Earth. By installing a multispectral imaging device in combination with sensors in helicopters or airplanes and flying those craft at what has been determined to be an optimum altitude, spotting marijuana patches of even less than moderate size has been a method employed by law enforcement agencies in the United States in marijuana eradication efforts

at least since the 1990s, the effectiveness of which was refined in the following decade, such that it was once considered virtually impossible for growers to have their crops elude detection if the aerial multispectral imaging strategy were deployed in their area of operation.

Nevertheless, marijuana growers have learned that by surrounding and intersticing their marijuana plants with a combination of other plants with foliage which the human eye recognizes as ranging between darker greens and lighter yellow greens, detection by multispectral imaging can be defeated.

A decidedly low tech means in the arsenal of law enforcement that has been used to collar drug dealers and drug mules for nearly two generations are drug sniffing dogs. Dogs have between 125 million to almost 300 million smell receptors – giving them a sense of smell on average of roughly forty times as sensitive as that of the average human. Certain breeds of dog at the higher end of that scale which are trainable make excellent search dogs, ones that can be programmed or specialized to look for many different substances, including explosives or drugs. Employed in this way, dogs can be used to ferret out marijuana, which is a particularly pungent commodity. This makes those trafficking in marijuana particularly vulnerable to detection, no matter what lengths those attempting to hide it by vacuum packing it, encasing it in multiple layers of surrounding material, or freezing it go to.

Still, sophisticated operators in the marijuana trade have long known that by storing their marijuana in a place where the approach to it entails a limited set of choke points through which a dog must pass, using a combination of blood laced with a variety of substances including alum, gunpowder or a variety of particulates/powders soaked in certain industrial solvents

or chemicals spread about that entrance, a dog's acute olfactory power can be temporarily deadened upon getting a literal snootful of what has been left for it.

Well beyond 95 percent of the activity of the officers involved in Operation Hammer Strike has been devoted to locations in the desert. The obvious success of that effort, attested to in the impressive volume of marijuana seized, nevertheless belies the substantial amount of marijuana being grown elsewhere in the county unmolested. In particular, marijuana is being grown in the mountains of San Bernardino County as well as in what are generally industrial settings in the county's urban areas. In both the San Bernardino Mountain and the San Gabriel Mountain ranges flourish outdoor operations of varying sizes. Meanwhile, inside warehouses or what pass for warehouses in the county's larger cities, cultivation is ongoing.

Again and again in the cases of the operations going undeterred by the law enforcement effort, sophistication is the watchword. The farms in the mountains are in located in out-of-the way, remote areas, made difficult to access by natural geographic features and visually obscured by verdant mountain vegetation. In some rare cases, marijuana farms of near plantation scale exist, which has prompted some to remark that it is hard to believe they are not being operated without protection by the sheriff's department.

Those operations sustaining themselves and their perpetrators below the radar of law enforcement are as often as not controlled by either those who for years, indeed decades, were able to grow marijuana when cultivation of the drug was an out and out felony and were yet able to avoid detection or members of the succeeding generation who were mentored by them.

Of note is that a large number of those individuals rolled up in Operation Hammer Strike were

foreigners, most notably immigrants from Mexico and China, in a majority of cases, the *Sentinel* is told, ones who did not or only barely spoke English. Many of these individuals were working for a relative handful of crime network leaders or kingpins, ones who would set up the operations but not be involved in the actual day-to-day cultivation of the plants, who therefore eluded being arrested themselves.

Occasional takedowns of cultivation operations in the county's urban areas occur, generally in residential areas where a home has been converted to an indoor nursery. In such circumstances, hundreds or even upwards of 1,000 plants have been discovered, growing under intense artificial light, generally in what are four-month planting-to-harvesting cycles. Oftentimes, the operations are given away by excessive electricity use.

Indoor farms often using hydroponics in industrial buildings located within industrial zones are far harder to detect. In such a setting, heavy electrical use will appear to me more in keeping with ostensible industrial operations taking place on the property and consistent with neighboring industrial uses. To further avoid ending up on a watch list of suspicious activities or possible cannabis production, operators can augment the building in question with solar panels that will provide some, though not all of the electricity needed for powering lights. In addition, gasoline or diesel-powered electrical generators can be used during daytime without arousing suspicion in an industrial zone, further reducing dependence upon the local electrical utility provider, eliminating a telltale indicator that could result in, for the operator, unwanted scrutiny.

Thus, just as the race in life generally goes to the swiftest, it should not be surprising that the competition to grow marijuana at a profit without being subjected

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## A Month After Yucaipa Installs A New Council, City Manager Out On A 3-to-2 Vote

Amid a degree of confusion as to along what lines the still-forming factions on the Yucaipa City Council divide, City Manager Ray Casey, who has served as city manager since he was elevated from the city engineer's position in 2008, tendered his resignation Monday.

Casey's departure comes a month after Matt Garner and Chris Venable were installed as council members and a month after they were elected in a contest in which the then-longest serving members of the council, David Avila and Greg Bogh, had opted out of seeking reelection.

Any interpreting of what the impetus for Casey's departure was is likely to be problematic, as the common policy of confidentiality that attends issues relating to public agency personnel issues prevents the emergence of a clear picture of what went into the sudden change in senior staff

at Yucaipa City Hall. It is complicated by the application of what appears to be a cover story intended to protect Casey, a narrative which propounds that he voluntarily retired.

Known details about the circumstance, however, contradict that.

In October, Avila, Bogh, Councilman Bobby Duncan, Councilman Justin Beaver and Councilman Jon Thorp unanimously voted to extend Casey's contract at least until June 30, 2024 and provide him with a 3 percent salary increase that would jump his salary to \$299,420, such that he would be making \$422,901.50 in total annual compensation, putting him among the 25 highest-paid city managers in California.

On Monday night, however, the city council in a divided 3-to-2 vote, accepted his resignation. Thorp and Venable dissented in that vote, while Beaver, Duncan and Garner accepted it.

Algebraic deduction based upon the general circumstance, the October vote, what occurred Monday night and hurried statements made Monday night by Beaver, who is now serving in the capacity of mayor, and Duncan followed by a press release assembled by Shane Massoud, the city's public information officer, on Tuesday morning indicate that Casey's performance was deemed satisfactory by Avila, Bogh and Thorp, who in October acted to give Casey a modicum of job security by extending his contract. A logical inference is that Avila, Bogh and Thorp knew both Beaver and Duncan were not as sanguine about Casey as they were, and they recognized that with Avila and Bogh's then-pending departures, Casey's termination might be in the offing. It would thus appear that Garner was persuaded that Casey's departure at this point is in the best

interest of the Yucaipa community.

Several Yucaipa residents sought Monday night to dissuade Beaver, Duncan and Garner from what they were intent on doing, to no avail. Those included former Planning Commissioner Denise Work, Kathy Sellers, Cecelia Johns, Robin Miskin, Kevin Miskin, George Sardeson and former Yucaipa City Councilman Dick Riddell.

After Casey was deposited on a 3-to-2 vote, the council voted 5-to-2 to sack City Attorney David Snow. Those votes took place during a closed session.

Assistant City Manager Jennifer Crawford is to fill in for Casey on an interim basis. Casey and Snow are ultimately to be replaced, respectively, by Chris Mann and Steven Graham, who are the city manager and city attorney with the municipality of Canyon Lake.

Monday night, Beaver and Duncan put out

a press release in which they justified the action the council majority took and beamed about the talents of Mann and Graham.

"Following an election this past November in which the voters of Yucaipa elected two new members to the city council, the council is taking decisive action to move Yucaipa forward," Beaver stated. "The council's first step involved making changes to the city's executive leadership team."

Beaver said Mann, the president of the Yucaipa Valley Water District, "has the right relationships to help our city work collaboratively throughout the region for the benefit of Yucaipa residents."

"This is a big win for our city," stated Councilman Duncan in the press release. "We need new eyes on this city to effectively tackle recent budget challenges, organizational issues, and to aggressively address

rising crime and homelessness. We were able to bring on a proven leader who is already invested in our community because he lives right here in Yucaipa, saving the city tens of thousands of dollars that a nation-wide search would have cost local taxpayers. What's more, we found someone who will take a business-minded approach to the job of running the day-to-day operations of our city, yet someone who also has an abundance of local government experience."

In a follow-up press release the next day, Beaver was quoted as saying, "We truly appreciate and recognize the significant contributions of Mr. Casey during his service to Yucaipa. Over the past almost 20 years, Ray worked with a number of city councils to make tremendous progress toward evolving our community, continually improving quality of life for our residents while enhancing public safety."

### Holohan Assumed Prominent Redlands Family Involved In Development Would Not Countenance An Outsider Candidate's Campaign Signs On Its Commercial Property *from page 8*

a supplemental report by Detective D. Frisch, who interviewed William Buster, Sr. on November 11, 2022.

According to Lomelin, he was working uniformed patrol when he was contacted by the department's dispatch center about the report of the theft of a Stepien campaign sign. He said he made phone contact with Olson, who indicated that the Apple Air Tag showed the sign located at Holohan's residence on Sonora Court. While en route to Sonora Court, Lomelin's report states, he was contacted by Olson, who informed him that the sign had been relocated to Thomas Street. There, Lomelin wrote, he confronted Bell, whose front yard featured a Holohan sign. Lomelin recounted that Bell acknowledged she was in possession of some Stepien signs when he told her the Apple Air Tag at-

tached to one indicated it was in that location. Bell, he said, led him to her garage where she handed over to him four Stepien signs, including one outfitted with an Apple Air Tag.

Lomelin's report indicates Bell stated that Holohan had permission to post her signs at 1150 Brookside Avenue, that she believed Stepien did not have such permission, that Holohan had told her to remove the Stepien sign from 1150 Brookside Avenue and for those reasons she had taken possession of the sign. Lomelin wrote that he issued Bell a citation for violation of PC 484(a), petty theft.

According to Martinez's supplemental report, he received a text message from Holohan on the night of October 17 in which she sought to speak with him. He responded by text the following morning, ac-

ording to his report, and then spoke with Holohan, who informed him of Bell's arrest/citation. He told Holohan, Martinez's report states, that "campaign sign theft has been a problem for several years and that RPD [the Redlands Police Department] has been proactively addressing the issue that last couple of years. I told her the chips were going to have to fall where they fall."

Martinez's report states he then contacted both William Buster Jr. and Mark Buster to ascertain whether Stepien had permission to post a campaign sign on their property.

According to Martinez, in his initial statement Mark Buster told him that he knew about what had happened the previous night. He said he, his brother and his father decide "as to whether people can put political campaign signs on the property. In this instance, to his knowledge, nobody gave Erin Stepien permission for one of her signs to be placed on the property. He told me that Patty Holohan

(sic) had called him during this election cycle to get his permission for her campaign sign to be placed on the property which he granted."

Martinez's report stated Mark Buster told him "that it has been family tradition to not pick sides when it comes to who can place signs on the shopping center property. The family has made the decision to be non-partisan and not get involved in political conflict. He stated that if somebody from Erin Stepien's camp had called him to get permission to place a sign on the property, he would have given that person permission [and that] if he would have seen Erin Stepien's sign up, he would not have taken it down nor would he have given anybody permission to take it down. He stated nobody ever called him to get permission to take Erin Stepien's sign down."

According to Martinez's report, subsequently Mark Buster called to tell him that he had learned that his father had given the Erin Stepien campaign permission

to post a sign at the shopping center.

In his exchange with William Buster Jr, Martinez in his report stated, he was told "Patty [i.e., Holohan] received permission from his brother Mark to place a political campaign sign on the shopping center complex property [and] Nobody has asked him to place a sign at the complex. William told me that the family prefers people to ask permission to put a sign up at the complex but people do not always do so. Like his brother, William stated the family will not remove a sign that has been placed without permission unless the corner starts to get cluttered. In the case where the corner gets cluttered, he has removed signs that are placed without permission but has never taken them or thrown them away. He simply lays them flat next to the other signs so that the owners can retrieve them."

According to Martinez, "William told me that nobody called him to get permission to take down Erin Stepien's

sign."

In Detective Valdivia's supplemental report, Valdivia indicated he and Detective Frisch met with Patricia Holohan at the Bricks and Birch coffee shop on the afternoon of October 18.

According to Valdivia, Holohan told him and Frisch that in placing her signs during a campaign, "She asks permission from the property owner. She advised that she is longtime friends with the Buster family. The Buster family owns the property at 1150 Brookside. Holohan reached out to Mark Buster via text message. She retrieved the text message that was on her cell phone. Holohan turned the phone in my direction, displaying the text as she read it to Det. D. Frisch and me. She advised that the Buster family had supported her for many years, through many of her past elections. They even contributed to her campaign. She was confused as to how the Buster family would support Erin Stepien if they were already supporting

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## Rowe Succeeds Hagman As Chairperson Of The County Board Of Supervisors

On Tuesday, January 10, Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe was unanimously chosen by her fellow supervisors to serve as chair of the Board of Supervisors for the next two years, succeeding Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman. First District Supervisor Col. Paul Cook (Ret.) was unanimously chosen to serve as board vice chairman, succeeding Rowe in that role.

“Over the next two years, I will work hard to strengthen our local economy, ensure that public safety remains a top priority, and improve the quality of life for all San Bernardino County

residents,” Rowe said. “I am grateful for this new opportunity and look forward to continuing my work as the supervisor for the Third District.”

“The board is in great hands,” Cook said.

Rowe will preside over board of supervisors meetings, sign contracts approved by the board, and work to set the board’s agendas.

“We have a great team up here and a lot to be proud of,” said Fifth District Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. Speaking to Rowe he said, “You do a great job being responsive to your district. I look forward to seeing that applied to the

whole county.”

“I think we have an opportunity to do great things in our community,” said Second District Supervisor Jesse Armendarez.

Hagman has the rare distinction of having been chosen by his board colleagues to serve two consecutive terms as chairman.

Within the county hierarchy, Hagman was lauded as a champion of innovation in public service through the use of the latest technologies as well as exploring fresh approaches to government processes in pursuit of better results and efficiencies.

licited money from them but received it in return for his assurance that their applications would be processed and the permits granted. At least one applicant signed a sworn affidavit to that effect. That applicant and others made public statements at videotaped city council meetings, ones in which the police chief, acting police chief, assistant police chief and other police officers were in attendance.

Neither the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, which serves as the police department for the City of Adelanto, nor the San Bernardino Police Department evinced any interest in pursuing the evidence that some Adelanto and San Bernardino city municipal officials were on the take in the midst of the frenzy in both cities to blend commercial marijuana activity into the economies of their cities. In the face of evidence that former San Bernardino County Supervisor/Assessor turned lobbyist Bill Postmus is greasing the way for would-be, or has already done so for existing, marijuana and cannabis entrepreneurs in their efforts to set up operations in Needles, Adelanto, Hesperia, San Bernardino, Fontana and now, reportedly, Barstow, the county’s law enforcement agencies appear completely disinterested in examining his activity for criminal

County officials note that on Hagman’s watch, the county won more than 250 state and national awards for leading other counties in service, innovation and efficiency. He was praised for creating Innovate 2020 program to spur county departments toward better solutions to consistent challenges and rebranding the county’s Information Services Department to the Innovation and Technology Department to emphasize its role in employing technology throughout the county organization to speed the delivery of public services.

Hagman received further kudos for lead-

intent or actuality. Rather, the prevailing attitude among those charged with enforcing the law appears to be that those former drug outlaws who are now working within the confines of the new ethos of marijuana liberalization are free to do so, using means of inducement to get their permits and licenses, as long as they are taking care of someone in the political establishment.

In the spring of 2021, just a few months after then-Sheriff John McMahon launched the effort now known as Operation Hammer Strike, he and his department came in for criticism because of the perception that his department’s concentration on closing down “illicit” marijuana growing operations in the desert was being done with the intent of reducing the availability of marijuana in San Bernardino County and Southern California generally, such that the cost of marijuana, subject to the law of supply and demand, would escalate. This would give, those assessing McMahon’s action and questioning his motivation said, the established licensed and permitted marijuana entrepreneurs in the county, who in reality had multiple alternate sources for the marijuana they were retailing, a pretext for raising their prices, thereby increasing their profits and enabling them to make even larger

ing the county through the COVID-19 pandemic and the establishment of the COVID-Compliant Business Partnership Program, which provided cash grants to businesses struggling to meet state-imposed mandates and Bernardino County being one of the first counties in the state to offer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Some in the county, however, found Hagman’s tenure less than satisfactory.

After the county’s residents voted in 2020 to reduce each supervisor’s total annual compensation to \$60,000, he and the board sued their own employee, the clerk of the

payoffs to the politicians they had already paid off to get their permits and thereby lock in their already-extant near monopolies.

On June 8, 2021, McMahon came before the Apple Valley Town Council where he presented a briefing on his department’s marijuana eradication efforts. Without dwelling on retail operations, the sheriff said there was concern about how the unlicensed and unpermitted growers were cutting into the profits of the operators who had obtained clearance to cultivate marijuana on an industrial scale.

The growers his deputies were arresting and whose farms they were shuttering and whose plants they were uprooting were, McMahon said, “in direct conflict and competition with the legal growers that are paying taxes and paying fees to the city to operate. It is obviously impacting their business.”

While there was praise for the department’s efforts, there was equally virulent criticism that McMahon, through his department, was benefiting both the growers and sellers who had obtained their licenses by bribing city officials to obtain those permits and that he was enabling politicians such as Wright, Woodward and Kerr and the politicians in Adelanto who had succeeded them and were now perpetuat-

board, to prevent the vote from going into effect, thus thwarting the will of the voters and keeping each supervisor’s \$270,000 per year total compensation intact.

Under Hagman’s leadership, former Supervisor Bill Postmus has solidified his status as the most powerful lobbyist in the county, with tremendous sway over land use and business permitting decisions.

“On behalf of the entire board, we have enjoyed your leadership,” Rowe told Hagman. “I appreciate you leading us through all that you did. You’ve set an example for all of us to follow.

ing the pay-to-play atmosphere there as well, not to mention Valdivia and the politicians who were linked up with Postmus in creating a marijuana cartel that was functioning from within the government as opposed to the drug cartels of yesteryear which were at odds with the government.

Two weeks later, McMahon announced he would step down as sheriff. He anointed his undersheriff, Shannon Dicus, as his successor. Dicus, with the support of the \$4 million in added funding for the marijuana eradication effort in the 2021-22 budget, moved into the sheriff’s position on July 16, 2021 and committed to the continuation of McMahon’s effort eradicating the illicit marijuana cultivation activity in the county under the label Operation Hammer Strike. The three prime movers in moving the \$4 million into the county’s code enforcement fund to allow for the intensification of what became Operation Strike – Fourth District Supervisor and Chairman Curt Hagman, Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe and First District Supervisor Paul Cook – had been the guests of honor and the beneficiaries of a fundraising event at The Tartan in Redlands sponsored by Postmus on April 1, 2021.

An illustration of *Continued on Page 20*

### Diverting Legal Marijuana Profits To Politicians Creates A Structure For Licensed Holders Of Commercial Cannabis Operations To Establish A Virtual Monopoly *from page 17*

to the taxing and permitting regimes that have accompanied legalization of the substance favors the more sophisticated.

Not only does that appear to be the case with those making their way in the world by growing marijuana illicitly or, as it were, without a license or permit, it is equally applicable to those who have scratched their way to the top of the heap as licensed or permitted growers or sellers of the drug. In the three cities in the county where both marijuana cultivation and retail sales have now been established as a significant line item in the tax revenue for those entities – Needles, Adelanto and San Bernardino – the initial phase of the changeover to allowing for cannabis commercialization called for, at least initially, an application process and some form of competition among those applicants for what was supposed to be or still is a limited number of permits. In very short order, questions arose about the fairness and integrity of those application and competitive processes. Indeed, almost immediately there were widespread suspicions, particularly in Adelanto and San Bernardino, that the application process

had been compromised and corrupted by the readiness of applicants to offer and the willingness of municipal officials to accept, money in exchange for allowing one applicant or another to cut in line in front of other applicants or for the expediting or simply the outright granting of a permit. In the case of Adelanto, that something untoward was going on was evident by the number of applicants filing into City Hall with briefcases containing cash or applicants handing Mayor Kerr’s wife cash-stuffed envelopes during city council meetings. That graft was a reality in Adelanto was confirmed by the FBI’s arrests of, the U.S. Attorney’s prosecution of and the eventual convictions of Councilman Jermaine Wright and Mayor Rich Kerr on bribery charges stemming from the commercial marijuana permitting process in their city.

In San Bernardino, those suspicions would be buttressed by the several applicants for marijuana-related and cannabis-related business permits who came forward to regale the public, city staff and other members of the city council about how Mayor John Valdivia had not only so-

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## **There Was No Criminal Intent In Stealing Her Opponent's Campaign Signs, Holohan** *Says from page 18*

her campaign. She stated that she had a large sign placed on the corner. The large sign cost her \$300. Holohan advised that the sign was placed there four weeks prior to our conversation."

Valdivia's report continues, "On Monday, October 17, 2022 while driving she noticed that there was a small Erin Stepien campaign sign posted to the front of her sign, blocking hers. She stated that she became upset because based on her conversation with Mark Buster she knew that Erin had not asked for permission to post the signs on his property. Holohan stated that she called Mary Bell and told her 'Mary there's another sign to be taken' because it was on private property. Mary Bell acknowledged ok, confirming that the property belonged to Mr. Buster. Based on our conversation she was under the impression that because Stepien didn't have permission to post signs at the location she could remove it."

According to Valdivia, "Holohan explained that Mary Bell and John Jacobs are employed by

her campaign to post her campaign signs and removed the signs they posted at the conclusion of the election. She stated that she obtains permission for the owner of the property before posting the signs. Holohan stated that on the evening of the theft Mary Bell did stop by her home prior to police contacting her. She stated that later that night she was advised by Mary Bell that she was arrested for theft because she took the campaign sign. Holohan stated that she did ask Mary to take the sign, referring to it as a honest mistake, but didn't know at the time. Holohan stated that she was devastated by Mary's arrest, calling Mary a honest lady, referring to the fact that she told police about the other campaign signs." Valdivia's report continues, "She sent Mark Buster a text message outlining the arrest for asking Mary to remove the sign. Buster informed her again that he had not talked with Erin Stepien about her placing signs on the property. He informed her that he would look into it. Holohan stated that she was later informed that in talking with other family members of the Buster family, Mark learned that William Buster Sr. had given Erin Stepien permission to post her signs."

Valdivia's report states, "I asked her what

was her intention to do with the signs. She said that she wasn't going to do anything with them. I asked if she was going to throw them away. She replied once again that she wasn't going to do anything."

Ultimately, Valdivia's report states, "Holohan stated that she believed the right thing to do was to give them back."

Valdivia's report states that he "explained that even though she didn't take the sign she could be culpable for directing Bell. I further explained that this report would be forwarded to the district attorney's office for review."

On October 19, 2022, according to Valdivia's report, he contacted Erin Stepien by phone. He asked Stepien about who in her campaign sought permission to place her campaign sign on the property at 1150 Brookside Avenue. He was referred to Olson.

Valdivia then contacted Olson by phone. "Olson stated that she didn't contact the Buster family," Valdivia's report states. "She informed me that it was a campaign volunteer by the name of Dorothy Lohman. On October 19, 2022 at approximately 1051 hours I contacted Lohman. [Lohman] stated that she was the person that contacted William Buster Sr and obtained permission

to post the campaign sign on October 17, 2022."

In a supplemental report by Detective D. Frisch, the detective said he was tasked on November 11 to obtain a statement from William Buster Sr. relating to the October 17 removal of Stepien's sign. When he did so, according to Frisch, "Buster said he could not remember the exact date, but approximately a month before this incident he received a phone call from a female who identified herself as a representative from the campaign of Erin Stepien. Buster said the female asked him for permission to place a campaign sign, for Erin Stepien, at his commercial property, located at 1150 Brookside Ave. Buster said he told the female 'yes' and that was the content of the entire phone call. Buster said he does not remember the female's name but that

she did introduce herself as a representative from the Erin Stepien campaign. Buster said he has always given permission to people, over the years, who have asked to put up campaign signs during elections. Buster said he does not take sides and only appreciates when people ask him permission. Buster said he did not receive a phone call from Erin Stepien's opponent, Patty Holohan, but said he would have told her yes too because he does not take sides."

On November 8, Holohan, with 5,371 or 53.45 percent of the 10,049 total votes cast, prevailed over Stepien, who polled 3,138 votes or 31.23 percent and Ogunrinu, who brought in 1,540 votes or 15.32 percent.

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office has not, as of this morning, filed any criminal action against Bell or Holohan, ac-

cording to the San Bernardino County Superior Court's website.

At the Tuesday, January 10 Redlands Unified School District board meeting, some of Stepien's supporters and critics of both Holohan and the board generally called for the district to take action with regard to the October 17 incident and for Holohan to resign.

That's not going to happen, Holohan said.

"I'm committed to continuing my work here the next four years on the Redlands School Board alongside with my fellow board members to continue to work with parents and students, teachers, RTA [the Redlands Teachers Association], RESPA [the Redlands Educational Support Professionals Association, which represents the district's non-teaching employees] and our amazing staff," she said.

## **Marijuana Schizophrenia from page 19**

the paradox or absurd reality of the situation – what some might otherwise term the collective schizophrenia that has been brought on by the marijuanification of San Bernardino County – consists of the recent drop in the price of marijuana that has followed the intense marijuana

eradication effort known as Operation Hammer Strike.

Despite the breathtaking success of the department stamping out marijuana being grown out in the open in the desert's vast expanses, the wholesale price in marijuana has plunged in recent weeks and months.

In January 2021, when McMahon began the department's push to shut

down as many illicit marijuana growing operations as the department could identify, cultivators were selling a pound of marijuana for \$1,700. In recent weeks, despite the sheriff's departments Herculean effort at reducing the supply, the wholesale price that cultivators are getting for a pound has dropped to \$700.