

After Nearly 4 Decades, County Yet Letting Lytle Creek Infrastructure Lag

By Mark Gutglueck

Moving on toward a decade after Lennar Development was given what was termed an ultimate deadline by the county to complete a host of already long-delayed infrastructure construction and improvement assignments for its original Lytle Creek North and subsequent Rosena Ranch, Joanna Ranch, Sycamore Creek, Rose-na Place and Sky Ridge

subdivisions in the Lytle Creek/Sycamore Creek/Devore area, several of those public improvements remain uncompleted.

Difficulties with the project and its overwhelming infrastructure needs stretch back for more than a generation. In the intervening time, the county and neighboring jurisdictions, which include Fontana and Rialto, have likewise failed

to ensure that offsite improvements meant to facilitate transportation, flood control and other basic services have remained abreast of the ongoing development in the area. At this point, residents of the subdivisions that have been completed over the years are imporing the county's land use division to disallow any further development until those infrastructure projects are completed in

full.

A 2,000-lot subdivision in Lytle Creek was first approved on September 16, 1985 and then later amended on June 3, 1991, allowing for extensions on the timeline for public improvements due to what were deemed "extenuating circumstances," consisting primarily of the recession that had gripped the United States from August 1990 through

March of 1991. Underlying what was then the immediate financial paralysis had been the long-festering issues of creating adequate infrastructure on land located in an alluvial creek lying in the geographical gap between the San Gabriel Mountains to the west and the San Bernardino Mountains to the east, in particular the need to ensure that all of the houses to be construct- See P 3

With A Break In Mountain Blizzard, Officials & Residents Trying To Restore Normalcy

A lull this week in the severity of the succession of weather systems that hit San Bernardino County's mountain communities for ten straight days provided a respite from the record hardship those who have chosen to live in the region's highest altitudes experienced late last and earlier this month.

Beginning on February 22, more than 100

inches of snow fell on various spots in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains in back-to-back-to-back storms, not letting up until March 2, icing major roads and leaving them impassable. Conditions were even worse within the internal communities of Crestline, Lake Gregory, Blue Jay, Lake Arrowhead, Cedar-pines Park, Cedar Glen, Valley

of Enchantment, Arrow-bear, Sugarloaf, Twin Peaks, the county district of Big Bear and the incorporated city of Big Bear Lake, with cars buried in snow to the point that even when snow-plows did reach where they were, often those cars would be damaged and rendered undrivable after the snowplow hit them. The sheer weight of the falling snow began

causing damage to natural gas lines, resulting in fires and explosions. That weight proved too much for many roofs. Ones that were flat in many cases collapsed. Even some roofs that were slanted were not immune from damage, and many developed water leaks, a complicating factor in an environment where the temperature in some areas might peak

in the low 40s by day and become subfreezing at night. More than 15,000 people found themselves stranded near the mountain top in the San Bernardino Mountains on the east and in Mt. Baldy and Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mountains on the west with dwindling or no food, medicine and other supplies while residents of those areas who had See P 2

When Political Reform Is Selectively Framed & Then Selectively Enforced, It Isn't Political Reform

By Jon Coupal

Over the years, my *California Commentary* column has exposed the myriad ways that the California Legislature enacts laws, not for the public benefit, but to cement progressive political power with one-party rule. A lawsuit filed last week in the Sacramento Superior Court illuminates yet an-

other example.

A coalition of business groups is challenging Senate Bill 1439

Guest Commentary

(Glazer), signed into law last year. The legislation, which took effect on January 1, requires city and county elected officials to recuse themselves from certain decisions that

would financially benefit any entity or person that donated over \$250 to that official's campaign in the past year.

Specifically, SB 1439 amends the Political Reform Act of 1974, which prohibits an officer of an agency from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$250 from any party while See P 7

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Balks At Giving Joshua Trees Endangered Status

In an announcement that rankled environmentalists and heartened developmental interests and the politicians they bankroll, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday revealed that it will not list Joshua trees under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The declaration that the two types of plants commonly known as Joshua trees – one with

the scientific name of *yucca brevifolia*, referred to in common parlance as the western Joshua tree, and the other known by botanists as the *Yucca jaegeriana*, called the eastern Joshua tree – is the second setback at the federal level in the last four years for those seeking to insulate the distinctive plants from encroaching development and climate

change.

Environmentalists in 2015 asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to study the status of the trees, their fragility and prospect for survival, seeking a determination that the Joshua Tree is threatened and therefore in need of certain protections. That examination, which be-

Reports Of Mayor Leon's Demise Were Greatly Exaggerated, He Says

Rumors were spreading throughout Ontario this week that Ontario Mayor Paul Leon had a heart attack and was on death's doorstep while under specialized treatment at a hospital in Hawaii.

In various versions of this narrative, in short order he was to be relieved of his position as mayor by Councilman

Alan Wapner or such a transition of authority had already occurred.

The truth, Leon says, was no less dramatic or arresting, but without the dire results that were in the story making the rounds.

Indeed, Leon related, he had earlier this month experienced a cardiac incident, which was the culmination of See P 7

gan during the Barack Obama Administration, extended itself into the Donald Trump Administration. Slightly more than halfway into President Trump's tenure in office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the listing "not warranted."

In response, the environmental group WildEarth Guardians contested that determi-

nation and filed suit in November 2019 in the Central District of California, challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision, arguing that the agency failed to consider multiple climate models and improperly discounted the best available science with regard to Joshua tree reproduction and dispersal. This week's outcome means See P 3

Hillwood's Acquisition Of Fontana Acreage Means Demise Of Racetrack

More than 50 years after the ultimately unsuccessful effort to establish Southern California as world-class professional racing venue, officials have once more given up on that Quixotic dream.

This week, San Bernardino County officials threw in the towel on the quarter of a century-long effort to have the Fontana Speedway take its place on the world stage with the likes of Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Daytona, Le Mans Circuit de la Sarthe, Shanghai International Circuit, Circuit de Monaco and Bristol Motor Speedway.

Ross Perot Jr's Dallas-based Hillwood Development Company and Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis Investment Management acquired the 433-acre property for just under \$560 million, it was announced this week. Simultaneously disclosed was that Hillwood, which in the last three decades has acquired almost 250 million square feet of land which it has developed or otherwise converted into industrial/warehousing or logistics space/operations along with developing 90 residential communities nationwide, is intent on transforming the property now known as Auto Club Speedway into what is referred to as a "logistics hub." Word was that 6.6 million square feet of the property will be utilized as warehousing, logistics facilities and trucking/transport headquarters. The property falls within 2.5 miles of the I-10, I-210 and I-15 freeways, and is immediately adjacent to the Burlington Northern Santa See P 14

As Government Officials Took On The Heavy Lifting In Relieving & Rescuing Residents Caught In The Blizzard of '23 While Prohibiting Volunteer Groups From Assisting, Residents In The Mountains' Most Remote Areas Registered Protests That The Response Was Inadequate *from front page*

sojourned down the mountain to their day jobs found themselves unable to return home for, in some cases, nearly a week. An impromptu effort by Good Samaritans down the hill in amazingly short order accumulated several tons of foodstuffs, propane and even medicine to resupply those trapped in place. They coordinated with the California Disaster Aerial Response Team, known by its acronym CalDART, to have those supplies, including food, baby formula, propane canisters and blankets, flown to Mountains Community Hospital in Lake Arrowhead or to ad hoc distribution centers in the midst of those places hardest hit by the storm in well-maintained helicopters flown by licensed pilots who are skilled, trained and experienced in making emergency landings in forbidding terrain and circumstances.

CalDART managed to dispatch four flights with those supplies to the mountains, at which point the sheriff's department, citing safety concerns, refused to allow CalDART to participate further, leaving a growing store of foodstuffs and other critical supplies on the grounds of San Bernardino Community Hospital.

In multiple cases, snowplows proved ineffective or themselves became stuck, hindering travel rather than facilitating it. In scores of cases, even though the snowplows made their way through to certain points, emergency vehicles such as fire engines could not follow them.

At one point, the sheriff's department, gamely and in coordination with the fire department, the California Division of Forestry, the California National Guard and the California Office of Emergency Services,

began escorting convoys up the mountain, ones that included specially outfitted tractor-trailer 18 wheelers carrying groceries destined for the Stater Brothers markets in Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead. Those traveling collectives moved at a depressingly slow pace, and in any event progressed only so far into the mountain communities, leaving the more remote areas normally accessible by narrow roads completely iced over and snowed in.

Those roads, normally a lifeline to the homes along them and at or near their ultimate terminuses, proved useless. For more than ten days in many cases and for as much as two weeks in others, they could not be traversed.

There had been some anticipation by the third week of February of the storm to come, as the National Weather Service had predicted that the conditions the region was facing would create a circumstance that would likely blanket the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains with snow. According to San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey, the fire department and the sheriff's department had "pre-put" equipment and supplies in place in anticipation of the storm, but the sheer intensity of Mother Nature had overwhelmed those preparations and those who had made them and relied upon them.

The sheriff's department, fire department and county public works had positioned "resources prior to this event," he said. The fire department and sheriff's department "worked together to make sure we had every available piece of specialized equipment, including Snow Cats for the emergency," he explained. "As the blizzard was ap-

proaching, we were increasing staff. We went to the State of California and asked for prepositioning resources. The State Office of Emergency Services gave us additional dollars to up staff. The weather came in much worse than it's ever been anticipated in Southern California, and it severely impacted our communities. It wasn't just one weather event. It was several weather events that were stacked on top of each other. Despite our best efforts, we were still immovable in a lot of cases."

The Snow Cats Munsey referenced are vehicles that use tracks rather than wheels to mobilize and are therefore ideally suited to maneuver in an arctic-like environment where the ground is completely covered in snow.

"To access emergencies, we deployed eight Snow Cats across the mountaintops," Munsey said.

According to San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus, the Snow Cats performed more than adequately in the hostile snow-covered mountain environment, but were in short supply.

"We found that vehicle, because it has tracks, to be the most effective at getting us and the fire department to the areas that we need to be," Dicus said on March 3.

With people blocked in by the walls of snow along the roads immediately outside their residences and the snow drifts blocking the larger roads that led from the main highways into the mountains to the smaller residential trails, together with the consideration that the snow plows themselves created berms of snow, sometimes compacted, that were extremely difficult to break through, reaching people trapped in their homes proved a challenge.

If not miraculously then still fortuitously, means of communication for the most part remained intact, such that so-called reverse 9-1-1 calls were made by which workers at the

region's emergency dispatch center were able to contact residents to verify that they were okay. The system further allowed calls for help to come through. According to Sheriff Dicus, as of the morning of March 3, there had been 24 calls for service from Wrightwood, 154 calls for assistance from the Big Bear County area and 295 calls from the City of Big Bear Lake, as well as 24 calls from residents in Lytle Creek and Mt Baldy. By far the most substantial number of calls for help – 786 – came, he said, from Twin Peaks. "These are the folks most affected by the deep snow falls," he said at the time.

As a consequence, according to Dicus, a concentrated effort to relieve that particular area was made, as his department added 15 personnel to the Twin Peaks Station and outfitted them with one of the Snow Cats. In addition, the department contacted over 100 residents about transportation, particularly in the area of Cedar Pines Park and the Valley of Enchantment, which were very harshly hit by snow. A total of 17 people from those areas who simply did not have the supplies to be able to sustain themselves requested to be removed from their homes. The department complied.

In the initial stages of the crises, reports were that deaths were being avoided, or put another way, that deaths resulting directly from the storm had not been reported. Late this week, however, word has come that there were at least 13 deaths across the mountain tops, in Mt. Baldy and in Wrightwood during the time corresponding with the storm. While not all of those deaths have been fully evaluated as to cause, only one has been confirmed as occurring as a direct outcome from the storm, and in that case the death came as a consequence of a traffic accident which grew out of hazardous conditions resulting from the weather.

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The coroner's office, which in San Bernardino County is a division of the sheriff's department, had made findings as to the likely causes of death in only six of the cases, returning preliminary analyses that the storm had been a contributory factor in the death of only that one involving the aforementioned traffic accident. In all of the other evaluated cases, the department used this language: "No evidence the weather, lack of food, or other resources contributed to the death" in rendering its conclusions.

In one of those cases, however, there was a suggestion that the cold had been a condition that complicated the circumstances that led to the death of 33-year-old man in Arrowbear pronounced dead at 53 minutes after noon on March 3. According to the coroner's website, the deceased had a less than fully known but nevertheless complicated medical history and there was, to all appearances, "No trauma or suspicious circumstances" in what was an "apparent natural death at home" in which the "33-year-old male [was] found dead in [a] bedroom by family. He was last seen alive the night prior. History of limited medical conditions. No trauma or injuries seen. There was no indication the weather or a lack of food or resources contributed to the death."

From shortly after the storms hit, there has been criticism leveled at county and state officials

by some of those in the mountain communities over what has been characterized as an anemic and inadequate response to the circumstance and poor planning and preparation ahead of time.

Megan Vasquez, who is something of a community activist within Crestline, noted that as of March 6 the roads in Crestline had yet to be plowed. Vasquez hinted that Crestline, which is populated by residents of a lower income level than some more upscale places in the mountain community, had been ignored.

The shortage of Snow Cats, which would have provided far greater access to the remote and snowed-in areas of the San Bernardino Mountain communities, was a symptom of the lack of preparation, some residents lamented. They said at least two dozen of the vehicles and probably more were needed by the county's emergency responders to be able to reach those most at risk. And both they and the National Weather Service insisted detailed meteorological data had been available to indicate what was coming at least as early as February 22. A blizzard warning was issued at that time by the National Weather Service, which had been sending daily weather briefings to local and state emergency management agencies since early in February. On February 12, the National Weather Service had issued a winter

Continued on Page 4

Equivocation On Whether Grand Terrace Senior Residence Will Become A Halfway House

By Mark Gutglueck

More than a week after the concerns of many Grand Terrace residents that a drug rehabilitation center or what was termed a halfway house is going to locate in their low-key community appeared to have been allayed, there persists a suggestion the sale of what was an assisted living facility for senior citizens will result in that complex transitioning into a far more intensive use.

At present, Vista Blue Mountain offers various onsite services and amenities for residents, including weekly house-keeping, laundry service, outdoor seating, shuttle service, activities and medical and personal services.

The *Sentinel's* inquiries with individuals familiar with the current and projected future nature of the Vista Blue Mountain Assist-

ed Living & Memory Care facility was met with a ghostly silence this week, a week after anxious Grand Terrace residents queried city officials about reports that the 88-unit live-in and specialized care residence for senior citizens located within a two-story, 49,025-square foot building at 22325 Barton Road was to be converted to a drug treatment center for young adults or teens. Two postings to that effect had been displayed on a social media platform beginning on February 26.

According to those postings, in essence, the current residents of the facility had been given a 60-day notice to vacate to make way for a new set of younger residents, including parolees and troubled youths and young adults undergoing drug rehabilitation.

Bobbie Forbes, a Grand Terrace resident

and real estate agent, and Cindy Bidney, another Grand Terrace resident, came to the February 28 Grand Terrace City Council meeting to learn from city officials what they could about the change in ownership and future use of the facility.

"I was told through the grapevine, so I haven't confirmed it yet, that it is no longer going to be a senior facility," Forbes said, referencing Vista Blue Mountain. "It is going to be kind of like a drug rehab and a place where people coming out of jail will live. It will not be gated. My heart is racing now and for the three-and-a-half hours since I heard this. I'd like to know what the council knows, what staff knows. I know buildings do sell. I might have to retire or sell my house and move because I don't think I want to stay here if that's what comes. I'm almost without words tonight re-

garding this. This place that's going to come into Blue Mountain Vista is scary. You think our crime is a problem now? We only have one deputy [currently patrolling the 3.5-square mile city]."

Bidney said she had heard that "It's going to be used by ex-cons who are getting out of jail and [to give] drug addicts a place to live."

Stating, "I'm saddened because that place was home for a lot of people and I have a dear friend who lives there," Mayor Bill Hussey called upon City Manager Konrad Bolowich to provide what information he had regarding the matter.

Bolowich sought to assure Forbes and Bidney and anyone else concerned about the makeover that their misgivings were not grounded in actuality.

"The facility has sold," Bolowich confirmed. "From our dis-

cussions with the buyer, the intention is they are using it for adult rehabilitation, not drug addicts, not convicts. Adults with head injuries, not necessarily seniors or a convalescent hospital but adults that require care of a medical nature. It is not a rehab building. It's not a convict housing building. So, they're changing the age bracket, not the purpose of the building."

Some accepted Bolowich's reassurance, and the issue seemed to have receded.

The *Sentinel's* effort to retrace the information and assertions in the social media postings that had led to the questions being asked by Forbes, Bidney and others as well as Bolowich's statements confirmed that the sale had indeed taken place, with the seller, Blake Parsons and his company RBP Communities, which owns

and operates Vista Blue Mountain and a similar 69-unit assisted living and memory care facility in Salinas called Vista Harden Ranch, having been paid \$12 million by the buyer, MHRE Grand Terrace LLC., and its agent, John Ramsbacher.

MHRE Grand Terrace LLC was veiled in a degree of secrecy, having existed for only three months after being set up as a Delaware Corporation by Ramsbacher, it appears, solely for the purpose of making the transaction with RBP Communities/Parsons.

In digging deeper, the *Sentinel* by email contacted Betty Domini, the founder and chief executive officer, and Kamal Grewal, the chief operating officer, of Alamo Senior Living Management. Alamo Senior Living Management manages both Blue Mountain Vista

Continued on Page 7

Nearly Four Decades Of Delinquent Infrastructure In North Lytle Creek from front page

ed had foundations that were at least one foot – no less than 12 full inches – above the 100-year flood plain, meaning that the residences to be built would be immune to flooding that would be statistically likely to occur, based on flood level predictions from historical records, no more than once every century.

The land is located in an area comparable to a funnel in which, during even a moderate deluge, water sloshes onto it off of the west side of the San Bernardino Mountains to the east and off the east side of the San Gabriel Mountains to the west, to say nothing of the water coming its way from the Cajon Pass to the north. In this way, all of the homes in the subdivision as well as those in the neighboring 8,400-home Lytle Creek Ranch development on 2,000 acres adjacent to the shuttered historic El Rancho Verde Golf Course and Country

Club during rainstorms find themselves inundated. Moreover, soon after the road system to the area was completed, it would be learned that the intense flooding the area was subject to would greatly compromise its road asphalt.

Once the project was under way in earnest in the late 1990s and first decade of the Third Millennium, Lennar requested multiple extensions of time to complete the required levee and road and drainage improvements.

Neither Lennar nor the county were willing to acknowledge that in taking on the project that Lennar had bit off more than it could chew and that to adhere to modern development standards, completing the project would require the construction of infrastructure which would be likely to approach or exceed the proceeds to be gained from selling the homes in the subdivision to available buyers. The original Tract No. 15900 was partially re-subdivided into Tract 18402 in a questionable effort to get around those infra-

structure construction requirements. Still, the remaining requirements were daunting.

On May 19, 2009, the county board of supervisors partially reduced the initial road and drainage performance securities for the Lytle Creek Levee improvement from \$10,449,000 to \$2,099,800. On June 15, 2010, the board reduced the performance securities for the Sycamore Creek Drive road and drainage improvements from \$7,506,000 to \$1,501,200.

As part of the original Tract 15900 sureties, Lennar agreed to complete the required Lytle Creek Levee improvement and Sycamore Creek Drive road and drainage improvements by July 13, 2012. After Lennar missed that milestone and cited the downturn in the housing market in requesting the suspension/delay/waiver of that deadline, the board of supervisors on September 11, 2012 granted an extension of time which moved the completion date from July 13, 2012 to July 13, 2013.

A significant permitted delay in Lennar's performance was again granted by the county on May 29, 2013.

"This extension of time is retroactive due to delays in receiving approval documents from other agencies," said Tom Hudson, then the director of the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department. "This extension of time will allow Lennar until July 13, 2014 to complete the required improvements. Lennar has paid the required deposit for the extension of time. The department is satisfied that the secured amounts are sufficient to complete the construction of the required Lytle Creek Levee improvement and Sycamore Creek Drive road and drainage improvements and therefore recommends approval of this extension of time. The flood control district's operations division is satisfied that the Lytle Creek Levee improvement is currently in good standing and therefore recommends approval of this extension of time. The performance secu-

rities will be held until Lennar completes construction of the required improvements and the board accepts the construction. The labor and materials securities will be held until six months after the board accepts construction of the improvements and the department verifies that no liens have been filed with the clerk of the board."

The board of supervisors went along with Hudson's recommendation.

Some county residents have observed that a succession of county officials, primarily the supervisors that have served since 1985 – John Joyner, Bob Older, Cal McElwain, Jon Mikels, Robert Townsend, Larry Walker, Barbara Cram Riordan, Marsha Turoci, Jerry Eaves, Kathy Davis, Dennis Hansberger, Fred Aguiar, Bill Postmus, Paul Biane, Patty Aguiar, Clifford Young, Gary Ovitt, Josie Gonzales, Brad Mitzelfelt, Neil Derry, Janice Ruthenford, James Ramos, Robert Lovingood, Curt Hagman, Dawn Rowe, Paul Cook, Joe Baca Jr and now Jesse Ar-

mendez – have been overly accommodating of a development imperative wherever speculators and real estate interests deign to invest their money, even in such cases where the cost of providing the infrastructure to facilitate that development is prohibitively expensive. This has often entailed, they point out, shifting the financial burden of paying for the up-front construction of that infrastructure from the developers who profit from that building to the residents or homebuyers who purchase the finished product those developers create.

A methodology for doing this has been the use of Mello-Roos and Marx-Roos fees.

Mello-Roos and Marx-Roos fee structures are used to fund so-called community facilities districts, which are formed pursuant to a vote involving landowners within the confines of the district, in virtually every case, before the homeowners that will live in the district and be required to pay those fees, live there.

Continued on Page 5

Despite Herculean Efforts By Local & State Officials, Some Mountain Residents Remained In A Prolonged State Of Isolation *from page 2*

storm warning.

Between February 25 and March 2, according to the National Weather Service, Big Bear Lake experienced 134 inches of snowfall, Crestline had 99 inches and Forest Falls, which is on the east side of the mountains but at a lower altitude than Big Bear, was covered with 70 inches of snow. Near Mt. Baldy, which is on the south side of the San Gabriel Mountains, there was something on the order of 115 inches of snow, which resulted in an eventual avalanche that closed Mt. Baldy Road. Wrightwood, on the northern side of the San Gabriel Mountains, got off with a less intense storm than many other mountain communities but still was covered to a depth of 60 inches in snow.

Irene Ennis, a medical caregiver who lives in Running Springs, told the *Sentinel* on Sunday March 5, "One of my clients is 76, has COPD and high blood pressure. She has been out of meds for almost 10 days. The Rite Aid up here is closed because the roof is compromised. She cannot get out of her house. The roads are not plowed. Her friend, who lives in Redlands, offered to get her prescription filled at the Rite Aid there and bring it up to her. He tried to get them to her, but the sheriff's office will not allow him up the mountain to give them to her. I've spent five days trying to work around this problem. The sheriff's office offered to remove her from her home. I finally got the prescription moved to the CVS in Lake Arrowhead, which is just a few miles from her house. I contacted the sheriff to ask if they would please deliver her medicine to her. The answer was a resounding 'No!' They will go to her house to remove her but not to deliver medica-

tion."

Ennis continued, "We called the county 'hot-line' looking for help and they kept saying they would call her back but never have. This entire situation with the county is incredible. They are totally inept."

Evan and Laura Tischofer from Crestline told the *Sentinel*, "We have a Ford F-350 and have had it chained up since Friday [February 24]. We have traveled the mountain each day as our truck was one of the few that could get around since this started." The Tischoffers said a couple that is staying with them and one of their neighbors have "gone around, asking if anyone needs anything. We have shoveled driveways and dug vehicles out so our older/elderly residents can get to their doctor appointments and get what they need. We have been shoveling snow stacked 10 feet high, cars buried with five feet of snow on top. The roads are slowly getting plowed. They have started with one car length of space, which means that two vehicles coming opposite direction have to inch around each other or one backs up for wider spot of the street. At this time, there aren't a lot of vehicles out besides the crews working because a lot of residents remain on streets that are unplowed or not plowed at all in Valley of Enchantment and the areas higher up. Currently, it seems that most of the streets in Crestline surrounding the town area where Goodwin's was have now been plowed to the asphalt, however only wide enough for one vehicle. Our street remains barely plowed. The plowing has been a process as the snow was so thick on the ground that after a few days it freezes into hard ice. Each time they go by – with many trees laden with snow that falls on the street, folks shoveling driveways, and now a new storm has arrived – the plows continue to push away new snow and find themselves having to go by several times to get to asphalt.

Our street, a bowl road, which is close to the town, remains the only one in the surrounding area yet to be down to asphalt."

The Tischofers reported that though they are "grateful for the presence" of the sheriff's deputies, fire department personnel, the California Department of Transportation workers, the National Guardsmen and the California Office of Emergency Services workers, "it seems that the planning and execution of help has been below expectations."

After the failure of the Goodwin's grocery store roof, the Tischofers reported, "The building was leveled to the ground. That meant that the only place where residents could get food and necessities was no longer an option. We have a few liquor marts and a 7-11 and those were quickly emptied out as residents were panicking about getting food and supplies. There are a few grocery stores higher up the mountain but the roads were very treacherous and residents were unable to get to them because their cars were buried and the streets were unplowed."

Residents in the higher elevation areas of the mountain have, the Tischofers said, experienced "higher levels of snow and have been unable to get to their local market or grocery store. We still have not heard about how they are being handled. It snowed for seven days total, with Tuesday night, the 28th, providing the heaviest snow fall. It has been an astounding sight. Our truck has taken quite a beating trying to navigate treacherous unplowed roads and fitting through a narrow space on each side. The narrow space is okay when the road is down to asphalt but since most roads were not cleared at all until yesterday (Sunday March 4), the truck was sliding all around the road, even with chains on. It is a miracle we didn't hit any parked cars. We now need to replace the clutch and

the windshield has been deeply scratched and therefore compromised. We are grateful we have been lucky enough not to lose electricity and that we can continue our endeavors to provide needed help."

"However," the Tischofers wrote, "our last gripe is the road closures for all highways down the mountain. Residents are running out of food, us included, and we, and everyone else cannot drive down the mountain all the way to the grocery stores below to bring food and necessities because the roads are closed to everyone except emergency delivery trucks and those who are designated to help. The California Highway Patrol posted a warning that downbound highways are open but residents who leave the mountain are at a great risk of being unable to return at all or being delayed for hours."

Laura Tischofer said that clearing the roads and getting food to those who are on the brink of starvation should be a priority. "Emergency personnel can do so much at a time, and so people like my husband and myself are sitting with our hands tied and frustrated about it because we could be adding to that help by bringing food back for residents."

She said, "It has been a tumultuous experience. From snow on our deck reaching the roof to the loss of the grocery store to the love and gratitude I have for this community for coming together once again to help each other, it has tightened the bond between my husband and myself."

San Bernardino County Chief Executive Leonard Hernandez told the public during a videotaped exposition, "Hindsight is always 2020. Even though I believe the team did an amazing job of mobilizing before, if the National Weather Service ever issues a blizzard warning again, we will take a different approach immediately. We've never

had one before."

Sheriff Dicus asserted that he, his department, the county and state agencies were being unfairly maligned over the response to the storm's challenges, emphasizing that the first responders were making an earnest effort to alleviate the circumstance.

"You think that you may not see snowplows and a number of other things," Dicus said on March 3. "Folks, we're here for you. We're gonna dig you out and we're coming. We are making tremendous progress. I saw this from the air yesterday. The roads are being cleared. There are snowplows everywhere and you are going to see direct relief coming to your doorsteps shortly."

Dicus asked for patience, saying, "We have to follow the process. And I like to describe the process as our state highways are like arteries. Then you go down to county roads, which are like veins, and you go to individual services and homes that are like capillaries. Those services and homes that people need to access are blocked by walls of snow. So, even though we're making progress, we still have to knock down those walls, get peoples' driveways cleared, get businesses cleared, and a number of things. We're making huge strides in that area."

There was reaction from many people, including those living in San Bernardino County and well outside California, including ones who live in places where dealing with harsh winter conditions is second nature, who dismissed the criticism of the governmental officials as both unrealistic and immature.

The internet service provider Yahoo featured for its users a number of articles and video snippets relating to San Bernardino County's mountain conditions that had been published or run by local news and media outlets, newspapers and television stations which contained both direct and implied

criticism of the government's emergency response to the storm. One of those, a reprint of an article that ran in the *Los Angeles Times* which quoted mountain residents describing their sense of isolation amid a less than effective relief effort by local and state authorities, had garnered 859 comments by the *Sentinel's* press time, the majority of which suggested the mountain residents quoted were being too harsh in their condemnation of governmental authorities and emergency workers.

"This is like people who live along the coasts and don't evacuate when given ample time of a hurricane and then blame the government," said one.

Offered another, "The problem is the people who don't plan or try to help themselves. Anyone who has run out of food in a week or two failed to plan. Anyone trapped in a car failed to listen to warnings. Anyone who abandoned a stuck car in the road added to the problem."

"I suspect many of these super critical residents would have been super critical if last year the county had wanted to purchase extra equipment 'in case' there was a super storm," one individual stated. "Tax dollars wasted!" Sometimes even the best preparations are not enough. I would suggest that they thank the public employees who worked long hours in very uncomfortable and trying circumstances for doing their jobs. Be glad that they are alive and can complain."

A similar sentiment was offered by another person. "In order to maintain a fleet of snow removal vehicles to deal with a once-every-generation snowstorm, that would require purchase, maintenance and storage of a fleet of such equipment. Additional tax revenue would have to be collected. This in turn would require a tax to mountain residents (who are the only beneficiaries of this fleet) that

Continued on Page 12

From The Outset Of The Large Scale Development Of Glen Helen & North Lytle Creek, The Effort Has Been Plagued With Infrastructure Delays *from page 3*

The motive for creating those districts consists of obtaining the funding to construct the infrastructure needed to allow the development in question to occur. Thus, a landowner/real estate speculator/developer will invite the government to hold a special election among those then owning or having title to the property to impose on themselves a special tax. That tax is placed on the property separate from the property tax normally applied to property in California. Upon homeowners buying homes in that district, they assume, oftentimes unknowingly, the responsibility for paying that tax or fee, which can run into thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars per year.

In 2006 Communities Facilities District 2006-1 was formed in conjunction with the Joanna Ranch Lennar Homes development project so that bonds could be sold to fund needed infrastructure, including wastewater treatment facilities, roads, traffic signals, flood control levees, water lines and parks.

Those bond issuances, which were to be debt serviced by Mello-Roos assessments on the eventual purchases of the homes to be built there, were used to provide infrastructure for that development, consisting of 2,086 homes, and the surrounding area.

Community Facilities District 2006-1 was intended to, according to the county, "provide a portion of funds needed to address specific public facilities and services that are required of the developer in the development of the Lytle Creek North Community, a 2,086 residential subdivision located west of Interstate 15."

In October 2010 the board of supervisors approved the issuance of Special Tax Bonds Series 2010, for Community Fa-

cilities District 2006-1 Improvement Area No. 1, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$8,000,000.

In March 2011 the board of supervisors approved the formation of another Mello-Roos fee-defrayed community facilities district improvement area, designated Improvement Area No. 2.

By September of 2013, according to the county, \$57,685,700 in public infrastructure had been completed and it was expected that over the next few years up to \$84 million of the cost of the infrastructure at Lytle Creek North would be defrayed through bond financing.

That month, the county arranged to issue \$9,250,000 worth of bonds to provide financing for infrastructure to facilitate residential development in the Lytle Creek area. The bonds were issued in two separate allotments, one of \$6.5 million and the other of \$2.75 million. Despite the bonds being intended for utilization in the same Lytle Creek North development project being undertaken by Lennar Homes, the involved infrastructure was placed into separate improvement areas mapped out within the project.

The development throughout the Lytle Creek/Glen Helen/South Devore/Rosena Ranch/Joanna Ranch/Sycamore Creek area proceeded in stages rather in one fell swoop, which was of benefit to the developers involved but represented greater overall expense to the taxpayers ultimately called upon to cover the cost of constructing the infrastructure needed for that development.

Because each of the developers involved in the various projects before proceeding wanted to make sure the housing market was appropriate, they induced the county

to release the bond financing in increments sufficient only to complete the infrastructure absolutely required for the next phase of their projects. This involved a recurrent replication of fees related to the bond issuances/sales, including fees paid to the bond underwriters, bond counsel, disclosure counsel, issuer counsel, underwriter counsel and special tax counsel, ones that drove up the cost as payment was being made for costs attendant to but not going toward the costs of actually providing infrastructure. In this way, the residents and future residents of those neighborhoods were not only paying for infrastructure costs that were traditionally the responsibility of the developers, but they were being gouged by the application of duplicative fees that had historically been avoided because when developers were in charge of providing such infrastructure, they would not have stood for being subject to such gouging. With only the county's or cities' staffs to look after the taxpayers' financial interests, keeping a lid on such excessive and exorbitant costs was largely neglected.

Moreover, county officials have not adhered to the infrastructure requirements laid out in the plans for that development. For example, the 2010 Glen Helen Specific Plan approved by the county in 2010 called for the construction of a fire station, referred to as Fire Station #81, by the time 1,000 homes in Rosena Ranch were occupied. County officials, however, have allowed that residential community to come into existence and move toward being completely occupied without the fire station being in place.

Even before the recent storms that overwhelmed a portion of the infrastructure that has been provided for the Lytle Creek/Glen Helen/South Devore/Rosena Ranch/Joanna Ranch/Sycamore Creek/Rosena Place/Sky Ridge area, some resi-

dents living there were letting county officials know that they will no longer tolerate the county operating in a manner which financially benefits the developmental interests which bankroll the political careers of the county's highest level decision-makers, the board of supervisors, who are elected by the county's voters and taxpayers to represent them.

Almost a year ago, on March 30, 2022, Robert Marquez, a resident of that area, wrote a letter to Steven Valdez, who was the senior planner assigned to the proposed undertaking the San Bernardino County Department of Land Use Services designated as PROJ-2021-00148, which is to consist of residential development on the grounds of the former El Rancho Verde Golf Course.

The *Sentinel* has obtained a copy of that letter.

As a concerned citizen of Rosena Ranch, Marquez wrote, "I am opposed to project #PROJ-2021-00148 at this time because the County of San Bernardino has breached its fiduciary duty regarding public safety in this area which was covered in the 2010 Glen Helen Specific Plan. In 2010, it was estimated that this area at full growth would have a population of 32,720. That was before the county decided to change the zoning from a golf course to a single residential housing zone where this project is being proposed." Marquez continued, "The 2010 specific plan stated that a fire station (Station #81, which is now being built in Fontana) was to be built prior to the certificate of occupancy of the 1,000th detached single family housing unit in the Rosena Ranch Project. The fire department was supposed to have been funded by the developers and the Fire Protection District-5 tax. This is a significant mitigation issue. Our assigned fire station is Station #2 located in Devore. This station covers 49.6 square miles and

handled 1,700 calls for service last year. When they were not available, Rialto Fire Department had to respond to emergencies in our area. There is no local police/sheriff department in this area and on average it takes over 20 minutes for the sheriff's department to respond to a call for service from the Fontana station. The fire department's average response time is 10.22 minutes, almost three times the national average, according to the National Fire Protection Association. This may lead to lawsuits from the public as well as the firefighters who might succumb to line-of-duty deaths and injuries based on the county not following the National Fire Protection Association standards. National Fire Protection Association standards are evidence of what a reasonably prudent fire department would have done under the circumstances. Reasonably prudent response times are critical when it comes to patient care."

According to Marquez, "This also applies to the understaffed sheriff deputies as well as the California Highway Patrol, which responded to over 1,000 vehicle accidents in this area last year. This is a significant mitigation issue based on the county's substandard response times which impacts a patient's standards of care or delay of care."

In addition, Marquez said, "There are not enough schools in this area. The only school in our community is Paakuma Middle School. According to one of our neighbors, Paakuma is no longer accepting new students. In addition, the children attending the school need to be safe. Earlier this month, I saw the paramedics at Paakuma middle school and noticed the paramedics on scene came from a fire station located in Fontana. Once again, our assigned fire station and the closest fire station to the school is in Devore. If a child is severely injured at the school, prolonged fire department

response times could increase the severity of a child's injuries."

Marquez noted that "Clearwater Parkway is still being used as a sewage dumping ground because the county has failed to do needed repairs for the dilapidated sewer system located at Glen Helen Regional Park. When I questioned the county about this practice, they responded by saying it is being done as a matter of efficiency. The sewer system at Glen Helen Regional Park was built to hold 20,000 occupants and the amphitheater holds over 65,000 people. If you do the math, that means there is a potential for the solid waste sludge from over 45,000 people being drained into a sewer utility access hole on Clearwater Parkway. The sludge is normally dumped by a vacuum tanker truck a few days after an event at the amphitheater."

The transportation system in the area is inadequate, according to Marquez.

"On any given afternoon the I-15 freeway is at a literal chokehold and travelers like to take a shortcut through Glen Helen Parkway onto the uncompleted bridge," Marquez wrote. "On average, the shortcut often leads to a forty-car backup over the bridge that leads to Cajon Boulevard. The traffic problems in the area also put constraints on the fire department as well as the sheriff's department, as they respond to emergencies in our area."

"The roads in our area are covered with slurry trails and need to be repaired," Marquez stated. "Although the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department said it just took over the streets in this area, it should have noticed during county inspections what was happening and forced whoever was in charge of maintaining the streets to comply with the Glen Helen Specific Plan."

The area is yet dealing with amalgamating rural and urban or semi-urban

Continued on Page 7

Environmentalists Succeeded In Getting The USFW Service To Look At Threats To Joshua Trees & Convince A Federal Judge To Force The Agency To Intensify That Scrutiny, But Were Unable To Obtain Endangered Status For The Plants *from page 4*

that those intent on seeing official efforts to shield the plant from extinction will now turn to the California, Nevada and Arizona state governments in an effort to have them legislate protections for the two species.

In September 2021, U.S. Federal Judge Otis Wright ruled in favor of WildEarth Guardians, finding that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disregarded material information and reached conclusions that were both “arbitrary and capricious” and unsupported by factual evidence. Specifically, as argued by WildEarth Guardians in the case and accepted by Judge Wright, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2019 decision essentially ignored what the latest scientific evaluation revealed, which was that increasing temperatures and prolonged droughts were already impeding successful Joshua tree reproduction in the southern Mojave Desert, a problem that will spread to the majority of both species’ ranges in coming decades. Judge Wright ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to redo its listing decision and account for all the recent science he said it improperly dismissed.

In undertaking its review, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service examined threats from competing species, wildfire, climate change and both habitat loss and habitat bifurcation and degradation. The agency came to the conclusion that despite existing environmental factors making things tough on the plants, “none of the threats rose to the level that resulted in the species meeting the definition of a threatened or endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges.”

In the summary of its

decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated, “After a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information, we find that listing Joshua trees as endangered or threatened species is not warranted. However, we ask the public to submit to us any new information that becomes available concerning the threats to the Joshua trees or their habitat at any time.”

In its decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service referenced a degree of equivocation within the endangered species act as regards what constituted the foreseeable future. “We considered time horizons at mid-century (2040–2069) and end of century (2070–2100) for analyzing future conditions for Joshua trees,” the decision text states. “Climate change and wildfire are the primary threats driving the future condition of Joshua trees at 2040–2069, which is consistent with the primary threats at the end of century. The best available science indicates that both species are long-lived (150–300 years), adapted to hot and dry conditions, and have been exposed to a range of environmental conditions over thousands of years. Both species continue to occupy most of their historical ranges, despite recent increases in temperature on the order of 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Centigrade) over the last 40 to 50 years. However, we also consider the potential loss of occupied habitat in localized areas within the warmest and driest portions of the ranges of both species. Also, the best available science does not provide information on the population dynamics and environmental thresholds for the yucca moth species, which are the pollinators for both Joshua

tree species. Therefore, we presumed that yucca moth populations will track Joshua tree flowering, as has been experienced in the past, and the moth will experience similar threat effects as described for the Joshua tree including recent site-specific declines in Joshua Tree National Park. We note the high degree of uncertainty regarding these assumptions about the Joshua trees’ and the yucca moths’ responses to climate change which introduces uncertainty into our future projections of species’ status that we cannot quantify at this time; but we have used the best available science in developing them, as the [Endangered Species] Act requires.”

Referencing the existence of threats from competing species, wildfire, climate change and both habitat loss and habitat degradation, together with creeping urbanization, military training in the habitat, renewable energy projects, grazing, off-highway vehicle use and seed predation and animals feeding on the plants, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision stated, “the best available information indicates that these threats have not negatively influenced population dynamics on a population- or species-level scale now and are not projected to negatively influence population dynamics in the foreseeable future. Joshua trees display enough resiliency, redundancy, and representation to not be at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future.”

WildEarth Guardians expressed discomfiture with the decision.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 12-month finding on WildEarth Guardians’ petition only looked towards the species’ risk of extinction between 2040 to 2069, less than 50 years in the future, and concluded that the threats to extinction due to factors such as climate change, wildfires, and drought, amongst

others, are ‘not projected to result in population- or species-level declines... because the majority of the range of both species is projected to remain occupied and viable,’” WildEarth Guardians stated in a release put out shortly after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services decision was announced. “However, the decision also notes the huge degree of uncertainty as to the impacts of drought and anticipated temperature change of 3.6–5.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2040–2069 on both Joshua trees and their specialist pollinators, the yucca moth, and acknowledge the ‘potential for long-term negative effects.’ Notably, while the decision focused on continued occupancy of current range by adult Joshua trees, with lifespans of between 150 and 300 years, it glossed over consideration of these threats on future generations of Joshua trees and the decreased future ‘recruitment’ or ability of Joshua trees to reproduce in the face of climate change.”

Jennifer Schwartz, staff attorney at WildEarth Guardians, said, “We’re incredibly disappointed that the government, once again, has failed to afford future generations of Joshua trees the federal protections and help they need to withstand climate change, but sadly we’re also not surprised. While the Endangered Species Act mandates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing decisions are to be based solely on the best available science, such decisions nevertheless become highly politicized. Now Guardians is forced to explore whether another round of litigation is needed to show that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again caved to political opposition and arbitrarily disregarded multiple recent studies forecasting the Joshua tree’s future plight.”

According to the WildEarth Guardians website, “Joshua trees have existed for over

2.5 million years, but several published, peer-reviewed models show that climate change will eliminate this beloved plant from the vast majority of its current range, including Joshua Tree National Park, over the coming decades without robust efforts to dramatically reduce carbon emissions and address threats from invasive grass-fueled wildfires. In summer 2020, the Mojave Desert reached a record-breaking 130 degrees. Enormous wildfires like the Dome Fire have decimated thousands of acres of habitat, destroying an estimated 1.3 million Joshua trees.”

Lindsay Larris, wildlife program director at WildEarth Guardians, said, “The intent of the Endangered Species Act is not to wait until a species is on life support before it can receive any federal protection. This is yet another example of the federal government failing to protect a species before it is too late. We should be proactively putting imperiled species on the path to recovery, not doom-ing them to hover on the brink of extinction if we truly value preserving biodiversity in this country.”

Former Assemblyman Thurston Smith, who was voted out of office in November, together with Third District San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe and their political supporters, including those who have, in their words, “put their money where their mouth is” and contributed over a hundred thousand dollars to put Rowe, Smith and others with their philosophy into office and to try to keep them there, have characterized the WildEarth Guardians and groups of their ilk pushing to have Joshua trees designated as a threatened or endangered species as tree-huggers who impute a higher level of importance to trees than to humans. They say there are plenty of Joshua Trees, and they resent already existing

restrictions on making improvements to land if that development will require removing Joshua trees. People have to go through all sorts of red tape and paperwork just to chop one down, desert property owners say.

Parallel to the effort to have the eastern and western Joshua trees listed as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act, an effort, initiated by the Center for Biological Diversity, to have the western Joshua tree listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act has been ongoing since 2019.

The California Fish and Game Commission has granted the yucca brevifolia temporary protection as it has conducted hearings on the issue in fits and starts over the last two years, while considering a peer-reviewed report and recommendation relating to the western Joshua tree assembled by Dr. Cameron Barrows of the University of California Riverside, Dr. Erica Fleishman of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, Dr. Timothy Krantz with the University of Redlands, Dr. Lynn Sweet with the University of California, Riverside and Dr. Jeremy B. Yoder from California State University Northridge, which was released in April 2022.

According to Barrows, Fleishman, Krantz, Sweet and Yoder, the outlook for the plant, known by its scientific name *Yucca brevifolia* Engelm, is less than encouraging.

“The population size and area occupied by [the] western Joshua tree have declined since European settlement largely due to habitat modification and destruction, a trend that has continued to the present,” the report states. “Primary threats to the species are climate change, development and other human activities, and wildfire. Available species distribution models suggest that areas predicted to be suitable for [the] western

Continued on Page 12

Coronary Episode Was Serious But Not Enough To Kill Him Or His Continuing Political Career, Leon Insists *from front page*

years of arterial blockage he has been living with and continuing to function through. He was not, as was widely rumored or speculated about, transported to a cutting-edge cardiac facility on the Island of Hawaii in the aftermath of a near deadly infarction, but was actually vacationing on the Big Island when he had an episode he could not ignore. "I had grown used to feeling tired all the time and just generally not feeling that good," he said. "What I was feeling at that point was something I was not accustomed to. It wasn't

a heart attack, per se. It was a blockage. It was painful and unpleasant. But I was able to drive myself to the hospital. It took 45 minutes."

It was just chance, or perhaps fate, that the Hilo Medical Center, the main hospital on the Island of Hawaii, has on staff cardiologists who rank among the best in their profession in the world, Leon said.

"I had come to the right place," he said. "There was no delay. I was hooked up to an EKG machine and then they threw me onto a gurney and then wheeled me out for the procedure."

That procedure, Leon said, consisted of his being outfitted with two stents – tubular supports placed inside a blood vessel to hold it open or relieve an obstruction.

"They didn't cut me open," Leon related,

meaning that he was not subject to open heart surgery, which would have required that he go under the knife and have his thorax broken and parted or sawed through. Rather he said, "They inserted the stents into my vascular system near my wrist."

The team of physicians that worked on him were top notch, Leon said.

"They knew what they were doing," he said. "I hadn't planned on being at that particular hospital where there were doctors with that level of expertise. It just worked out that way. That had to have been about the best place in the world I could be. Before long, I'm probably going to write a book about what happened. It will be about the doctors. They were consummate professionals."

Leon related that last year, eleven months ago

in April, his brother died, falling victim to a heart attack.

"He was just a year-and-a-half older than I was," Leon said. "He was late in getting medical attention, and he died. He had the same condition I have. It runs in our family."

What happened to his brother was unfortunate, Leon said, since the right care delivered in time would have prevented his death.

"Blockage of the heart is no longer something that has to be a threat to your life, if you get proper treatment," Leon said.

He said he had known for some time that things weren't entirely right with him.

"I felt tired all the time," he said, "I have learned now that I had been living all those years with blocked arteries. The doctors discov-

ered this and have now treated it before it has become critical. I can tell you that right now, I feel better than I ever have. I feel healthy as a horse. It is obvious my blood flow is way better."

In November, Leon was reelected mayor following what he said was for him a lackluster campaign.

"I wish I had felt this good last year during the campaign," he said. "I feel ready to take on the world again."

Initially, Leon said, his doctors had advised that he go very slow. He waited six days after the stents were put in to head back to California.

"There was concern about me flying and being at that high of an altitude," Leon said. "On the sixth day, I was seen by the senior cardiologist, who ran tests and cleared me to come back."

Leon missed the March 7 meeting this week, but said that he will be in place for the council meeting on March 21.

"I am ready to get back in there," he said. "The doctors, naturally, said that I should be careful about putting myself through too much stress. But I am still the mayor. There is no truth at all to what you heard, that I am no longer the mayor and Alan has succeeded me or staged a takeover. I will be back at the next meeting."

He considers himself fortunate and he remains determined.

"I really have never felt better," he said. "I'm not tired and I'm enthusiastic. I got through this with flying colors. I will probably live into my 90s. My arteries are clean."

-Mark Gutglueck

GT Senior Living Home Sold To Delaware Corporation Operating From The Shadows *from page 3*

and Vista Harden Ranch for RBP Communities. The *Sentinel* was told by a current Vista Blue Mountain employee that Dominici and Grewal would be knowledgeable about all phases of Blue Mountain Vista's tran-

sition from an assisted living and memory care facility to its reorganized function.

The *Sentinel* asked about the order for existing residents to vacate the Blue Mountain Vista premises; the conflicting information as to what and whom the revamped facility's clientele is to consist of; the report that those to come into the facility are to be young adults or teens recovering from drug addic-

tion; the report that it is to serve as a halfway house for parolees or probationers recently released from custody and mandated to live in a controlled environment/facility before they are integrated back into the community; and that the facility is to be a recovery and rehabilitation center where accident and stroke victims are to undergo live-in therapy.

The *Sentinel* asked Dominici and Grewal for

as full of an exposition as they were at liberty to provide with regard to what the circumstance with Vista Blue Mountain is and will be.

The *Sentinel* asked directly if in its next incarnation Vista Blue Mountain is to function as a recover center, as a live-in recovery center or as an out-patient recover center. The *Sentinel* inquired if indeed it is to be a recovery center, what the anticipated

nature of the infirmities that the patients or residents or patient/residents to be treated there is to be. The *Sentinel* asked if the patients/residents are to be recovering substance abusers or if they are to be accident victims or if they are to be stroke victims.

The *Sentinel* asked how the facility will be described and whether it would best be labeled as a clinic, recovery center or a collective recov-

ery home or recovery residence. The *Sentinel* asked if the facility is to retain the name of Vista Blue Mountain in its title.

The *Sentinel* asked whether the 88-person residential capacity of the facility will remain and, if not, what the residential capacity will be.

The *Sentinel* asked Dominici and Grewal, if indeed the new facility is to serve as either a *Continued on Page 13*

Tightening Of The Political Reform Act Should Be Across Board Instead Of Exempting & Favoring Public Employee Unions *from front page*

a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending before the agency. The new law is targeted mostly toward developers and other real estate interests which, rightly or wrongly, are perceived to make use of "pay to play" tactics, especially at the local level.

But prior to the enactment of SB 1439, the term "agency" was defined to exclude those entities whose members are directly elected by

the voters. The thinking is that members of local legislative bodies, particularly city councils and county boards of supervisors, are directly accountable to voters, and citizens can either recall or reject for reelection politicians perceived to be unduly influenced by special interests.

SB 1439 removed the exception for local government agencies, thereby subjecting elected officials to the same prohibition as other officials. But despite what may have been good intentions, SB 1439 is flawed and may end up being invalidated.

The legislation's legal problem is that it may be an impermissible attempt to amend the Political Reform Act with-

out a vote of the People. PRA was an initiative and, as such, may only be amended by a popular vote or by legislation to further the purposes of the Act. Defenders of SB 1439 will argue that the removal of the exemption for agencies whose members are elected by voters is indeed consistent with the overall purposes of the Act.

But how can it be "consistent" with the original Political Reform Act when that law specifically exempted elected officials from this provision?

Moreover, courts are skeptical of arguments that legislative amendments to the PRA "further its purposes." The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association won such a lawsuit in 2019.

That dispute began in 2016 when the Legislature passed, and the governor signed, Senate Bill 1107, which purported to amend a part of the PRA that expressly prohibited public funding of political campaigns.

SB 1107 attempted to reverse the ban by permitting public funding of political campaigns under certain circumstances. Because SB 1107 was so clearly contrary to the letter and spirit of the Act, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association challenged the 2016 law as an improper legislative amendment of a voter initiative. Taxpayers prevailed in both the trial court and the Court of Appeal.

In addition to the questionable legality of

SB 1439, taxpayers have reason to be concerned that the law tilts the playing field by allowing some power players to continue to engage in "pay to play."

SB 1439 is limited to situations "involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use," applying to "business, professional, trade and land use" as well as "all contracts" and "all franchises." By far the biggest "pay to play" problem in California involves public sector labor unions shoveling boatloads of cash to their preferred candidates.

Leaving no doubt that labor organizations have special protection from this law, SB 1439 defines "license, permit, or other entitlement for use" to include "all contracts,"

but then specifically excludes union contracts with the phrase, "other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts."

Finally, adding insult to injury, lawmakers made sure to exempt themselves from the provisions of SB 1439, defining "agency" to "not include the courts or any agency in the judicial branch of government, the Legislature, the Board of Equalization, or constitutional officers."

Examples of California politicians protecting those who protect them are too many to list. Regrettably SB 1439 is just the latest example.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Public Notices

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 03/24/2023 09:00 AM Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State) 16 VOLK 5YF-S 4 M C E 7 M P 0 6 9 8 5 6 8UNF424 CA To be sold by EXCELLENCE AUTO BODY 1135 W STATE ST ONTARIO CA 91762

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 March 10, 2023.

FBN 20230001541

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as TRULY CHEAP PRINTING [and] HUGE RESPONSE MARKETING 9373 COCA ST RANCHO CUCAMONGA 91737: ROBERT M LELLE 9373 COCA ST RANCHO CUCAMONGA 91737

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEBRUARY 15, 2023.

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/ ROBERT M LELLE, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/16/2023

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 19576

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 February 17, 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

FBN 20230001574

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as ABC'S IMPORT AIR 15244 MERRILL FONTANA, CA 92335 CLAUDIA SORIA 15244 MERRILL 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/ CLAUDIA SORIA Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/17/2022

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 19576

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

Public Notices

name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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FBN 20230000651

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as PRINCESS NAIL SPA 9000 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 110 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

LAM T TRAN 4554 BANDERA ST APT E MONTCLAIR, CA 91763 [and]

LIEU T HUYNH 4554 BANDERA ST APT E MONTCLAIR, CA 91763

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNER-SHIP.

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/ LAM THANH TRAN, Partner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/24/2022

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 19576

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 February 17, 24 and March 3 & 10, 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 LLC 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

Public Notices

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 12/21, 2022 and 01/06, 01/13, 01/20, 2023. Corrected on February 17, 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

FBN 20220011500

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as MY MISSION [and] MY MISSION LLC 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 179130. 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).

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LONETTA WELLS HARRIS

CASE NO. PROSB2300149

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

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

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ERIKA McCOY be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted to 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 amended petition will be held in Dept. No. S-37 at 9:00 a.m. on MARCH 23, 2023 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino

Public Notices

District. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the amended 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.

Attorney for Erika McCoy: 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 February 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CLIFTON LOOMIS

CASE NO. PROSB 23 0 0 1 8 0

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of BETTY ARLENE HUBERT aka BETTY HUBERT, and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by ROLAND R. HUBERT in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that ROLAND R. HUBERT be appointed administrator to administer the estate with full powers.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted to 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.

Filed: FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Michelle Munguia, Deputy Court Clerk IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or

Public Notices

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.

Attorney for Elijah Z. Loomis: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on February 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BETTY ARLENE HUBERT aka BETTY HUBERT

CASE NO. PROSB2300023

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of BETTY ARLENE HUBERT aka BETTY HUBERT, and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by ROLAND R. HUBERT in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that ROLAND R. HUBERT be appointed administrator to administer the estate with full powers.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted to 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.

The petition is set for hearing in Dept. No. S35 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT – PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212 on MARCH 30, 2023 at 09:00 AM

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing

Public Notices

and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

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

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

Attorney for the Petitioner: 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 February 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2221617

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner AMBER NICOLE WHITFIELD filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JASON MATTHEW WHITFIELD II to JASON MATTHEW WHITFIELD JR.

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: MARCH 30, 2023 Time: 8:30 AM Department: S31

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: September 28, 2022 Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court: Priscilla Saldana Attorney for Petitioner: Jeff W. LeBlanc Anderson & LeBlanc 1365 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 2 Upland, CA 91786 (909) 949-2226 andersonlaw@live.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on February 24 and March 3, 10 & 17, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHNNY KINKADE CASE NO. PROSB2300225

Public Notices

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOHNNY KINKADE has been filed by MELONEE KINKADE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MELONEE KINKADE 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 APRIL 13, 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: February 27, 2023

Valerie Goldstein, 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.

Attorney for Melonee Kincade: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 3, 10 & 17, 2023.

AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

Brenda Patricia Maloncon AKA Brenda P. Maloncon AKA Brenda P. Jones

CASE NO. PROSB2201463

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Brenda Patricia Maloncon AKA Brenda P. Maloncon AKA Brenda P. Jones

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 3, 10 & 17, 2023.

AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Phillip Kevin

Public Notices

Maloncon in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Phillip Kevin Maloncon 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. S35 at 09:00 AM on 04/27/2023 Room: at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Probate Division at 247 West 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.

Phillip Kevin Maloncon
375 E. 7th St.
Telephone No: 9499034805
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on:
03/03/2023, 03/10/2023,
03/17/2023

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER
CIVSB 2200786

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner LAWRENCE GITONGA and JHOANNA GABUYA filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SILVER KING GITONGA to SILVER KING WACHURI GITONGA

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

Public Notices

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: APRIL 11, 2023
Time: 8:30 AM
Department: S22

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: October 26, 2022
Refiled: February 28, 2023
Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court: Sophia A. Smith
Silver King Gitonga, In Pro Per
27124 Pacific Street
San Bernardino, CA 92346
(909) 901-1721
lawinchr@yahoo.com
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

FBN 20230001715
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as FRESH DONUTS 1150 N RIVERSIDE AVE RIALTO, CA 92376: THEARY THOEUN 6019 MAGNOLIA RIALTO, CA 92377

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: March 4, 2013.

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/ THEARY THOEUN, Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/22/2022

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 19576

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 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

FBN 20230001875
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as VICARA FARMS 1018 W 15TH STREET UPLAND, CA 91786:

REBECCA M YOUNG 1018 W 15TH STREET UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ REBECCA M YOUNG
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/27/2023

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 J2523

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from

Public Notices

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 March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: TEDD ALBERT SMITH CASE NO. PROSB2300093

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of TEDD ALBERT SMITH has been filed by MARCIA BEACH BRIGGS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARCIA BEACH BRIGGS 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 May 10, 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: JANUARY 25, 2023
Jennifer Saldana,
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. Attorney for Marcia Beach Briggs:

R. SAM PRICE
SBN 208603
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC
454 Cajon Street
REDLANDS, CA 92373
Phone (909) 328 7000
Fax (909) 475 9500
sam@pricelawfirm.com
Published in the San Ber-

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

Public Notices

San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BRIAN EUGENE LYONS CASE NO. PROSB2300129

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of BRIAN EUGENE LYONS has been filed by JOSHUA WILLIAM LYONS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOSHUA WILLIAM LYONS 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 APRIL 20, 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.

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. Attorney for Joshua William Lyons:

DAVID M. DANNY SBN 81769
THE LAW OFFICE OF DAVID M. DANNY
4500 E. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
LONG BEACH, CA 90804
Phone (562) 391 2479
dmdlawoffice@aol.com
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JEFFREY HANOUM aka JEFFERY

Case No. PROSB2300237
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CHARLOTTE RAE KLEIN

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ira

Public Notices

HANOUM CASE NO. PROSB2300285

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JEFFREY HANOUM aka JEFFERY HANOUM has been filed by DAMEN JEFFREY HANOUM in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DAMEN JEFFREY HANOUM 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 APRIL 12, 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.

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.

Attorney for Damen Hanoum:

Neil Hedtke, Esquire SBN 273319
820 North Mountain Avenue
Upland, CA 91786
(909) 579 2233 Fax (909) 618 1622 hedtkelg@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE RAE KLEIN Case No. PROSB2300237

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CHARLOTTE RAE KLEIN A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ira

Public Notices

B. Klein in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Ira B. Klein be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to 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 on April 4, 2023 at 9:00 AM in Dept. No. S37 located at 247 W. Third St., 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.

Attorney for petitioner:
JOELLE M DRUCKER ESQ

SBN 169475
DRUCKER LAW OFFICES APC
468 N CAMDEN DRIVE
2ND FLR
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90210

CN994789 KLEIN Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on March 10, 17 & 24, 2023.

FBN 20230001310

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as KOTR REALTY 9483 HAVEN AVENUE, STE 100 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: STEVEN T THACKER 3736 OAK CREEK DRIVE UNIT E ONTARIO, CA 91761

Mailing Address: 3736 OAK CREEK DRIVE UNIT E ONTARIO, CA 91761

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 6, 2023.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who de-

Public Notices

clares 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/ STEVEN T THACKER, Realtor/Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 2/08/2023

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 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 March 10, 17, 24 and 31, 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 LLC 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 12/21, 2022 and 01/06, 01/13, 01/20, 2023. Corrected on February 17, 24 and March 3 & 10, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN20220011588

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: PET EMPIRE AND SUPPLIES

[and]
PET EMPIRE SUPPLIES

[and]
PET EMPIRE

[and]
PET EMPIRE & SUPPLIES

7223 CHURCH ST, SUITE A3, HIGHLAND, CA 92346,
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Mailing Address: F & OC PET EMPIRE AND SUPPLIES INC., 7223 CHURCH ST, SUITE A3, HIGHLAND, CA 92346,

State of Inc./Org./Reg. CA, Inc./Org./Reg. No.

Business is Conducted By: ORALIA LIZBETH CORTES

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/ORALIA LIZBETH CORTES, SECRETARY This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 12/21/2022
I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.
Began Transacting Business:

Public Notices

The following person is doing business as: K&N'S SUPREME BBQ, SOUL FOOD & CATERING. 2025 SUNRISE LANE APT 1 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404...

FBN 20230001192 The following person is doing business as: GADGET REPAIR GUYS. 9531 CENTRAL AVE ROYAL CLAIR, CA 91763...

FBN 20230001197 The following person is doing business as: RADICAL CLOTHING COMPANY. 2819 W CALLE CELESTE DR RIALTO, CA 92377...

Public Notices

FBN 20230001196 The following person is doing business as: AVILA GLASS AND MIRROR. 25841 VAN LEUVEN STREET 181 LOMA LINDA, CA 92354...

FBN 20230001246 The following person is doing business as: SECTOR Q. 300 S. CEDAR AVE RIALTO, CA 92376...

FBN 20230001538 The following person is doing business as: EXPDIRI TRANSPORT. 1001 DOUBLEDAY AVE ONTARIO, CA 91761...

Public Notices

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...

FBN 20230001537 The following person is doing business as: SUPERIOR TRUCK LINES. 2555 KERN ST MUSCOY, CA 92407...

FBN 20230001571 The following person is doing business as: J & J RESTORATION. 471 S ALLEN ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408...

FBN 20230001573 The following person is doing business as: BANDALA FORTUNADA. 9505 FALLING LEAF CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730...

FBN 20230001701 The following person is doing business as: HOLYSMOKES BAR.B.Q. 3400 COTTAGE WAY STE G2-14377 SACRAMENTO, CA 95825...

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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...

FBN 20230001560 The following person is doing business as: THE WESTERN GROUP REAL ESTATE; A SECURE ESCROW; THE MANAGEMENT GROUP. 3280 E GUASTI RD STE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91761...

FBN 20230001600 The following person is doing business as: MEGA PRO SERVICES. 7090 CONEJO DR APT. A SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404...

FBN 20230000870 The following person is doing business as: COOLEY HARDWARE. 633 N D STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401...

Public Notices

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...

FBN 20230000867 The following person is doing business as: RASPADOS SINA LOKOS FONTANA. 16312 ARROW BLVD #F FONTANA, CA 92335...

FBN 20230000665 The following person is doing business as: MILINDA MORENITA MICHOCANA. 1036 S RIVERSIDE AVE APT #115 RIALTO, CA 92376...

FBN 20230000870 The following person is doing business as: NICEGATE ENT. 1777 E LYNWOOD DR APT F208 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404...

Public Notices

that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ WILLARD J CLAMPITT, HUSBAND Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 31, 2023...

FBN 20230000878 The following person is doing business as: PROSPERITY REA. 9161 SIERRA AVE SUITE 203-B FONTANA, CA 92335...

FBN 20230000789 The following person is doing business as: AL CAR DETAILING. 1263 N MULBERRY AVE RIALTO, CA 92376...

FBN 20230000667 The following person is doing business as: NICEGATE ENT. 1777 E LYNWOOD DR APT F208 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404...

Public Notices

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...

FBN 20230000779 The following person is doing business as: SYNTHETIC PREMIUM TURF. 18390 W BOHNERT AVE RIALTO, CA 92377...

FBN 20230000781 The following person is doing business as: CAMBIUM TREE CONSULTANTS. 1340 ORANGE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373...

FBN 20230000587 The following person is doing business as: CASUAL DETAILING. 18617 MARYGOLD AVE BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316...

North Lytle Creek Residents Ready To Press For Infrastructure They Have Been Paying For And Which Has Long Been Delayed *from page 5*

cultures, Marquez said, which is exacerbated by the county's failure to institute a full range of infrastructure improvements in the area.

"Recently, the sheriff's department made several arrests and a multitude of detentions because a California Highway Patrol officer reported that people were shooting automatic weapons at an illegal gun range in Sycamore Canyon, which is across the freeway where this project is going to be constructed," Marquez wrote. "This is a continual problem and a supervisor at the sheriff's department stated that they do not have enough staff to mitigate the problem, which is in a high wild-fire hazard area. This area is an extreme fire hazard area because the County of San Bernardino has failed to mitigate the fire fuel vegetation in accordance with county ordinances, California law and the Glen Helen Specific Plan."

Marquez asserted, "All of these issues have

been brought up with numerous county officials and little to nothing has been done to mitigate the problems. Based on the above-mentioned facts, I believe all new building in this area should be stopped until these issues are mitigated."

According to Marquez, the county, in the aftermath of his letter to Valdez has continued to be more indulgent of the development community than the residents of Rosena Ranch and its environs.

He sought to lodge with Supervisor Joe Baca Jr., who in his capacity as a member of the Rialto City Council before he was elected San Bernardino County Fifth District Supervisor in 2020 was tolerant of the developmental intent of Lytle Development with regard to the Lytle Creek Ranch development, his concern about county's planning division's seeming lack of concern over the incomplete and inadequate infrastructure in the area south of Devore. Marquez had a meeting scheduled with Baca for January 20 of this year. Prior to that meeting, he encapsulated in writing the concerns he had in a letter to Baca.

The *Sentinel* has obtained a copy of that letter, which reiterates some of the issues ex-

plored previously.

"In 2005, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved the Rosena Ranch development plan, which stated that a police and fire station would be constructed after the 1,000th house in our community was built," Marquez wrote to Baca. As time passed, additional communities were built and they include Rosena Place, Rosena Place extension and the community of Sky Ridge. In all, 1,700 houses have been built."

Quoting statistics obtained from the California Department of Transportation indicating the average traffic volume on the I-15 in San Bernardino is around 200,000 vehicles per day and noting the presence of an 800-student elementary school in the area as well as the presence of Little League and soccer league facilities in the district, Marquez wrote, "I contacted the county fire department in January 2022, and I was informed that our area has a population of 9,863 and the average response time is 10 minutes and 26 seconds. Recently, a pregnant woman was shot in the head, and it took seventeen minutes for the fire department to respond. Furthermore, it took almost fifteen minutes for the fire de-

partment to respond to a family member who was having a stroke. Long response times can lead to delays in care for cardiac, stroke, and trauma patients who are involved in accidents. Additionally, if a person stops breathing, their brain cells begin to die within five minutes, and they can die within ten minutes. Fire Department staff informed me that Fire Station #2 in Devore manages our area and covers 49.76 square miles with only a captain, an engineer, and a firefighter/paramedic. This means that if there were a house fire, they would not be able to enter the house due to the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration's two-in, two-out rule, and would have to wait for additional personnel before entering a structure to attack a fire."

Continuing, Marquez wrote, "In comparison, unincorporated San Antonio Heights, which has a population of only one-third ours, has three fire stations within six minutes (stations #12, #162 and #164). All three of these fire stations are within two miles of each other. In the unincorporated area of Del Rosa on the east side of San Bernardino there are four county fire stations within four miles of each

other."

Marquez referenced the board of supervisors' recent approval of a new \$26 million fire headquarters project in San Bernardino and a new training facility, to be known as Station 80, that is to cost millions of dollars to construct in Fontana, as well as the county's just-approved reconstruction of Station 226 on Del Rosa in San Bernardino.

"If that is not enough, the county is spending \$45 million to construct a new animal shelter in Bloomington," Marquez wrote. "Meanwhile, our community is being deprived of fire department services that have been paid for with development fees and years of annual taxes which can be as high as \$1,200 a month. In addition to these taxes, the county is now asking for an increase in sewer fees."

Pointedly, Marquez called upon Baca to ask himself "Is the County of San Bernardino's focus and the focus of the San Bernardino County Fire Department on the effort to build structures or on preventing loss of life and great bodily injury?"

Marquez told Baca, "The fire department is also requiring our homeowners' association to pay for a fire mitigation habitat study and fuel modification zone be-

cause the San Bernardino County Department of Land Use Services failed to thoroughly inspect housing development in the past when it was being constructed. The habitat study and the fire abatement maintenance were supposed to be paid for by the developers and is now costing us thousands of dollars. In addition, deferring the building of the fire station will prove to be costly. It would have been less costly if they would have followed the development plans."

Marquez said that "Based on these facts," it was his conclusion "the County of San Bernardino is being negligent towards our standard of care by breaching their fiduciary duty to provide us with our desperately needed basic infrastructure needs. I urge the board of supervisors to take immediate action to address these issues and provide our community with at least a temporary fire station until the new fire station that we were promised can be built."

This week, Marquez reported to the *Sentinel* that his meeting with Baca had failed to resolve the issues he brought up.

"Complaints to Supervisor Baca go unanswered," he said.

The *Sentinel* was unable to reach Baca for comment.

Some Are More Forgiving & Understanding Of The Delays In The Official Response To The Mountain Blizzard *from page 4*

they would not embrace and probably complain about bitterly," that person said.

One observer averred, "Question really is why weren't the individuals better prepared. Always hope for the best and prepare for the worst case. Living in the mountains means the occupants bear some of the responsibility for having emergency supplies on hand and being self sufficient for a decent amount of time."

Such criticisms of

those caught in the storm provoked some pointed responses.

"I am from Running Springs," said one. "There hasn't been a storm like this since 1992. Like with any other natural disaster, residents can prepare in advance as much as possible, but may still need outside help in dealing with the aftereffects. The residents cannot possibly clear all of the city/county roads themselves – additional plows are needed from neighboring cities to accomplish this massive task. The electricity was out for many residents, so in theory they 'should' have a generator on hand to accommodate for this possibility, but how can they get additional fuel

for the generator if the roads aren't clear enough to access the gas station? Or, what if the local gas station (of which there is only one in Running Springs) has already been tapped dry by residents who can get out of their homes, but a refueling truck can't get up the mountain to access the gas station to refill the tanks? There is so much more here than just 'selfish' residents dealing with the consequences of their own choices."

"I live in Arrowhead and we were so prepared with generators, food, water wood etc," wrote one mountain resident, identified by the first name Patrick. "The only complaint is the government did not respond with competence. We

pay tons of taxes, but the service was not good. I have always had the view that we can't rely on government and my family and friends did not."

Another person, identified by the name DeAnna, posted, "So what do you expect the elderly and lower income people

to do? Not everyone has the ability to just leave their homes."

Another wrote, "Shouldn't matter where someone chooses to live. This is what tax dollars are to be used for: to fund resources in case of these kind of emergencies."

One commenter stat-

ed, "You are asking government to be competent and if you really believe they can be then you have much larger problems than snow. Therefore, either be prepared or don't live in a highly inaccessible area. We call it 'common sense' here in Michigan."

–Mark Gutglueck

Seller & Buyer Reticent About The Future Plans For Vista Blue Mountain *from page 7*

halfway house for those released from incarceration or as a recovery facility for those seeking to transition out of addiction, whether they could offer the residents

of Grand Terrace an assurance that having such individuals as would be housed and/or serviced there will not be a burden upon nearby businesses and residences or any type of hazard to the surrounding neighborhood. The *Sentinel* asked, if in actuality the new facility is to be a halfway house or addiction recovery center,

whether they could enumerate the precautions the new ownership is going to take to prevent any onerous impact on those living or transacting business nearby.

Neither Dominici nor Grewal responded to the *Sentinel*.

Hillwood's Purchase Of The Auto Club Speedway Club Knells Its Closure from front page

Fe/Union Pacific Southern Pacific railway line.

While the precise involvement of Ross Perot Jr, the scion of the late Texas Instruments founder and 1992 and 1996 independent presidential candidate, was not anticipated, the sale was to some degree pre-announced by the ownership/management of the Auto Club Speedway obtaining in 2021 permission from San Bernardino County to reduce the footprint of the existing two-mile track in favor of developing a more modest half-mile track and beginning preliminary efforts toward creating a less-than-fully-described logistics center on the property, which had been reclaimed from what had once been the Kaiser Steel Mill.

The Fontana Speedway, which found the Auto Club as its sponsor a decade-and-a-half ago, came to life while Dave Eshleman, Fontana's "racing mayor," was in office. Though the facility lies within the community of Fontana and the city's sphere of influence, it stands on unincorporated county land, over which San Bernardino County and its land use services division have authority.

The Fontana power play by Hillwood, which more than two decades ago entered into a public-private partnership with the San Bernardino International Airport

Authority and the Inland Valley Development Authority and was able to effectuate its strategy of constructing the massive-scale Eastgate Air Cargo Facility on the northeast portion of what was formerly Norton Air Force Base as a key element of the effective transformation

whether warehousing represents the highest and best use of land still readily available for development in the region. Based upon environmental considerations, urban planners have begun to question the wisdom of wholesale construction of warehouses throughout the area, par-

ently, was unfazed by the sometimes hostile reception warehouse proposals are garnering, evincing confidence that Warren, who was reelected last year and will remain in place at least until 2026 and has sufficient funding in her electioneering account to remain as mayor be-

and Riverside counties, only 1.2 percent of the space in those facilities was vacant last year, while lease rates in the sector increased by more than 30 percent on average. The vacancy rate on warehousing in Fontana approached zero during the same timeframe, according to Coldwell

logistics hub.

Meanwhile, Eshleman, one of Warren's predecessors who died in a bulldozer rollover mishap in May 2021, is spinning in his grave. Eshleman was wildly enthusiastic about what at that time was branded as California Speedway and the NASCAR events it hosted becoming a celebrated element of the Fontana community. Development of the Fontana track, designed by Roger Penske, began in 1995, shortly after the initiation of Eshleman's first term as mayor. In rapid fashion, the project progressed, and the track was completed and opened in 1996. The venue hosted its first NASCAR race in 1997.

NASCAR and other types of races have remained a strong draw, and that puzzles many fans who cannot understand why the track is going to be razed if it is so popular and successful. As recently as February 26, the Pala 400 NASCAR CUP Series race held there sold out, despite inclement weather.

Like Ontario Motor Speedway, which hosted the inaugural California 500 in 1969 in an effort to establish what was hoped would become but which never materialized as a West Coast version of the Indianapolis 500, Auto Club Speedway is surrendering to fiscal reality, which holds that amount of acreage in Southern California is more profitably utilized either or both commercial or industrial endeavors than as a car racing venue.

-Mark Gutglueck



of the aerodrome in the county seat to civilian use, comes amid intense controversy over the construction of warehousing and logistics-related projects in the Inland Empire. While Fontana's mayor for the last 12 plus years, Acquanetta Warren, has embraced warehouse development and welcomed both warehouse operators and developers building such facilities at City Hall's planning counter and through its land use approval processes, residents of Fontana and elsewhere in San Bernardino County as well as public officials have begun to question

particularly as warehouse operations entail a heavy reliance on large diesel-burning trucks and generated excessive traffic. Economists, as well, have sounded a note of caution with regard to warehouse construction, pointing to the relatively paltry wages paid to warehouse workers. In 2021, California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed suit against Fontana over what he maintained was the city's inadequate examination and regulation of environmental issues pertaining to the operation of warehouses the city was routinely approving for construction.

Hillwood, appar-

yond that, will prove accommodating of the company's plans, whether it chooses to construct the logistics hub under the county's regulations or annex into the City of Fontana before proceeding.

Southern California, with its Long Beach and San Pedro ports and available rail lines along with its interstate freeway system running across the country to the East Coast and north to Canada, is considered the preeminent logistics center nationwide. Despite the saturation of warehouses and logistics facilities in the Inland Empire, which includes both San Bernardino

Banker Richard Ellis. For that reason, both Hillwood and Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis are convinced that planting the warehouse/logistics flag in Fontana is a sound investment scheme.

They will not be giving up entirely on having a racing venue at the property. Once the two-mile Auto Club Speedway track is shut down, another track, roughly one-quarter its length, which is scheduled to be completed by 2024, will reopen on a 90-acre site. Some 106 acres on the property will be available for a parking lot for the race venue while offering ample space for truck parking for the lo-

Effort To Give Joshua Trees Federal Protected Species Status Falls Short from page 6

Joshua tree based on 20th Century climate data will decline substantially through the end of the 21st Century as a result of climate change, especially in the southern and lower elevational portions of its range."

Nevertheless, the

scientists said, "the department does not currently have information demonstrating that loss of areas with 20th Century suitable climate conditions will result in impacts on existing populations that are severe enough to threaten to eliminate the species from a significant portion of its range by the end of the 21st Century. The effects of development and other human activities will cause

western Joshua tree habitat and populations to be lost, particularly in the southern part of the species' range, but many populations within the range of the species are protected from development, suggesting that a significant portion of the species' range will not be lost by development alone. Wildfire can also kill over half of western Joshua trees in areas that burn, and wildfire impacted ap-

proximately 2.5% of the species' range in each of the last two decades, but wildfire does not appear to result in loss of range, only lowering of abundance within the species' range."

Barrows, Fleishman, Krantz, Sweet and Yoder stated that "the evidence presented in favor of the petitioned action, the scientific evidence that is currently possessed by the department does not demonstrate that popu-

lations of the species are negatively trending in a way that would lead the department to believe that the species is likely to be in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range in the foreseeable future. The department recommends that the commission find that the recommended action to list [the] western Joshua tree as a threatened species is not warranted."

Dr. Krantz, as one of the authors of the April recommendation against listing the tree as endangered, indicated in June that he was not in consonance with the recommendation that had been put out under his name and the collective aegis of his colleagues.

"The western Joshua tree is already very much a threatened species," Krantz told the *Sentinel*.

-Mark Gutglueck