

Ontario Diverted & Has Not Returned Over \$120 Million From Its Water Fund

Ontario city officials raided the city's water enterprise fund for more than \$120 million from 2008 until 2021, the *Sentinel* has learned.

Fifteen years after the city initiated a repeated practice of diverting specific money to purposes other than those to which under California law it must be devoted, the money has not been returned.

Nevertheless, city of-

ficials in October 2021 boosted the average rates city residents and businesses pay for water by 3.6 percent and hiked the rates by another 5 percent in July 2022. The Ontario City Council is scheduled next month, on July 18, to consider increasing those rates by 6.67 percent, and is further on track to up them by 5.23 percent in July 2024. Thus, over the course of two years and

eight months, the city will have raised its water rates by 22.14 percent.

As the city's officials ready themselves to make those increases, a growing number of city residents are questioning why they are being subjected to the rate increases, given what has been characterized as the city's inappropriate looting of the water fund. Specifically, those residents say, the city ran

afoul of Proposition 218, which was passed by the state's voters in 1998.

Proposition 218 put in place strict rules for raising fees and taxes in California. Under its provisions, a municipality cannot shift the cost of providing services under its general fund to utility ratepayers. In the fall of 2007, a financial panic, the table for which had been set through excessive risk-taking by global

financial institutions and a severe contraction in the United States housing market following years of predatory lending targeting low-income homebuyers, resulted in an across-the-board collapse in the value of mortgage-backed securities. What ensued was both an international and domestic financial downturn, the latter of which took root at the national, state and local See P 6

San Bernardino County To Initiate Forced Drugging Of Its Homeless Population

Conflating homelessness with mental illness, the board of supervisors this week unanimously voted to enact the provisions of Assembly Bill 1976 and Senate Bill 507, commonly known as Laura's Law, clearing the way for the San Bernardino County Department of Mental Health to track down members of its homeless population, take them into court and have them declared mentally ill, and force them to participate in involuntary "assisted outpatient treatment." That assisted outpatient treatment is to consist of administering them anti-psychotic medication.

Laura's Law grew out of the action of Scott Harlan Thorpe, a paranoid who reportedly was not taking the anti-psychotic medication he had been prescribed when he murdered three people during a shooting spree in 2001, including Laura Wilcox, a 19-year-old high school valedictorian and college sophomore who was working at the Nevada County Department of Behavioral Health as a receptionist. The following year, Assembly Bill 1421, the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002, was passed, allowing, on a trial basis, the imposition of a requirement that mandated treatment — the use of medication — for individuals deemed to be mentally ill, even if those subject to the mandate had no criminal record and it was merely presumed they might prove violent. Once assisted outpatient treatment was See P 5

His Pension Maxed Out, Hesperia City Manager Bentsen Retiring After Six Years

Having reached the point where he will receive as much by collecting his pension as he currently makes in salary, Hesperia City Manager Nils Bentsen is officially retiring as of Sunday.

Bentsen will be replaced by Assistant City Manager Rachel Molina.

Bentsen was the Hesperia Station commander with the sheriff's department for slightly less

than three years when the Hesperia City Council in January 2016, faced with the retirement of City Manager Mike Podgracz, selected Bentsen as his replacement. Bentsen at that point had 27 years' experience in law enforcement, but no real experience or training in municipal management.

One of the things that did recommend Bent-

sen to the post was his intimate familiarity, as a native son, with the Hesperia community. He attended Hesperia Christian School and Victor Valley College. In his capacity as the Hesperia sheriff's station commander, a position tantamount to being police chief in Hesperia insofar as Hesperia contracts with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Depart-

ment for law enforcement services, he was less aloof than many of those who had previously held the station commander's post and he had engaged regularly with residents, city employees and elected officials.

During his tenure as city manager, the city faced some challenges beyond what were already difficult issues in the City of Progress.

When Bentsen took on the post of city manager, the city had long been dealing with the legacy of Penn Phillips, the founder of modern Hesperia, who had created a residential community after purchasing the entire Township of Hesperia for \$1.5 million in 1954, and then installed infrastructure that was inferior and inadequate to See P 5

Woman Contesting Weed Abatement Citation With The Upland City Council Narrowly Avoids Arrest

A woman denied the opportunity to address the Upland City Council at that panel's meeting on Monday night, June 12, narrowly avoided being arrested by Police Chief Marcelo Blanco when she grew insistent that she be allowed to present the evidence supporting her case that a code enforcement cita-

tion she was issued earlier this year was invalid.

City officials, concerned to the point that Blanco's action in confronting the woman and using his command presence and intimidation tactics to escort her from the council chamber crossed the line into an assault under the color of authority, have

excised the footage and part of the audio of the police chief's interaction with the woman from the video of the council meeting.

The city council on Monday night had scheduled to hold and then held a hearing during which it considered the approval of the list of parcels around See P 4

Rita Ramirez-Dean 1943-2023

Rita Ramirez-Dean, an old school Democrat whose perennial and earnest candidacies for elected office over the course of four decades provided a repeated and clear demonstration of the San Bernardino County Democratic Party's inveterate inefficacy in the face of a more sophisticated and cohesive Republican opposition, died on June 11.

Ramirez-Dean was 80.

An educator whose high-water mark in politics came for her as a member of the Copper Mountain Community College Board of Trustees, Ramirez-Dean ran for San Bernardino County superintendent of schools once, Congress four times, the San Bernardino County Board of Su- See P 3

IWVWD Opposing Bill Requiring State Board Oversight Of H₂O Rights Adjudications

Legislation now being contemplated in Sacramento carries with it the potential for complicating the effort to hash out water use arrangements at the extreme northwest corner of San Bernardino County.

Assembly Bill 60, if passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, would impact water rights adjudication cases by requiring

the courts conducting them to consult with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources to determine whether or not the proposed judgement substantially impairs the area's ability to achieve sustainable groundwater management.

The availability of water and the regulation with regard to obtaining

and using it has grown to become a huge, indeed virtually existential, issue in Indian Wells Valley, which stands at the confluence of San Bernardino, Inyo and Kern counties in the western Mojave Desert. The effort and implication of the effort at governmental regulation of the state's water resources is as pronounced or more so there than anywhere

else in California. In the face of a then-three-year running drought, California state officials in 2014 undertook efforts to head off the absolute depletion of the state's regional water resources. In September 2014, then-California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires local agencies to draft plans

to bring groundwater aquifers into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. That was followed in 2015 by Brown mandating water-saving measures throughout the state. In response, pursuant to a joint exercise of powers agreement, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority was formed with Kern County, San Bernardino Coun- See P 2

In Indian Wells Valley Water War, The Newly-Formed Ground Water Authority Abrogated Century-Old Water Rights *from front page*

ty, Inyo County, the City of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley Water District as general members and the United States Navy and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management as associate members, with each general member having one voting seat on the authority board and the federal associate members participating in all board discussions, but not having a vote.

The joint powers authority took as its mandate counteracting the overdraft of the aquifer underlying Indian Wells Valley.

Based upon a survey of water usage patterns undertaken by an engineering consultant, Carlsbad-based Stetson Engineers, the authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District sought to derive a strategy for both reducing water use in the valley and increasing groundwater recharge to reach a balance of both that will end the overdraft. Several different plans, or models, each aimed at decreasing the drafting of water from the regional aquifer through conservation, increased recycling of water and perhaps the minimization of evaporation, augmented by the importation of water from outside the valley to achieve, no later than 2040, a balance of water coming in with the amount of water usage, such that the depletion of the aquifer will end, were considered.

Stetson Engineers was designated the water resources manager for Indian Wells Valley, and the authority's board in January 2020 passed a tentative proposed groundwater sustainability plan and voted to submit it to the state. Thereafter it made adjustments to the plan,

which contained water use limitation elements and water replenishment measures. The plan incorporated a farmland fallowing option as well as an increase in the monthly assessment or fee that was imposed on the extraction of water by major pumpers. That fee had been previously collected to cover the costs associated with the administrative activity of the groundwater authority.

After a survey of water use by well owners both collectively and individually was made, the authority assigned water use allowances to the region's well owners. Excess use fees, referred to as augmentation fees, were formulated for application to those well owners who pump above their allowances as well as on any farmer whose use exceeds his respective share of the water supply set aside for agricultural usage. Money generated in this way is set aside for the future purchase of imported water and to pay for the eventual provision of infrastructure needed to bring in the imported water.

Even before the California Department of Water Resources had fully examined the proposed groundwater sustainability plan for the Indian Wells Valley, a number of farms and operations in the region raised protests over the limitations being imposed on them. Among those were Searles Valley Minerals, Mojave Pistachios and Sierra Shadows Ranch, along with John Thomas Conaway and the Nugent Family Trust. Ultimately, those entities sued the groundwater authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District as the lead agency in that joint authority, claiming the conservation efforts being undertaken imposed not only an unacceptable financial burden on them but were abrogating their long-established water use rights altogether. The legal actions have created paradoxes, as some private sector entities which are allies in their lawsuits against

the district and the authority have also filed separate actions against one another.

Meanwhile, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District pushed ahead with the effort to refine the groundwater sustainability plan and garner state authorization to apply it.

Growing out of the litigation brought by Searles Valley Minerals, Mojave Pistachios and Sierra Shadows Ranch, along with John Thomas Conaway and the Nugent Family Trust was a cross complaint from the Indian Wells Valley Water District in the form of *Indian Wells Valley Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right to Extract Groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin*. Essentially, that suit calls for a survey of water usage among all water users and purveyors in the region, data from which will ultimately form the basis of water use allotments being apportioned to those users. In this way, *Indian Wells Valley Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right to Extract Groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin* stands as a classic water rights adjudication effort, one intended to supersede earlier established adjudications. Under the legal process involved in the legal action brought by the Indian Wells Valley Water District, the region's water users are to be afforded the opportunity to object to or provide input regarding those allotments, which will ultimately be determined by an Orange County Superior Court judge.

The disputes over water in the Indian Wells Valley region have been assigned to the Orange County Superior Court to avoid bias that might manifest if the hearings were held in a court in Kern, Inyo or San Bernardino counties.

Searles Valley Minerals maintains that the water use regulation regime the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is seeking to

create and enforce is a violation of California water law and the company's long established water rights.

In September 2020, Searles Valley Minerals, represented by Eric Garner, Jeffrey Dunn and Maya Mouawad with the law firm of Best Best & Krieger, filed a lawsuit in Kern County Superior Court against the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority in an effort to protect what Garner, Dunn and Mouawad asserted are the company's groundwater rights within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, and to stop the collection of what they characterized as an illegal and unfair groundwater replenishment fee and a tax disguised, they assert, as an "extraction fee."

Searles Valley Minerals uses solution mining, which involves soaking portions of the company's dry Searles Lake in San Bernardino County with water to precipitate brine which is then extracted and processed to produce boric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, several specialty forms of borax, and salt.

The groundwater replenishment fee, according to Garner, Dunn and Mouawad, is unprecedented and exorbitant, and will increase the company's water costs by 7,000 percent or \$6 million per year – pushing Searles Valley Minerals out of business after more than 140 years of operation, and thereby threatening the livelihood of the company's 700 employees. The groundwater replenishment fee ignores and violates Searles Valley Minerals' adjudicated water rights, according to the lawsuit.

Searles Valley Minerals' 90-year-old water rights are the most senior in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

Garner, Dunn and Mouawad take issue with the fashion in which the China Lake Naval Air Station is not subject to the restrictions in the plan nor its fees and that Searles Valley Minerals' long extant water

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use patterns, including the company's provision of water to the town of Trona and its residents for domestic use is being given short shrift or ignored altogether in the current process being overseen by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

"Searles Valley Minerals' right to pump water in the basin for domestic uses is senior to any water right reserved to [the] Weapons Station, and because [the] water district's groundwater pumping began no earlier than 1955, its appropriative right, if any, to basin water remains junior to Searles Valley Minerals' right," according to the lawsuit. "The authority falsely asserts in its groundwater sustainability plan that any pumping allocations under the groundwater sustainability plan will be 'consistent with existing groundwater rights and priorities.'"

The State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources, which under AB 560 would be able to make non-binding recommendations to adjust the terms of any newly-arrived-at or imposed water adjudication, have been respectful of historically established water rights in their application of authority in their rulings with regard to water use in the past.

From a certain perspective, including that of Searles Valley Minerals and Mojave Pistachios, the more numerous residents

of southeastern Kern County, using their control of the Kern County, City of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley Water District entities within the rubric of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, are politically outmuscling the less powerful entities that fall under the groundwater authority's jurisdiction to take from them rights they have previously possessed. With the advent of AB 560, there is a possibility that Searles Valley Minerals and Mojave Pistachios could or would appeal to the State Water Resources Control Board and/or the Department of Water Resources to check the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority from substantially reducing the water rights they have already established.

To a real extent, the management of the Indian Wells Valley Water District doubles as the management of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, such that the goals of either or both are indistinguishable. At the June 12 Indian Wells Valley Water District board meeting, its members unanimously approved sending a letter to the California legislature opposing California Assembly Bill 560. According to the board members, AB 560 will throw a monkey wrench into the works of the groundwater authority's adjudication effort and will transfer too much control and power over local water management issues to the state.

Continued on Page 7

Crowd Rallies In Redlands Post Arraignment In Support Of Former President

By Mark Gutglueck

On Tuesday morning, June 13 in Miami, former President Donald Trump was arraigned in federal court on 37 charges over his handling of classified documents after he left the White House upon being succeeded by Joseph Biden as president in January 2021.

That arraignment came in the aftermath of his indictment in New York State on falsifying of business records relating to payments made from his corporation to adult video star Stormy Daniels, allegedly to buy her silence with regard to an extramarital affair they had.

What occurred Tuesday morning came amidst suggestions that the former president might also be indicted for his statements and actions leading up to and during the January 6, 2021 insurrection that occurred on the U.S. Capitol grounds.

All of this is occurring while Trump is campaigning to obtain the Republican nomination for president in the 2024 election. There are varying perspectives on the indictment, in most cases predictably based upon party affiliation, throughout the nation. Among Democrats in general and supporters of current President Joseph Biden, the effort by Special Counsel Jack Smith, who was appointed by US Attorney General Merrick Garland as an independent investigator with the U.S. Department of Justice, to seek and bring the indictment on which Trump was arraigned on Tuesday was a justifiable move. Many Democrats say they believe, as Smith has alleged, that the former president had indeed acted irresponsibly in the handling of the classified materials in question and there is a need to “protect nation-

al defense information [which is] critical to the safety and security of the United States.” Others have stated that whether or not Trump is actually guilty as charged, his re-installation into the role of president is so undesirable that any official action of the government taken against him that will reduce either his chance of capturing the Republican nomination or of prevailing in the November 2024 General Election if he does gain the Republican nomination makes the indictment called for and justifiable.

Conversely, it appears that a growing majority of Republicans across the country perceive that Donald Trump remains, despite his defeat in his bid for reelection as president in the 2020 election, as the leader and voice of their party. Among them there is a current of thought which holds the Democrat-

controlled machinery of the federal government, in particular the Justice Department, has been manipulated to bring false charges against the former president in an effort to discredit him with the body of undecided voters and voters unaffiliated with either major party and sway the election such that Trump cannot be reelected.

There are other segments of the American population that are neither committed to support nor oppose Trump in his future ambition, and it is a wide cross section of those voters to whom the Democrats and the Republicans must appeal if, to the former's preference, Biden is going to remain in the White House in 2025 and beyond, or if, as most in the Republican Party hope, Donald Trump is to avenge his 2020 loss to Biden.

Some 2,667 miles from Miami westward

across the continent in Redlands at 4 p.m. in the afternoon of June 13, more than two dozen Trump supporters rallied at the southwest and northeast corners of Alabama Street and Lugonia Avenue to make a show of their sentiments.

The rally, utilizing banners, flags, signs, placards and bullhorns, was organized by Gregory Brittain, a cabinet member with the Redlands Tea Party Patriots. He said the Alabama Street/Lugonia Avenue intersection is the “go-to rally site” in Redlands because “of its great visibility, heavy traffic and its safety.”

Upon the *Sentinel's* arrival at 3:58 p.m., one of those manning a bullhorn was already informing passers-by, “Our Constitution and our Bill of Rights are in great danger! Make no mistake about it!”

With the changing of traffic lights, those

standing at either corner angled the placards or signs they were carrying in the most advantageous direction to put them on display for each successive wave of waiting motorists. Slogans and statements on the placards included: Equal Justice; Stand With Trump; Targeted Injustice; No Political Injustice and Justice For All.

The *Sentinel* asked an older gentleman why he was participating.

“To go with Trump and see what he wants us to do,” he said. “He has been indicted under false pretenses.” He changed positions with the flow of traffic and later melded into the crowd. The *Sentinel* was unable to get his name.

The *Sentinel* asked Brittain what his purpose was in organizing the event.

“Today, with his arraignment having just occurred, I think it is
Continued on Page 4

Ramirez-Dean Lived As An Academic & Then As A Politician *from front page*

pervisors once and the California Assembly last year. While she had a demonstrated ability to win over her Democratic would-be constituents in the many different jurisdictions where she sought office and repeatedly captured her party's nomination for those positions in the primary elections held over the years, she was unsuccessful in constructing candidacies that appealed far enough across the political spectrum to capture the support of a sufficient number of independent voters and Republican voters to add to the Democratic voter totals she did manage to bring in to prevail. Born in Santa Ana in 1943 to Beatriz Ramirez and José Ramirez as the youngest of four daughters, she grew up in Orange County. Ramirez-Dean attended Chapman University, and Northern Arizona University,

earning a Bachelor of Arts in math and philosophy, California State University, Fullerton and California State University, San Bernardino, obtaining a Master of Arts in philosophy, curriculum, instruction political science and then her PhD. in education from Louisiana State University. Along the way she was granted an educational specialist certificate, secondary teaching certificate for history, mathematics, political science, curriculum and instruction, reading, sociology, business, Spanish, education and administration.

A professor fine arts and foreign language at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree from 1972 until 1999 and professor at Copper Mountain and its sister campus College of the Desert in Palm Desert from 1999 until 2004, Ramirez Dean was the chair of the foreign language department and later the chair of Copper Mountain College's reading department, which she founded.

With her husband, she

had moved to Twentynine Palms in 1972, establishing a household there and raising two sons.

She was a member of the Copper Mountain College Board of Trustees from 1999 until 2012.

Having been bitten by the political bug but in large measure unfamiliar with the mechanics of campaigning, Ramirez-Dean spun her wheels in the 1980s and early 1990s, only gradually and never fulling coming to terms with the brutal reality of pay-to-play politics in virtually every geographical location throughout far-flung San Bernardino County, and the necessity of appealing to voters within the region's predominant party – the GOP.

Basic tenants and elements of Ramirez-Dean's political philosophy clashed with the attitudes of a substantial or even predominant number of her would-be constituents, such that Ramirez Dean was not able to win an election at the county supervisorial, congressional or state legislative level. She ad-

vocated free community and state university education for all, including illegal aliens, providing tax incentives to employers to encourage hiring, the welcoming of immigrants to America on the hope that they would choose to become naturalized citizens, providing extensive benefits to military veterans and policies to ensure environmental protection.

Ramirez was also actively involved with the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee.

To the vast number of Republicans in the districts where Ramirez-Dean sought election, she was perceived as a progressive or ultra-liberal, which virtually squelched any potential for her being elected to office in the general elections held in November. General elections come in the aftermath of California's March or June primaries in which Democrats duke it out with one another for their party's nomination and Republicans do the same. Ramirez Dean did well in most primary races

she ran in against other Democrats, but she repeatedly ran into difficulty upon reach the general election races wherein Republicans held an outright voter registration advantage over Democrats or the more numerous Democrats were so poorly coordinated that despite their overall numerical advantage they would prove incapable of getting enough Democrats out to vote and drive enough of them to the polls to outmatch the Republicans who consistently had far greater voter turnout than the Democrats.

A case in point was in 2016, when Ramirez-Dean had what was, in actuality, her most impressive, though ultimately unsuccessful, electoral performance. In that year's open primary for Congress representing California's 8th Congressional District during which voters were allowed to cross party lines and vote for any candidate of their choosing rather than one limited to their own party, Ramirez found herself in a race against two strong

Republicans – incumbent Congressman Paul Cook and former Assemblyman Tim Donnelly – and two poorly financed Democrats, John Pinkerton and Roger LaPlante. Ramirez-Dean was able to use her strong liberal-progressive Democrat credentials and her Latina ethnic identity to make a strong showing by picking up more than 60 percent of the Democratic vote. In this way, she managed to outpoll Donnelly, 26,325 votes to 24,886, or 21.9 percent to 20.7 percent, good for second place and a berth in the November general election against the top vote-getter, Cook, with 50,425 votes or 42 percent. In the November run-off, Cook, to whom accrued virtually all of the Republican Donnelly's votes, trounced Ramirez Dean, 136,972 votes to 83,035 votes, a margin of 62.3 percent to 37.7 percent.

Even in victory, Ramirez would find herself outmaneuvered by the Republicans. In 2015, the 72-year-old Ramirez, having retired as a col-
Continued on Page 15

Despite Patiently Sitting Through The Upland City Council's Hearing On Code Enforcement Citations, Woman Was Given No Opportunity To Be Heard *from front page*

the city deemed by its code enforcement inspection crew to be in violation of the Upland Municipal Code relating to excessive vegetation growth and weed abatement and authorizing city staff to place a lien on those parcels.

According to the city, 22,603 property inspections were conducted beginning in February and continuing throughout March, April and into May. As a result, according to the city, there were 193 so-called courtesy notices issued in which no administrative fee was attached and the resident/landowner was give 15 days to comply. Another 42 notices to comply, sent via certified mail, were issued in cases where the city alleged the property owner or resident had gone more than 15 days without complying, entailing the levying of a \$108 administrative fee. Thereafter, upon the landowners or residents in question failing to comply, another 15 notices to abate were issued, sent by certified mail, which signaled the imposition, in addition to the \$108 administrative fee, another \$416 administrative fee for a total levy of \$524. This is to be in addition to the cost of the actual weed abatement, which the city says is competitively procured, and will be applied and charged by the city to the property owner along with a special assessment the San Bernardino County Tax Assessor's Office charges for affixing such liens. If last year's model holds through this year, the precise cost of each individual weed abatement job will be determined and specified at some point in July. A handful of residents who had been hit with the fines were present in the council chambers on Monday night.

Among those in attendance at the meeting was Swann Li, who has property in the 1300 block of Fifth Avenue.

She had come prepared to take issue with the weed abatement citation she had been issued, which, she told others in attendance, was based not on the proliferation of weeds on her property, per se, but because of what the city maintained was excessive vegetative growth which she had failed to trim. In her possession was a folder in which, in addition to the citation and notices she had been issued, were photos of her property. That photographic evidence showed, what to a layman appeared to be a relatively well-kiltered yard. She displayed, to some of the other residents and attendees in the council chambers, in particular a photo of what she said was the offending plant. The city's code enforcement division had cited her, she said, on what looked like one trunk or branch ascending from the relatively spherically-shaped foliage of a plant near the ground. There were two horizontal branches or stems coming off of the vertical trunk or branch well above the low-lying verdant growth of the plant. She indicated that florescence toward the extreme end of the branch or stem would bloom later. Nevertheless, she said, the city's code enforcement division was not willing to exhibit the degree of patience she feels is appropriate and want the trunk or branch removed.

One interpretation of the situation might be that Li had indeed run afoul of the city's code and weed abatement standards and the city was absolutely justified in the imposition of a fine.

Another equally plausible interpretation is that the city has imposed on Li at least a \$108 cost or a \$524 cost or a perhaps stiffer financial penalty for having a more thorough knowledge about the plants growing in her yard than the city's employees.

The council did not give Li the opportunity to be heard out on the issue nor itself an opportunity to examine the circumstance or evidence in Li's possession nor that potentially to be presented by the code enforcement staff to make even the semblance of an informed determination with regard to that question.

In considering the weed abatement item on the agenda, the council heard a presentation by the city code enforcement division in which, among other information, the data regarding the 22,603 inspections, 193 courtesy notices and 42 follow-up notices were provided. The public hearing was opened whereby citizens were supposed to be provided with the opportunity to address the council. The council was addressed by a resident, Geraldo Ramirez, who focused on the timelines of inspection, notice issuing and abatement deadlines, noting that the notices had actually been mailed out, based upon their postmark, the day after they were dated and the actual delivery of the notices by the post office, including his own, were delayed for another six days beyond that. Ramirez's point was that the city was proceeding with levying the \$108 fines/administrative fees and then the additional \$416 administrative fees/fines not in accordance with its stated 15-day noticing period but in as little as eight or perhaps fewer days from the time that those cited actually received the notices. During the course of Ramirez's input, Councilman Rudy Zuniga inquired about how many others present were contesting the compressed margin of notification. At that point, Li, who was sitting in the front row of the public gallery of the council chamber closest to the council dais and was therefore clearly visible to the council, gestured with the raising of her arm and hand to indicate she wanted to take up that issue as well.

Ramirez was followed by a second city resident,

Mark Smith, who, as Li intended to do, used photos of his property to make his pitch to be excused from having to pay the fine levied on him because of his efforts to redress the issues for which he had been cited.

Throughout the input offered by the first two residents who came forward to speak, Mayor Bill Velto signaled, both visibly and verbally to his council colleagues, what appeared to be a growing impatience with the proceedings. While the hearing was yet ongoing during Smith's presentation, in an exchange between Velto and Assistant City Attorney Thomas Rice, Rice said, "Mayor and council, could I suggest we allow Mr. Smith - He's got four minutes left remaining of his comments - we allow him to have his four minutes uninterrupted, an opportunity to proceed with his case, and then we can close the public hearing and proceed with deliberation, asking questions of staff and the like? Thank you." This appeared to set the city council and the city staff present on a course by which Li and any others present who intended to address the council with regard to the weed abatement program were to have their opportunity to speak publicly that evening foreclosed.

At the conclusion of Smith's presentation, Velto, ignoring Li's earlier indication of her intention to contest her fine, checked with City Clerk Carrie Johnson, asking her if there were any further speakers. Johnson informed him, in error, that there were no others who wanted to address the city council with regard to the weed abatement citation issue, and Velto immediately closed the public hearing. In doing so, he preempted Li and any others who were present who wanted to do so from contesting, or registering their protest with regard to, the citations they had received or the grounds upon which they had been issued. Thus, Ms. Li was provided no opportunity to present her case nor the photograph-

ic evidence in her possession. Thereupon, the council discussed the requests made by Ramirez and Smith, voting 4-to-1, with Councilman Carlos Garcia dissenting, to grant Ramirez's request for his fine to be rescinded and voting 5-to-0 to enforce the fine levied against Smith. The council thereafter voted 5-to-0 to enforce the remainder of the fines/assessments.

Velto adjourned the meeting into what he said was a "three-minute" break.

Velto and several of the council members then departed from the dais and went behind the curtains that are the background to the dais. City Attorney Rice stood and moved westward behind the dais, coming around its west side, where he walked to the west side of gallery to engage with members of city staff. As he did so, Li stood up from her place at the front of the gallery and approached him. Somewhat disdainfully, however, Rice did not condescend to speak with her and she then returned to the eastern side of the dais, where she approached City Clerk Johnson. She asked Johnson when she would have the opportunity to be heard with regard to her weed abatement citation and fine/administrative fee. Johnson told her that the public hearing was closed and the matter concluded. Li stated she had come to the council meeting to be heard, expressed consternation and importuned Johnson to speak with some higher authority to see if her case could be considered. Johnson went behind the curtains, emerging no more than two minutes later, telling Li that the public hearing was not going to be reopened.

While the break was yet ongoing, Li then addressed herself to the two members of the city's code enforcement division who had presented their case to the council as those employees were making their way toward City Hall's east entrance/exit and went behind a glass partition separating the council chamber

from the eastern civic offices. She remained behind the glass partition in conversation with them for roughly four minutes, the ultimate upshot of which was that they told her they had no authority to reconsider her matter, which was up to the city council to adjudicate.

In the meantime, the council had fully returned to the dais and reconvened, hearing a two-minute-and-15-second report from Councilman Garcia with regard to the city's most recent economic development committee meeting.

The council was just moving into a preview of the 2023-24 budget being presented by Assistant City Manager Steven Parker when Li came away from her impromptu meeting with the two city code enforcement officers. She approached the dais from the its eastern side, that is from the right in considering the perspective of the public or generally from the left considering the perspective of those seated at the curved dais.

She attempted to address the council.

"This is ridiculous," she said, seeking at that point to address Rice for the second time. "I need to talk to the lawyer."

Police Chief Blanco, who was seated among the city staff members in the front row on the west side of the gallery, launched himself out of his seat and made his way toward Li, making a dynamic show of presence as he approached her.

"I did not get a chance to speak," Li said.

Excuse me, Ma'am, you're disrupting a public meeting and if you continue to do so I will arrest you.." he began.

"You intrude my rights..."

"I understand that," Blanco spontaneously acknowledged, but continued straightaway toward Li.

"This isn't fair," protested Li.

"You already had an opportunity to speak," Blanco said, contradicting what he had said just seconds before.

"I don't know the

Continued on Page 14

Bentsen Overcame Skepticism About His Ability To Take Charge And Competently Run A Municipal Organization But Was Tripped Up When He Relied On His Law Enforcement Orientation And Tried To Use The City's Authority As A Crime-Fighting Tool *from front page*

support the population that came to inhabit what was eventually incorporated into a city in 1988. The first several generations of the city's political leadership, in some cases because of natural inclination and in other cases as a consequence of graft and corruption, were virulently pro-development in their orientation toward running and managing the city, opting to allow the building industry to proceed with project after project that was accompanied by inadequate infrastructure, thereby perpetuating and exacerbating the infrastructure deficit that had characterized the community from the time before Phillips abandoned it to pursue his "get rich quick" scheming elsewhere. The situation in Hesperia was not enhanced by the consideration that its first city manager was Robert Rizzo, who militated with investment and development interests in Orange County to commit the city's governmental structure to facilitating and having the city's taxpayers subsidize elaborate developmental schemes in which the cost of infrastructure was to be underwritten by the public rather than the entities that profited by the residential and commercial subdivisions that were popping up all over the more-than-70-square-mile city. Further long-existent detractors to the city consisted of the Burlington-Northern Railway Line that bifurcated the city and made crossing from the city's east to west and vice versa possible only at three locations and the consideration that when the city first incorporated it was saddled with an arrangement put in place which provides it with a return of only 1.57 percent to 1.59 percent of the property tax collected within its borders. In this regard, Hesperia is

the long-forgotten stepchild of San Bernardino County, receiving the lowest percentage of property tax among all of the county's 24 incorporated municipalities.

Bentsen proved to be a more apt municipal manager than many of his detractors thought someone professionally trained to be a policeman would turn out to be. Still, he made mistakes, including one that was clearly an outgrowth of his professional orientation as a lawman.

One of those was the formulation of the City of Hesperia's "Crime Free Rental Housing Ordinance," which was devised by Bentsen while he was yet Hesperia police chief and first put into place under Podgracz but which was fully implemented during Bentsen's tenure and remained in effect between January 1, 2016 and its amendment on July 18, 2017. It required all rental property owners to evict tenants upon notice by the sheriff's department that the tenants had engaged in any alleged criminal activity on or near the property. In 2019, the U.S. Justice Department under the administration of then-President Donald Trump filed a lawsuit alleging both the City of Hesperia and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in pursuing the program aimed at reducing crime discriminated against African American and Latino renters in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

The federal lawsuit alleged that the city, with substantial support from the sheriff's department, enacted the ordinance and then enforced it in such a way as to address what one city Hesperia councilmember called a "demographical problem," which was defined as the city's increasing African-American and Latino population. The

ordinance resulted in the evictions of numerous African-American and Latino renters, according to the U.S. Justice Department. The complaint further alleged that the sheriff's department exercised its substantial discretion in enforcement to target African-American and Latino renters and areas of Hesperia heavily populated with so-called "protected minorities," including Latinos and African-Americans. Although the ordinance purported to target "criminal activity," the sheriff's department notified landlords to begin evictions of entire families – including children – for conduct involving one tenant or even non-tenants, evictions of victims of domestic violence, and evictions based on mere allegations and without evidence of criminal activity, according to the civil complaint.

The city's need to defend against the suit marred much of Bentsen's tenure as city manager. In December 2022, a settlement of the federal suit was brokered between U.S. Justice De-

partment and the City of Hesperia.

As a retired law enforcement officer, Bentsen is due, under the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement System, known by its acronym SBCERA, a pension equal to 3 percent of his top pay as a sheriff's captain times the number of years – 27 – he was employed by the sheriff's department. As a city manager with Hesperia, under the California Public Employees Retirement System, he is entitled to a pension equal to 3 percent of his salary as a city manager times the number of years – seven – he was employed by the city. Thus, with 34 total years as a public employee, Bentsen is eligible to pull a pension equal to 100 percent of his current pay of \$243,751.56, subject to a three percent cost of living increase per year, each year for the rest of his life. Upon his death, his wife will be eligible to a continuation of a pension equal to half of that for the rest of her life.

In this way, the incentive to retire was too

great for Bentsen to resist.

According to Kelly Brady, Hesperia public relations analyst, "Bentsen's last day of service to the City of Hesperia will be June 18."

Brady said, "Assistant City Manager Rachel Molina will serve as the city's next city manager, effective June 19, 2023." Molina, a longtime Hesperia resident with over 16 years of service to the city, was offered an employment contract, unanimously approved by the Hesperia City Council in October 2022, following City Manager Nils Bentsen's retirement announcement.

"We are very pleased to make this appointment from within our existing city leadership team that will allow for as seamless a transition as possible for the organization and the community," said Hesperia Mayor Brigit Bennington. "Rachel has served our community exceptionally for many years and is a proven leader in municipal government. For these reasons, she is well-positioned to lead our city into the future."

Molina was first employed by the city in 2007 as a senior office assistant in the city manager's office. Since then, she has served in various positions, including public information officer, deputy city manager and assistant city manager.

"The opportunity to be Hesperia's city manager is an honor and I appreciate the support of our city council to serve in this new capacity," said Molina. "Over the past 16 years, I have worked alongside an incredible team of dedicated public servants to provide exceptional services and programs to our residents and other community stakeholders. I look forward to continuing our important initiatives that improve our quality of life as Hesperia grows and prospers."

Molina holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University and a master's degree in public administration from California Baptist University.

-Mark Gutglueck

County To Force Its Homeless Population To Take Anti-Psychotic Medication *from front page*

demonstrated as workable and successful under the auspices of Assembly Bill 1421, the requirement was permanentized with Assembly Bill 1976. Subsequently Senate Bill 507 created a requirement that for the law to go into effect in any given county, the county's board of supervisors must enact an ordinance permitting outpatient commitment programs under the provisions of the act to take place in that particular county.

According to the county, the board's approval of that ordinance will result in providing "assistance" to those in the county suffering from mental illness, while simultaneously promoting public safety and quality of life and reducing the

level of homelessness. As framed, Laura's Law is supposed to require that those subjected to involuntary drugging have a serious mental illness in addition to a history of psychiatric care or hospitalizations, incarceration or acts of violence, threats of violence or attempted violence.

Based on the board of supervisor's action on Tuesday, virtually anyone who is homeless in San Bernardino County will now be subject to being involuntarily medicated. Two of the supervisors equated homelessness with mental illness.

"Homelessness is, in large part, a mental health problem," said Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Paul Cook. "This action recognizes that reality and gives law enforcement and the courts new tools and resources to ensure that our chronically homeless get the mental health services they need."

Supervisor Joe Baca Jr. said, "The implementation of Laura's Law in San Bernardino County holds the promise of achieving measurable progress in addressing homelessness and two of its root causes – mental illness and substance abuse."

"By taking this action, we are strengthening the partnership between [the] county [department of] behavioral health, the sheriff, and the county's entire law and justice system to ensure the wellbeing and rights of all of our residents, including the mentally ill, are served and protected," said Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Dawn Rowe.

"I appreciate the unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors to taking today's meaningful step to address the human component of our current mental health crisis and its associated effects," said Sheriff Shannon Dicus. "I look

forward to working with all our county partners as we collaboratively develop and implement solutions."

Dicus stated most of the mentally ill homeless individuals encountered by his Homeless Outreach and Proactive Enforcement Team, known by the acronym HOPE, don't understand they are mentally ill and therefore resist help.

An issue in the sheriff's department's interaction with the county's homeless population is the sometimes gratuitous violence deputies visit upon those they encounter in the field. The frequency of anabolic steroid use among San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies, particularly those under the age of 35, is significantly higher than in the population generally. A common cluster of side effects of anabolic steroid use is irritability, anger, both verbal aggression

Continued on Page 7

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San Bernardino County
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Diversion Of Its H₂O Money, Utilized As A Stopgap Ploy During The 2007-08 Economic Downturn, Grew Into An Ontario Municipal Institution *from front page*

levels. Those economic doldrums would persist for more than seven years, becoming what in common parlance was known as "the Great Recession." The accompanying diminution in revenue at the state and local governmental levels led to a substantial degree of belt-tightening by cities, which entailed in many cases layoffs, employment contract renegotiations leading to salary freezes or wage and benefit reductions, the decrease in services or other financial fixes.

Among several cities, including Ontario, one strategy applied was borrowing from municipal utility funds often referred to as enterprise funds. In Ontario, at that time led by then-City Manager Greg Devereaux, the city undertook what was initially planned as a temporary solution to a cash flow problem considered to be fleeting. That remedy consisted of taking money out of its water utility fund to shore up the city's general fund. This solution was one that was originally intended to last only a short time, essentially just as long as the recession continued. Upon the onset of an economic recovery, the borrowing would end and as the economy normalized, the money that had

been taken out of the water department's account would be repaid, or so was the stated intention.

In early 2010, San Bernardino County lured Devereaux away from Ontario to install him as the county chief executive officer, and the Ontario City Council elevated the city's fire chief, Christopher Hughes, to the city manager's position. Hughes, while well-versed in running the fire department, had no real experience in managing a municipality, and the task of overseeing a city as large, complex and variegated as Ontario was a challenge on multiple fronts, not the least of which was maintaining its financial integrity. If the idea had been to keep Hughes in place as city manager just long enough for the city to seek out a municipal managerial professional more accustomed to the intricacies of keeping all of the moving parts of a city in harmonious motion, that effort was sidetracked, and Hughes remained as city manager more than three-and-a-half years. Since he inherited a budget that was dependent upon – one might even say addicted – to the augmentations from the city's water fund, Hughes never knew anything different. In the 2010-11, 2011-12,

2012-13 and 2013-14 budgets that were prepared under his watch, borrowings from the city's water fund to balance the general fund budget became institutionalized. So, too, when then-Assistant City Manager Al Boling transitioned into being Ontario's city manager in October 2013, the city had grown so accustomed to using water fund money as part of City Hall's operating budget he continued pulling out at or around \$10 million per year from the water department to finance basic city operations. Boling lasted four years as city manager, and in November 2017, he was replaced by Scott Ochoa, who had previously been city manager in Glendale.

Under Ochoa, the transfers of money – at a clip of nearly \$10 million per year – from the water fund to the city's general fund continued. That "borrowing," as it were, was no longer justifiable. The 2007 economic downturn had proven abnormally persistent, lasting until 2013 as measured by some indicators. By 2014, the United States, California and the Southern California Region had shaken off the financial doldrums, and in the public sector, among county and municipal governments as well as virtually all governmental agencies, the healthy revenue levels of 2006 had been restored and in virtually all cases surpassed. Not only had

the time to discontinue the transfers out of the water fund come about some four years before Ochoa arrived, but it was now high time, as had been intended by Devereaux and the municipal management team that surrounded him in 2008, that the flow of money be reversed such that the city's general fund began to reimburse the city's water utility all of the money that had been taken from it over the course of the previous six years.

But the lack of fiscal discipline in the Ontario bureaucracy that flourished under Boling did not magically or simply vanish with the arrival of Ochoa. Actually, in the first several months that Ochoa was at the helm in Ontario, he did not know that the raid of the water fund that was taking place that year was going on and he was equally oblivious that it had been occurring for what was at that point nearly a decade. It was not until he had been ensconced as city manager for several months in the late winter of 2018 while he was looking forward to the framing of the 2018-19 budget that he took stock of the fact that taking money out of the city's water department for use elsewhere was de rigeur in Ontario. At that point, relatively newly arrived in Ontario, with a city council that was long accustomed to operating as the leadership of a city with an annual

operating budget well above half of a billion dollars – putting it head and shoulders and half of its trunk financially above the next wealthiest city in San Bernardino County – Ochoa was not sure enough of his footing to make any major departure from what was traditional in the city he was being entrusted with managing, at a salary no less of \$320,229, with perks and add-ons of \$31,633 and benefits of \$74,332 for a total annual compensation package of \$426,194. Similarly, in 2019 with the 2019-20 budget and in 2020 with the 2020-21 budget, Ochoa was not yet sure enough of himself to confront his political masters on the city council and strongly suggest that the city ween itself from the practice of looting its water department of money that by the rule of law and code of common decency should have been used all along to maintain the infrastructure required to deliver the elixir of life to the city's residents and businesses.

By 2021, however, Ochoa could no longer hold in abeyance his conscience and the sense of overhanging doom that awaited him and the other bigwigs at Ontario City Hall if he continued rolling the dice by mispending the city's water division money. Sooner or later, and quite possibly sooner, someone with authority and maybe even someone with

the power of prosecution was going to take note of what was going on, he realized. At that point, with the 2021-22 budget, the diversion of water funds ended, 13 years after it had begun.

While that page in Ontario history has been turned, arrangements to have the general fund return as much as a dime of the more than \$120 million taken out of the city's water operations budget going back to 2008 has yet to occur.

Meanwhile, a cadre of Ontario residents, knowledgeable at what has occurred and equally conscious that Ontario had a nearly two-thirds of a billion budget in the current 2022-23 fiscal year, aware that its voters in November 2022 passed Measure Q, a one-cent sales tax override that is going to swell the city's coffers by another \$96 million per year and fully conscious that the city is going to see that budget grow to within shouting distance of a billion dollars in 2023-34 at \$979 million, are beginning to agitate their fellow residents to stage protests and resistance to the city's proposal to up its water rates this year along with increases in the city's trash hauling rates and sewer rates.

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, there was a 3.5 percent increase in the city's water rates over what was previously in place. In 2022-23 the water rates went up in Ontario

Continued on Page 8

Chino Hills Poached Development Services Director Liguori From Chino

Nicholas Liguori's previously inexplicable exit as the City of Chino's director of development services, it has turned out, came about because he was offered a similar but more lucrative position in neighboring Chino Hills.

Liguori began with Chino as a planner in

2004. By 2012, he was the deputy director of community development. In 2014, he was promoted to director of community development. In 2018, he was promoted to director of community services.

Liguori has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning from

California Polytechnic State University, Pomona and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge. He is certified as a planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners.

While with Chino, Liguori was the lead staff

member on the effort to update that city's comprehensive general plan and complete two housing element updates. As the head of the community development department in Chino Hills, he will be the city's highest-ranking land use official and oversee a staff of 16, which includes

the employees with the planning and building and safety divisions. All proposals for residential, commercial and industrial development will flow through the offices he is responsible for.

It is unclear whether Liguori was recruited by the City of Chino Hills and/or invited to

apply for the post he is to assume on June 26 or whether he applied for the position after the city began the process of filling the community development director's spot when JoAnn Lombardo retired as community development director in March.

Continued on Page 14

One Long Term Side Effect Of The Drugs The County Will Be Forcing On The Homeless Is Parkinson's Disease *from front page*

and physical aggression, as well as violence, collectively known as 'roid rage. Because deputies exhibiting 'roid rage are more prone to use excessive force, the department's more mature and higher-ranking commanders tend toward assigning them to jails or details such as the Homeless Outreach and Proactive Enforcement Team, the latter in particular because the county's homeless denizens are far less likely to have the wherewithal to hire an attorney when excessive force is used against them.

The four medications likely to be prescribed to the county's homeless as a consequence of the advent of Laura's Law in San Bernardino County are old school Thorazine; Serioquel, also known as Quetiapine; Risperidone, also known as Risperdol; and Haldol, also known as Haloperidol.

Serioquel was described to the *Sentinel* as a mild antipsychotic; Risperidone as a mid-range anti-psychotic;

and both Thorazine and Haldol as powerful anti-psychotics.

Thorazine leaves most of those who take it in an uncommunicative, nearly vegetative state, rendering even the most violent-prone individual docile. Because of the degree to which it incapacitates its users, many American psychiatric professionals have migrated away from using it in recent years.

A side effect of Serioquel is seizures.

Risperidone's side effects may include users developing potentially permanent involuntary body movement; death resulting from an increase in body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure; and an increased risk of suicide.

Likewise, Haldol's side effects include potentially permanent involuntary body movement and death resulting from an increase in body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.

A medical professional the *Sentinel* consulted with said that most of the anti-psychotics given in sensible doses would remain effective for roughly six hours. An alternative dosing methodology to oral ingestion with Haldol, particularly those resistant to taking

it on a daily basis, would be to intermuscle inject a time-released formulation every four to five weeks.

The judicious and limited use of anti-psychotics for patients who are truly psychotic can "do good," the consultant told the *Sentinel*. "If you have someone who is in a paranoid state, delusional and not dealing realistically or logically, these are treatments which will help him or her make better decisions," he said. He emphasized, however, that for each individual patient, dosages had to be "calibrated precisely. It's very to get it wrong."

Even more importantly, he said, it has to be taken into consideration that these are only temporary fixes.

"None of those are permanent solutions," he said, as even short-term use can subject the patient to undesirable side effects, and longer-term use means the side effects are assured and will be even more pronounced. Six months, he said, is the longest duration that anyone should be taking anti-psychotics. With all four of the substances considered, the onset of Parkinson's disease would be very likely if their use extend-

ed to a year-and-a-half, he said.

Part of the county's calculation in adopting Laura's Law is that the county's homeless do not have and are unlikely to develop the means and sophistication to legally challenge what they are to be subjected to.

As demonstrated by Cook's and Baca's statements, anyone who is homeless in San Bernardino County is considered mentally ill. By demonstrating to a judge that just one of the other four set of criteria – previous psychiatric care or hospitalizations; incarceration; an act or acts of violence; or threats or attempts at violence – applies, the burden of proving that an individual needs to be provided assisted outpatient treatment will have been met.

San Bernardino County has been rolling the dice on drugging people against their will for nearly two decades. Since the turn of the Third Millennium, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, has been managing the male inmate population in its jails with the administration of anti-psychotic medication,

a primary one being Thorazine. If an inmate gets into a fight – even if he is not the aggressor – or if he involves himself in a verbal altercation with another inmate, he will be sent to an interview with the jail psychologist/psychiatrist. Based upon the psychologist/psychiatrist's subjective determination, an inmate can, and likely will, be prescribed medication. Most inmates, faced with interminable days in custody and only limited venues for activity or amusement within the confines of the jail or detention center, freely take the medication, which renders them into docility, making it far less challenging for their jailers to deal with them. Occasionally, an inmate will resist taking his "prescription." The jailers will then inform the other inmates in his dormitory that their collective privileges – television, exercise, access to the commissary, telephone – are being revoked because of the inmate's intransigence in taking his medicine. In virtually every case, after the inmate's fellow prisoner's go to work on him, he will relent and take his medication. The sheriff's department's practice in this regard

is kept on the down low and has gone virtually unchallenged.

In 2016, the *Sentinel* made a California Public Records Request with San Bernardino County, The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Services for information and documents pertaining to the policy of drugging inmates in the custody of the sheriff's department. None of the three parties responded to that request.

The untoward health consequences of prolonged anti-psychotic use are so onerous that the county board of supervisors' adoption of Laura's Law has created a risk that some enterprising attorney will one day take up the cause of an indigent victim who in the future develops a neurological disorder such as Parkinson's Disease from having been forcefully and involuntarily medicated, opening the way for an onslaught of similar lawsuits that will perhaps create a revenue stream by which a good number of the county's homeless might at last be able to afford to purchase houses.

–Mark Gutglueck

Newly Created Groundwater Authority And Water District In Indian Wells Valley That Has Existed Since 1955 Want To Keep State Agencies Out Of That Region's Water Conservation Efforts *from page 2*

Among some, that concern is less than consistent with the reality of the legislation's intent, which is to facilitate the principle upon which the Indian Wells Valley

Groundwater Authority was created. Assembly Bill 560 will require judges presiding over water adjudication cases to submit their rulings and final determination

to the State Water Resources Control Boards and Department of Water Resources to certify them as "consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act."

Nevertheless, neither the State Water Resources Control Boards nor the Department of Water Resources would have the authority to change the court's ruling under AB 560, which states,

"The court shall not be bound to enter judgment in a manner consistent with the advisory determination of the board."

The legislative intent of Assembly Bill 560 is to encourage administrative and judicial efficiency, as judges hearing water rights adjudication cases are already subject to incorporating the substance and restrictions of the Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act in their determinations. Having the State Water Resources Control Boards and Department of Water Resources review those rulings is meant to provide added assurance the courts will take the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's provisions into consideration before rendering a ruling or order that is

then challenged at the appellate level, resulting in drawn-out delays in putting water conservation measures into place.

Indian Wells Valley Water District officials, however, said they yet believe that Assembly Bill 560 gives state officials additional leverage to engage in "meddling" with local authority over groundwater resources.

–Mark Gutglueck

SBC Young Farmers & Ranchers Inaugurate Viticulture Series for Winemakers

The Young Farmers and Ranchers of the San Bernardino County Farm Bureau hosted a wine tasting of the local micro-boutique winery, Coyote Oaks, at Uncorked on State Street in Redlands with a private vineyard tour the following day. The tasting was led by the winemaker, Karen Sherman.

The tasting was a comparative tasting between wines from the Escondido region and those made with grapes grown in Redlands and the surrounding areas. The event was attended by winemaking professionals from the Redlands and Yucaipa areas as well as Farm Bureau members and members of the public. Food pair-

ings were selected from the Uncorked menu. The event was organized by the Young Farmers and Ranchers Steering Committee, comprised of Dalton Abrahms, Dylan Hatt, and John P. Beall.

This tasting is the first of a new series the Young Farmers and Ranchers have launched on the theme of wine, winemaking, and viticulture, which as an industry is one of this valley's oldest commercial crops dating back to at least the early 19th Century. When Redlands became a dry town in the 1890s, grape growers in the area moved to Rancho Cucamonga and the Guasti District in Ontario, which became the largest grape-growing

region in the world at the turn of the 20th Century. Redlands is no longer a dry city, and now farmers and homeowners are taking a second look at this water-efficient and long-successful crop, with several wineries already in operation in the Redlands and Yucaipa areas.

"The Redlands and Yucaipa areas already have several vineyards and wineries doing great things," said Beall of the Young Farmers & Ranchers' steering committee. The series will focus on various aspects of grape cultivation and winemaking, even on a small scale, showcasing the developments of the industry in the area. The series will also fea-

ture experiences on other special agricultural commodities of the area including olives, dairy, specialty crops, spices, flowers, and of course citrus and other fruits.

"The State of California recognizes this area as containing some of the best farmland in the state. This surprises people, because I think many take farming here for granted. There's a lot of great things that can be done or are already happening here in agriculture, and we want to help people experience it," said Beall, "and if people want to get started on an idea, we want to help that too. Oftentimes the biggest perceived obstacle is figuring out how to begin."

Those interested in attending future events should monitor the Young Farmers and Ranchers of San Bernardino County Instagram page @yfrofsbco for further information. Membership is available to farmers and non-farmers who are simply interested in the area's agriculture; to learn more, consult <https://sbfarmbureau.com/>.

The Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee is a program for agriculturalists between the ages of 18 and 35 involved in production, banking, business, and many other areas of the industry. Young Farmers and Ranchers provides opportunities to develop leadership skills through

involvement in Farm Bureau at the county, state, and national levels.

The San Bernardino County Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization supported by farmers, ranchers, growers and business support members and is one of 53 county farm bureaus in California. Established in 1917, the San Bernardino County Farm Bureau advocates on behalf of family farmers and serves the needs of the agriculture community through public relations, education and public policy advocacy in order to promote the economic viability of agriculture balanced with appropriate management of natural resources.

While Calling Using General Funds To Prop Up Water Operations Inadvisable, Ontario's City Manager Offered No Specifics About When The General Fund Will Pay Back Borrowings It Made From The Water Fund *from page 6*

by an average of 5 percent.

According to Ochoa, "The upcoming utility rate plan would increase the overall water/sewer/trash bill for a typical residential customer by 7 percent (about \$8.35 per month) beginning in July 2023, and 6 percent (about \$7.92 per month) beginning in July 2024."

The Ontario City Council is scheduled to sign off on those increases at its July 18 meeting.

With its \$979 million budget in the upcoming fiscal year, Ontario has revenue and will engage in spending that is well above twice that of the next wealthiest city in San Bernardino County, Victorville, and is actually closer to being three times as well endowed financially as Victorville, which in 2022-23 had a \$333,533,046 budget.

The *Sentinel* asked Ochoa why it was that Ontario, which is so shipshape in terms of its finances, is now looking to institute yet another rate hike on water after having hit the city's residents with the 5 percent

increase last year and a 3.5 percent increase the year before that.

"It is important for enterprise funds (for example, water, sewer and integrated waste funds) to be self-supporting as business operations," Ochoa said. "While it is allowable to have the city's general fund support these operations, it is not advisable. Considering that the general fund houses most of the discretionary funding for traditional municipal services (public safety services, quality of life services, etc.), deferring appropriate rate increases to enterprise operations only exacerbates future problems when the public demands more general fund services. When that occurs and the enterprise funds must again stand on their own, then the rate increases needed to shore up those operations would be extreme."

Ochoa suggest that the infusion of \$96 million the city will see as a consequence of the passage of last year's sales tax increase will be used

in areas other than in restoring the city's water system to the state it would be in if the money taken out of the water fund in the thirteen years from 2008 to 2021 had been used for maintenance, refurbishing and modernization.

"With respect to Measure Q, the value proposition made to the voters was that the city would expand services and make major investments in Ontario's quality of life via strategic investments in community amenities," Ochoa said. "Folks voted for Measure Q in order to leverage the sales tax power that Ontario has in the region in order to improve their community with additional services and amenities here at home. Indeed, our estimate is that more than half of Measure Q revenues will be generated by people who do not live in our town. I honestly don't think that voters would have been motivated to vote yes if the value proposition keyed off of deferring or reducing utility rates that are today a solid value in the marketplace."

In this way, Ochoa suggested it was not asking too much of Ontario's residents and business owners to bear the onus at this time of not only the increase in water rates but its sewer and

trash rates as well. At the same time he said, using the city's vast revenue pool from other sources to fill in the water fund would be imprudent.

"The increases are indeed justified for water, sewer and integrated waste operations, maintenance, and capital investment," he said. "The city may underwrite enterprise operations; however, it is not advisable or good management. In California today, fees and charges are so heavily regulated and differentiated from taxes, levies and assessments that not applying the appropriate charges for service delivery where they are allowed/justified/appropriate, essentially boxes out funding for other community-desired services."

Ochoa said, "As for the integrated waste management component of the proposed rate increase, and as highlighted in our rate study prepared pursuant to state law in order to bring forth a proposed rate plan, all of the costs incurred by the city to operate the waste management system are represented. We haul our own trash (both residential and commercial); our costs for people, vehicles, fuel, compliance with state-mandated programs, etc., have in-

creased. We utilize a material recovery facility owned and operated by Burrtec; their rates have increased. Our community's residual trash is sent to a landfill owned and operated by Waste Management; their rates are increasing as well. The proposed integrated waste fees for service reflect all of these real-world costs incurred in doing business."

Ochoa spoke in careful denial of any illegality with regard to the money that had been removed from the city's water fund.

"The City of Ontario certainly does not 'loot' enterprise funds," he said. "Additionally, any 'borrowing' of enterprise funds is for specific purposes, features specific terms that are compliant both with state law and generally accepted accounting principles, and does not impact day-to-day utility operations."

The city manager said the money taken out of the city's water fund had been accounted for, but he did not offer any precise detail as to that money being paid back or the schedule for doing so.

"Enterprise operations are indeed accounted for in their own separate funds," he said. "Use of enterprise revenues must be restricted to direct enterprise op-

erations, less appropriate and allowable cost allocation pursuant to state law."

While Ochoa made clear his disapproval of having the city's general fund subsidize water operations, he made no mention of having the city's water fund, which for 13 years subsidized general fund operations by well over \$120 million, being recompensed.

Ochoa deflected suggestions that the well-heeled shot callers at City Hall were insensitive to the additional financial burden they were imposing on many of the residents in Ontario who have incomes that are a fraction of those of city employees or the income, pensions or independent wealth of the members of the city council.

"As a resident of Ontario, I am certainly empathetic of all members of our community," Ochoa said. "I know the mayor and council are as well – so much so that prior to the introduction of this rate plan, they approved an updated low-income senior and low-income disabled subsidy ordinance that will take effect by the end of this month. This subsidy is estimated to abate most or all of the anticipated increase for qualifying households."

-Mark Gutglueck

Public Notices

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 JULY 3, 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 Darrell Benton:

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 June 9, 16 & 23, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KENNETH W. HOFF
CASE NO. PROSB2300699

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

THE PETITION requests the decedents 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

Public Notices

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 July 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S37 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: June 2, 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 Andrea David Niotta:

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 June 9, 16 and 23, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

NUMBER 2311466
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Emily Kieffer filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Emily Grace Kieffer to Emily Grace Kieffens, 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:

Public Notices

Date: 08/16/2023
Time: 08:30 AM
Department: S30

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 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.

Dated: 04/06/2023
Judge of the Superior Court: Brian S McCarville

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 06/08/2023, 06/15/2023, 06/22/2023, 06/29/2023

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 2308497

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: Troy Allen Stephens to Troy Allen Keiffens

Troy Allen Stephens to Troy Allen Keiffens, 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: 08/16/2023
Time: 08:30 AM
Department: S33
The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 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.

Dated: 04/06/2023
Judge of the Superior Court: Brian S McCarville

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 06/08/2023, 06/15/2023, 06/22/2023, 06/29/2023

FBN 20230004569
The following entities are doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ARCOIRIS DE RECINA ARTE Y MANUALIDADES PERSONALIZADAS 9065 FOOTHILL BLVD. APT C-14 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: ENRIQUETA GALINDO 9065 FOOTHILL BLVD. APT C-14 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

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

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

s/ ENRIQUETA GALINDO, Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/03/2023

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy J5473

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of

Public Notices

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 June 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2023.

FBN 20230004282
The following entities are doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

GETCHA-CLEAN 937 TEXAS ST REDLANDS, CA 92374: PATRICK S HICKS 937 TEXAS ST REDLANDS, CA 92374

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JULY 7, 2022.

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

s/ PATRICK S HICKS, Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/27/2023

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 I9576

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 June 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2023.

FBN 20230005798
The following entities are doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

HEAVY HITTERS BARBER COLLEGE 15329 PALMDALE RD, UNIT A VICTORVILLE, CA 92392: HEAVY HITTERS BARBER COLLEGE LLC 15329 PALMDALE RD, UNIT A VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MARCH 14, 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/ JOSHUA BANDY, CEO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 6/06/2023

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy I1287

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 June 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARTIN LUTHER HOWARD, SR
aka MARTIN LUTHER HOWARD
CASE NO. PROSB2300710

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

Public Notices

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 JULY 18, 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.

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 Mark Langston Howard:

Monrow A. Mabon
SBN 128271
19069 Van Buren Blvd. Suite 114 & 316
Riverside, CA 92508
Phone (951) 455 8710
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 16, 23 & 30, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOYCE PHYLLIS HEATH,
also known as JOY HEATH
Case NO. PROSB2300732

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOYCE PHYLLIS HEATH, also known as JOY HEATH

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RANDALL BRIAN MENDELSON in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RANDALL BRIAN MENDELSON 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 in Dept. S35 at 09:00 AM on 07/13/2023 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

Public Notices

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.

David F. Calkins
500 N. Brand Blvd., 20th Floor
Glendale CA 91203

Telephone No: 818-392-8222
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023, 06/30/2023

FBN 20230005852
The following entities are doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

TOGETHER WE ROSE 203 E. CALIFORNIA ST. ONTARIO, CA 91761: ALAN ESTRADA 203 E. CALIFORNIA ST. 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: May 17, 2017.

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/ ALAN ESTRADA, Founder and CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 6/8/2023

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 J2522

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 June 16, 23, 30 & July 7, 2023.

FBN 20230004995
The following person is doing business as: SARA FASHION. 120 N 13TH AVE APT E UPLAND, CA 91786

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SARAH CERVANTES LOPEZ 120 N 13TH AVE APT E 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/ SARAH CERVANTES LOPEZ, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 15, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 05/26/2023, 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023 CN-BB22202312MT

Public Notices

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 05/26/2023, 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023 CN-BB22202314MT

FBN 20230005136

The following person is doing business as: RUSSELL CAMERAS AND MONITORING. 569 N MOUNTAIN AVE SUITE H UPLAND, CA 91786: MAILING ADDRESS 1042 N MOUNTAIN AVE SUITE B14 UPLAND, CA 91786: COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CITY CAPITAL CORP. 569 N MOUNTAIN AVE. SUITE H UPLAND, CA 91786 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ PABLO J LUCANERA, PRESIDENT
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 17, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 05/26/2023, 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023 CN-BB22202313MT

FBN 20230005092
The following person is doing business as: PETES LEGACY TIRE. 824 KENDALL DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ALEXANDER DUENAS 824 KENDALL DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407. 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/ ALEXANDER DUENAS, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 17, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 05/26/2023, 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023 CN-BB22202312MT

FBN 20230004053
The following person is doing business as: REYEZ PARTY RENTAL. 3186 SANCHEZ ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JORGE L REYEZ 3186 SANCHEZ ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: APR 20, 2023 By signing, I declare that all in-

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San Bernardino County Sentinel

News of Note
from Around the
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in the Lower
48 States

Public Notices

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/ ROSA ALVARADO, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 18, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202306MT

FBN 20230005201 The following person is doing business as: C & S FOAM AND SUPPLY. 610 E STATE ST ONTARIO, CA 91761 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JUAN C HERRERA 610 E STATE ST 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: 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/ JUAN C HERRERA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 18, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious

Public Notices

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 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202307MT

FBN 20230005211 The following person is doing business as: BUSINESS CAPITAL FUNDING. 5206 BENITO STREET SUITE #211 MONTCLAIR, CA 91763 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FIBERTEL LLC 9605 ARROW RTE STE E RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ MARINA SAENZ, MANAGING MEMBER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 18, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202308MT

FBN 20230005336 The following person is doing business as: SMART MONEY. 2140 GRAND AVE SUITE 235 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709 COUNTY OF SAN

Public Notices

B E R N A R D I N O SMART MONEY CAPITAL, LLC 2140 GRAND AVE SUITE 235 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEB 17, 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/ JOE MAX MOORE, P R E S I D E N T Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 22, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202309MT

FBN 20230005534 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person is doing business as: MEXICAN STREET TACOS. 73768 GORGONIO DR TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO AGUEDA SALCEDO 6400 CHOLLA AVE TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277; FRANCISCO MACIAS 73768 GORGONIO DR TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277. The business is conducted by: COPARTNERS. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 12/02/2022. Original File #20220011025 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

Public Notices

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/ AGUEDA SALCEDO, GENERAL PARTNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 30, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202310MT

FBN 20230005535 The following person is doing business as: MEXICAN STREET TACOS. 73768 GORGONIO DR TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FMR VENTURES LLC 73768 GORGONIO DR #9 TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 26, 2017 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/ AUGEDA SALCEDO, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 30, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of it-

Public Notices

self 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 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202311MT

FBN 20230005448 The following person is doing business as: LA COCINA DE TERESITA. 1262 W FOOTHILL BLVD UPLAND, CA 91786 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LOS CARNALE. INC 4770 W MISSION BLVD MONTCLAIR, CA 91762 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ MARTHA MORA TORRES, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 25, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202312MT

FBN 20230005596 The following person is doing business as: ONTARIOS GAS & FOOD. 1066 E 4TH STREET ONTARIO, CA 91764 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SC FOOD & GAS INC 1066 E 4TH STREET ONTARIO, CA 91764 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

Public Notices

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 01, 1997 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/ CHARNJIT KAUR BAINS, SECRETARY Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 31, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/02/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/16/2023, 06/23/2023 CN-BB23202313MT

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KENNETH W. HOFF

CASE NO. PROSB2300699 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of KENNETH W. HOFF has been filed by DAVID NIOTTA in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DAVID NIOTTA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedents 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

Public Notices

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 July 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S37 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: June 2, 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 Andrea David Niotta: 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 June 9, 16 and 23, 2023.

Upland Police Chief Threatened To Arrest Woman Trying To Address The City Council

from page 4

rules,” Li said directly to Blanco, talking over him. “Nobody ever talked to me. Okay? Let me finish. First of all...

Marco interrupted Li, and she uttered, “Let me finish. This is not fair...”

At that point, the city’s videographer, who had assiduously avoided capturing any footage of Li in her attempt to address the council, cut the sound from the video.

Those present at the meeting, however, were able to see the uniformed and armed Blanco using his command presence to usher Li, against her will, from her position at the front of the dais, where she had set the folder containing her citations and the photographs she had brought to present as evidence to support her case.

Li continued with her protestations as Blanco forced her to accompany him to the back, or south, of the council chamber, without her folder or the evidence to back up her contentions that it contained.

“This is not fair,” she said. “You are not letting me speak.”

The city’s videographer reinitiated the sound just as Blanco was about to take Li out the front entrance/exit at the back end of the council chamber, at which point Parker continued his presentation.

A few minutes later, Blanco returned, walking toward the dais where he retrieved Li’s effects, including her folder, and then headed back out of the chambers with them.

Questions in writing were posted to Velto and councilmembers Shannan Maust, James Breitling and Carlos Garcia with regard to the treatment Li was accorded on June 12, including whether Li’s slighting was deliberate or inadvertent, why she was not afforded the opportunity to be heard and why Mayor Velto closed the public hearing before

Ms. Li was given the opportunity to speak.

Attempts to reach all five council members by phone were made. At issue in the

’s inquiries were upon whose authority, other than her own, City Clerk Johnson informed Li she would not have the opportunity to be heard and whom the city clerk conferred with on that issue when she went behind the curtain during the council break on June 12, as well as whether city staff was aware, prior to the meeting, of the case Li was set to present to the council during the meeting.

The *Sentinel* further asked as to whether city staff had seen, prior to the meeting, the photos Li intended to display as part of her presentation and if they had been shared with the city council.

City officials were unwilling to discuss whether the mayor and council purposefully disregarded Li because of the recognition that giving her a forum to display those photos would shed discredit on the city’s code enforcement division.

The *Sentinel* further sent written questions to City Attorney Rice and Police Chief Blanco, asking about their action in curtailing Li’s effort to be heard by the council.

Of note was that later in Monday night’s meeting, after the hearing with regard to the weed abatement issue, the city council was slated to consider and in fact took action with regard to granting Blanco, as police chief, a raise from his current before-benefits annual salary of 232,206.46 to \$279,912.93 as of June 25 this year, \$291,109.44 as of June 23, 2024 and \$299,842.73 as of June 22, 2025.

Neither Rice nor Blanco responded to the *Sentinel*’s inquiries. Neither did Breitling, Maust or Garcia.

It is the city’s position that Li failed to fill out a speaker card, and it was for that reason that she was excluded from participating in the public hearing.

Councilman Zuniga

fielded the *Sentinel*’s call.

He indicated he was not entirely comfortable with the short shrift Li had been given on Monday night.

“I was going to be reaching out to her in the next day or so to find out what actually happened and if she was done wrong,” Zuniga said. “I want to look at evidence on both sides, what the city has and her yard and photos. If we overstepped, I would be willing to pay her fine, the \$108, out of my own pocket, if she has a strong case that her property was truly in compliance, and if that is appropriate.”

Zuniga said when he asked how many of those at the meeting like Ramirez wanted to raise the issue of the city not living up to the 15-day deadline for residents to comply with the notice for weed abatement, he had been looking toward Velto to see if he, too, was sensitive to that issue and did not himself see Li’s hand signal to that effect. The video of the meeting posted to the city’s website bears Zuniga out in that contention.

There is a question, Zuniga said, as to whether Li was given a fair opportunity to provide her input to the council. He positively responded to the suggestion that Mayor Velto could or should, in the future, tell those in attendance that he is going to close the public portion of the hearing and ask if anyone present wishes to come forward before he does so.

“Perhaps that would be something he could do,” Zuniga said. “It is up to the mayor how he wants to run the meeting. He presides over the meetings and I am not in a position to assert myself as a councilman in the mayor’s role and put words in his mouth or tell him what the right thing is to do. I can say that the mayor is open to suggestion.”

Zuniga was unwilling to be critical of how Blanco had reacted by getting Li out of the council chambers.

“She was yelling, and we can’t have that,” Zuniga said.

With some persistence, the *Sentinel* reached Velto.

“I have nothing to say, really based on what occurred,” he said. “I asked if there’s any more speakers and when I was told no, we closed the public hearing.”

Li was refused the right to speak after she made clear she wanted to participate, Velto said, “because the public hearing was closed,” adding, “She can appeal this if she feels she was not treated fairly.”

What occurred Monday night, Velto said, was “nothing major.”

The city has a protocol and processes that have long been established and it is the citizenry’s responsibility to abide by that protocol and the city’s responsibility to provide due process, Velto said.

“Personally, I don’t know whether she understood the process or not,” Velto said. “Some people are challenged by the process. Some people don’t know what the process is, and they need to learn what it involves. It’s not my role to teach them. That’s not my role. The process isn’t anything other than what it

is. We were not, are not trying to prevent anyone from expressing anything. The hearing was closed. We never had a chance to know that she wanted to speak. I didn’t see her raise her hand. We are not responsible for something that happened to someone who didn’t follow the process. I don’t see how this was anything other than that.”

Velto said, “She has a right to appeal. I will take into consideration that she didn’t hear when I asked if there were any more speakers. We followed the rules. She failed to follow the procedure. There is nothing more you can say.”

Velto said the public hearings conducted by the city council have to be closed at some point.

“We have to follow the process of how you hold a meeting,” he said. “If we let people come back after we have concluded the public hearing, people would criticize us for constantly allowing people to come back and talk when the hearings are closed.”

Velto said he had seen Li in the audience early in the meeting but that “I wasn’t sure what she was there for. He said he understood, after the council had returned to

the dais after taking its break, that Li was intent on addressing the council.

“We couldn’t hear her at that time because the hearing was closed and it couldn’t be reopened,” Velto said.

Velto said he was unaware of the audio of the exchange between Li and the council and Li and Blanco being silenced on the video as the incident seemed to be escalating and that the video broadcast and posted to the city’s website contained no visual footage of Li’s effort to address the council.

“I don’t know anything about that,” Velto said.

Velto was in no way willing to second-guess Blanco for the way in which he handled Li.

“The chief has to do his thing, because they [the police] are there for that reason,” Velto said, “People have to follow the rules. We didn’t know what her intentions were. I could see it wasn’t going to go well with her getting all upset.”

Velto offered his assurance that Li will be given a chance to be heard.

“If she appeals, she can come back and we will hear it,” he said.

—Mark Gutglueck

Trumpists Converge On A Major Redlands Intersection To Hail Their Chief

from page 3

important that we not remain silent in the face of this injustice and evil,” Brittain said.

Brittain said of the indictment that he was “not surprised. This was well telegraphed. They [the Democrats] will resort to anything to keep Donald Trump from being elected again. They tried to defeat him when he ran for president in ‘16. They tried to deny him a second term in ‘20 because they can’t control him and he’s not out for money. He gave up money when he ran for president.”

Asked whether he believes the underlying institutions of the Constitution and the American

Justice System with its jury trials and the principles of fair play will allow the former president to prove his innocence, Brittain said, “He has a better chance of getting a fair trial in Miami than in D.C., where they are all Democrats and they’ll convict him no matter what.”

Sarah Tiedeman said she was participating in the rally because of her political and religious convictions.

“I’m here because I want to stand by President Trump,” she said. “He cares about our country. He is trying to protect our children. Joseph Biden sold us out to China. Donald Trump will uphold our laws and the Constitution. He stands on principles of what God made men and women for. He is the first president to rally for life.

He wants to protect babies.”

Many of those taking part in the Pro-Trump Redlands rally said a motivating factor for them was the hypocrisy they detected coming from the Democrats and Trump’s avowed opponents.

In announcing the indictment against Trump, Special Prosecutor Smith stated, “We have one set of laws in this country and they apply to everyone... and they must be enforced.”

Smith and the Biden Administration Justice Department have not lived up to that, rally participants maintained.

Pointing out that classified materials were found to be in the possession of Biden and Mike Pence after they left their posts as vice president as

Continued on Page 16

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

702304086: On Friday, June 16, 2023, at 12:40 AM, Colton Police Department officers responded to a single vehicle collision north of the intersection of West Key Street and South Riverside Avenue in Colton. The driver, 24-year-old Jayson Allen Dow of Mira Loma was pronounced deceased at the scene at 1:16 AM. For further information contact the Colton Police Department. [06202023 1410 SC]

702303967: On Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 10:53 AM, officers with San Bernardino Police Department responded to the 1600 block of W. Kendall Drive in the city of San Bernardino for reports of a possible body hanging from a tree. A suspected suicide note was found by investigators on-scene. James Richard Johnson, age 62, a resident of San Bernardino, was confirmed deceased on scene at 10:53 AM. For additional information contact San Bernardino Police Department. [06202023 1410 SC]

702303517: On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 12:04PM, San Bernardino Police Department (SBPD) responded to 1069 North Mountain View Avenue, in San Bernardino. Pedestrian, 25-year-old Steven Taylor of San Bernardino, was struck by a vehicle and was transferred to Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC). He was pronounced deceased at LLUMC on May 23, 2023, at 07:10PM. For additional information, please contact SBPD. [06202023 1410 SC]

702303874: On Wednesday, 06/07/2023, at 10:29am, Fontana Police Department Officers responded to the intersection of Arrow Boulevard and Almeria Avenue in Fontana for a reported traffic collision. A passenger, Deavon Hall-Staton, a 35-year-old resident of Fontana, was pronounced dead at 11:10am at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fontana. For additional information please contact Fontana Police Department. [06092023 1220 SC]

702303802: On Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 1:49 AM, a 911 call was received reporting an overturned vehicle on the northbound lanes of Interstate 15 near mile marker 158, Mountain Pass. The driver, Albert Lin, an 86-year-old resident of Los Angeles, was pronounced dead at the scene. For further information please contact the Barstow office of the California Highway Patrol. [06052023 1145 SC]

702303730: On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 9:42 pm, Barstow Police Department responded to I-40 W. off ramp and E. Main St. in the City of Barstow for an auto struck pedestrian collision. The pedestrian, Macario David Herrera, 49, a resident of Apple Valley, was pronounced dead at Barstow Community Hospital at 10:15 pm. For additional information contact California Highway Patrol Barstow Division. [06022023 1435 SC]

702303693: An automated 911 call was received from a cell phone at 4:59 AM on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. Officers from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) responded to the area of Interstate 15 and Zzyzx Road to find an overturned vehicle on fire. The driver, Chloe McCall Weatherspoon, a 24 year-old resident of Signal Hill, CA was pronounced dead at the scene. The Barstow office of the CHP is investigating the incident. [06022023 1435 SC]

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

Ramirez-Dean from page 3

lege professor, moved to Victorville, at least partially in anticipation of running for political office from there. Virtually from its outset as an incorporated city in 1962 and in actuality prior to that, Victorville had been dominated by the Republican Party. In 2018, Ramirez-Dean made a significant inroad against Republican primacy in Victorville when she was elected to the city council there, joining Blanca Gomez, another Democrat, on

the council dais. Two years later, in 2020, a third Democrat, Leslie Irving, was elected to the council, and Gomez was reelected. At that point, the Victorville City Council consisted entirely of women, of whom two-thirds were Democrats, the first majority Democrat city council in Victorville history.

The Democrats did not remain in ascendancy for long. In December 2019, Ramirez-Dean stumbled as she was walking to her car, bruising her leg internally in the process. The bruise became infected, and

in the winter and spring of 2020, she underwent three stages of surgical amputations on her lower left leg, losing first her middle toe, then her foot and then her lower leg. She was hospitalized from January until April 2020. She was placed into a convalescent care facility, where at that time, deaths from COVID-19 among patients were occurring. Her son Gene insisted that she leave the facility and that she be brought back to what had been the family home in Twentynine Palms, where he could monitor her.

In the meantime, Ramirez-Dean had continued to participate, remotely, in the city council meetings. Victorville city staff had mailed or delivered the agendas and staff reports to her at the Twentynine Palms home where she was staying.

Over time, however, the two Republican members of the city council, Debra Jones, who had been rotated into the appointed mayor's position, and Elizabeth Becerra, recognized the partisan advantage Ramirez-Dean's condition presented. They maneuvered to have the city council discontinue granting Ramirez-Dean the medical excuses for not physically attending the city council meetings that had routinely been granted to her since her January 2020 hospitalization. Then, by offering Irving the honorific of making her the city's mayor pro tem and promising her advancement to the position of mayor the following year, Jones and Becerra induced Irving to go along with removing Ramirez-Dean from office. In February 2021, Jones and Becerra ordered up a report put together by Victorville

City Attorney Andre de Bortnowsky that made a preconceived finding Ramirez likely was not residing in Victorville based upon her acceptance of the mail and agendas sent from the city to her recovery location at her traditional family home in Twentynine Palms over a period of nine months. In March 2021, after de Bortnowsky presented that report publicly, Ramirez-Dean was removed on a 3-2 vote of the city council, with Jones, Becerra and Irving prevailing.

In a footnote to that development, Jones and Becerra welshed on that part of the deal with Irving pertaining to her getting an eventual appointment to the mayor's post, although she was, temporarily, elevated to the post of mayor pro tem. After the 2022 election in which Bob Hariman, a Republican, was elected to what was essentially the position held by Ramirez-Dean, the council reappointed Jones mayor, bypassing Irving at the time when she was supposed to have been handed the mayoral gavel.

In recent days, Victorville city officials have

been weeping crocodile tears over Ramirez-Dean's death.

"We were very saddened to learn of Rita's passing. She was an inspiring leader with a passion for service and dedication to bettering the lives of others first as a college educator, then as an elected official. We extend our condolences to Rita's family and friends at this difficult time," Mayor Jones was quoted as saying in a copywritten article that appeared in the *Victorville Daily Press*.

Ramirez-Dean is survived by her sons, James Joseph Dean of San Francisco and Gene Kenneth Dean and spouses, Fil Lacap and Fréda Antoine Dean; her granddaughter Olivia of Los Angeles, CA; and her sisters, Rosie Camacho of Santa Ana, CA and Lucille Frost of Payson, Utah.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Brown Colonial Mortuary, located at 204 W 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92706. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the same location.

-Mark Gutglueck

Liguori To Head Chino Hills' Community Development Department from page 7

Liguori was provided with a \$212,858.77 salary, \$28,565.00 pay additions and perquisites and \$56,096.16 in benefits for a total annual compensation of \$297,519.93 in Chino.

Lombardo was pulling a salary of \$212,735.17, slightly less than that paid to Liguori. She was provided, however, with pay add-ons and perquisites of \$36,083 and

benefits of \$140,002, for a total annual compensation of \$388,820.17.

It has not been spelled out precisely, but there is reason to assume Liguori will be remunerated at a rate comparable to Lombardo.

"I am excited to welcome Mr. Liguori to the City of Chino Hills," said Chino Hills City Manager Benjamin Montgomery. "His impressive background and expertise attained from a 22-year municipal career will be instrumental in guiding our city's development in a manner that reflects our community's

priorities. His economic development knowledge will also be invaluable to our city."

"The City Council and I are thrilled to have Mr. Liguori join the City of Chino Hills' executive team," said City of Chino Hills Mayor Peter Rogers. "We are looking forward to having Mr. Liguori collaborate with staff, residents, and businesses to ensure responsible development in Chino Hills that preserves our city's beauty, open space, and hillsides, while meeting the evolving needs of our community."

A Core Of Local Political Activists Passionately Believe In Donald Trump As The Nations' Savior from page 14

well as among some of Hilary Clinton's effects after resigned as secretary of state, Doug Hausser said, "It is not just the unfairness of the way the Justice Department is treating President Trump versus the way they are treating Hilary Clinton or Joe Biden over the retention of classified documents. It is the way the protesters on January 6 are being prosecuted versus the lenient treatment of Antifa and the Black Lives Matter protesters after the George Floyd incident, which resulted in \$2 billion in damage and 14 people dying without anyone being held to account. There were no prosecutions and no indictments. It is unfair how parents attending school board meetings out of concern about curriculum and learning materials are called terrorists, yet nothing is done about the people who are protesting at [Supreme Court] Justice [Brett] Kavanaugh's house. The Justice Department goes after some people, but it doesn't go after others. People praying outside an abortion clinic are arrested and charged, but when there is vandalism against pro-life centers, with rocks and other objects being thrown through the windows, no one is arrested. I think we are seeing the corruption of the justice system. There is a rule of law, but the rule is unevenly applied. After Roe Vs. Wade was overturned, [Senator] Chuck Schumer went on national television and said, 'You have unleashed the whirlwind.' Wasn't that a call to violence? Wasn't he threatening the Supreme Court? You are seeing an imbalance that is so pronounced."

Lupe Navarro drove up from Riverside to take part in the rally.

She said that when she heard that prosecutors were trumping up

charges against Trump, she was "shocked, but on the other hand, it doesn't surprise me at all. They have thrown so much at him. They blame him for everything, even though he has been out of office for two-and-a-half years."

Navarro said, "They [Trump's Democratic opposition] are not being honest about anything. I hope people see what is going on here. Everyday there is another example of Biden's failure, but he is who the left wanted."

Navarro said there was a silver lining in the indictment because the double standard at play is now so patently obvious that those who previously might have thought there was some substance to the allegations against the former president have now been provided with demonstrations of the contradictions and inconsistencies that the Democrats' case against him is composed of.

"I think this indictment is opening people's eyes and they are seeing how unfair what is happening here," she said.

Peyton Skimin, who was waving an oversized "Make America Great Again" flag, said he and the others were there "to raise our concerns about President Trump being unjustly indicted on charges he was already confirmed to have not been involved in any way in doing, and to voice our support for everything he stands for."

The late afternoon rally took place amidst weather that offered a pleasant temperature, well after the morning cloud cover had burned off and just as the evening rush hour was about to begin.

A fair number of the passing cars honked as they were driving past the intersection, which was taken by the crowd of roughly 25 to 30 as a sign support, with some occasional jeers emanating from vehicles as they drove by or as their drivers were waiting for the lights to change at the intersection. There was, however, no violence or outright unruly behavior.

Whether, indeed, Trump can make a come-

back after he made what was perhaps the most meteoric political rise in American history and then suffered the ignominy of failing to gain reelection is dependent upon myriad factors. Central to those is the criminalization – or the attempted criminalization – of his behavior both prior to being in office, while in office and now after leaving office. Polling and a hard mathematical analysis of those poll numbers show that his core of passionate, indeed fanatical, supporters, though a significant 23 percent of the overall American population and over half of the Republican Party, are not enough to return him to the Oval Office. Similarly, his opposition – most of the Democratic Party and a sliver of Republicans and some independent or unaligned voters who believe, based upon his public behavior, speech patterns and track record during his one term in office, that he simply is not attitudinally suited or intellectually equipped to merit being entrusted once more with being the nation's chief executive – are not on their own sufficient to keep him out of office. Key to his victory is his ability to appeal to the middle ground of America, the mostly unaligned voters who do not identify with either party, just as those who want to close out his political career with the four years he already served as president are equally dependent upon those unaligned voters if they are to succeed.

There is no little irony in the consideration that the criminal cases that have been initiated against him as part of an effort to keep him from returning to office carry with them the possibility of enshrining him as some kind of a political martyr, one who might just end up resurrecting himself into the highest office in the land based upon the sympathy of key swing voters who perceive the way in which he is being maligned as unfair.

The judge overseeing the state case against him

in New York has a familial link to his political opposition. Smith, the "independent investigator" prosecuting Trump is a creature of the Biden Administration's Justice Department, which seems singularly uninterested in prosecuting other politicians, including Trump's Democratic opponents in the 2016 and 2020 elections, for retaining classified documents after they left office, just as he did. Still the same, Donald Trump undeniably engaged in activities that 1) skirted national security regulations pertaining to highly sensitive information and 2) involved himself and his company in providing money through a series of highly irregular cut-outs and transactions to a woman it would have been better for him to not be involved with at all. Whether that activity is ultimately deemed to have been criminal in nature or not raises questions about his judgment and, by extension, his fitness to serve in the office he is once again seeking.

The Democrats may well be applying a double standard while loading the dice against the former president, treating him unfairly and abominably. That the Democrats are cutting every corner they can in the effort to keep Trump from returning to office and making gross representations into the bargain does not, nevertheless, mean, in the purest philosophical sense, that Donald Trump is qualified to be president, deserves to be president, merits being president or should be elected president. Tactics poorly applied can produce unanticipated results. As the vast and mostly silent middle range of the body politic in America in those key states throughout the country that swing the balance in the electoral college which elects the president despite the results of the popular vote sees those double standards at play and witnesses the loading of the dice that is taking place along with the unfair and uncharitable treatment of the former president, there is a real

possibility that Donald Trump could pick up sympathy votes in margins that could make him president again.

Indeed, in the last eight elections going back to 1992, the Republicans won the popular vote in only one of those contests. Nevertheless, the GOP candidate in three of those elections – including Donald Trump in 2016 – was elected president in the electoral college.

Indictments or no indictments, Trump appears to be on a trajectory to win the Republican nomination next year. Polls show that he has a solid 53 percent support of Republican voters, while his closest GOP competitor, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, stands at 21 percent. None of the remaining Republican contenders – former Vice President Mike Pence, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Tim Scott, Ryan Binkley or former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was Trump's ambassador to the United Nations – has anything above single digit support. Since Trump is the probable Republican standard bearer, most members of his party are staying with him.

Given the voter registration numbers in California, it is more likely that the outer moon of Jupiter will collide with the outer moon of Mars than that a Republican will capture California's electoral college votes in 2024. Still, Brittain said rallying in Redlands and showing the Trump flag was a worthwhile endeavor. San Bernardino County is one of the last bastions of Republicanism in California. "[Republican gubernatorial candidate] Brian Dahle carried the county in 2022," Brittain noted.

The Republicans dominate San Bernardino County despite the consideration that party registration numbers favor the Democrats. Among the county's 1,158,664 registered voters, 476,315 or 41.1 percent are Democrats; 339,034 or 29.3 percent are Republicans; 246,004

or 21.2 percent have no party affiliation and the remaining 8.4 percent are registered with the Peace & Freedom, Libertarian, Green, American Independent or other more obscure parties. Despite the seeming numerical ascendancy of Democrats in San Bernardino County, among its 24 municipalities, 17 have city councils with more Republicans than Democrats. On the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, four of its five members are Republicans.

That's because, Brittain said, "In local offices, candidates run without a party label."

Another factor Brittain did not mention is that Republican party operatives and advocates such as himself, have historically done a better job than their Democratic counterparts in San Bernardino County in getting the Republican voters who are registered to turn up at the polls or mail in ballots and actually vote. In addition, Brittain said, "In San Bernardino County the margins are closer than they are in Los Angeles County, for example. Out here, we are more of a middle class population that, even if it is not majority Republican, is not as far left as the voters in Los Angeles or San Francisco."

Even though Trump will not win in California and take any of the state's Electoral College votes in 2024, Brittain still said countering the left's political rhetoric was something he and other Republican stalwarts remain committed to.

"Democrats have been successful demonizing Republicans and President Trump with a significant number of voters," he said. "For that reason, a lot of people will not even listen to what conservatives have to say."

That is not discouraging him, he said, and he, the Tea Party Patriots and the Republican Party will continue in the long twilight struggle for the hearts and minds of the voters locally and across the country.