

Friday, March 22, 2024 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (951) 567-1936

Redlands School District Giving Golden Parachutes To 149 Employees

The Redlands Unified School District is shedding 149 employees this calendar year, all of whom are leaving voluntarily, based upon the district offering, and their accepting, supplementary retirement plans, otherwise known as "golden handshakes" or "golden parachutes."

The action comes as school districts throughout California are contracting in the face of di-

minishing revenues and enrollments, and as other districts are engaging in layoffs of their personnel.

Between 2020 and well into the 2022-23 school year, school districts were being artificially protected from harsh economic circumstance by special augmentation money provided to them by state and federal government in the form of federal

COVID relief aid passed to them through the state government along with state money directed to them for that purpose. That funding however has been drawing to a close. A year ago, many of the state's school districts were beginning to wean themselves from that temporary funding, as was reflected in the layoffs of 316 certificated employees. With all of the COVID fund-

ing drawing to an end at the close of the 2023-24 school year, the state's school districts are getting much more serious about reducing their expenses, meaning primarily payroll. Throughout California as of the end of February, 1,400 teaching positions had been eliminated with indications that number would triple. Under California rules intended to protect teachers and other school

workers, school districts are required to submit their plans for layoffs and position eliminations to the state superintendent of schools office by March 15 and finalized those lists by May 15 to give teachers an opportunity to seek teaching positions elsewhere. It is believed that statewide by the middle of May, something like 4,200 of the state's 307,400 teachers will be laid

See P 2

20 Arrested In Needles Raids

NEEDLES — The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, utilizing officers drawn primarily from its Colorado River Station and its Inter-Regional Narcotics Enforcement Team, assisted by the San Bernardino County Probation Department, arrested 20 Needles residents during a series of search and arrest warrant executions throughout the 31.08-square mile city on March 7.

The joint operation utilized 33 law enforcement personnel divided into three teams, which executed ten search warrants. The 20 subjects — eleven men and nine women — taken into custody were arrested for various crimes, including maintaining a residence for the use of narcotics, possession of narcotics, possession of stolen property, active felony warrants, and possession of manufacturing equipment to make fraudulent credit cards.

"This operation was conducted to combat the ongoing battle of violent crimes occurring in the city, coupled with the sales, distribution, and use of fentanyl, which is a known narcotic that is consuming lives daily in our community," according to the sheriff's department.

Those arrested included, Nicholas Monk, 40-years old, a resident of Needles; Guadalupe Lozano, 34-years old, a resident of Needles; Johanna Baumgartner, 22-years old, a resident of Needles; Juan Hernandez, 27-years old, a resident of Needles; Crystal Munoz, 37-years old, a resident of Needles; Edward Dock, 43-years old, a resident of Needles; Ra-

See P 4

United Parcel Service Eliminates An Entire Shift - 333 Employees - At Ontario Airport

United Parcel Service will lay off 333 of its workers now employed at its Ontario International Air Hub a little over five weeks from now, the Sentinel has learned.

Rumors to the effect that the cargo handler was going to engage in some downsizing locally had begun to spread in February, after dire developments and an-

nouncements in late January. Confirmation of that came in a notice the company made to the California Employment Development Department on March 6.

According to information available to the Sentinel, the action that United Parcel Service will take extends to the total elimination of a single shift at the hub.

"We often evaluate our operations and flex our network to meet volume demands," United Parcel Services announced on March 13. "This allows us to continue delivering industry-leading service while also maintaining competitive prices."

While many sectors of the U.S. and international economy suffered during the COVID pandem-

ic that hammered society beginning in March of 2020, cargo transport and both internet sale/telephone sale delivery of products increased, an economic reality that was reflected locally.

In 2019, the last full year prior to the coronavirus panic that gripped the world and nation, resulting in mandates put in place by the State of California which shut-

tered many businesses, the freight handled at Ontario International Airport, including that by UPS, Amazon Prime Air and Federal Express stood at 781,993 tons. In 2020, with the onset of the pandemic and the need for consumers and businesses to take advantage of e-commerce sources for household goods, materials and supplies, On-

See P 5

San Bernardino Settles Lawsuit Over Gun-Toting Man Shot At The Scene Of His Previous Robbery Arrest

The City of San Bernardino has announced that an agreement has been reached to settle for \$4 million a \$100 million lawsuit stemming from a 2022 officer involved shooting, filed by the estate of Rob Marquise Adams.

"San Bernardino agreed to the settlement recognizing the costs and attorneys' fees to

take a federal civil rights case to trial, as well as the risks associated with a civil jury, given the current climate in the courts," said attorney Steven Rothans, who represented the city with regard to the matter.

The incident in question occurred on July 16, at which time Adams was apparently on the prowl in the back parking lot

shared by several commercial establishments, including an illegal online gambling business located in the 400 block of West Highland Street as well as Golden State Medical & Oxygen Service at 424 West Highland Avenue, one of an abundance of areas in San Bernardino where illegal activity proliferates. That park-

See P 3

San Bernardino Cops Collar Suspects With 52 Pounds Of Meth

A chance traffic stop last week led to what turned out to be an even more significant interruption of the local narcotics trade than a methodically coordinated operation by the San Bernardino Police Department in conjunction with two other regional law enforcement agencies.

Earlier this month, on a date that has not been specified, the San Bernardino Police Department's narcotics unit, a member of the department's K9 unit and a police dog, with the assistance of the area's mobile enforcement team and San Manuel Indian Tribe patrol officers, descended upon a resi-

See P 5

Frontier Airlines To Begin Flights From Ontario Airport To El Paso As Of May 17

Frontier Airlines, one of a dozen passenger carriers flying out of Ontario International Airport, will offer non-stop flights from Ontario to El Paso International Airport later this spring.

According to airport officials, the three-times-per-week service to El Paso, which is to begin on May 17, will increase the number of nonstop

destinations from the Southern California

by Frontier Airlines.

port, will increase the frequency of its flights



FRONTIER AIRLINES

gateway to 26. Ten of those nonstop flights from Ontario are offered

Frontier, which already flies from Ontario to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Air-

to those destinations. Daily flights to Seattle will begin May 16, while the Houston service will be offered four times a week starting May 17

"We are thrilled with these new non-stop routes, including our sixth destination in Texas, and look forward to extending our hassle-free Ontario experience to even more Frontier passengers," said Atif Elkadi, chief executive

See P 5

Photo Finish In Jindal-Popescu 1st District LL Race

The race to represent Loma Linda's First District on City Council



Bhavin Jindal

is coming down to the wire, with a mere 8 votes of the 518 counted so far, or 1.54 percent, separating the leader, Ovidiu Popescu, from the incumbent, Bhavin Jindal.

If Popescu's lead holds, it will reverse

Jindal's vanquishing of Popescu four years ago, when Popescu, who at that time was a three-term incumbent on the council, was displaced by Jindal in a five-person race for the three council positions being contested in what was then an at-large election. Popescu, who was first elected to the council in 2008 and served four years in the capacity of mayor pro tem from 2010 to 2014, placed fifth in the 2020 competition.

Since then, Loma Linda has transitioned to district elections for city council. As fate had it, Popescu and Jindal live within the same district,

which set up a rematch between the two.

In the sixteen days



Ovidiu Popescu

since the election, with the influx of late arriving mail-in ballots and the resolution of disputed/provisional ballots has taken place, Popescu's initial lead, which stood at a more convincing 6.82 percent. As of a tally

made at 4 p.m. on March 6, the Wednesday afternoon after the polls had closed at 8 p.m. Tuesday March 5, with all of the ballots cast at District 1 five precincts and the mail-in ballots received by the registrar of voters' office tallied by the high-speed ballot scanners the elections office employs, Popescu was ahead with 53.41 percent of the vote to Jindal's 46.59 percent.

Since that time, however, the straggling mail-in ballots have been trending in Jindal's favor. In addition, the one provisional ballot in the First District that was determined to be valid went in Jindal's favor.

The San Bernardino County

Sentinel

Published in San Bernardino County.

The Sentinel's main office is located at 10788 Civic Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with

Countywide News Service

Mark Gutglueck, Publisher

Call (951) 567-1936

to learn of locations where the Sentinel is available or to provide news tips

10808 Foothill Blvd., Suite 160-446

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

SBCSentinel@yahoo.com

Legal Notice Department 951 567 1936

Message Line 951-567 1936

Of the 518 votes counted as of 4 p.m. on March 21, Popescu leads 263 votes or 50.77 percent to Jindal's 255 votes or 49.23 percent. Of Popescu's votes, 230 came on

mail-in ballots and 33 were cast at the polls. Jindal's candidacy was endorsed by 225 of his constituents voting by mail, 29 cast at the pre-
Continued on Page 12

Redlands Unified Is Using Voluntary Departures Rather Than Layoffs Or Firings To Reduce Its Faculty And Staff Levels *from front page*

off. In addition to teachers, who are among the school systems certificated workers, schools employ so-called classified workers, ones who do not have teaching certificates or educational credentials, but who perform necessary tasks such as clerical work, maintenance, running cafeteria, bus driving and the like. Schools are eliminating substantial numbers of those employees as well.

The discontinuation of COVID funding is not the only financial challenge schools in general are facing. Because of declining birthrates in the last two generations, school enrollment has been in eclipse. Since the 2016-17 school year, as of September public school enrollment in San Bernardino County was down 2.2 percent.

The Redlands Unified School District had received \$48,658,172 in COVID relief aid, equal to \$2,336.41.

Like many districts, Redlands Unified used some of that money to provide make-up instruction and assistance to students who had

fallen behind as a consequence of the COVID-19 school closures that began in the spring of 2020 and continued throughout most or all of the 2020-2021 school year.

To the extent that the district was in a position to hire or get into contractual relationships with certificated employees, meaning teachers, counselors, librarians, media specialists, psychologists and process coordinators, those employees were brought in with the understanding that their posts most like were temporary.

Moreover, earlier, in preparing to meet, fiscal demands, the Redlands Unified School District Board signaled the district was going to eliminate 15 classified positions in its preschool program. Further indications were further that to streamline operations, those teachers with the least seniority would, if necessary, be laid off under the traditional "last hired, first fired" policy.

It now seems that in Redlands Unified there will be no need for involuntary layoffs, as a voluntary mass exodus of employees is to take place.

Over the last several months, with little fanfare, the district's human resources division has worked with Public Agency Retirement Services to design a sup-

plementary retirement plan for the district's certificated non-management, certificated management, classified non-management and classified management employees, which was initially approved by the board on December 12, 2023. The supplemental retirement plan was designed as a retirement incentive program that encouraged eligible employees to retire early. The goal of the program was to generate savings, or at a minimum, create no cost to the district by increasing the number of retirements in the 2023-2024 school year.

Public Agency Retirement Services is not a governmental entity, but rather an organization providing retirement services specifically designed for public agencies. District documents do not show how much money the district paid to Public Agency Retirement Services to engage in that effort, which was completed by early this month, after Public Agency Retirement Services and the human resources division were able to convince 149 of the district's employees to either resign from the district short of retirement or to take earlier retirement than they had previously considered.

On March 12, the school board, consisting of Alex Vara, Michell Rendler, Jim O'Neill,

Melissa Ayala-Quintero and Patty Holohan, adopted the supplemental retirement plan as had been worked out through Public Agency Retirement Services, further arranging for the plan to be implemented and administered by Public Agency Retirement Services, simultaneously accepting the resignation of the 149 employees who enrolled in the plan.

Under the plan, three management employees, are departing this school year, one within the transportation division as of June and two others, at Kingsbury Elementary School and Franklin Elementary School as of this month, March. Their departures will have finalized prior to the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Another 11 managerial employees will depart in July, during what is to be technically the 2024-25 school year. One of those is employed at Cope Middle School, another at Bryn Mawr Elementary School and a third at Moore Middle School. Another six managerial employees leaving in July will depart from educational services, one from the service center, one from the enrollment center and one from technology services.

A total of 65 certificated employees, composed of 63 teachers, one employee in the human

resources division one in special services are leaving the district in 2023-24. Sixty of them are leaving in June. Three left in February and two are leaving this month.

Another ten certificated personnel, consisting of eight teachers, one employee in special services and one in education services, are leaving in July. Thus, they will be departing during the 2024-25 school year.

In addition, 56 classified employees will depart this year, consisting of six instructional paraprofessionals, one library paraprofessional, one curriculum technician, one California state pre-kindergarten instructor, seven school office managers, five secretaries, three attendance clerks, two school clerks, two account clerks, three data control clerks, two Healthy Start clerks, one counseling clerk, three child nutrition supervisors, three child nutrition assistants, one help desk technician, one plumber/maintenance foreman, three custodians, two maintenance workers, one warehouse foreman, one warehouse worker, one locksmith, one reprographics service technician, three bus drives, one safety officer and one campus monitor.

The district accepted the resignations of two substitute teachers this month and last month.

Last month the board

accepted the resignations of ten classified employees, including a board-certified behavior analyst intern, three substitute campus monitors, a music assistant, two substitute instructional paraprofessionals, a substitute child nutrition services provider and two substitute clerical workers.

In the Chino Valley Unified School District, the school board pared the district of all of its temporary certificated employees and jettisoned three classified positions.

In the Fontana Unified School District, the school board tentatively laid off two teachers and two counselors.

In the Morongo Unified School District laid off 13 teaching and non-teaching employees and did away with 29 currently unfilled posts.

In the Rialto Unified School District, the board laid off 29 probationary certificated employees and 10 classified employees.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District declined to extend the contracts of five certificated employees and reassigned two others on March 5. It terminated 11 classified employees, got rid of a part-time employee and reduced the working hours of a dozen others.

-Mark Gutglueck

Rancho Cucamonga Man Dies After “Medical Emergency” While Fighting Sheriff’s Deputies

A Rancho Cucamonga man who was slammed to the pavement in a confrontation with San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputies died after the encounter.

The sheriff’s department provides contract law enforcement services to Rancho Cucamonga, functioning as that city’s police department.

On Tuesday morning, March 19, 22 minutes after midnight, deputies were summoned by a nearby resident to the 10100 block of Foothill Boulevard, just east of the Foothill/Hermosa Avenue intersection. The resident reported that an individual was acting erratically, seeking to open apartment and vehicle doors, and that he had

pulled the building’s fire alarm.

Deputies responded within minutes, where they came upon a man latter identified as Mohd Hijaz, 32.

Subsequent to the events in question, the department put out a release. It states: “When deputies arrived, Hijaz was located outside seated in a bush, while he yelled incoherently. Deputies immediately requested paramedics to respond and attempted to offer Hijaz assistance from a distance. Without warning, Hijaz advanced toward deputies, who attempted to back away from him. The deputies gave Hijaz multiple commands to stop, but he refused. The deputies

attempted to detain Hijaz and a use of force occurred. Hijaz struck one deputy in the face as he advanced toward them. Hijaz was eventually detained and monitored by deputies until personnel from Rancho Cucamonga Fire and American Medical Response arrived at the location. Hijaz suffered a medical emergency on scene and was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.”

Officially, the sheriff’s department has not released any further information about the altercation, and it steadfastly refused to elaborate on the medical emergency Hijaz experienced.

Reportedly, Hijaz was

severely injured when he was lifted and brought with force to the ground by a deputy in response to Hijaz’s combativeness. The department did acknowledge that Hijaz was, in the course of events, subdued, but declined to disclose the nature of the force used. Nor did the department respond to inquires as to whether Hijaz striking the deputy had provoked an overwhelming use of force against him in retribution. The department did not clarify whether Hijaz had lost consciousness after his head was slammed into the pavement.

In a written report about the incident filed by one of the deputies on the scene, Hijaz

was described as having charged toward a deputy.

An autopsy is to be performed on Hijaz to establish the cause of death. That autopsy is to involve a full battery of toxicology tests to ascertain if his death was precipitated by drugs. In San Bernardino County, the coroner’s office is an arm of the sheriff’s department. There was concern that the autopsy will not extend to determining whether his skull was cracked by the head slam.

The department has assigned Detective Malcolm Page and Sergeant Gerardo Moreno of the sheriff’s specialized investigations division to investigate the matter.

The department put out a request that any eyewitnesses to what occurred come forward.

“Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Detective Malcolm Page,” the department’s public release stated.

Under standard protocol, Moreno and Page would normally work toward establishing whether one or more of the deputies used an illegal restraint that limited the suspect’s breathing, if the deputies had placed the suspect in a prone position for an extended period, which limited his breathing, utilized a beanbag round or taser to subdue the suspect, whether the deputies on

Continued on Page 12

Adams Was Pimping & Drug Dealing At The Scene Of Where He Had Previously Committed Armed Robberies When He Was Shot, According To SB Police Chief

from front page

ing lot is a locale at which a concentration of vice activity, including drug dealing and pimping, is known to take place. Right around sunset, which that day fell, according to the National Weather Service, at 7:57 p.m., a call came into the police department’s dispatch center reporting that an armed man was seen in the parking lot. Two officers with the department, Michael Yuen and Imran Ahmed, rolled on the call after the dispatch center broadcast.

Video footage of the shooting was made publicly available by the department in a posting to YouTube early on July 19 titled “Critical Incident Debrief – Officer Involved Shooting.” The shooting in that posting is shown from both the perspective of a parking lot security video and Yuen’s bodyworn camera. Roughly seven seconds after the officers’ car first appears on the security video slowly pulling into the parking lot, the car comes to a stop. As the portion of the video shown in the debrief

video begins, Adams, an African American, can be seen in the visual field of the video as somewhat closer to the elevated camera record-

ing the scene than the car. From the perspective of the video camera, Adams is seen in right profile facing the back of the building in which Golden State Medical & Oxygen Service is quartered as he is apparently speaking to another black man seen in left profile who is closer

to the building standing between two parked cars. That black man, the Sentinel learned shortly after the incident, is Adams’ cousin. Roughly two seconds after the car comes into the parking lot, Adams pivots to his left to regard the vehicle so that he is only seen from behind on the secu-

rity video. Shortly thereafter, and while his back is yet to the camera, he appears to pull an object out of his waistband with his right hand. When his hand drops to his side, a dark and linear object can be seen in his hand pointing toward the ground. It then appears that he has placed the ob-

ject into the right pocket of the nearly-knee length shorts he is wearing as he begins a slow and what appears to be an almost rhythmic shuffle toward the car. As he is taking a sixth step, the officers, who are in uniform, abruptly emerge from either side of the vehicle simultaneously, at which point they both have their guns drawn. The light-sighting on the gun held by the officer nearest Adams is already activated and appears as a bright light beam as he launches himself from the driver side of the car. Upon the officers exiting their vehicle, Adams wheels around nearly 180 degrees and begins running away. His flight takes him into the narrow gap between two cars parked with their front ends proximate to the back of the Golden State Medical & Oxygen Service building. The debrief video at that point backtracks some two or three seconds to show the video from Yuen’s bodyworn camera on the driver side of the car as he exits the vehicle, with the security camera video synchronized in a small screen to the lower right of the debrief video to thus show the shooting from

Gainer Family Files Claim Against Sheriff's Department

Less than a week after 15-year-old Ryan Gainer was fatally shot by a deputy while the teen was wielding a garden hoe and pursuing another deputy after those sheriff’s officers were summoned to the Gainer family home in Apple Valley to assist them in dealing with the youth’s violent autistic outburst, Gainer’s parents filed a wrongful death claim against San Bernardino County.

Attorneys with the law firm of Burris, Nisenbaum, Curry & Lacy filed a claim on behalf of Norman and Sharon Gainer against San Bernardino County. Under the California Tort Claims Act, a citizen or citizens have a six-month window in which to make a claim against a governmental entity he/she or they perceive to have wronged him, her or them. The government then has the option to accept or reject the claim within 45 days.

If the government rejects the claim or does not respond within 45 days, the aggrieved party is or the aggrieved parties are at liberty to proceed with a lawsuit against the governmental entity or its employees. The plaintiff or plaintiffs are required to file such a lawsuit within six months of obtaining the right to sue by having followed the correct claim procedure and obtaining a rejected claim. If there is no response from the government after 45 days of filing a claim, the claimant has a two year-window from the date of the injury in which to file a lawsuit filed against the government.

Lawyers John Burris and DeWitt Lacy maintained there were improprieties in the manner in which the deputies responded to the March 9, 2024 incident at 13494 Iroquois Road, and they maintain that using

deadly force against an autistic manchild prior to making other efforts to defuse the situation was unwarranted. They say the killing of young Gainer was both unreasonable and unnecessary.

Both Burris and Lacy acknowledge that Gainer’s sister did call the sheriff’s department to request that they send deputies “to take him in” because he was engaged in an “assault and battery” and “hitting” his other sister, had “done broke the house, a door and a window” and was menacingly walking about with a shard of glass in his hand, they pointed out that Gainer’s cousin, who was at the home, made a follow-up call to the sheriff’s department before the deputies arrived and told them the situation was under control.

“Once a call was made that the situation was under control, the officers should have backed off,” according to Burris.

According to Sheriff Shannon Dicus, “These are unfortunate events. There are a number of those things going on here. Each deputy is trained to take the totality of circumstances in which they’re dealing [into consideration]. Unfortunately, in this case it was immediately being confronted with extreme violence. It’s not just a hula hoe that you are seeing. You’re also seeing a frying pan. What really boils down here is the first deputy arrives on scene. It’s about 30 seconds before he immediately encounters the suspect and that instance where he’s running away and trying to gain distance from the suspect and warning him that he’s going to shoot lasts seven seconds. When you’re talking time and distance and

Continued on Page 12

Continued on Page 4

Do You Have Information Of Public Interest? Call the *Sentinel* at (951) 567 1936 The *Sentinel* is always looking for information to inform our readership and keep our readers abreast of newsworthy developments.

The *Sentinel* devotes itself to what is happening in and around San Bernardino County. Social events, political news, issues pertaining to education, medicine, industry, commerce, development, real estate, history, culture and entertainment are of interest to us.



San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

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

Let us help you make our readers aware of what is happening in your corner of the world.

Do you have a news tip? Don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us a line at sbcsentinel@yahoo.com to alert us to that fascinating tidbit.

San Bernardino Settles Adams Shooting Death Lawsuit from page 3

both perspectives. When the door flies open, Yuen darts straight toward Adams. As Adams is caught between the two cars and nears the wall of the Golden State Medical & Oxygen Service building, which has blocked him in, he appears to jump almost straight up as he heaves something onto the roof of the Golden State Medical & Oxygen Service building as Yuen shoots at him five times. He collapses into the space near the front of the cars and the building. Thereafter, a considerable portion of the bodyworn camera video shown on the debrief video is electronically blurred but does seem to depict the officer who shot Adams using a belt to apply a tourniquet to the fallen Adams as the officer can be heard saying, "See if they can get a trauma kit to the next unit." In the field of the bodycam video that is unobscured, seen lying next to Adams is a wad of what appears to be at least 17 \$20 bills. The video from the perspective of the officer's bodyworn camera then jumps ahead an unknown amount of time, resuming to show the officer and at least one other officer or fireman are carrying Adams rapidly – indeed virtually running as the clacking of their shoes on the pavement

seems to indicate they are trotting – to a fire department paramedic unit. In the aftermath of the incident, a report that a member or members of the police department had shot a black man in the back as he was fleeing from them spread throughout the community. Immediately thereafter, what was apparently a copy of the surveillance video showing Adams being gunned down was posted to the internet.

The shooting occurred 31 days after Darren Goodman, a former San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department captain and Upland Police Chief, had been publicly sworn in as San Bernardino Police Chief.

Goodman, an African American, had been hired in some measure because of the perception that he could engage in effectively policing a crime-ridden predominantly minority community while the entirety of the United States in general and San Bernardino in particular were caught in a thunderstorm and deluge of charges of racial bias and prejudice involving law enforcement. Slightly over a month after becoming San Bernardino Police Chief, Goodman found himself faced with deciding whether to back the officers he commanded or join in with the social reformers and crusaders for racial justice calling for the officer or officers responsible for the killing of Rob Adams to have their guns and badges taken

away and prosecuted for either coldblooded or hotblooded murder. Goodman unequivocally took the position that the shooting was justified, and that Adams' fate was the product of his own poor choice to embrace a life of criminality. According to Goodman, Adams was "clearly displaying a gun in his waistband. Rob Marquis Adams saw the officers' vehicle, pulled the gun from his waistband and began walking toward the officers' car. The officers exited their vehicle and gave Adams verbal commands, but he immediately ran toward two parked vehicles with the gun in his right hand. Officers briefly chased Adams but seeing that he had no outlet, they believed he intended to use the vehicle as cover to shoot at them. The officer saw Adams look over his shoulder with the gun still in his right hand. Fearing that bystanders' or the officers' lives were in danger, one of the officers fired his gun, striking Adams."

Goodman noted that excerpts from the security video showing the shooting had been posted to the internet, but that those moving images "failed to provide critical details or context as to what actually occurred during the incident, details like the specific location has a history of criminal activity, including an armed robbery involving Adams as a suspect, where he held several victims at gunpoint and was in possession of numer-

ous firearms. Adams not only clearly possessed a firearm but pulled it from his waistband and displayed it as he walked toward the officers' vehicle. There were numerous innocent bystanders in the immediate area. Adams was given commands by the uniformed police officers, which is confirmed by witness statements, including the male that was with Adams. The officers did not immediately engage him when he walked toward their vehicle, hoping that he would follow their commands and drop the gun. Adams had an extensive criminal history, was on felony probation for armed robbery and had felony warrants for assault with a deadly weapon, possession of stolen property and robbery. He had several other prior arrests, including a conviction for robbery."

Just prior to Adams being shot, the bodyworn video shows Adams appearing to be flinging something – perhaps the gun – onto the roof of the video. This formed the basis of a contention that Adams was not armed when he was shot.

This was heavily disputed by Goodman shortly after the shooting.

"Adams' gun, a black nine-millimeter Taurus G3C with a round in the chamber and ten rounds in the magazine, was recovered at the scene," Goodman said during the debrief video, as a close-up on that weapon was featured on the screen. The department's posi-

tion and the position of the city after Adams' family retained attorneys Ben Crump and Bradley Gage and pursued a civil suit against the officers, the police department and the city was that in the fast moving circumstance that the officers found themselves, Adams' possession of the gun, his display of the gun and his panicked retreat created a situation in which the officers' fear that Adams was seeking a vantage from which to shoot the officers was a logical one. This rendered the shooting justified, according to the city.

After the shooting, Crump and Gage were able to use money put up by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick to carry out an autopsy independent of, and more exacting than the one performed by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office, which is an arm of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The independent autopsy erro-

neously concluded that Kaepernick had been shot seven times.

According to the lawsuit filed by Crump and Gage on behalf of Adams' family, i.e., his father, Robert Adams, and his mother, Tamika King, on December 15, 2022, Adams was shot seven times, with five of those in the back. Further analysis would show that Adams was hit six times, with one of the bullets passing through his body, leaving an exit wound larger than an entrance wound, but which was originally interpreted as an entrance hole.

While the city, the police department and the district attorney's office maintain that the officers were acting on a report to the department that a known criminal using the name "JuJu" was carrying a gun in the parking lot of the gambling operation and that JuJu was known to be Adams, Crump and Gage maintain the department and its officers had

20 Rung Up In Needles Sheriff's Department Raids from front page

becka Motz, 34-years old, a resident of Needles; Theodore Muniz, 37-years old, a resident of Needles; April Craig, 31-years old, a resident of Needles; Mariah Mills, 31-years old, a resident of Needles; Darrian Myatt, 31-years old, a resident of Needles; Charles Brown, 29-years old, a resident of Needles;

dles; Michael Fulmar, 33-years old, a resident of Needles; Simon Garcia, 35-years old, a resident of Needles; Aaron Hernandez, 30-years old, a resident of Needles; Mark Franco, 46-years old, a resident of Needles; Rachael Reyes, 43-years old, a resident of Needles; Pete Jewell, 42-years old, a resident of Needles; Heather Jewell, 48-years old, a resident of Needles; and Zabrina Longacre, 42-years old, a resident of Needles.

-Mark Gutglueck

Caught Between Rising Union Demands And Declining Cargo Carrying Opportunities, UPS Ontario Shuts Down A Shift, Handing Out 333 Pink Slips *from front page*

tario International saw phenomenal growth in its cargo operations, moving toward but not quite eclipsing the million-ton threshold, as 924,160 tons of merchandise was transported through the airport that year. With the passage of the critical phase of the pandemic and the advent of vaccines that resulted in the withdrawal of government restrictions, the level of e-commerce declined in 2021, and the tonnage through the airport dropped as well, to a yet impressive 890,383 tons. In 2022, the number again declined, to 853,165 tons. In 2023, Ontario International had returned to its pre-pandemic level of cargo transport, at 752,199.

That alone might account for the decision by United Parcel Service to constrict its operations, but it does not. Last year, in particular, the company, as profitable as it is, was hit hard by labor unrest, whereupon it made some major concessions. While a good number of those who work for United Parcel Service have grounds to celebrate the company's compromise on the union's terms, many do not.

There are three dis-

tinct classes of United Parcel Service employees: administrative/management, truck drivers and warehouse workers. Management and truck drivers employed by United Parcel Service do quite well for themselves. Warehouse workers, on the other hand, are not as fortunate.

Full-time small package delivery drivers receive an average total compensation package of \$145,000 per year. Long-haul team drivers receive an average total compensation of \$172,000 per year. United Parcel Service pays its drivers \$0.95 per mile after four years.

Experienced United Parcel Service warehouse workers earn an average salary of \$36,000 per year. Pay varies in large measure by location, as well as according to job title and skill demands. Warehouse workers in California earn something higher than the average, between \$39,000 and \$41,000 per year. Benefits of \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year added to salaries bring an average California warehouse worker to roughly \$51,000 to \$55,000 per year in total annual compensation.

After considerable labor unrest that began in 2022 and which intensified during the first half of 2023, with the Teamsters, the union representing United Parcel Service truck drivers, threatening a work stoppage that carried with it the prospect of destroying the company, a Teamsters vote in August ratified the company's acceptance of a five-year contract. When that five-year pact sunsets, United Parcel Service drivers will be earning an average of \$170,000 in annual pay and benefits per year, and those who are provided with new trucks beyond the existing fleet, will work in air-conditioned luxury. Moreover, though to the end of the contract, those drivers will have relative job security.

The deal applies to the roughly 340,000 of United Parcel Service's employees who drive trucks. At the beginning of 2021, the number of United Parcel Service employees had reached an all-time peak of roughly 540,000. Those ranks have declined to less than half of a million at this point, somewhere near 495,000. The lion's share of the company's remaining workers, over 152,000 warehouse workers, were given relative short shrift in the arrangement.

Some six months after the signing of the deal with the Teamsters, senior United Parcel Service corporate officers on January 30 said the company, which had seen its profits in the fourth quarter of 2023 plunge to \$1.61 billion from \$3.45 billion in the third quarter of 2023, was going to cut 12,000 jobs throughout the country.

The Ontario International Air Hub's share of those amounts to 333. According to what United Parcel Service told the California Employment Development Department, the pink slips are being handed out because of a "volume loss in our network."

United Parcel Service stock, while not exactly tanking, has not been doing well lately, with shares down by more than 15 percent over what they were in 2023. United Parcel service projected 2024 revenue of \$92 billion to \$94.5 billion, at least a billion dollars off of Wall Street's expectation for something beyond \$95.5 billion. Corporate honchos are concerned that a weak profit showing in the months ahead could trigger a massive stock sell-off that would prove highly damaging to the company, which is locked in a battle for survival against the likes of Amazon Prime Air

and Federal Express and DHL.

Terminating 12,000 mostly warehouse positions will cut nearly \$1 billion in overhead for the company.

United Parcel Service might have been able to sustain the greater operating costs necessitated by the concession made to the Teamsters without shrinking the company, but its decline in volume and accompanying downturn in revenue made that impossible.

There is no little irony in the consideration that of those who are to lose their jobs at the 775,000-square-foot Ontario distribution facility, many are represented by the Teamsters, that being the Teamsters Local 63, based in Rialto. Also getting the sack are a number of non-union workers. Those who will be headed to the unemployment office or pounding the pavement looking for jobs elsewhere are 26 supervisors, 131 loaders and unloaders,

sometimes referred to as "swampers," and 176 others who are engaged in the hub's operations.

According to Teamster Local 63's existing contract with United Parcel Service, a displaced union worker can invoke his so-called "bumping right," and replace a non-union employee elsewhere yet employed by United Parcel Service, but that is fraught with other considerations, such as where those other employees work and whether the employee looking to do the bumping has the skill level to assume the tasks held by the non-union employee. Some United Parcel Service operations are close enough for those employed at Ontario to seek employment there — such as the company's facilities in Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and Rialto. However, it is not yet fully known to what degree those operations will lose positions dictated on high by the corporation.

Frontier Increasing Flights Out Of Ontario *from front page*

officer of the Ontario International Airport Authority. "We appreciate the strong partnership with Frontier, and their continued investment in

our airport. The Inland Empire has grown to become the 12th largest metropolitan area in the country, and demand for air travel from Ontario International Airport has surged. And let's remember that Ontario International Airport is California's favorite airport."

SB Police Department Makes Major Haul Of Meth In Two Separate Busts *from front page*

dence in the 1100 block of West Spruce Street in San Bernardino to serve a search warrant.

More than two pounds of methamphetamine were seized by police during the raid along with an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency, according to the San Bernardino Police Department.

A suspect was placed under arrest on a felony charge.

The department announced that arrest had taken place on March 15. That same day, a district

resource officer conducted a traffic stop in the

Eastern District. Based on the circumstances in-

volving the vehicle and its operator, a spot in-

vestigation ensued. This led to the discovery of

a large suitcase within the vehicle, inside which were 11 wrapped bags of methamphetamine. In total about 50 pounds of the drug were recovered.

This led to a felony arrest.

The department has not released the names of either of the two individuals arrested, as they are using so-called "investigative techniques," on the two arrestees, threatening them with multiple year prison sentences and using other intimidation methods in an effort to get them to spill their guts about others who they were involved with them in their nefarious enterprises.



Gainer's Parents File Claim Against Sheriff's Depart- ment *from page 3*

making these critical life-threatening decisions, particularly with somebody coming down with a deadly weapon on you and having the second deputy come up and see what his partner is being threatened with, the use of a taser in this situation with the amount of time or the use of pep-

per spray would not have been something that we would have been able to react to. If we are looking at this in the scope of being a human being and what they're trained for, the deputies followed through with what their training protocols are."

The sheriff's department had responded to the Gainer family home five times prior to the shooting, at which times he had been transported to a mental health care

facility, either by ambulance or the responding deputies.

"Most of these calls do not end in violence," Dicus said. "However, this one ended in tragedy for Ryan, his family, and for the deputies who responded. Rapidly evolving, violent encounters are some of the most difficult, requiring split second decisions. While these decisions are lawful, they are awful in terms of our humanity. I

feel for both Ryan's family and my deputies who will struggle with this for their entire lives."

Dicus said the sheriff's department had been put into an impossible position by being called upon to deal with a mentally ill individual when it did not have the proper tools or skills to handle such a situation.

"Our social safety network is not working and needs to be strengthened. There is no reason

that law enforcement should be the ones that end up having to get involved in these crises, specifically when we've off-ramped these individuals to social services that are supposed to be designed to take care of their mental health needs."

According to Lacy, the sheriff's department's claim that it had come to the Gainer family home to assist them is hollow. In actuality,

Lacy said, the responding deputies treated family members as if they were criminals and further sought to intimidate them in the aftermath of the killing. They pulled Gainer's crippled mother out of her wheelchair and forced her to accompany them to the sheriff's station, refusing to inform her whether her son had died when she inquired.



Loma Linda City Council District 1 Race Down To The Wire *from page 2*

districts and one voter who marked up what was initially considered a provisional ballot.

According to the registrar of voters' website, a total of 563 ballots have come in, 70 of which were cast at the polls, 492 of which were mailed in and one other ballot deemed provisional. According to the website, of the 492 mail-in ballots, 455 have been deemed valid and were counted. Of the 70 cast at the polling places, 62 have been deemed valid and were counted. One

ballot designated as provisional has also been counted. This leaves 37 mail-in ballots in dispute and uncounted and 8 ballots at the polls in dispute and uncounted. Those 45 ballots and whether any of those will be determined upon further scrutiny to be valid and therefore counted are key to the outcome. At this date, March 22, it is doubtful that any further mail-in ballots bearing a March 5 or previous postmark will arrive at the registrar of voters' office.

The Sentinel is informed that of the 45 ballots that are hanging in limbo, the registrar's office has made a determination that four of

them should be counted and they will be added to the tallies on March 26 by 4 p.m. Additionally, another five ballots are being closely examined and could be counted as well. The remaining 36 ballots are very likely to be deemed redundant,

damaged or indiscernible, and will be jettisoned.

In no case will any ballots be counted beyond April 4, at which point the election is to be certified.

On March 5, incumbent District Four Councilman John Lenart was

convincingly defeated by newcomer Rhona Spencer-Hwang. Lenart polled 326 votes or 35.47 percent to Spencer-Hwang's 593 or 64.53 percent. In District 5, incumbent Councilman Rhodes Rigsby retained

his position, defeating challenger Juan Carlos Belliard by a margin of 496 votes or 58.35 percent to 354 votes or 41.65 percent.



RC Man Dies After Confrontation With Sheriff's Deputies *from page 3*

the scene failed to recognize, or otherwise failed to render assistance, if the suspect was in the midst of an overdose.

In this way, Moreno and Page are obliged to locate and interview any eyewitnesses, col-

lect and closely examine bodyworn video camera footage from all officers at the location of the confrontation with the suspect. Moreover, they should also make a point of obtaining any surveillance footage of the incident. All available medical records related to the deceased should be collected, including the report generated by the hospital where he was

pronounced dead.

Ten days before Hijaz's death, on March 9, sheriff's deputies had a deadly encounter with a 15-year-old in Apple Valley. On March 13, the sheriff's department released the bodyworn video camera footage of the two deputies involved in that case. If a similar release of the available video footage is not made by the department in the

matter involving Hijaz, the department will run the risk of triggering the perception that it is withholding from the public information to indicate excessive force was used.

As of press time, the department had given no indication the footage would be made available to the public.



Family Of Criminal Killed By Police Gets \$4 Million, Based, Primarily, On Previous Excessive Force Use Settlements Against The Involved Officers *from page 4*

no way of knowing that JuJU was Adams. The city disputed this, based on Adams having been convicted, some four months before in March 2022, of a single count of armed robbery, a felony, which grew out of a 2021 incident in which Adams had robbed individuals who had emerged from the illegal gambling operation. At various times, both the prosecution and the defense have maintained that Adams was armed and present at the facility. The prosecution maintains Adams was there as a "lookout" for the illegal gambling operation, serving as a sort of security provider. The defense disputes that, but tacitly concedes that he might have been there to

sell drugs.

Adams was in possession of at least \$340 at the time he was shot.

A condition of Adams' plea to the 2021 armed robbery case was that he possess no firearms and that he stay away from the illicit gambling operation on Highland Avenue.

It is unclear how it was that Adams, having been convicted of a felony just four months previously, was not in prison in July 2022. According to the district attorney's office, Adams was one of a crew of three who robbed patrons at the gambling operation. It has been suggested that there was a connection between Adams and the operators of the illicit

gambling operation.

Crump and Gage disputed that. They have suggested that the gambling operation would not have employed Adams after he was demonstrated to have robbed those who were gambling there, some of whom emerged carrying winnings in the form of a large amount of cash. Crump and Gage are more at home with the theory that Adams was dealing drugs or serving as a pimp for prostitutes who worked the area, and that he served as a conduit for hook-ups between those girls and the gaming house customers flush with cash as they took their leave.

Either way, as a drug dealer or pimp, according to Crump and Gage, Adams did not present a threat to the police officers or anyone else at the time he was shot, even if he was armed just a few moments before that oc-

curred.

According to the lawsuit, Adams was peaceably conducting himself, talking to his cousin and his mother, Tamika King, who was on the phone with him, when Yuen and Ahmed arrived. It was Adams' mother's contention that Adams was holding a cellphone, which Yuen and Ahmed misinterpreted as a gun.

The case, filed in Riverside Federal Court, was assigned to Judge Jesus Bernal.

Early on, the city sought to disqualify Crump, who is not a member of the California Bar, from representing Adams and King. The City of San Bernardino also demanded a jury trial on the matter.

It was ultimately determined that Ahmed did not fire his weapon and that Yuen was responsible for all of the shots fired.

Crump and Gage angled toward the city, the department and Yuen, claiming that the shooting was unjustified, that the video did not conclusively demonstrate that Adams was holding a gun and that if he was in possession of a gun, he did not point it at the officers and that the city overstated Adams' criminal history, in that he had only the single robbery conviction growing out of the 2021 incident. The Robert Adams with some of those convictions Robert Adams the city claimed was none other than Robert Adams, his father, the plaintiff in the case. The police department had, Crump and Gage said, "assassinated" Adams in the last seconds of his life and then, in the aftermath of his death, "assassinated" his character.

Their big ace-in-the-hole, Crump and Gage maintained, was that

both Yuen and Ahmed had a history of excessive use of force, with a combined \$1.5 million in judgments for such abuses against them.

Rothans, the attorney representing the city, said the settlement extends to everything about the case and all of the defendants, including the city, the police department, Chief Goodman and the department's command staff, Yuen and Ahmed.

With the trial scheduled to begin in June, Rothans and other representatives of the city had been in mediation with Gage and Crump in a process overseen by retired Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Dan Buckley. The settlement was reached on February 17, 2024. The \$4 million total includes all payments to the plaintiffs and fees to Crump and Gage, their law firms as well as additional costs, including expert witnesses.