

## San Gabriel And San Bernardino Mountain Forest Infernos Raging Beyond Control

Over the last eight days, approaching 55,000 acres of mountain forest in San Bernardino County have been burnt in two separate conflagrations, at least one of which was deliberately set.

The Line Fire, as was earlier reported by the *Sentinel*, was ignited on September 5 at roughly 6 p.m. in northeast Highland near the intersection of Baseline Road and Alpin Street by an

arsonist in what is now known to have been his third attempt at starting the fire.

Originally dubbed the Baseline Fire, it resisted efforts by the California Division of Forestry, known by the acronym CalFire, which serves as the contract fire department for the City of Highland, and the San Bernardino County Fire Division, to knock it down.

A CalFire incident

management team was activated on September 6, as the steep terrain of the area into which the fire was spreading created challenges.

With the escalation of the surrounding heat, the fire began to expand rapidly on September 7 into the San Bernardino Mountains, prompting evacuation orders for the communities of Running Springs and Arrowbear Lake, thereafter followed by evacuation orders to

those in the communities of Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks and all campgrounds and cabins in the area; Green Valley Lake north from Highway 18 along Green Valley Lake Road; the community of Forest Falls; and the community of Mountain Home Village. Those orders pertained to 11,400 structures under what was deemed to be immediate threat.

There are currently

56,100 structures threatened, including 11,400 under evacuation orders and 44,700 under evacuation warnings. Damage inspection teams are working in the fire area. So far, they have identified three structures that were damaged and one that was destroyed. Their inspections include residences, multi-family dwellings, outbuildings, and commercial buildings.

Evacuation See P 2

## Judge Delays CONFIRE's Ambulance Service Takeover

American Medical Response's challenge of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors' decision late last year to give an Arizona-based ambulance company that has partnered with the emergency dispatch center for 13 of the county's fire departments precedence in responding to medical emergencies throughout much of the county has resulted in a judge's decision to delay the exodus of 150 of AMR's ambulances to points elsewhere until an indeterminate point after the scheduled October 1 service switchover date.

For well over three decades, Greenwood Village, Colorado-based American Medical Response, also known as AMR, has had a near monopoly on the provision of emergency medical transport service over a wide swath of 21,105-square mile San Bernardino County. American Medical Response partially fashioned that preeminence and partially inherited it with its buyout of Mercy Ambulance, which had effectuated its own monopoly on the county ambulance franchise. Mercy's four owners – Homer Aerts, Don Reed, Steve Dickmeyer and Terry Russ – after engaging in the late 1960s and early 1970s in cutthroat competition against one another in the operation of their four independent ambulance companies, united under the Mercy logo. Employing Dennis Hansberger, who was then serving as a lobbyist between his first set of two and his final set of three terms on the board of supervisors, as their representative, See P 2

## Upland Failed To Obtain Public Input For Its Use Of Federal Block Grant Funds

The Upland City Council this week fell short in obtaining citizen input with regard to how money the city is to obtain from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should be spent next year.

While the federal agency strongly recommends that cities and local officials engage with residents in determining

what priorities residents have for the money that comes to local jurisdictions through what are referred to as Community Development Block Grants, ultimately the choices made in apportioning those grants are made by the elected leadership of the cities in question, as in the case of Upland, its mayor and city council.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program was enacted a half century ago by President Gerald Ford through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. In creating the program, President Ford emphasized that he wanted it to take the place of the administration of inefficient federal bureaucracy from

afar, such that the decision on how the money was to be used would be made by locals, bypassing federal officials who were too much removed from the communities in question, so that the grant process would be controlled "with the judgments of the people who live and work there" and placing more decision-making power on local

funding choices in the hands of local governments and residents who "are most familiar with local needs."

As one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CDBG grants fund local community development activities with the stated goal of provid- See P 3

## Newsom's Recent Reactions To Legislation Betrays Him As A Racist, His Former Supporters Say

By Richard Hernandez

With his recent actions, Governor Gavin Newsom has shown himself to be a racist, a typical Anglo politician lording it over people of color, despite the empty promises of building toward an enlightened governance he has used to get into and stay in office, two of his former supporters, ones who actively campaigned

against his being recalled from office three years ago, now say.

On August 28, The California Assembly gave final approval to Assembly Bill 1840, which had been passed by the California Senate the previous day.

The bill allowed undocumented immigrants to apply alongside other qualified applicants for the California Dream for

All Shared Appreciation Loan Program, which offers up to \$150,000 in no-interest loans to cover down payments and fees.

The program lets applicants secure what are termed "loans" of 20 percent of a home's purchase price up to \$150,000 – an amount equal to a typical down payment on a home, in the form of a disbursement from the \$255 million See P 3

## Dennis Yates, Chino Mayor & Youth Sports Advocate 1945-2024



Dennis Yates

Dennis Yates, celebrated as a pillar of the Chino Valley communi-

ty in which he lived and dedicated the last 42 of his 79 years, has died.

The son of Edward Laverne Yates and his wife, Beulah Marie Yates, Dennis Yates, one of nine siblings, was born in 1945 while his mother was living at the Sterling housing complex in Oceanside among other Marine Corps wives and fami- See P 3

## RC Pair Convicted Of Running A Birthing House To Grant Chinese Babies U.S. Citizenship

LOS ANGELES—Two San Bernardino County residents were found guilty by a jury today of operating a "birth tourism" scheme that charged Chinese clients tens of thousands of dollars to help them give birth in the United States to obtain birthright U.S. citizenship for their children.

Michael Wei Yueh Liu, 59, of Rancho Cucamonga, and Jing

Dong, 47, also of Rancho Cucamonga, were found guilty of one count of conspiracy and 10 counts of international money laundering.

According to evidence presented at a four-day trial, from at least January 2012 to March 2015, Liu and Dong ran a maternity house in Rancho Cucamonga. Liu and Dong

rented apartment units in Southern California to provide short-term housing and provided other services to pregnant women from China who traveled to the United States to give birth so their children would acquire U.S. citizenship. Typically, within one or two months after giving birth, the women returned to China.

Among the services

Liu and Dong provided was assistance on how to obtain visas to enter the United States, customs entry guidance, housing, and transportation in the United States, as well as assistance applying for U.S. legal documents for the children of their customers.

Liu and Dong advised their customers on how to hide their pregnancies from the immi-

gration authorities. Liu and Dong also knew – or deliberately avoided learning – that their customers lied on their visa applications submitted to immigration authorities to enter the U.S.

Generally, their customers' visa applications falsely stated that the purpose of the trip to the United States was for tourism, when it was to give birth, and See P 4



## Hot & Dry Conditions Created A Situation In Which Both Mountain Conflagrations Went On A Miasma Of Destruction from front page

orders were based upon the incident commander's determination that there was an immediate threat to life in the area covered by the order. The issuance of the orders carried the full weight of California law, authorizing law enforcement officers to arrest those who did not comply. The areas were lawfully closed to public access.

On September 7, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency existed in San Bernardino County as a consequence of the fire, and he authorized the use of a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover elements of the firefighting effort.

The California National Guard was deployed, including four UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, two C-130 aircraft, hand crews, and one military police company to assist with evacuations.

As firefighters became increasingly involved in the effort, which included the deployment of the California National Guard, including four UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, two C-130 aircraft, four 20-person hand crews assigned to work in support of CalFire's efforts and a military police company to support the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department with evacuations and traffic control points in evacuated areas, the United States Forest Service issued Forest Order NO. 05-12-00-24-09, creating a forest closure area around the Line Fire. All National Forest lands, trails, and roads were closed to the public within that zone.

Additionally, evacuation warnings, promptings short of orders, were given to residents and businesses within the communities of Cedar Glen, Lake Arrowhead, Twin Peaks, Crestline, and Valley of Enchantment, along with the area from Garnett Street east to Bryant Street and Carter Street north to Mill Creek and the area of Big Bear Valley from the dam to Cactus Road, Erwin Lake, Sugar Loaf, Big Bear City, Big Bear

Lake, and Fawnskin. The evacuation warnings pertained to 44,700 structures under less than immediate threat.

In total, according to CalFire, there were 56,100 structures threatened. CalFire dispatched damage inspection teams in the fire area. In the initial round of inspections, they identified three structures that were damaged and one that was destroyed. The inspections extended to residences, multi-family dwellings, outbuildings, and commercial buildings.

On Tuesday, September 10, as the Line Fire galloping northward and upward through the forest overran and destroyed the Keller Peak Fire Lookout, a 98-year-old facility near Running Springs. Erected in 1926, it was the oldest of a handful of remaining original towers, and the one deemed to have the most picturesque view, which included Lake Arrowhead and Lake Gregory on the south side of the mountain and Lake Silverwood on the north side of the mountain and both the Pacific Ocean and Santa Catalina Island to the distant west.

The same day, 50 miles from Keller Peak

and 36 miles from where the fire had started in Highland, detectives with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department sojourned across the San Bernardino County/Riverside County line to a home at 1394 Detroit Street in Norco, where they arrested 34-year-old Justin Wayne Halstenberg, whom they maintain was the persistent arsonist who had touched off the Line Fire near the intersection of Baseline Road and Alpin Street on September 5.

After investigators, led by Battalion Chief Matt Kirkhart with CalFire and Jake Hernandez of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's specialized arson unit, had determined that the fire had been deliberately set with the use of materials they said for prosecutorial reasons they cannot presently identify, they began examining available video footage including traffic cameras around Baseline Road, identifying a white truck as the vehicle used by the arsonist. Further evidence implicating Halstenberg was obtained from at least one license plate reader in the area. Investigators made a direct link be-

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tween Halstenberg and the ignition of the fire on the basis of his vehicle license plate, which was documented by the license plate recorder as being in the area at the time of what can be shown as the third and successful effort to start the fire, as well as at two previous unsuccessful attempts.

A search warrant was served at Halstenberg's home at the time of his arrest. According to investigators, material indicating he was responsible for setting the wildfire was found during that search.

On Thursday, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office charged Halsten-

berg, who remains in jail without bail, with nine felony counts, including a single count of aggravated arson, three counts of arson on structure or forest land, three counts of possession of material or a device for arson, one count of arson resulting in bodily harm, and a count of arson of an inhabited structure.

He was set to be arraigned today, Friday September 13, in Rancho Cucamonga Superior Court, but the matter was postponed until Monday.

According to prosecutors, on September 5, Halstenberg succeeded in creating a grass fire in a field near Bacon and

*Continued on Page 4*

## Ambulance Companies Purchased Influence & Franchises With Hefty Political Donations from front page

Aerts, Reed, Dickmeyer and Russ used generous political donations to the sheriff, district attorney, members of the board of supervisors and mayors and council members of the county's cities to obtain for Mercy Ambulance what were with only a few slight exceptions exclusive operating contracts throughout most of the county, a hold they solidified when in the 1980s they created an air ambulance wing that offered rapid service to the county's remote desert areas.

Mercy had eliminated most or all of its competition throughout the county, particularly in the Inland and Central

valleys and its incorporated cities and unincorporated area, from Chino to Montclair to Ontario to Upland to Rancho Cucamonga to Fontana to Rialto to Colton to San Bernardino to Grand Terrace to Loma Linda to Redlands. American Medical Response turned up in San Bernardino County in the very late 1970s, seeking to establish for itself a niche in the largest geographical county in the lower 48 states. At first AMR confined itself to servicing the wide-open expanse of the Mojave Desert, a place Mercy was willing to let the company operate, given that the calls were sporadic, drives were long and the profits marginal. At a certain point, American Medical Response was given the county franchise pertaining to unincorporated areas of

the county, that is, those places other than where there were established cities. The lion's share of that unincorporated area was the desert, where AMR had by that point set up a presence.

Having expended their youth in the fight against one another and their early- and mid- middle age in perfecting their monopoly, by late middle age Aerts, Reed, Dickmeyer and Russ were at last ready to enjoy the fruits of their constant efforts, at which point they were persuaded to sell out to AMR.

Through close observation of how Mercy had operated or corporate takeover osmosis or both, AMR's executives, as soon as the company had established itself as San Bernardino County overwhelmingly largest ambulance service provider, began to emulate

Mercy's formula of making hefty and consistent political donations to the county's incumbent politicians, recognizing the ease with which San Bernardino County officials can be influenced in their decision-making process through contributions to their election campaigns.

For more than three decades, AMR enjoyed primacy as San Bernardino County's main ambulance service provider, as the sheer volume of money it made through those operations advantaged it beyond all of its possible competitors so that it could make donations typically in the range of \$5,000 to the members of the county board of supervisors and \$1,000 donations to mayors and city council members.

Coexistent with AMR holding the upper hand

among ambulance service providers was the concept of exclusive operating zones, which had come into vogue prior to American Medical Response's arrival in San Bernardino County.

Decades ago, 20,105-square mile San Bernardino County, 3,132-square mile Mono County and 10,227-square mile Inyo County, which together form a huge portion of California's massive desert outback, had banded together to create the joint powers authority ICEMA – the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency – which oversees emergency service provision issues in San Bernardino, Mono and Inyo counties, most particularly in their desert regions. In a show of uncommon trust, both Mono County and Inyo County agreed to al-

low the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors serve as the governing board of ICEMA. ICEMA conferred upon American Medical Response favored status in San Bernardino County that would rival that of Mercy Ambulance a generation before.

In its wisdom, the ICEMA board came to the conclusion that there should be extensive areas in San Bernardino County, Inyo County and Mono County where one ambulance company has not only primacy but a virtual monopoly in that it, and only it, is authorized and licensed to function there under normal circumstances.

The ostensible rationale for granting these monopolies is that operating ambulances is an expensive proposition, not to mention one

*Continued on Page 5*



## Despite Build-Up Over Importance Of Public Feedback, Upland Council Opens & Shuts Hearing Without Citizen Input *from front page*

ing affordable housing, anti-poverty programs and infrastructure development. Community Development Block Grants, like other block grant programs, differ from categorical grants, made for specific purposes, in that they are subject to less federal oversight and are largely used at the discretion of the state and local governments and their subgrantees.

In Upland, what has evolved with regard to identifying the prefer-

ences of the local population is a so-called citizen participation plan, which, according to a report authored by Upland Development Services Director Robert Dalquest provided to the city council for the meeting on Monday, September 9 “is a foundational document that ensures the city engages residents and stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of its HUD-funded programs, e.g., the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The citizen participation plan is particularly important for ensuring that residents, especially those from low-and-moderate income communities, have a meaningful role in shaping the city’s housing and community de-

velopment strategies.”

At Monday night’s meeting, Upland Housing Manager Diane Cotto emphasized further the importance of public participation.

“Tonight, we ask that you open a public hearing to accept public comments on the city’s HUD citizen participation plan,” Cotto said in directly addressing the city council. “We also ask that you adopt the resolution approving this plan and allow the city to submit the document along with the city’s five-year consolidated plan that’s due to HUD on or before May 15, 2023. The citizen participation plan is basically a way to get the community involved in creating the city’s five-year consolidated plan.”

Cotto again emphasized the importance of getting city residents involved.

“The purpose of the citizen participation plan is to ensure transparency and to give the public a chance to provide input on how the federal funds are spent and ensure decisions are community-driven,” she said. “The citizen participation plan makes sure there are public meetings and comment periods so people can voice their opinions and influence decisions about local projects and priorities. This feedback helps shape the consolidated plan and outlines how the city will use the federal funds.”

After Cotto’s statements concluded, the council asked no ques-

tions.

Mayor Bill Velto then announced, “We’ll open the public hearing.”

At that point, City Clerk Kerri Johnson responded: “I don’t have any speakers on this item.”

Velto said, “In that case, then, we’ll close the public hearing.” The public hearing was open for a total of six seconds. The council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Several people who were in attendance at the meeting indicated their belief that the public hearing failed to generate any public participation because of inadequate noticing and advance publicity of the hearing and its significance. Shortly after the meeting

concluded, three people in attendance at the meeting told the *Sentinel* that they were not personally aware of the hearing until they were at the meeting and the item was called.

The agenda containing the item was posted by the city clerk’s office at 6 p.m. on September 4, which meets California’s minimal legal requirements that the agendas for public hearings be available to the public 72 business hours in advance of the meeting in which the hearings are held.

Nevertheless, in Upland after Monday’s meeting, there were some questioning whether merely complying with the 72-hour advance notice requirement was ad-

*Continued on Page 16*

## Governor Newsom Vetoes Taxpayer-Backed Down Payment Loans To Illegal Aliens *from front page*

fund set aside for the program held within the California state treasury, prior to any payments having been made toward the purchase price on the home. The loan is to be recovered through the homeowner’s eventual repayment of the original loan amount plus 20 percent of the appreciated gain in the value of the home when it is sold, transferred or refinanced.

Theoretically, those taking out the “loan” could avoid having to pay it back or cover the

20 percent appreciation fee if the individual or couple who take out the loan does not sell it or refinance it and it remains with the purchaser’s or purchasers’ heirs or his, her or their trust into perpetuity. There is no provision in the law limiting how long the purchaser can hang on to the property.

In 2023, there were 1,700 applicants selected by lottery to access the California Dream for All Shared Appreciation Loan Program’s \$255 million in funds. In the most general of terms, the state legislature’s Democrats supported Assembly Bill 1840 and Republican lawmakers opposed it.

Republicans argued

that in addition to the state not being able to afford the program, it was simply unacceptable to make a program financed by California citizens in good standing and taxpayers available to illegal aliens whose participation in the California tax system is sketchy at best.

The bill’s author, Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) said the legislation would merely expand California’s down payment and assistance program for first-time home buyers regardless of their immigration status. Arambula in a statement said that homeownership creates financial stability.

“The social and economic benefits of homeownership should be

available to everyone,” Arambula said. “As such, the California Dream for All program should be available to all.” Democrats who supported AB 1840 said that there were no giveaways involved, since those who apply for the loans have to qualify for mortgages, meaning they are working and thus paying taxes.

Republicans doubled down on their arguments against the program, reminding the Democrats that the California Dream for All Shared Appreciation Loan Program ran out of fundings in 11 days and remains tied down with an overcrowded backlog. They said that diverting precious state money reserved for housing to

assist non-citizens in purchasing homes is unconscionable, given that the state has yet designed a workable program to house its homeless veteran population.

State Senator Janet Nguyen (R-Huntington Beach) said as much or more in a post on X shortly after the bill’s passage.

“I spoke out today on the Senate floor against 1840, assistance for first-time homebuyers,” Nguyen texted. “Veterans are beneficiaries of this program and it will be raiding their fund. I will always look out for our veterans and military.”

Nguyen said that making undocumented immigrants eligible for home-

buyer assistance sends the wrong message by pushing California citizens who are seeking to benefit from the program to the back of the line.

Before Assembly Bill 1840 passed there were questions about the solvency of the fund behind it.

Last year, California set aside \$300 million in the California Dream for All Program. Funds were exhausted within 11 days as 2,182 applicants received help, according to Senator Toni Atkins’ (D-San Diego).

Within two months, the California Housing Finance Agency in a report rushed into print was referring to the California Dream for All

*Continued on Page 4*

## Growing Up In Pomona, Yates Competed Athletically & Developed A Substantial Work Ethic *from front page*

lies waiting for their husbands to return from World War II. When his father returned stateside and was subsequently discharged, the family moved to Pomona.

There, young Yates attended Lincoln Elementary, Emerson Junior High and Pomona High School, from which he graduated in 1963. As a kid, he learned to swim at the Pomona YMCA located at 350

North Garey Avenue between Center Street and Monterey Avenue, his YMCA membership having been defrayed by an donation from an anonymous benefactor, a senior executive from the Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan, sponsored him for a YMCA membership for many years.

local businessman. While yet attending Lincoln Elementary as a fifth-grader, he obtained a paper route, delivering the Los Angeles Examiner, which was then in competition with the Los Angeles Times and the Pomona Progress-

Bulletin. By the time he was in the sixth grade, he landed another after-school job, as a box boy at the Gold Strike Market at 416 North Park Avenue. At Pomona High, he was a member of the football and track teams.

After graduation, having already moved on to the stock crew and assistant produce clerk at Gold Strike Market, he became the store’s night manager.

In 1966, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, whereupon after eight weeks of basic training in San Antonio Texas, her served four years of active duty, includ-

ing tours in Okinawa, Thailand and Viet Nam, including duty at the Cam Ranh Bay, Tan Son Nhut and Hoa Lac bases. He promoted to the rank of staff sergeant.

After his discharge, he attended Chaffey College on the GI Bill, obtaining his Associate of Arts Degree.

With his wife, Rosemary, Yates had three sons – Kevin, David & Jason – and two daughters – Janine and Denise.

His experience at Gold Strike served him well, allowing him to land another position in the retail industry, in this instance with Thrifty

Drugs. He acceded to the position of senior merchandising executive with the company, remaining there for 38 years before retiring.

In 1982, when he was 37 years old, he and his family moved to Chino.

As a father, he found himself involved in spurring his three son’s interest in sports in a way that mirrored his activity when he was their age. He gravitated into being the president of Chino Pop Warner and was involved as a prime mover in the Puma Youth Track Club’s Invitational Track Meet, the Chino Relays and Chino City track

meets for more than two decades.

The perception of some that the city was being less than fully supportive of the community’s youth sports programs than it could have been, an off-hand remark by someone in his circle and then an outright suggestion that he should run for the Chino City Council pushed him toward doing just that. He was elected to the council in 1992, coming into that position just as Fred Aguiar was departing as mayor for the California Assembly. Nevertheless, through their shared Re-

*Continued on Page 6*



## Persistent Sleuthing By Arsonist Investigators Determined Identity Of The Persistent Arsonist Who Touched Off The Line Fire from page 2

Lytle lanes in Highland. That fire was reported and quickly extinguished by local firefighters. Halstenberg, who was lurking in the area, made a second attempt at igniting a fire just east of Bacon Lane, near Base Line and Aplin streets. A passer-by acted quickly to stomp the fire out. “Undeterred, he ignited a third fire, which is what we now know as the Line Fire,” according to the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office.

CalFire officials reported that on Thursday, September 12, Line Fire’s spread “was less intense overnight due to cooler weather and good moisture recoveries.” They said the fire had to that point covered 37,207 acres and was at 18 percent containment.

Later, fire officials that that the effort to bring the fire under control had been aided by “cooler weather and smoke shading” but that “Fire established in drainages will still exhibit fire spread. Firefighters are building and strengthening control lines and mopping up hot spots.”

Three firefighters had been injured, although not severely, while responding to the fire, with no civilian injuries or deaths had reported as of mid-day Thursday, September 12.

There have been school closures in some areas.

Over the 24 hours between yesterday and today, another 867 acres had been charred.

As of today, September 13, 2024 at press time. the fire has burned 38,074 acres. Officials said the fire was 25 percent contained, the result of a herculean all-out effort by more than 3,000 firefighters put in on Thursday and Thursday night. That undertaking was assisted by Mother Nature in the form of increased humidity due and lower temperatures.

The fire, according to CalFire, as of September

13 had been limited to “smoldering spots with some limited and creeping, based on our having encountered favorable weather conditions.” Crews had been detailed to the Santa Ana Creek area southwest of Big Bear, where the effort was to douse the flames before they reach the canyon wall, as the canyon’s steep slope would allow the fire to boost itself upward and potentially to the chaparral above it.

Evacuation orders and road closures remain in effect. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department said the evacuation orders for Running Springs and Arrowbear will remain operative over the weekend as well as for several other mountain areas, including the west end of Big Bear Lake from the Big Bear Dam to Wildrose Lane and from the southern shoreline to Bluff Lake Basin. The City of Big Bear Lake has specified the sole evacuation route from those areas as being Highway 18 toward Lucerne Valley.

The evacuation warnings for the communities of Baldwin Lake and Lake Williams from Highway 38 north to Highway 18 and Baldwin Lake east have been withdrawn, for the time being.

Earlier today, CalFire said the evacuation orders for Mountain Home Village, Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Seven Oaks “will remain in place for at least the next two days.”

“The Line fire was less active overnight due to high moisture levels in the air,” CalFire announced today. “There are occasional runs in slopes and drainages. The weekend will bring continued cooler temperatures, which will help moderate fire activity and bring moisture levels up the vegetation.”

Evacuation centers/shelters for those in the San Bernardino Mountains have been set up

at: A) building 6 of the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, located at 14800 7th Street in Victorville. The zip code is 92395. B) Jessie Turner Health and Fitness Community Center 15556 Summit Avenue in Fontana. The zip code is 92336. The phone number is (909) 854-5100. C) Hacienda Heights Community Center 1234 Valencia Hacienda Heights. The zip code is 91745. The phone number is (800) 733-2767.

Burning simultaneously with the Line Fire is the Bridge Fire.

The Bridge Fire began in Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County at approximately what the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pegged as 2:12 p.m. Sunday, September 8 near East Fork and Glendora Mountain roads, near Cattle Canyon Bridge, in San Gabriel Canyon.

The fire had a relatively gradual build-up, as it reached 800 acres by Sunday evening, 1,255 acres by Monday morning September 9. At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, evacuation orders were issued for Mount Baldy Village, in the area between San Antonio Dam and Mount Baldy Resort. By that night, the fire had burned 2,995 acres. Firefighters were concentrated on halting any southward progression of the fire and protecting homes in the area of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River on the Los Angeles County side.

By mid-day Tuesday, September 10, the fire had charred 4,100 acres.

Later on September 10, as the temperature continued to soar in the late afternoon, the fire expanded to 34,000 acres. In describing this expansion, firefighting professionals referred to the fire as “exploding,” within a matter of three hours.

Because of prevailing wind conditions, the fire has migrated east and north, pushing it into San Bernardino County and from the south side of the San Gabriel Mountains, where it be-

gan, over the top to the back or north side of the range. The fire has thus come to straddle both Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

It continued to grow overnight, burning an additional 13,000 acres on its northern and eastern flanks as firefighters prioritized protecting buildings in Wrightwood, Piñon Hills and Mount Baldy Village.

By Wednesday, September 11, 480 firefighting personnel were assigned to the Bridge Fire.

The Bridge Fire so far has destroyed at least 39 buildings, 20 of which were in Mount Baldy Village and another 13 in Wrightwood, as well as six cabins burned in the mountain wilderness. The fire roared through the Mountain High ski resort, shuttered for the summer season. Prior to it doing so, Mountain High staff members, somewhat intrepidly and riskily, used water made to spout from the facility’s snowmaking machines to douse surrounding vegetation and the structures and features of the resort, thereby greatly reducing the damage to the ski runs, ski lift and other elements of the resort.

As of September 12, 2024, the fire had burned 51,792 acres, making it the third-largest wildfire in California so far in 2024 and was completely uncontained.

At 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, the Golden State Water Company informed consumers in Wrightwood that tap water there is unsafe for drinking and cooking.

“The Golden State Water Company-Wrightwood water system experienced wildfire impacts and may have fire-related contamination,” according to a statement issued by Golden State in conjunction with the California State Water Resources Control Board. “As a precautionary measure, this notice is being issued until data determines the water is safe to drink.”

The water was not safe, even if boiled, officials cautioned.

It was suggested that fire suppression foam, which involves the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals,” because of the difficulty in removing them from the water supply, had contaminated a Golden State reservoir or well.

The fire caused a pressure loss in the system, according to Golden State.

“These conditions may have caused harmful contaminants, including benzene and other volatile organic chemicals to enter the water system,” the statement said. “Failure to follow this advisory could result in illness.” The Environmental Protection Agency considers water containing more than four parts per trillion of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to be unfit for human consumption.

## Pair Convicted Of Birth Tourism Conspiracy from front page

the length of the stay was days or weeks, when it was in fact months. The visas also misstated the location where the customers intended to stay, which was defendants’ maternity hotel.

Liu and Dong or their agents also advised their customers to fly to ports of entry with perceived less customs scrutiny, such as Hawaii, before flying to Los Angeles, to wear loose fitting clothing, to favor certain lines at customs that they perceived to be less strict, and on how to answer the customs officials’ questions.

Liu and Dong received money from overseas and used that money

## Governor Reacted To Fiscal Challenge With Program Veto from page 3

Program as “dramatically oversubscribed.”

“While it was expected that a few additional weeks would be necessary to build the requisite lender capacity and begin originating loans in

Just after 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, officials called for stepped up evacuation from Mount Baldy Village. Sheriff’s deputies were present en masse for a very short time in Baldy Village on Thursday evening, informing any remaining locals of the decalaration of the evacuation zone there. “Effective immediately,” the area from San Antonio Heights north to Wrightwood, as well east to Cucamonga Peak, was under a mandatory evacuation order, the department announced via text and social media posts.

As of 6 a.m. Friday, the fire’s rapid growth had been attenuated, having expanded to 51,884 acres, with 3 percent containment.

No deaths or significant injuries have been attributed to the Bridge Fire as of press time.

-Mark Gutglueck

to promote their scheme.

United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner scheduled a December 9 sentencing hearing, at which time Liu and Dong will face a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison for the conspiracy charge and up to 20 years in federal prison for each international money laundering charge.

Homeland Security Investigations, IRS Criminal Investigation, and the FBI investigated this matter. The Irvine Police Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department provided substantial assistance.

Assistant United States Attorneys Gregory W. Staples and Kevin Y. Fu of the Santa Ana Branch Office are prosecuting this case.

earnest, the response to the Dream For All program was overwhelming, with unprecedented lender and consumer uptake,” the report *California Housing Finance Agency* stated.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations said it could not ascertain what the fiscal impact of

*Continued on Page 16*

## After Years Of Private Sector Political Donations Influencing Ambulance Franchising, Opening The Emergency Transport Service To Bid Brought The Deep-Pocketed Firefighters' Union's Hold On Politicians Into The Equation *from front page*

that is crucial to public health and safety. Competition between ambulance companies has the potential, or so the reasoning goes, of driving down the prices those companies charge to the point that their operations will not be profitable enough for them to remain in business. Upon these ambulance companies going out of business, the public would be put into a position where there would be insufficient emergency medical transportation service available to ensure public safety. Thus, those arrangements – the exclusive operating zones – have been established.

In this way, San Bernardino County was divided – for purposes of ambulance service – into 26 exclusive operating zones.

Certain entities disputed that the exclusive operating zones are necessary, asserting the county's politicians were using them as a ploy by which they filled their campaign coffers through inculcating a pay-to-play ethos into the county's governmental function in which the company or companies favored with the exclusive operating zones made heavy contributions to their political benefactors in exchange for being granted that exclusive operational status. Some who criticized the existence of exclusive operating zones maintained the monopolistic system has long endangered public safety. One of those was the county's firefighters' union, known as Local 935, which as early as 2012 suggested the exclusive operating approach on occasion created shortages in the High Desert's ambulance transport system.

For years, the county's decision-makers ignored those warnings, responding that those shortages had never proven critical.

The overall situation

with regard to emergency medical care in the field and emergency medical transport, however, has been gradually evolving for decades, with some of the more financially enabled jurisdictions in San Bernardino County having striven toward training their existing firefighting personnel with regard to lifesaving skills and rudimentary medical care, such that over the years fire departments, one by one, have made a practice of hiring firefighters who have taken fire science and paramedic courses at local community colleges.

Between 2014 and 2019, some handwriting appeared on the wall when several of San Bernardino County's fire departments, particularly those on the west end of the county, elected to forego their long-existing arrangements with the Ontario Fire Department and to instead utilize the emergency dispatch and communications system that had been developed by the San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire Agencies – a joint powers authority consisting of the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, Chino Valley Independent Fire District, the Colton Fire Department, the Loma Linda Fire Department, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, the Redlands Fire Department, the Rialto Fire Department, the San Bernardino County Fire District and the Victorville Fire Department – and four contract agencies – the Big Bear Fire Department, the Montclair Fire Department, the Running Springs Fire District and the San Manuel Fire Department.

The City of Ontario in the very late 1970s and early 1980s leapt ahead of virtually all of the governmental agencies in the region, with what was then its state-of-the-art emergency dispatch

system. Multiple agencies on the west side of San Bernardino County contracted with Ontario to provide dispatch service, which was run out of the basement of that city's fire department headquarters. But the San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire Agencies, known by its acronym CONFIRE, had in the intervening 40 years put into place an even more refined and advanced dispatch system, one that had features the Ontario Fire Department dispatch system lacked.

In 2022, with the near monopoly that the private sector/for-profit ambulance companies had on certified/licensed paramedics in San Bernardino County in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s having come to an end, the county entertained the concept of making two radical departures from its past practices with regard to ambulance service provision: one) dispensing with merely “rolling over” what the county referred to as “a grandfathered process” that conferred most of the ambulance franchise on AMR by doing away with the exclusive operating zone concept entirely through opening up the bidding process and two) considering public agencies as potential providers of ambulance service.

In 2022 the county began to seriously consider that option and on December 20, 2022, the county released a request for proposals – a solicitation of bids – inviting prospective providers to offer ground ambulance service in 11 of the county's 26 exclusive operating areas.

In what was a disappointment to many, no other private ambulance company than AMR responded to the request. Notably, however, San Bernardino County's Consolidated Fire Agencies – CONFIRE – also responded.

What the county's action did, perhaps inadvertently, perhaps not, was to set up a direct competition between a private sector company that had established itself

as one of the most prolific donors to the members of the board of supervisors and an entity which indirectly through its constituent agencies employs firefighters who belong to a public employee union that likewise has made its mark through generosity in endowing the supervisors' political war chests.

In its response to the solicitation for bids, AMR stated it could commit 12,889 weekly unit hours to respond to calls, had 111 ambulances available during peak system demand and stationed throughout the service area backed with 39 additional available ambulances available to meet surges. It emphasized that it was the current provider of the services with vehicle infrastructure in place and 10 managers and 18 field supervisors and a medical director familiar with the comprehensive needs of the service area. The company offered rates of \$3,958 for both basic life support and advanced life support, \$2,834 to carry out an interfacility transport, and \$4,392 for critical care transport.

In its response to the solicitation, CONFIRE said it would subcontract with Priority Ambulance, which also serves Maricopa County in Arizona and therefore could devote 10,371 weekly unit hours to respond to calls, had 93 ambulances available at peak demand, with 45 additional ambulances available to meet surges throughout the service area and that it will establish ambulance staging locations, put on-board personnel in place and acquire vehicles upon receiving the contract. It offered an assurance that it has leadership and management to meet the demands of providing the service, including nine managers and 18 operations supervisors as well as a medical director and that it controls the regional emergency services communication system.

Its proposed rates for its advance life support service were \$3,547 for non-emergency and interfacility transfer, \$4,053

for emergency transport, \$2,533 for non-emergency basic life transport and \$3,167 for emergency basic life transport and CCT \$5,067 for critical care transport.

What the county referred to as an “independent review panel” made up of four evaluators individually scored each proposal on 14 key areas – system requirements, response time standards, clinical performance, deployment plans, vehicles, medical supplies and equipment, personnel, hospital and community requirements, disaster preparedness/response, quality management, electronic patient care reports, centralized emergency medical dispatch capability, financial and administrative requirements qualifications and future system enhancements – for the purpose of making a recommendation to the county for the final negotiation of contract terms. The total cumulative scores, against a standard with 1,720 points maximum, favored AMR, which registered 1,519 total points against 1,515 points for CONFIRE.

There was some nuance to the scoring, in that one of the evaluators favored AMR by 35 points, 419 to 384, while the other three evaluators found in favor of CONFIRE by scores of 383 to 373, 363 to 346 and 385 to 381.

With the competition having ended in a dead heat, the institutional bias within a governmental entity – the county – in favor of another governmental entity – CONFIRE – which was competing with a private sector entity was soon evident. Of no little import was that one of CONFIRE's constituent agencies was the county fire division. Nor did it hurt CONFIRE's case that when it came to handing out political donations, the union representing the firefighters with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, Chino Valley Independent Fire District, the Colton Fire Department, the Loma Linda Fire Department, the Rancho

Cucamonga Fire Department, the Redlands Fire Department, the Rialto Fire Department, the San Bernardino County Fire District, the Victorville Fire Department, the Big Bear Fire Department, the Montclair Fire Department, the Running Springs Fire District and the San Manuel Fire Department and the firefighters themselves have proven every bit as and even more generous than AMR.

The county emphasized that the score differential on the evaluation of proposed service was a mere quarter of 1 percent between AMR and CONFIRE. Based on that negligible difference, the county declared the competition to have been a wash. It then provided AMR and CONFIRE with notice to enter into contract negotiations with the county and that the final contract approval rested with the board of supervisors.

After those negotiations concluded, the county purchasing division on October 27, 2023 emailed AMR a notice of intent to recommend that it be awarded a six-month contract extension running from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, from the time its contract was scheduled to expire on March 31, 2024 to allow CONFIRE to get prepared to take on the contract for an initial term from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2029.

AMR lodged a protest, alleging the county had failed to follow the selection procedures and adhere to requirements specified in the request for proposal by not awarding the contract to the entity which had prevailed in the competition, and that the county had otherwise violated state and/or federal law. The county's purchasing agent, Ariel Gill, reviewed and considered the protest. In short order, Gill notified AMR of the county's decision to deny the protest.

At the December 5, 2023 board of supervisors meeting at which the decision to enter into the

*Continued on Page 11*



## Dennis Yates 1945-2024 from page 3

publicanism, something of an alliance formed between Aguiar and Yates.

He served as a councilman for three terms, being reelected in 1996 and 2000. In 2004, when Eunice Ulloa opted out of seeking reelection as mayor, Yates ran to claim the gavel, trouncing Laura De La Cruz in the process. He was reelected in 2008 and again in 2012.

His association with Aguiar paid off, in that Aguiar after leaving the Assembly had run successfully for the San Bernardino County Fourth District supervisorial position, which he resigned from to become Arnold Schwarzenegger's chief of staff when the latter became governor. As mayor, Aguiar was able to use his entree with the governor through Aguiar to pull off a coup, that being the expansion of Ayala Park from 41 acres to 141 acres as the result of the State of California agreeing to deed – as part of an agency-to-agency transfer – 100 “surplus” acres from the adjacent California Institution for Men campus.

In 2013, when the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation was slated to expand the California Institution for Men in Chino to expand its capacity by 792 beds to accommodate Level II prisoners, Yates effectively lobbied the governor's office to drop the

gricultural Preserve, the establishment of his alma mater's satellite campus – the Chaffey Community College Technology Center – in Chino, improvements to the city, including the downtown area prior to the state doing away with California's redevelopment agencies in 2012, the construction of a low-cost senior housing project in the city, the construction of the Carolyn Owens Community Center and the College Park residential development.

Politics being what it is, of course, there were a few bumps in the road, some setbacks and embarrassments.

As some saw it, the breakup of the Chino Agricultural Preserve was a less than fully positive development. Moreover, some feel, Chino in 1999 should have laid claim to the entirety of the 15,200 acres in the preserve. Instead, Ontario annexed the lion's share of the land – 8,200 acres – while Chino obtained 5,300 acres and



**Milburn Pennybags**

Chino Hills took the remaining 1,700 acres.

A cross section of Chino citizens feels that Dennis Yates along with four of the other council members at the time – Eunice Ulloa, Glenn

paid to the city council members that was more generous than the comparable benefit available and paid by the city for its employees as mandated under Government Code §36516(e), such that in 2010 the city council members received health benefit bank compensation of approximately \$26,629 annually, whereas other city employees received benefit bank compensation of \$15,672, a difference of \$10,957 annually. This was alleged to be in violation of California Penal Code §424, related to the misappropriation of public monies. It was further asserted that in order to circumvent the maximum compensation requirement of the government code, the city council tailored a unique employment contract with the city attorney, which would allow the excessive health payments to also be classified as retirement benefits. This uniquely drawn up contract applicable only to the mayor, council members and city attorney was averred to be violation of Government Code §1090, California's conflict of interest statute, since the city council members had a financial interest in the contract with the city attorney and they voted to approve it. In 2011, after the State Controller required the compensation of the city council to be included in the database made available to the public, the city council took action to reduce the health bank benefits they had voted for themselves to being the same benefit amount as made available and paid to the other employees of Chino. It was thus the contention of some in the city that the total illegal benefits so derived by the mayor and city council exceeded \$270,000 between 2005 and 2011.

That information had remained under wraps until the California state controller created a database in 2012 disclosed the compensation and benefits paid to California's governmental employees. The data base also revealed that since

the year 2000, Chino City Council members had received \$1,440 annually in deferred compensation in addition to their salary. Such deferred compensation was never authorized by the passage of a city resolution or ordinance as required under Government Code §36506 and §37206. Public scrutiny of the matter in the aftermath of the state controller's creation of the database led to the city council adopting Resolution 2013-46, authorizing such payment, which was seen as a tacit admission that the council had been acting illegally for nearly 13 years. The city council, despite adopting Resolution 2013-46, took no action to require that its members reimburse the city for the alleged previously unauthorized and illegal payments.

In addition, those monitoring the city council's actions propounded that the city council had violated Government Code §36514.5 when in December 2005 it adopted Resolution 2005-093, resulting in a monthly communication allowance of \$100. That \$100 monthly allowance was in violation of the state's reimbursement laws as such a monthly allowance is not for an actual expense. Additionally, it was noted, prior to 2005, the city council never adopted a resolution or ordinance authorizing the payment of a communication allowance as required under Government Code §36506 and Government Code §37206.

It was alleged the mayor and most of the council members had thus received \$123,176 each to which they were not entitled.

The district attorney's office began looking into the matter in 2014, at which time the practices were quietly discontinued. Neither the mayor nor the council members were prosecuted, but the episode served as an illustration of what some saw as an abuse of privilege and authority, as well as mendacity, by the mayor and council.

Two years later, perhaps in reaction to the scandal over the payments to the council, Yates announced he would not seek reelection.

In his mature years, Yates, with his graying hair turning white and his full mustache, took on the aspect of the character designed by the artist Daniel Fox for Parker Brothers Company to serve as the mascot of the board game Monopoly. The character, who over the decades took on various different names which included the Monopoly Man, the Monopoly Guy, Rich Uncle, Milburn Pennybags, Pennybags or Mr. Monopoly, was said to have been modeled after the American Progressive Era businessman J.P. Morgan. The resemblance of mature Yates to the character, seen on the 18 of the Monopoly chance cards and 16 of the Monopoly community chest cards is remarkable. Yates bore observations to that effect in



**Dennis Yates**  
good humor.

The City of Chino posted on its website, “The City of Chino is deeply saddened to announce the passing of former Mayor Dennis R.



Yates, a dedicated public servant, veteran, leader, and pillar of our community. Mayor Yates was 79 years old. Mayor Yates' commitment to Chino and its residents spanned over two decades of service, beginning with his election to the Chino City Council in 1992.”

The posting contin-

ues, “An advocate for youth programs, Mayor Yates was integral in the creation of the Chino Youth Museum, a lasting tribute to his belief in fostering educational opportunities for children. He also spent decades as a volunteer and mentor with Chino Pop Warner football, where the Yates Field at Ayala Park stands in his honor, named after him in recognition of his 28 years of service to the program. Mayor Yates' unwavering dedication to his community was honored with Chino's highest accolade, the prestigious Spirit of Achievement Award in 2019. This award recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the city, reflecting the lasting impact of his leadership and service on Chino's growth and vitality.”

Beyond his service to Chino, Mayor Yates held influential positions on boards and committees at regional and state levels. He served as vice chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, board member of Omnitrans, and representative to the San Bernardino Association of Governments. Through these roles, Yates helped shape regional policies that improved the quality of life, not only for Chino residents but for communities across the region.”

Quoting Mayor Ulloa, the posting states, “Dennis Yates was a true public servant who loved his community and devoted

his life to making Chino a better place. His leadership and vision have left a lasting legacy on our city, and his impact on Chino will be felt for generations to come. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Rosemary, their children, and grandchildren.”

-Mark Gutglueck



proposal unless and until improvements to the facility and its security were undertaken.

Yates would score multiple other political victories during his tenures as both a councilman and mayor, which included the city's annexation of a substantial portion of the Chino Ag-

Duncan, Tom Haughey and Earl Elrod – engaged in typical political underhandedness and self-serving greed when they adopted Resolution 2006-051 on June 20, 2006, which was made retroactive to August 1, 2005. That resolution resulted in a health benefit bank compensation



Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: IDA BELL HOWARD

CASE NO. PRO-VA2400701
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of IDA BELL HOWARD: a petition for probate has been filed by CARLTON MICHAEL HOWARD in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CARLTON MICHAEL HOWARD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests full 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 September 16, 2024 at 9:00 am at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

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

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

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

Filed: August 28, 2024
By Brenda Perez-Cordero, Deputy Court Clerk
Attorney for Carlton Michael Howard:

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 August 30 and September 6 & 13, 2024.

Public Notices

FBN 20240007216
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

MEDCOVE URGENT CARE
1202 E 20TH ST SUITE E UPLAND, CA 91784; TAP MEDICAL PARTNERS 1202 E 20TH ST SUITE E UPLAND, CA 91784
Business Mailing Address: 1202 E 20TH ST SUITE E UPLAND, CA 91784

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 5815287.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JULY 1, 2024.

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/ JASMINE ISEL HURTA-DO, Secretary

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: August 9, 2024

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 K1583

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 August 30 and September 6, 13 & 20, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2425218,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Jefferey Dion Acquah, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jefferey Dion Acquah to Jefferey Dion Acquah-Moore, 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: 10/04/2024, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S23The 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 SBCS ? Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 08/23/2024
Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert Ochoa
Published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga on 08/30/2024, 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024

FBN 20240007761
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

5RS BARBER AND SALON
302 N MOUNTAIN AVE UPLAND, CA 91786; RAED ALEID
Business Mailing Address: 302 N MOUNTAIN AVE UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to

Public Notices

transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 27, 2024.

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/ RAED ALEID, Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/27/2024

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 K3379

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 September 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

FBN 20240007939
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

KHAN PARALEGAL AND NOTARY [and] KHAN WHOLESALE GARMENTS LLC
330 N. D STREET SUITE 544 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 924105; KHAN WHOLESALE GARMENTS LLC 225 E 4TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 924105
Business Mailing Address: 225 E 4TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 924105

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202253617535.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 1, 2024.

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/ MOHAMMAD KHAN, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/29/2024

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 K3379

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 September 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

FBN 20240007899
The following entity is doing business primarily in Riverside County as

PIONEER FENCING COMPANY 1637 WEST WILLIAM STREET BANNING, CA 92220; GUSTAVO MEZA
Business Mailing Address: 1637 WEST WILLIAM STREET BANNING, CA 92220

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 9, 2024.

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/ GUSTAVO MEZA, Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/27/2024

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 J5842

Notice-This fictitious name

Public Notices

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 September 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2425404,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Martha Leticia Trejo, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Martha Leticia Trejo to Martha Leticia Trejo Lizarraga, 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: 10/08/2024, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S14The 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 SBCS Ontario in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 08/27/2024
Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G Ochoa
Published in the SBCS Ontario on 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024

Antionette Jauregui:
1894 Commercenter W Ste 108 San Bernardino CA 92408-3310
Telephone No: 909-890-2350
Published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga on: 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

DOLLIE E. SCHWABE
Case NO. PROVA2400778

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of DOLLIE E. SCHWABE A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ATHENA C. DOCHERTY in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that 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. ATHENA C. DOCHERTY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the

Public Notices

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. F1 at 09:00 AM on 10/09/2024 at Superior Court of California, County of Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, , San Bernardino, 17780 ARROW BLVD, FONTANA, CA 92335, San Bernardino District-Probate Division

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 Lino Martinez:

R. SAM PRICE
SBN 208603
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC
454 Cajon Street
REDLANDS, CA 92373
Phone (909) 328 7000
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sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CIV SB 2425636 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner JESSICA COY filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JESSICA COY to COY SHEFFIELD

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: October 10, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S26

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247

Public Notices

taining 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 September 30, 2024 at 9:00 am at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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.

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Public Notices

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.

Gilbert G. Ochoa
Judge of the Superior Court.

Filed: August 29, 2024 by Amaris Morales Eumana, Deputy Court Clerk

Jessica Coy
8425 Lemon Ave
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701

(626) 357-8070
jcroy02@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 13, 20, 27 & October 4, 2024.

FBN 20240003948
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

VENTURA TRANSPORTATION, INC 8470 AVALON CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701; VENTURA TRANSPORTATION, INC 8470 AVALON CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

Business Mailing Address: 8470 AVALON CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered in California.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 20, 2014.

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/ WALTER VENTURA, President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/25/2024

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 J9784

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 August 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 13, 20, 27 & October 4, 2024.

FBN 20240007217
The following person is doing business as: M & M TIRE SHOP. 3292 N H ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405; MAILING ADDRESS 3292 N H ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MIGUEL DE LA LUZ ZAMORA; MARIA SANTOS GARCIA MINDIOLA. The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ MIGUEL DE LA LUZ ZAMORA, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 09, 2024

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.,















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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).

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024, 10/04/2024 CNBB37202402MT

FBN 20240008064  
The following person is doing business as: CHRISTY'S DONUTS. 26471 BASELINE ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346; MAILING

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ADDRESS 26471 BASELINE ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO YORN TOUTH 26552 PACIFIC ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346; CHARMEON TANG 26030 BASELINE ST #77 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410. The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

**Public Notices**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUN 19 2018 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

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that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ YORN TOUTH, GENERAL PARTNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: SEPTEMBER 06, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original state-

**Public Notices**

ment 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

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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 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024, 10/04/2024 CNBB37202401MT

**AMR Sued County Over CONFIRE Ambulance Take-over from page 5**

five-year contract with CONFIRE was scheduled to be discussed and voted upon, Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Dawn Rowe emphasized that by choosing CONFIRE, a public agency, to provide ambulance service, the county would, under the provisions of Assembly Bill 1705, be eligible to receive intergovernment transfer funds made available through the State of California's Department of Health Care Services in accordance with state financial assistance through what is referred to as the Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program. That program provides increased reimbursements for emergency medical transportation provided by eligible noncontracted public, general emergency medical transportation providers. Since CONFIRE is a public agency and AMR is not, Rowe said, choosing CONFIRE as the county's ambulance provider would provide the county with those intergovernmental transfer funds. Since that funding would not be available if the contract went to AMR, Rowe asserted, the contract with CONFIRE offered the county the "best value." Rowe further argued that three of the four individuals evaluating the competing bids ranked CONFIRE higher than AMR, which she said justified awarding the contract to CONFIRE. The board voted unanimously to support Supervisor Jesse Armendarez's motion, seconded by Supervisor Curt Hagman, to deny AMR's protest and award the five-year contract to CONFIRE.

On February 2, 2024, AMR, represented by attorneys Stephen Larson,

Jonathan Phillips, Mehrunisa Ranjha and Benjamin Falstein filed suit in the form of a complaint and petition for a writ of mandamus in Riverside Federal Court, naming the County of San Bernardino, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency and Consolidated Fire Agencies [CONFIRE] as defendants and Consolidated Fire Agencies as the real party in interest.

According to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, the county failed to abide by the strict requirements contained in its own request for proposals in that under the rules of the competition, the county was "required to award the exclusive contract to the bidder with the highest scoring proposal."

Despite what was supposed be a highly regulated and precisely controlled competition, according to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, the "county was willing to disregard this mandatory process in order to award the contract to its pre-ordained preferred provider – CONFIRE – regardless of whether it had submitted the best bid. In other words, the process actually employed by the county was not truly competitive at all."

Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein maintain "AMR's proposal received the highest score based on the scoring metrics specified in the RFP [request for proposals]. The independent, non-biased review committee administering the request for proposals process gave AMR's proposal a higher score than CONFIRE's proposal based on scoring criteria set forth in the RFP."

Moreover, according to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, any provider with a proposal that failed to meet the minimum qualifications

specified in the request for proposals could not be considered at all. This was the case with CONFIRE, the four lawyers maintained in the suit. They pointed out in the suit that under the county's own specified standards to fulfill or hold the franchise contract, competing applicants are required to have provided emergency ambulance service to a population of at least one million residents over a period of at least five of the previous seven years.

According to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, "[I]t is undisputable that CONFIRE, as well as its private subcontractor, Priority, had failed to meet the basic requirements set forth in the request for proposal. Because of this failure, disqualification was mandatory under the request for proposals, and CONFIRE's proposal should never have received consideration by the county, let alone the county's recommendation for further negotiation and ultimate award. CONFIRE's proposal represented that Priority had sufficient organizational experience based on the ambulance services Priority provides in its largest service area, Maricopa County, Arizona. Priority does not have a contract as the primary ambulance provider with Maricopa County itself; instead, Priority contracts with five municipalities that together comprise only a portion of Maricopa County. Priority's contract with the City of Chandler, Arizona only commenced in or about January 2022 and thus fails to satisfy the durational requirement in the RFP, which requires the bidder to have continuously provided ambulance services for five of the last seven years. Additionally, under that contract, Priority only provides the physical ambulance and an EMT [emergency medi-

cal technician] driver – whereas the city provides the licensed paramedic on board the ambulance – and thus Priority itself is not capable of providing advanced life support services as required by the request for proposals. Priority's contract with the City of Scottsdale, Arizona only includes the provision of basic life support services and does not include the provision of advanced life support services required by the request for proposals, which are instead provided by the local fire department."

According to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, "CONFIRE's proposal should not have been considered to begin with, as it failed to fulfill basic minimum requirements mandated by the request for proposals."

According to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein, "[T]he board of supervisors voted to award the contract to the losing bidder, CONFIRE. By negotiating with and ultimately awarding the contract to an ambulance services provider with an inferior bid, the county and its board of supervisors acted contrary to the RFP and state law—and, consequently, outside the narrow confines of their antitrust immunity."

The only circumstance under which the county could enter into contract negotiations with CONFIRE, the losing bidder would have been if AMR, the winning bidder, had refused to negotiate with the county, according to the lawsuit.

"The request for proposals specifies that the review committee would only recommend the highest-scoring bidder for final negotiation of contract terms with the county," according to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein. "Negotiations may only commence with the next highest-rated bidder if the county terminates

negotiations with the highest-scoring bidder for failure to negotiate." AMR did not refuse to negotiate, and it did everything it was supposed to do and competed for the contract under the specifications set by the county, according to Larson, Phillips, Ranjha and Falstein.

AMR protested and its protest was denied, according to the suit, while the county and the county board of supervisors maintained the supervisors had discretion in the selection process that allowed its members to collectively "disregard the evaluation prepared by the non-biased review committee and further empowered the county and board of supervisors to disregard the request for proposal's mandatory requirement that only the highest scoring proposal would receive consideration for award of the contract."

With the suit pending, the question has become whether American Medical Response was going to be canceled out as the county's primary ambulance service provider and CONFIRE is to take over. Aside from that is the question of whether that transition, if it is to be made, will be made on the timetable previously laid out, with CONFIRE taking over on October 1.

CONFIRE is represented by attorneys Lindsay Moore, Andrew Schouten and Nathan Cooke.

Devin Senelick of the law firm Hooper Lundy & Bookman represents the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency. Yesterday, on September 12, that question was taken up not in federal court but in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Jay H. Robinson. It is American Medical Response's contention that it is not only possible but probable it will prevail in its legal challenge of the board of supervisors'

granting of the five-year contract to CONFIRE. As such, the company maintains, forcing it to shut down now, shutter its facilities and move its ambulances and equipment would be onerous if it at some future date will need to reopen those facilities and bring those vehicles and equipment back.

Judge Robinson, considering those arguments, granted AMR's motion for a preliminary injunction, suspending the transition process while the legal challenge proceeds.

Judge Robinson said after "evaluating American Medical Response of Inland Empire's ('AMR') likelihood of prevailing on the merits of its claims," his conclusion was that there were "interim harms which AMR would suffer should the [federal] court deny the injunction [and] the interim harms which county defendants and CONFIRE would suffer should the court grant the injunction," such that "the injunction ultimately promotes the public interest in open and fair competitive bids."

According to Judge Robinson, "Respondents and defendants County of San Bernardino, County of San Bernardino Supervisors, and Inland County Emergency Medical Agency are hereby enjoined and restrained during the pendency of this action from performing, proceeding under, or implementing services pursuant to, the contract for advanced life support and basic life support ground ambulance services, interfacility and critical care transport services for exclusive operating areas in San Bernardino County, Contract No. 23-1282."

It thus appears that until the matter is fully addressed in federal court, AMR ambulances will remain in place in San Bernardino County.

-Mark Gutglueck



## Upland Heard No Public Input On CDBG Spending

from page 3

equate in consideration of the expressed importance of achieving public input.

The *Sentinel* dashed off letters in the form of emails to Mayor Velto and Development Services Director Dalquest, asking both if they felt the hearing and vote taken on September 9 were

adequate, even assuming that the city met all legal requirements with the way the matter was scheduled and addressed, and the public hearing, such as it was, held. The identical question posed to Velto and Dalquest went to a deeper level, that being whether they believed what occurred on September 9 met the spirit of open governance and transparency, which Velto on more than one occasion has referenced

as the standard he wants the city to adhere to.

The *Sentinel* asked the mayor and the development services director if they considered what took place Monday night to have been adequate in all ways, both legal and in terms of activating community involvement in deciding how to best apply HUD money in the city.

The *Sentinel* asked Dalquest if he was willing to use his status as a

department head and his personal credibility to ask the mayor and city council to reschedule the public hearing and the vote that took place on Monday night, and to preface it with a more intensive public announcement and effort to engender public participation in the process of discussing the highest and best use of the Community Development Block Grants to be provided to the city. In its letter to Velto, the *Sen-*

*tinel* inquired of the mayor, "Would you consider rescheduling the item for discussion at a future meeting, before which the city would carry out a more energetic and pervasive noticing for the meeting in an effort to convey to Upland's citizenry the significance and importance of the matter so as to encourage wider public participation in the public hearing, thus giving the council the benefit of that input before it

reconsiders and remakes the decision it voted upon on Monday night? Would you be willing to use your authority as mayor to intercede with your council colleagues so that the five of you might reconsider the matter in a forum for which is sought greater resident participation than took place on Monday?"

Neither Velto nor Dalquest responded to the *Sentinel* by press time.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Newsom Discontinuing Taxpayer Giveaways To Illegal Immigrants & Enforcing Theft Law Show He Was A White Racist All Along, His Former Minority Backers Maintain

from page 3

making undocumented immigrants eligible for the \$150,000 in assistance would be.

The committee, chaired by State Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced), said it would have "unknown significant cost pressures, potentially in the millions annually." Though her committee advised caution with regard to Assembly Bill 1840, Caballero voted for AB 1840.

There were similar disconnects in the run-up to the vote, but it passed.

It was widely assumed that as another piece of progressive legislation, it would be signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Over the course of most of his gubernatorial run, Newsom has been accommodating in finding room in the budget to fund all order of programs aimed at righting past social and economic wrongs. But within the last 18 months, less than a year after he was re-elected to a second term, which followed by roughly 14 months his having survived a recall effort, the one-time mayor of San Francisco and two-term lieutenant governor was given a dose of fiscal reality indistinguishable from being doused with a bucket of ice water. As late as February 2022, Newsom was functioning under the assumption the state would achieve a \$75.7 billion budget surplus later that year. He was given a series of

downturning projections in the months thereafter, which erased most of that surplus before the 2022-23 fiscal year had begun. Things grew worse from there, with the state having no choice but to dig into its reserves to balance the budget in 2023-24, and the California Legislative Analyst's Office projecting the most bleak 2024-25 imaginable, nearly a 180-degree economic shift over what the governor and others thought was the case two years previously: a \$73 billion deficit. Over the last four months, the combined California Legislature and the governor have implemented a host of austerity measures, including a temporary tax hike on certain businesses, in an effort to reduce the deficit, having so far reduced the hemorrhaging of \$73 billion in red ink to a still-devastating \$46.8 billion shortfall.

Upon being presented with AB 1840, Newsom uncharacteristically hesitated. Then, he did what previously would have been unthinkable. On September 6, he struck it down with his veto pen.

In doing so, Newsom referenced the program's limited funding, which included having absolutely no money budgeted for it in the current state spending plan after it was sucked dry in 11 days last year.

Newsom said he could not ignore the state's ongoing \$47 billion budget

deficit. "This bill seeks to prohibit the disqualification of applicants from one of the California Housing Finance Agency's (CalHFA) home purchase assistance programs based solely on their immigration status," Newsom wrote. "Given the finite funding available for CalHFA programs, expanding program eligibility must be carefully considered within the broader context of the annual state budget to ensure we manage our resources effectively."

The reaction was swift.

Some of the milder criticisms were that Newsom is a "fair-weather progressive," ready to take action and credit when money is flowing but one revealed as a closet conservative when money gets tight. He wasn't able or willing to live up to his rhetoric of seeking economic equality for all, it was charged.

Others were less charitable still. They pointed out that Newsom had not acted to prod the state legislature in the right direction less than a week previously when a pair of reparations-related bills that had already passed in the State Senate, SB 1331, which would have created a new state fund for reparations, and Senate Bill 1403, which would have established a state agency to oversee the reparation process and determine who would be eligible, were killed on August 31 in the Assembly when they were not brought to the full floor for a vote.

It was pointed out that the wealthy and white Newsom, whose father was J. Paul Getty and

who owns at least two houses of his own, has no real compassion for poor immigrants from Mexico seeking to live out the American Dream.

And he has no feel for the descendants of the victims of slavery who were deprived of freedom and opportunity by their white masters — Newsom's ancestors — when he stood by while far more conscientious lawmakers in the state he rules were trying to pass legislation that would atone for the legacy of racist policies that subjected the Negro to unthinkable disparities including employment, education, housing and health, even while the likes of Newsom and his parents and grandparents were living in mansions, others alleged.

Simply put, it was said, Newsom is an out and out racist.

William Washington III, who campaigned with the Democrats in 2021 to thwart the effort to remove Newsom from office, said he feels betrayed.

"We supported him," Washington, who is active in the Black Lives Matter movement, said. "Where is he now when it's our time for justice?"

Washington said it wasn't just Newsom failing to act to salvage SB 1331 and Senate Bill 1403 that had revealed his true colors. He pointed to Newsom yesterday affixing his signature to AB 1960, legislation which addresses so-called large-scale theft, also referred to as smash-and-grab robbery. Authored by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, AB 1960 puts in place enhanced sentencing for those

convicted of high-value property thefts, including those who knowingly traffic or resell stolen goods. The bill is of a piece with a broader set of laws relating to "organized retail crime," ones intended to give law enforcement officers more leverage and prosecutors more options when dealing with practitioners of "smash and grab" tactics, which involve multiple perpetrators — from three or four to as many as two dozen — descending on a retail establishment and using hammers or other heavy objects to smash display or security cases and seize highly valuable merchandize in a flash effort which can net property worth upwards of \$10,000, \$20,000, \$50,000 or even \$100,000. The new legislation strengthens existing laws and mandates stricter penalties for felony property thefts involving damages or stolen goods valued at over \$50,000. AB 1960 applies not only to those seizing the merchandise but their "fences," or those who knowingly purchase or sell such stolen property.

"We all know who that's aimed at," Washington said. "It ain't aimed at no white boys. It's aimed at nighuzh like us."

Equally upset with the governor was Guillermo Muñoz.

Muñoz pointed out that immediately after Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 1840, he drew the praise of the Republicans.

"Governor Newsom listened to our calls and rightfully vetoed the bill to give illegal immigrants free home loans,"

State Senate Republican Leader Brian W. Jones said.

"Republicans are racists," Munoz said. "Republicans are against La Raza being able to own homes. When the Republicans wanted to take Newsom out of office, we stood by him all the way. Now, he's in with them. We should have let them recall him."

Arambula stopped short of calling the governor a racist, but he made clear he did not approve of the way he is treating Latinos.

"I'm deeply disappointed that Governor Newsom today vetoed Assembly Bill 1840," Arambula said. "The bill had won wide support in the Assembly and passed the Senate to get to his desk. My bill was about fairness. It simply clarified the language to make it clear that undocumented immigrants can apply — once again, if they meet all the criteria. That includes securing a bank loan or mortgage. Successful applicants have to repay the loan, without interest, when they sell the house. In addition, 20% of the appreciation on that home's value must be paid."

Arambula bristled at the suggestion that undocumented immigrants are criminals or disobeying the law. He said they are as important to the make-up of California as full citizens.

"We are a nation of immigrants, and we should remind ourselves the value and humanity of the people coming here who make our economy better — an economy that is the fifth-largest in the world," Arambula said.