

Friday, September 27, 2024 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (951) 567-1936

## Bradley's Aggressive Tax Measure Advocacy Costs Him Appointment As Committee Chairman Upland Council Balks At Naming Treasurer Head Of Tax Accountability Committee

City Treasurer Greg Bradley's willingness to serve in the role of Upland Mayor Bill Velto's "pit bull" in attacking those who questioned or opposed the Measure N sales tax initiative on this year's ballot has created considerable controversy in the city of 78,583. Indeed, the fallout from the vitriolic characterizations the treasurer has made of some of the City of Gracious Liv-



Greg Bradley

ing's citizenry has been so acute that the city council this week balked at conferring upon Brad-

ley the honor of chairing the committee that is to monitor how that tax money is to be spent if the measure passes in November.

Two years ago, the city council placed an identical one-cent-per-dollar sales tax override within the 15.62 square mile Upland City Limits on the November 2022 ballot. Velto and Bradley took the lead in promoting that initia-

tive, which had been labeled Measure L by the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. As it would turn out, Measure L went down to defeat, with 12,697, or 55.4 percent of the city's 22,919 voters who participated in the polling opposing the tax, while 10,222 or 44.6 percent supported it.

For Upland city officials, that defeat stung, as in the same election, the

residents of Ontario and, earlier this year in the March 2024 primary, the residents of Chino voted to impose on themselves similar one-percent sales tax increases.

In 2022, city officials estimated that the passage of Measure L would generate for the city something like \$16 million per year in added revenue.

In what a good cross section of Up- See P 2

## Peculiarities Abound In November 2024 Special Assessor's Two-Year Term Contest

By Mark Gutglueck

This year, there are a multitude of peculiarities in the race for San Bernardino County assessor, even beyond the typical degree of idiosyncratic abnormality which contests for that particular office embody.

As the largest geographical county in the lower 48 states, encompassing a land area larger than Rhode Island, Dela-

ware, Connecticut and New Jersey combined but with an overall population density throughout most of its history that allowed its politicians to get into office with a number of votes that totaled less than that polled by fifth-, sixth- and seventh-place finishers in other jurisdictions, graft and corruption flourished in San Bernardino County throughout most

or all of the 20th Century, intensified with the advent of the Third Millennium and continues to the present, tainting virtually every aspect of the county government, including its board of supervisors, its elected sheriff and district attorney, the county treasurer and, as acutely or more so than in other stations of governance, the county assessor's office.

First, the position paid more money. In San Bernardino County, the assessor also serves as the county clerk and recorder, for which triple function the holder of the office was paid at that time a salary of \$218,101.69, further pay of \$20,384.75 and benefits of \$66,506.16, for a total annual compensation of \$304,992.60. Comparatively, a mem-

ber of the board of supervisors was not paid as well, receiving at that time \$151,690.24 in salary, \$17,000.10 in pay additions and \$49,825.74, for a total annual compensation of \$218,516.08.

While in San Bernardino County the county treasurer doubles as the tax collector, that authority extends to doing little more than taking the money See P 4

## Concern That Nearly Dormant Line Fire Is On Verge Of Flare-Up

Despite being more than 83 percent contained, the Line Fire is yet active, as a wide swath of the San Bernardino Mountains yet contains hot spots and pockets of kindling that are vulnerable to re-ignition that could cause an expansion of the fire further across the forest wilderness.

The fire started on

September 5 in Highland, in the midst of a multiple-day heatwave. It defied containment for a day-and-a-half as local firefighters wrestled with it in the foothills around East Highland. On September 7, it made a radical climb up the mountain, as chimneys lit dry vegetation in a progression through the areas around See P 3

## Ontario-Based Rockwell Acquires A Single Mentone And Two Yucaipa Nursing Homes From Summit

Ontario-based Rockwell Healthcare LLC has acquired for \$30 million three skilled nursing facilities entailing 191 beds in San Bernardino County which were purchased by Laguna Hills-based Summit Healthcare REIT Inc. in 2021 for just over two-thirds of that price.

On July 2, 2021, Summit Healthcare REIT

Inc. bought the 59-bed Creekside Post Acute Nursing Home in Yucaipa, the 50-bed University Post Acute Nursing Home in Mentone and the 82-bed Yucaipa Hills Post Acute Nursing Home in Yucaipa for \$20,055,000. The purchase took place during the COVID-19 crisis, just as the pandemic was beginning to taper

off in the aftermath of widespread vaccinations against the condition.

Immediately upon its acquisition of the three facilities, Summit Healthcare REIT leased them to Rockwell Healthcare, LLC, the operator of the facilities, on a triple net lease basis.

On September 6, 2024, after owning the facilities for See P 3

## Adventures in Latin Music At Gardiner Spring Auditorium On October 21

The musicians of the Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band and the Petrocelli Family are proud to present "Adventures in Latin Music" on Monday October 21, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held in historic Gardiner W. Spring Auditorium on the campus of Chaffey High School, 1250 N. Euclid Avenue in Ontario.

The Woodwind Celebration Ensemble will present a pre-concert recital in the auditorium lobby at 7:00 p.m. Complimentary coffee and cookies will be served in the lobby prior to the concert. The performance is free to the public.

The October concert is a salute to Latin music and features a repertoire of exciting selections

highlighted by an array of talented guest and Show Band soloists that include Victor Garnica, Emilio Pichardo, Ken Soderlund, Kathy Soderlund, Neil Vargas, Steve Collins, Pat Arnold... and the outstanding musicians of the Show Band.

Victor Garnica is an Assistant Principal at Valley View High School and has been involved

with music his entire life. He was influenced by his parents at a young age and was exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and artists such as Richie Valens, Metallica, and The Eagles. In high school, he sang in the choir and was a member of the marching band. He will sing three popular songs; the Carlos Santana hit "Evil Ways," "Por Una Mujer Bonita"

composed by his favorite Mexican artist Pepe Aguilar, and the theme song from the film The Sandpiper entitled "The Shadow of Your Smile." Emilio Pichardo is thrilled to be a featured soloist once again with the Show Band. Emilio has toured in China, Hungary, and Romania with the Citrus Singers as well as a solo music tour in Japan. See P 6

## Judge Freezes Bloomington Warehouse Work Until Environmental Review Is Revamped

A lawsuit brought by a coalition of four environmental groups challenging San Bernardino County's 2022 approval of a warehouse/logistics center complex in Bloomington has forced at least a temporary suspension of the project, which came after more than 100 of the 117 homes located on the property have been razed.

On November 15, 2022, the San Bernardino County board of Supervisors approved Howard Industrial Partners' proposal to construct the 213-acre Bloomington Business Park entailing a 1.25 million square-foot warehouse, one 479,000-square-foot warehouse and one 383,000-square-foot warehouse. The "warehouses" were planned to include internal space used for warehousing, distribution and manufacturing. Other structures are to be utilized for office space, according to Howard Industrial Partners. Later phases of construction would potentially bring the total combined area of construction to 3,235,836 square feet under roof.

The project area was situated on both sides of Locust Avenue between Santa Ana Avenue on the north and Jurupa Avenue to the south, with Maple Avenue and Linden Avenue forming the property's east border and extending to Alder Avenue on the west.

The property, which historically had consisted of agricultural uses and included 141.4 acres previously See P 3

## Bradley, As A Candidate Critical Of City Hall, Was Elected In 2020 And Was Quickly Converted Into An Establishment Member Defending The Status Quo *from front page*

land voters have come to believe was a deliberate effort at misdirection by city officials, in July, just before the elapsing of the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Office's deadline for placing a measure on the November ballot, the Upland City Council voted to place a measure before the voters that would change the city's formula for the cost of business licenses, which, if passed, was to result in an additional \$3 million to \$4 million for the city. Then, in a last-minute change, the Upland City Council on August 8 scheduled a special meeting on August 9, at which it voted to forego the measure aimed at changing the business license schedule and substitute another one-cent-per-dollar measure into its place. That meeting, which took place at 12 noon, concluded slightly more than four hours before the 5 p.m. August 9 deadline to have all paperwork relating to a ballot measure to the registrar of voters, who serves as the county's highest elections authority.

It turned out that the city had coordinated with some of the city council's major political donors to bankroll a committee to support the measure, which entailed the hiring of a political consultant, Naseem Farooqi, to guide the campaign to pass the measure. Indeed, it was learned, the city had commissioned a survey of 400 city voters to ascertain whether there was adequate support to pass the measure and that Upland's representative in the California Assembly, Chris Holden, knew at least as early as June that Upland was going to put the one-cent sales tax measure on the ballot.

A core of Upland residents who were opposed to the tax as well as a good number of those who were not necessar-

ily opposed to it but who were not fully convinced that it was necessary came away with the impression that the city was not acting forthrightly and with absolute transparency by hiding what its true intention was by 1) delaying until very late in the pre-election season to announce its plan to place a measure on the ballot, then 2) misleading everyone with the business license fee schedule measure which was ultimately withdrawn and 3) springing the sales tax measure on the city's residents after having known months – or perhaps years – in advance that the proposal was in the offing.

When in the aftermath of what the registrar of voters labeled as Measure N was qualified for placement on the ballot, both Velto and Bradley took to social media, heralding the resurrection of the sales tax initiative, seeking to generate enthusiasm for it and overcome or bypass the residual opposition that had manifested nearly two years previously.

Using the classic form of political promotion, both emphasized the underlying need for the funding to carry out the city's agenda of providing, maintaining, refurbishing and improving infrastructure and enhancing services, ignoring or outright refusing to acknowledge the sentiment against a tax increase clearly established in the previous election, dwelling on the city's relative financial disadvantage, as a bedroom community, to neighboring cities with their more robust commercial bases.

One reality that existed to complicate this, however, was that in framing the language for Measure N, city officials, conscious of the failure of Measure L, sought to imbue the latest version with rhetorical embellishments that would influence the voter into

favoring it based merely upon its verbal presentation using the most positive and favorable of characterizations of how the money the measure would raise would be spent.

It is a peculiarity of California law that tax initiatives approved by voters which devote the money collected to a specific purpose, referred to as a special tax or earmarked tax, must be passed by a two-thirds majority. Under California law, initiatives that call for the levying of a tax to produce revenue for which no use is specified, referred to as a general tax, need to gain a simple majority approval to pass.

At least in some, if not most, cases, voters are more inclined to pass a tax if they have assurance it will go for a specific purpose toward which they are favorably inclined. In the case of Measure N, the city wanted to have to achieve the lower threshold of a simple majority to pass the tax rather than having to convince two of every three voters to approve the measure. Thus, it proposed Measure N as a referendum calling for a general tax, while layering into its language references that gave it the appearance of a special tax. An eagle-eyed Upland resident – one who had opposed Velto in the 2020 election, Lois Sicking Dieter – had picked up on the way Upland city officials had hedged on the measure's language. She retained an attorney, Cory Briggs, and challenged what the city had done by filing a writ of mandate, calling upon the court to issue an order intervening in the process prior to the matter being placed on the ballot. Superior Court Judge Stephanie E. Thornton-Harris ruled in favor of the Upland residents lodging the challenge, making a finding that city officials had used deceptive language within the measure itself. She issued an order that the registrar of voters change the wording of the measure

before the ballots were printed.

Velto and Bradley took to social media popular in Upland, including Next Door and the Facebook pages Upland Politics, Upland Patriots and Upland Forum as well as Mayor Velto's forum, redoubling their effort to convince as many resident and voters that they could that the city is in a world of financial hurt, with not enough money to pay its employees and maintain its library, its police department, its streets and sidewalks, its water system, its social programs, its animal care providers, its schools, its infrastructure, its storm drains, its trees, its parkways, its parks and medians. City residents should take pride in their city, they asserted, and be willing to part with an extra penny on the dollar whenever they went shopping to ensure that their city is able to hold its own with regard to the comparable public improvements in nearby cities.

In the give-and-take that typifies social media, there was some support for what Velto and Bradley were saying, but there was also disagreement expressed, including those who pointed out that the city's residents had already made their feelings about a sales tax increase known two years ago when they soundly rejected Measure L. Further, some pointed out, many if not all of City Hall's financial problems were self-inflicted wounds that stemmed from a woeful lack of fiscal discipline, with the city's elected leadership having failed to exercise its authority over city staff, to which it had grown much too close, accepting low production from city employees, making ill-advised and unrelenting concessions to the public employee unions representing Upland's municipal workers which conferred upon them overly generous salaries and even cushier benefits while perpetuating the city employees' four-day work week. The city council, Measure N's

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opponents pointed out, had been compromised by taking substantial campaign donations from the city employee unions. This meant that the city council, those



**Bill Velto**

critics charged, instead of balancing the city's budget by driving down its personnel costs, was instead calling upon the city's residents to make up for the politicians' inability or unwillingness to be hardnosed with the city's underworked and overpaid employees.

Velto, who has an acerbic streak, perhaps upon the advice of his advisors and perhaps recognizing on his own that as mayor he could not afford to become too confrontational with his constituents, sought to restrain himself in his response to the opponents of Measure N participating in these on-line forums. He did not, however, endeavor to likewise curb Bradley, who himself has a reputation for being caustic in his remarks and displaying a sharp temper when provoked.

A perception grew, and remarks were made to the effect, that Bradley was serving in the role of Velto's "attack dog" or "pit bull."

In confronting those who have expressed the viewpoint that the tax

is unnecessary, Bradley has not shrunk from using the terms idiot, moron and imbecile in characterizing them.

Bradley said that those advocating against the tax, those constructing such arguments using state-supplied and city-supplied documentation relating to the pay levels of city employees as well as those who were not opposing Measure N but questioning the financial numbers its supporters were marshaling in favor of it were "municipal terrorists up to their usual tricks" who were, he averred, engaging "in an endless stream of lies."

Those residents who questioned the need for enhancing the city's revenue stream by increasing taxes rather than reducing operating costs as a means of balancing the city's budget and did so by making a comparison of private sector salaries that were on average less than city employee salaries, Bradley said, were citing "irrelevant information" and "clearly have no idea how municipal finance works."

A major issue in the debate over Measure L in 2022 and the current debate over Measure N at present is whether the current crop of city officials in leadership positions, including staff members who are participants in and future beneficiaries of the city's pension program, managed by the California Public Employees Retirement System [CalPERS], made an adequate effort to reform the pro-

*Continued on Page 5*

## Wild Oak Canyon Advocate's Missive Of Entreaty To The Yucaipa City Council Council

September 24, 2024

Yucaipa City Council  
Re: Warehouses in Live Oak Canyon

It's the same old story: out-of-town developers trying to poop in our back yards. In this case the poop is warehouses in Live Oak Canyon.

The results of the Monday night Yucaipa City Council meeting was a step in the right direction thanks to councilmembers: Justin Beaver Chris Venable, and Matt Garner. All three voted to kick the can down the road regarding the approval of the warehouse plan. That's a first step. However, the council refused to require a 17-year-old and outdated EIR be scrapped in favor of a developing a meaningful report.

The other councilmembers need to go. A

recall effort to remove Bobby Duncan and Jon Thorp should move forward. Their comments and their vote to approve warehouses are a clear indication they are in the pocket of the warehouse developers and out of touch with their constituents.

The city council meeting was a clear indication of how the residents of Yucaipa feel about warehouse development. And their neighbors in Live Oak Canyon feel the same way. In what was likely a record turnout for a council meeting with the overflow-room full and standing room only which ran over into the hallway, all but about twenty opposed the warehouses. None of the supporters were local residents. The three

warehouse developers, Palmers, Robinsons, and Issa families (corporations) all brought in family members from as far away as Huntington Beach and Florida to support their warehouses. None of them are local residents and they all have nothing but financial interest in their respective developments. Mr. Issa, identified himself to the council when he spoke as living on Live Oak Canyon Road. Fact is, he lives in Miami, Florida. Then there were the union construction workers all posing in their high-visibility vests and insisting that they needed jobs to survive—jobs to build warehouses that would kill residents with the added air pollution from 700+ diesel trucks daily in addition to the hundreds of work-

ers driving in and out. What nonsense! I've seen ploys by developers for over forty years to sway the vote at county and city council hearings by staging support. This one was one for the ages. Gotta hand it to you, Pacific Oaks Development, you're good!

Nearly 200 residents and neighbors made their opposition to warehouses evident. Dozens of them spoke about, air pollution, loss of natural habitat, the end of rural Yucaipa, traffic, visual blight, etc. Nearly a half-dozen local physicians spoke to the health risks of diesel fumes, especially increased cancer rates. Two things were never properly addressed that are critical considerations: runoff and real visibility.

Visibility:

Mayor Beaver and others repeatedly mentioned that the first phase of the warehouses (Palmer Corp.) was appropriately designed to be hidden from view by tucking the massive Amazon-like warehouses into the hills of Live Oak Canyon. What Mayor Beaver and the others fail to understand is that they will not be out of view. Hikers, mountain-bike riders, and equestrians who ride the trails on the plateau atop Live Oak Canyon on Redlands Conservancy lands will see them clearly. And all the wildlife living there will surely see them! Furthermore, the effects of the warehouse with several hundred thousand big rig trucks annually jamming our traffic all over the val-

ley will surely be visible. And speaking of visibility, I chuckled when the city's PowerPoint report showed us architectural renditions of the proposed warehouses themselves. The city planner commented how good the structures would look with their little barn-shaped roof detail designed to appear rural. Did he really think the people of Yucaipa would buy such nonsense? You really think a little striping detail on the side on a 50-foot-tall warehouse would lead us to believe we were still in the country? Come on! Ask the residents in Cherry Valley if their new warehouse with the wood water-tank and windmill out front makes them feel

*Continued on Page 6*

### Despite Widespread Opposition, Howard Industrial Partners' Bloomington Logistics Complex Was Granted Board Of Supervisors' Blessing *from front page*

zoned for low-density and very low-density single-family housing, lies within an area that is semi-rural, with many of the large lots in the area having been converted outright illegal, semi-legal and semi-legitimate trucking related uses, some of which were resented but still tolerated their residential neighbors.

Initially, what was listed as 265 housing units of varying descriptions were situated upon the area to be converted to the business park. Subsequently it was stated that those 265 units were contained within 117 succinct, stand-alone structures.

While the project was supported by Howard Industrial Partners and its owner, Tim Howard, the project consultants and the Laborers' International Union of North America, representing construction workers, the project had multiple opponents and detractors, including the Colton Joint Unified School District, Concerned Neigh-

bors of Bloomington, the People's Collective for Environmental Justice, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, along with scores of local residents as well as Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes and State Senator Connie Leyva, who in a letter to the county stated, "Benefits from [the project] pale in comparison to its numerous environmental, economic and social impacts." Bloomington's residents, Gomez Reyes and Leyva said, "should not have to sacrifice their air quality for the promise of jobs."

The county put together a draft environmental impact report for the project that was released on September 23, 2021 and a final environmental impact report on October 29, 2022, two weeks before the county's scheduled hearing on the project. While the county in the environmental impact report stated that the project's impact on air quality was "significant and unavoidable," ultimately the county board of supervisors came to a conclusion that the upside of the project outweighed the downside of the project. The board entered a finding of "overriding considerations"

in which the project's eventual provision of the more than 2,000 jobs, the \$10.7 million in one-time fees to be generated by the project, roughly \$20 million worth of infrastructure and off-site improvements to accompany the development, some \$8 million in tax revenue per year, and the company paying for a sheriff's deputy and an office for him to work out of in Bloomington offset the negative aspects of the project.

The site for the Bloomington Business Park is immediately adjacent to/no more than 80 feet from the Colton Joint Unified School District's Zimmerman

Elementary. Howard Industrial Partners closed a deal with the district in which it traded a piece of ground nearby to the district in exchange for the school campus and agreed to defray the \$44.5 million needed to construct a replacement school.

A feature of the proposal was that Howard Industrial Partners was to make up for knocking down the 117 residential structures where as many as 250 families lived on the property that was to accommodate the project by purchasing a 71.6-acre site not too distant from the land in question which

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### Proliferation Of Multiple Hot Spots Has Line Fire In Danger Of Major Reignition *from front page*

Forest Falls and Angeles Oaks toward the Big Bear community, resulting in evacuation orders for Arrowbear and Running Springs.

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and California National Guard personnel were dispatched to San Bernardino County to assist the sheriff's department with enforcing evacuation orders. Investigators looking into the origin of the

blaze came to the conclusion that it was started by an act of arson by Justin Wayne Halstenberg near the Baseline Road intersection with Alpin Street, which was Halstenberg's third attempt that day to ignite a conflagration. He has been arrested and charged with 11 arson-related counts. He has pleaded guilty and told the Sentinel he was innocent.

The fire charred 39,232 acres before the

more than 2,956 fire-fighting personnel working to contain it achieved substantial success on September 22, at which point its out-of-control progression was arrested, aided by some mild rain. Over the next several days, most of the evacuation orders in place were lifted.

Slightly rising temperatures in the last two days, however, have contributed to a more dangerous condition, which has manifested out of the larger climactic pattern, referred to as a weather

whiplash, brought on by more than 18 months of on-again, off-again wet conditions had spurred the growth of grass and chaparral, which then dried out during this year's extremely hot summer, transforming it into ready fire fuel.

Yesterday, Rhursday September 26, the Line Fire actively burned within containment lines in Bear Creek, up a very steep drainage to the strategically placed indirect containment lines. This resulted in

burning vegetation that produced widely visible smoke Thursday afternoon. The fire remains within the containment lines, but has the potential to break free based upon wind conditions and other factors. The fire grew by a few additional acres in the Santa Ana River drainage with roll-outs and small runs upslope. That area is well staffed with firefighters.

At present, the California Division of forestry and Fire Protection

has on hand or on ready call 50 fire engines, 12 water tenders, five helicopters, 23 bulldozers, 23 hand crews and 1,052

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### Rockwell Purchases Yucaipa & Mentone Nursing Homes *Outright from front page*

three years and two months, Summit Healthcare REIT sold them outright to Rockwell.

**Do You Have Information Of Public Interest? Call the *Sentinel* at (951) 567 1936 The *Sentinel* is always looking for information to inform our readership and keep our readers abreast of newsworthy developments. The *Sentinel* devotes itself to what is happening in and around San Bernardino County. Social events, political news, issues pertaining to education, medicine, industry, commerce, development, real estate, history, culture and entertainment are of interest to us.**



# San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

News of Note  
from Around the  
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in the Lower  
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## **While Many Of The San Bernardino County Assessor's Office's Professional Employees Sought To Deliver Straightforward Valuations Of Property And Assets, The Politicians Elected To The Assessor's Post As Often As Not Wanted Used Their Authority To Lower The Taxes Paid By Their Cronies** *from front page*

in. In San Bernardino County, the obscure position of county assessor is the county's highest taxing authority, a position of tremendous power, leverage and influence. Not only does the assessor determine the value of real estate, which has a direct bearing on taxes to be paid by residents on their homes, his authority extends to determining the value of buildings, offices, headquarters and factories, machinery and equipment used by businesses, which impacts the taxes those entities pay. The tax burden an entrepreneur, company, venture or corporation must bear can have a dramatic – indeed a controlling or make-or-break – impact on a business, influencing whether it is able to remain as a going concern. Beyond that, the assessor has the ability to determine, in a very real way, just how successful a successful enterprise is going to be.

This has served as a magnet for graft – the provision of bribes, payoffs, kickbacks and the like – which have undercut the integrity of governance in San Bernardino County and damaged the entire region's reputation

as a whole. A business operation, for example, entailing factories and foundries which does a brisk business in which it has \$20 million in sales against \$5 million in personnel costs and \$5 million in other overhead costs including materials and equipment acquisition and maintenance, would show a profit of \$10 million, of which the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board would get their piece of the action. That, however, would not be the extent of the government's intrusion upon the pocketbook of the business owner, who would yet be subject to a host of fees and further taxes, consisting of property taxes on the land on which the factories and foundries are located and assessments on the equipment contained therein. It is the county assessor's office which makes a determination of the value of the land, buildings and equipment in question. Business owners willing to peel off \$5,000 or \$10,000 or \$25,000 of their own and prevail upon their employees to write \$500 or \$1,000 or \$2,000 checks to the incumbent assessor in the

year of or the year prior to the assessor's run for reelection just might find that the assessor's office has determined that the business's land, facilities and equipment should be assessed, depending on the circumstance, at \$7 million or \$17 million or maybe \$27 million less than what might otherwise be determined. In virtually every case, it is the assessor's office which is the final arbiter of such matters.

M.A. Cranmer, as San Bernardino County assessor in the 1950s, sought to carry out his function in a straightforward manner. He was succeeded by John Bevis, who had risen through the ranks in the office, in 1959. Robert Herbin, who began as a field appraiser in the assessor's Victorville office in 1951, steadily advanced in the office, becoming assistant chief appraiser in 1959 and chief appraiser in 1968. In 1974, he ran successfully for the top spot in the office when Bevis retired. Herbin's virtually encyclopedic knowledge of the office and dedication to a formalistic and standardized set of procedures showing no bias or favoritism resulted in what is generally considered to be the apex of the office's function throughout the county's 169-year history. In 1978, after a single term as assessor, Herbin was challenged by Robert Gordon "Gordie" Young, a transplanted Canadian and liquor

store owner from Fontana who had been bitten by the political bug while he was working as an accountant/auditor at Kaiser Steel and Kaiser Hospital. Young served three-and-a-half years on the Fontana School Board and two terms on the Fontana City Council from 1968 to 1976. The far more politically savvy Young prevailed in the 1978 race and remained in office for four terms, from 1979 until 1995. During Young's tenure, the assessor's office's burnished its reputation for showing favoritism to county politicians and those aligned with them, applying one set of assessment standards for the political elite and members of the establishment which resulted in lower tax rates for them and applying a different taxing yardstick in essence to more than 98 percent of the county's property owners, residents and businesses.

In 1996, Chico Porras, the workhorse under Young whose professionalism had served as the major principle of integrity during the 16 years Young was in place, ran to succeed Young, and was seeming on course to do so when he captured 46,928 votes or 32.2 percent in the June primary against five other candidates. In the November runoff, however, the second-place finisher in June, Don Williamson, easily outdistanced Porras, who polled 116,309 votes

or 40.1 percent to the victor's 173,225 votes or 59.8 percent. Young was reelected in 1998 and 2002.

Bill Postmus, another politician who had first been elected to the county board of supervisors representing the First District in 2000 and was reelected to that post in 2004, the same year he was elevated to the position of chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee, ran for county assessor against incumbent Williamson in 2006.

With two other challengers in the contest, which consequently resulted in no candidate getting a majority of the vote in the June primary, the race was extended into a head-to-head runoff between Postmus and Williamson that November. In what to this day remains the most expensive political campaign in San Bernardino County history, Postmus prevailed. In the course of the late spring and fall race, Postmus expended more than \$2.4 million in promoting himself. At the same time, he was able to use his political reach as the chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee to raise another \$1.3 million worth of electioneering funds through political action committees and so-called "independent" expenditure committees

that were in fact not independent, which was then used to carry out attacks on Williamson.

Despite having been outspent roughly seven-to-one, Williamson yet managed to poll 47 percent of the ballots cast to Postmus's 52.62 percent, with 0.38 percent going to write-in candidates.

Once Postmus was settled in as assessor, he immediately moved to exploit the power and influence of the office, creating a second assistant assessor's position where previously there had been only one and hiring 11 of his associates, none of whom had any expertise or previous experience in real estate, appraising or levying taxes, into the office's 13 highest-paying positions. From those 11 positions, those Postmus hired engaged themselves not in work relating to the assessor's office's function but in political and electioneering activity on behalf of the Republican Party, political issues and candidates for local and statewide office favored by Postmus. Moreover, Postmus used his discretionary power to set taxing rates on the county's residents and business operations to lower the assessments of those demonstrating a willingness to pony up money to support him in his planned future political endeavors by endowing his campaign fund and/or the political action committees he controlled with donations

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## The Social Media Back-And-Forth Between Upland' Sales Tax Advocates And The Tax's Opponents Turned Out To Be Somewhat Uncivil *from page 2*

gram by reducing its costs to the taxpayers by converting it into one that is paid for out of the paychecks of the city's employees rather than defrayed by the city, as those employees' employer, and thereby the city's taxpayers. Bradley repeatedly asserted that the system of guaranteeing the city's employees pensions had been reformed. In effectuating that "reform," what city officials, including Bradley, did was to issue bonds to pay for the city's obligation to the California Public Employees Retirement System. Those bonds are to be debt serviced by current and future city residents and not the city employees who are the beneficiaries of the pension program. When it was pointed out that this hardly qualified as reform and that the elected city officials who had gone along with that approach – the mayor, city council and Bradley as the city treasurer – were serving the interests of the city's employees rather than the city's residents, Bradley went ballistic.

Without explaining what, precisely, was in error with the narrative relating to the lack of actual reform in the city's pension plan reform effort, Bradley accused those of engaging in the dialogue about it who did not accept that the burden of the pension system needed to be borne by the taxpayers rather than the recipients as "lying" and trying to perpetuate what he called "a fairy tale."

When residents began utilizing the Transparent California website, an independent clearinghouse for information about how much money is paid to government workers, to establish that

Upland city employees are being provided with salaries and benefits that on average were two to three times greater than the salaries and benefits of city residents who work in the private sector, Bradley took aim at Transparent California, asserting it is "a confusing, incomplete, and out of date website." When Bradley was challenged with regard to that representation and asked why the city, if the information Transparent California was providing was misleading, did not disclose city employees' salaries and benefits on its website, he maintained collating the information in the city's possession and posting it would prove a task that would be too work intensive and could not be done by current city staff, as it would "require one more person working for the city and waste that amount of additional wages."

An issue that was raised on social media by both residents at large and those opposed to the increased sales tax was the perception that Upland municipal employees were underworked and thus less productive and overpaid in comparison to other municipal employees. Bradley was dismissive of citizen observations with regard to City Hall being open only four days per week and closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He was equally dismissive of those who remarked that with a population of less than 80,000, Upland employed both a city manager, who in 2023 was paid \$268,147.14 in salary, given \$11,299.93 in additional pay and provided with \$117,163.08 in benefits for a total annual compensation of \$396,610.15, and an assistant city manager, who in 2023 was paid \$225,422.29 in salary, received \$40,558.15 in additional pay and drew \$117,558.94 in benefits for a total annual compensation of \$383,739.38, Bradley insisted "The three people in the City Manager's office are doing the job that was done by five." Those who sug-

gested an assistant city manager in Upland was superfluous were morons, according to Bradley.

While Bradley appeared to relish delivering insults to those participating in social media exchanges who were critical of the city, by comparison, there have been over the last few years others carrying water for the city who have likewise been pointed and harsh, indeed every bit if not more vituperative and mean as Bradley in blasting those who are not charitable in their assessment of how Upland City Hall has made use of the more than \$164 million currently entrusted to it by taxpayers and ratepayers on an annual basis, including more than \$61 million in its general fund, over \$60 million in its capital improvements fund and nearly \$35 million in its enterprise fund. Among those have been, on increasingly rare occasions, Mayor Velto, who was formerly unrestrained in the hostility he displayed toward those of his constituents who did not appreciate his stewardship of the city, but who has tempered his vitriolic reactions to criticism in recent months. Others are two frequent posters who have been identified as Velto's brothers, neither of whom cotton to the governmental agency headed by their brother being portrayed in any sort of negative light. Three others – those who purport to be Carol Combs Kindron, Michael Potter and Thad Pith – have used base and deprecating language in suggesting that those who are unhappy with the performance of the city and its employees are of poor character or decidedly low intelligence or both.

It is not absolutely certain whether those post under the names of Kindron, Potter and Pith are who they purport to be or if someone else is masquerading in their identities. Kindron and Potter are indeed actual individuals living in Upland. Kindron, 74, is a financial administrator

for the Lewis Group of Companies, which has been for more than three decades one of the city's primary institutions. She lives in the 1500 block of North Mulberry Avenue. Potter, 72, formerly lived in a home directly across the street from Kindron and is apparently living in the 1700 block of Crebs Way in Upland at present. Information about Pith is a bit more elusive. An individual using his name has surfaced within cyberspace from time to time over the last three years, but no further information about him is available from immediately accessible public sources.

Partially in response to the calls by those in opposition to Measure N who have questioned how the additional tax revenue will be put to use if the measure is approved and partially as a ploy to promote the measure with voters generally, Velto and the city council hit upon chartering a committee or commission to monitor the expenditure of the money.

A loose consensus had developed throughout the crowd in support of Measure N that the logical chairman for the commission or committee should be Bradley, based on the efforts he had made in support of Measure L in 2022 and the lead he was taking in promoting Measure N in 2024. This week, on Monday, September 23, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the city council took up consideration of a resolution establishing a measure N citizens' oversight committee. The resolution called for the "[e]stablishment of [the] Measure N Citizen Oversight Committee and operational guidelines. Contingent upon the passage of Measure N at the November 5, 2024 General Municipal Election, the city council hereby establishes the "Measure N Citizens' Oversight Committee." One of the attachments to the resolution included an exhibit, what was termed "Exhibit A," which had the effect of counting a few of the city's chicks

before they hatch. Exhibit A, which was titled, City of Upland Measure N Citizens' Oversight Committee Operational Guidelines, states, under Section 1- Committee Purpose, states, "On November 5, 2024, Upland Voters approved, by a majority vote, the City of Upland 1% Sales Tax for General City Services, a general one percent (1%) transactions and use (sales) tax – Measure N."

Present at Monday night's meeting was Bradley, who had come with the expectation that he was very likely to leave that evening with the appointment as the committee chairman having been conferred on him.

Prior to the consideration of the items on the evening's agenda, members of the public were given the opportunity to address the council during that portion of the meeting referred to as oral communications.

An Upland resident, Mike Nunez, anticipating like many present that the appointment of Bradley as the committee chairman was to be a formality, indirectly confronted the council with regard to the wisdom of giving Bradley an official role and even greater status than he possesses as city treasurer in regard to promoting Measure N and determining how the revenue it is to provide will be utilized.

Nunez spoke openly of Bradley's aggressive approach and propensity to insult those expressing views contrary to his own.

"Just because we are a group of residents advocating for fiscal responsibility doesn't mean that we deserve to be labeled as idiots, lunatics, ignorant and the latest gem attack by our treasurer: municipal terrorists," Nunez said. "We are simply trying to ensure that we are not taxed more than necessary. It is important to have an open conversation about fiscal policies without resorting to name-calling. Maybe the city attorney can revisit that policy with the city treasurer."

He and others were attempting to have reasonable and constructive interchange with the city's decision-makers and were being obstructed by Bradley's tactics, Nunez said.

"There is many of us who feel that the way this measure was handled raises some concerns," he said. "It seems the timing of your proposal was more of a political strategy than genuine care and need for our community, waiting to see if you would be unopposed this coming election. It is disingenuous. In case raising taxes was truly a compelling issue, why didn't present it throughout the year?"

Nunez's reference was to the consideration that in the current electoral cycle, the positions held by Velto as mayor, First District Councilwoman Shannan Maust and Bradley as city treasurer were up for election. No one came forward to run against them by the deadline to file for candidacy, which corresponded with the deadline for placing measures on this year's ballot. What Nunez was suggesting was that given the unpopularity of the sales tax as illustrated with the defeat of Measure L in 2022, the city council held off putting Measure N on the ballot until it was clear that Velto, Maust and Bradley would have no competition in this year's election.

Bradley used the oral communications portion of the meeting to address the council as well. He was not chastened by Nunez's comments, and instead doubled down on his position that the sales tax is needed, that the competent, dedicated and knowledgeable officials at City Hall are better equipped to determine whether Measure N should be approved than are the ill-informed, ignorant and questionably-motivated residents of the city who oppose it and labeling those naysayers in terms befitting their stupidity was justifiable.

Bradley said his time as an elected city official

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## MCB Real Estate Acquires Falcon Ridge Shopping Center In Northwest Fontana

MCB Real Estate has acquired Falcon Ridge Town Center in Fontana for \$64.7 million.

The acquisition was made through a joint venture with a fund managed by DRA Advisors, a New York-based registered real estate investment advisor.

The rate on the sale was \$259 per square foot.

Site Centers, a real estate investment trust



**P. David Bramble** that owns and manages shopping centers, was the seller and retained a 27,000-square-foot prop-

erty.

Falcon Ridge Town Center is located proximate to the Summit Avenue exit off the 15 Freeway near the 210 Freeway at 15218-15320 Summit Avenue.

The center was built in 2005 and renovated last year. The 273,000-square-foot center was fully leased at the time of the sale. It spans 25.1 acres and is anchored by the re-

gional grocery chain Stater Bros. Markets and a Target Department Store. It features 24-Hour Fitness, 7-Eleven, Affordable Comfort, Bath & Body Works, Benefit Cosmetics Brow-Bar, Chase Bank, Chili's Grill & Bar, China One, Citibank, Cozy Fox CVS Drug Store, Del Taco, EC Roofing company, Inc., Falcon Ridge Dry Cleaners, Famous Footwear, Five Below, Gamestop,

GNC, Goldstar Pediatrics, H&R block Hoan-Vu, It's Just Wings, Jack-In-The-Box, James Tang Photography, Little Caesars, Mattress Firm, Metro Electric Gate Repair, Michaels, MoneGram, Nektar Juice Bar, Old Navy, Ono Hawaiian BBQ, Palm Beach Tan, Panera Bread, Party City, Ross Dress For Less, Starbucks, Summa Sushi, Summit Optometric Center, Summit

Orthodontics, The UPS Store, Ulta Beauty, Verizon Wireless, Wells Fargo, Western Union, Wonder Nails Yogurtland and 24 recently built Tesla charging stations.

"The area in and around Fontana is rapidly growing with more affluent residents moving in every year, and Falcon Ridge sits right in the middle of that growth," said P. David Bramble, MCB managing partner.

### Chaffey Show Band's October Concert To feature Latin Music from front page

He currently sings in the The Seventh Variety, an international collegiate quartet, and The Westminster Chorus, the current international champion chorus. Emilio is currently the voice coach for the Inland Pacific Ballet musical theater troupe and teaches private singing lessons. He will be featured on

the Barry Manilow hit song, "Copacabana," and "Gio's Restaurant," an original bossa nova tune written by Show Band Director Gabe Petrocelli. Show Band musician and dancer Kathy Soderlund will once again grace the Show Band stage as she dances to "Andalusia," written for her by Dr. Petrocelli, and the Gypsy King's hit song "Passion" featuring her husband Ken Soderlund as the guitar soloist. Show Band first clarinetist Neil Vargas will perform a clarinet solo on "La

Comparsa," a composition written by famous Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona. Talented Show Band trumpeter Steve Collins will be featured on "Latin Sun," a concert band piece for solo trumpet composed by Andre Jutras. Assistant Director and tenor saxophone player Pat Arnold will perform a solo to an upbeat Latin composition especially written for him entitled "Panqueques Para Pat." The outstanding musicians of the Show Band will be highlighted

on two concert selections entitled "Amparito Roca," an exciting Mexican march, and conclude the performance with the handclapping "Mexican Hat Dance." The performance will be narrated by Elvia Rivas, a member of the Ontario Montclair School District Board, and Chaffey District Board member Gil Zendejas.

All those so inclined are invited to Gardiner Spring Auditorium to enjoy an exciting evening of Latin music. Those wishing to support the

Show Band can do so by providing a donation to the Hungry Tuba located in the lobby. The concert will be broadcast on local Ontario cable Channel 3. Check your cable listings for the date and time.

The Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band was founded in 1985 by R. Jack Mercer and is now under the direction of Dr. Gabe Petrocelli and assistant directors David Schaafsma and Pat Arnold. Band members represent at

least two dozen communities throughout Southern California. Adult musicians and students are invited to participate. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at the Chaffey High School Jack Mercer Band Room. The band performs monthly concerts on the campus of Chaffey High School as well as at other venues throughout the community. All performances are free to the public.

### Yucaipa Resident Questions Wisdom Or Allowing Warehouses In Live Oak Canyon from page 3

like they're still living in the country as they drive past that monstrosity every day. Who said it, "If you put lipstick on a pig, it's still a pig!"

Runoff:

Nobody mentioned last night anything about the catastrophic effects of the runoff from the warehouses into the Live Oak Canyon riverbed. For decades, the overbuilding in Yucaipa has steadily increased the storm runoff in the canyon resulting in significant erosion of the canyon walls. The erosion got so bad that years ago Live Oak Canyon road was rerouted away from the river to keep the road from falling into the riverbed. Residents here have for decades been hauling fill-dirt to shore up the banks of the river and secure their homes

from toppling 40 feet into the riverbed as well. One housing development in particular here in the canyon relies on a 75-year-old rickety steel, one-lane bridge as their only access to their homes across the riverbed. It's already a constant struggle to keep the bridge from washing out. Increased flow from square miles of warehouse rooftops and parking lots will surely result in losing that bridge. And because a new bridge would have to be built to modern codes, those residents would never be able to afford another bridge and forever lose access to their homes. Currently, all that land in Live Oak Canyon in its natural state absorbs most of the rainfall. Replace that soil, trees, and shrubs with concrete and you have a formula for disaster.

The council mentioned several times the need for future town hall meetings to get feedback from their constituents. Are you kidding? Haven't you heard

enough? You received nearly a thousand letters and emails prior to the council meeting opposing warehouses. You heard from your residents and neighbors last night in force voicing their opposition. You heard from a number of local organizations: two Yucaipa citizen groups, the Save Live Oak Canyon group, the Friends of Live Oak Canyon non-profit homeowners organization, the Redlands Conservancy, etc. What more do you need to hear? Are you hard-of-hearing? When I hear the council say they need more feedback, I know it's a signal that they're trying again to kick the can further down the road. I know that you are just trying to stretch out the process and wear down your constituents until you can quietly pass the warehouses proposal when they aren't looking?

By the way, all that talk last night, including a roll-call testimony by each council member, about how they took in-

put from all their stakeholders. You know that's not true! None of the groups that spoke last night, including the two Live Oak Canyon homeowner groups were ever consulted. If you had, you would have received a copy of the "Bixler report" to document the natural resources of the factual Live Oak Canyon you propose to destroy.

Environmental Impact Report:

Your environmental impact report is outdated and will assuredly be tossed out if litigation becomes necessary on this matter. You should have never approved it last night! Not only is it seriously dated, it's seriously flawed because it failed to include any site specific (onsite) survey of the biotic resources of Live Oak Canyon. Only one study of the biotic resources of Live Oak Canyon has ever been conducted, Survey of the Biotic Resources of Live Oak Canyon by nationally renowned environmental biologist, Professor David Bixler. (If you

had contacted the Friend of Live Oak Canyon, I would have supplied you with a copy.) Bixler's conclusions included a recommendation that in order to preserve the many rare and endangered species of plants and animals, development be restricted to no more than 1 home per 5 acres. That specific ratio is what Redlands has traditionally adhered to. And that brings up my final point. You must consider Live Oak Canyon in its entirety. Our canyon stretches out for approximately 4 miles. Within that span of road between I-10 and San Timoteo Canyon, lies 5 jurisdictions: 2 counties and 3 cities. To complicate the matter the jurisdictions are not simply contiguous, but checkerboarded. Consequently, whatever you do in the Yucaipa portion of Live Oak Canyon, directly affects our residents in all the other jurisdictions.

To the citizens of Yucaipa, I say we are with you and support your efforts to stop warehouses

in Live Oak Canyon. Not just slow them down, stop them! None—zero warehouses in Live Oak Canyon! Whether you can see them or not, they are there and we will all live with the side effects for the rest of our lives. Last night, the city asserted that those red areas on their development map required warehouses. But, the woman who spoke during public comment refuted that. She should know. She was a member of the city's committee that developed that map. She insisted that those red areas for warehouses were actually intended for light-industry, "like a Costco or Trader Joes." So, that gives the city council some wiggle-room to re-think those areas entirely.

Several of the city council members took a step in the right direction last night, including Mayor Beaver, by voting down the warehouse proposal and sending it back for reconsideration and

*Continued on Page 15*

**Line Fire Yet Volatile** *from page 3*

personnel at the ready overall.



**Judge Alvarez Finds EIR County Prepared For The Bloomington Business Park Inadequate** *from page 3*

was previously zoned for 52 single family homes. Instead of building those single homes on 1.37-acre lots, Howard Industrial Partners would obtain “upzoning” for the property from the county and build 480 apartments or 480 condominiums or a combination of both, where the displaced families would be able to move to. While the county and Howard Industrial Partners represented this as a step forward for the area, others saw it as a step backward, as it intensified the use of the property through the upzoning.

At the November 15, 2022 hearing the coun-

ty board of supervisors gave go-ahead to the Bloomington Business Park project.

In reaction, the People’s Collective for Environmental Justice, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice sued the county, alleging the county board of supervisors had abused its discretion in certifying the environmental impact report and giving approval to the project, violating the California Environmental Quality Act and state housing law.

In the meantime, some of the residents on the property slated for the project’s development departed. Others have remained, anticipating an outcome of the litigation that would prevent the project from proceeding and keep their

homes intact. Based on the exodus from those residential properties, Howard Industrial Properties demolished the homes. At last count, at least 92 of the houses had been leveled.

In that way, the ruling handed down on September 18 by San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Donald Alvarez was bit late.

While Judge Alvarez did not interfere with the county exercising its discretion with regard to those areas where there were factual disputes or disputes as to standards where both the proponent and the complainants had differences and had marshaled evidence, facts or documents to support their contradictory claims and did not overturn the county’s approval of the project on that score, he Alvarez ruled that the county’s review of the project, in-

cluding its environmental analysis, did not in all respects comply with the standards of the California Environmental Quality Act and he issued an order that construction at the site cease while the county revisits the environmental review process and files a revamped environmental impact report that takes into consideration six of the factors relating to the project that were inadequately dealt with or glossed over in 2022.

According to Judge Alvarez, the county and the board of supervisors did not adequately examine project alternatives and made inadequate evaluation of traffic impacts, air quality impacts and noise impacts arising from or potentially arising from the project.

Judge Alvarez made a finding that the county abused its discretion in approving the environ-

mental impact report. In failing to a reasonable range of alternatives for building a warehouse on the property, Judge Alvarez determined the county, while acknowledging there were significant and unavoidable impacts on air quality from the project, did not provide enough information about what those impacts consisted of. The county further, Judge Alvarez ruled, failed to properly support its conclusion that air quality impact mitigation measure for the project, because of their cost, were infeasible. Judge Alvarez found that the county’s conclusions with regard to excessive greenhouse gas generation at the project were contradictory. Judge Alvarez also entered a determination that the county failed to abide by the California Environmental Quality Act by

not analyzing renewable energy options and by using an inappropriate noise level threshold for the project in its analysis.

“We at the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice are happy, relieved, and inspired by the court’s decision,” said Ana Gonzalez, executive director at the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice. “This ruling not only underscores the legal oversights of the county and developers but also validates the community’s relentless advocacy against this destructive plan. Our fight continues, and this victory fuels our commitment to protecting our neighborhoods and ensuring a healthy environment for all residents. We thank our attorneys at EarthJustice for their incredible work and resilience.”

-Mark Gutglueck





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San Bernardino County Sentinel

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

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Public Notice 2: FBN 20240007985 The following person is doing business as: LAND MOTO X MOTORCYLCES. 1830 W 11TH ST UNIT H UPLAND, CA 91786;[ MAILING ADDRESS 1830 W 11TH ST UNIT H UPLAND, CA 91786]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JAVIER MENDOZA The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: SEP 15, 2015 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/ JAVIER MENDOZA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: SEPTEMBER 03, 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

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Public Notice 4: FBN 20240007942 The following person is doing business as: RUTH'S PERFUME. 501 W HOLT BLVD ONTARIO, CA 91762;[ MAILING ADDRESS 501 W HOLT BLVD ONTARIO, CA 91762]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MAGANA REY The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ REY MAGANA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 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 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 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024 CN-BB36202406MT

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Public Notice 6: FBN 20240007805 The following person is doing business as: CHRISTY'S DONUTS. 26471 BASELINE ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346;[ MAILING ADDRESS 26471 BASELINE ST HIGHLAND, CA 92346]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CHAMREON TANG The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code

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Public Notice 10: FBN 20240007730 The following person is doing business as: DIRECT CONNECT ELECTRIC. 12675 PINYON CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392;[ MAILING ADDRESS 12675 PINYON CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LARRY L BONNIE The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ LARRY L BONNIE, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 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 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 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024 CN-BB36202410MT

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Public Notice 11: The following person is doing business as: ON POINT TRANSPORTATION. 18140 MARYGOLD AVE BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316;[ MAILING ADDRESS 18140 MARYGOLD AVE BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ENRIQUE ALVAREZ; ELIDA E ALVAREZ The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. 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/ ENRIQUE ALVAREZ, GENERAL PARTNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 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 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 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024 CN-BB36202411MT

Public Notice 12: FBN 20240007758 The following person is doing business as: A & A CLEANING SERVICES. 1077 SANTO ANTONIO DR APT #29 COLTON, CA 92324;[ MAILING ADDRESS 1077 SAN ANTONIO DR APT #29 COLTON, CA 92324]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO GRECIA A MARTINEZ REYNA The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

Public Notices

Public Notice 13: 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/ GRECIA A MARTINEZ REYNA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 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 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 09/06/2024, 09/13/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/27/2024 CN-BB36202412MT

Public Notice 14: FBN 20240007606 The following person is doing business as: CHINO'S CARING KENNEL. 3890 WALNUT AVENUE CHINO, CA 91710;[ MAILING ADDRESS 2410 VIA MARIPOSA SAN DIMAS, CA 91773 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO PAW PARTNERS, INC. 2410 VIA MARIPOSA SAN DIMAS, CA 91773 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION C4085326 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JENNIFER BLAZ,





## With Council Members Sensitive About Bradley's Aggressive Manner Possibly Rubbing Some Voters The Wrong Way, Velto's Effort To Appoint Bradley To Head Upland's Tax Accountability Board Failed To Fly *from page 7*

has dispelled his previous impression that the city and city officials were being fiscally irresponsible and had con-



**Shannan Maust**

vinced him that the city has engaged in and effectuated financial reform which now justifies city officials requesting that residents tax themselves further to assist the city in redressing remaining monetary shortcomings. He said newspaper articles, rumors and social media were providing misleading reports that city officials were being wasteful and self indulgent in their spending of public money.

"Sadly, a small group of malcontents still believed the nonsense and the news sources and were even working to create the news and supporting the newspapers," Bradley said. "We also have a problem with uninformed residents that refuse to look at facts or even consider that they may be wrong, quoting ignorant drivel that is provided by their puppeteers."

In a reference to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Bradley said, "One of these groups filed an objection to part of our [pension finance reform] plan."

Bradley offered an oblique defense of his social media postings, stating, "I now see that the biggest problems we face is public distrust in our current government for little or no reason at all."

He offered his encomium that "I am thrilled with the progress in this city over the last dozen

years." He offered this advice to the city's residents: "When you vote in November, please keep in mind that there is massive misinformation provided on social media, mail, legal and illegal political action committees and word of mouth."

Bradley then alluded to his expectation, shared by others, that he was to head the Measure N Citizens Oversight Committee.

"I am happy to see that we are continuing to move forward on many issues and assume that I will be participating in any future committee to allocate funds from any sales tax measure," he said. "To be clear, as the citizens' representative in the finances of the city, I would insist on that."

In introducing discussion of the resolution to create the oversight committee, Upland City Manager Michael Blay said, "This is the time for the council to weigh in on the way they want the committee to be formulated and who would be on it. For instance: would the treasurer be on it as well as maybe five appointed members?" Blay said he was looking forward to "however the council would like to set up the committee that would to give the public the confidence that this money would be spent as you directed."

Observers of what ensued during the discussion of the resolution have differing interpretations of whether what evolved was entirely organic or whether what occurred – the decision to form the committee without Bradley as chairman or even as a voting member – was choreographed ahead of time.

What did emerge, but was expressed without too great of emphasis, was that Bradley was not only a lightning rod that

attracted controversy and dialogue originating with others that produced more heat than light, but was a major source of controversy and antagonism himself.

Clearly, Bradley's primary backer was Mayor Velto, who initially proceeded under the assumption that there was no question that Brad-



**James Breitling**

ley was to serve as the committee's chairman. Velto's vision, at least as he initially articulated it, was that the committee was to be a tool that would quash any criticism of the tax or the manner in which it was to be spent, by providing, at least ostensibly, those who were opposed to its levying with an opportunity to express themselves as to how the money would be distributed to various city departments and among municipal priorities. Under Velto's approach, Bradley, in acting as chairman, would ride herd on the members of the committee who weren't already part of the City Hall establishment.

"I'd actually like to have somebody who opposes it [as a committee member]," Velto said. "That's what I'd like, to have somebody who opposes it, personally, more than one who opposes it. There's many out there who oppose it who are more vocal. I'd like for those people, those residents that oppose it so much that I've asked to come down here and meet with [Assistant City Manager] Stephen Parker, that I've asked to come down here and sit with our treasurer and discuss this, so they don't feel so disenfranchised from this process."

Early in the discussion, it appeared that

Councilman James Breitling was endeavoring to not burn any bridges with Bradley. He initially said, "I love the idea of Mr. Bradley serving on it."

Subsequently, however, the discussion shifted, almost imperceptibly, as the conversation subtly turned to the need for installing on the committee members who were independent from the city. One criterion for selecting members was that none of the appointees could be members of other city commissions or committees. While the concept of having Bradley as chairman was yet intact, the discussion turned on how many members would be in the committee. That each council member and the mayor were to have a single appointment seemed to be inherently agreed upon from the outset. With Bradley as chairman overseeing five members, however, the potential for the committee's votes to end in a 3-to-3 tie was noted. Curiously, Mayor Velto did not pursue the option of simply naming Bradley as his appointee to the commission. From there, the council moved toward accepting that Bradley would be a non-voting member.

A slow devolution proceeded thereafter in which Bradley no longer being a member took hold.

There was discussion about how the public would interact with the committee and how the committee members would interact with each other, as well as avoiding the pitfall of violating of the Brown Act, California's open public meeting law, which prohibits a quorum of members of a governmental panel from holding discussions outside the context of a public meeting or forum.

Councilwoman Maust expressed concern that if Bradley were the chairman, the members would not be able to interact with him as a source of information relating to the city's finances.

"Can we put Greg as the treasurer then as the

chair?" she asked. "That way any of those that want to communicate with Greg can? Can we make him the chair?"

"As long as he's a member of the committee, but again, in an advisory capacity but not as the chair leading it," Breitling said.

The council made clear that the committee



**Carlos Garcia**

would not have the final say in directing how the Measure N money was going to be spent, but would simply make recommendations to the city council.

"I want to make sure that there's transparency, that there's public awareness, the public can come and listen, they can hear what these committee members have to say, they can have their own comments to the same committee and that way, when it's presented to us, they've had a lot of community input," Velto said, noting that the council would still have the authority to reject the recommendations made to it. "Then we have to decide as a board if this is the direction we agree and support, just like the planning commission," Velto said. "I would personally ask Greg to be the chair."

Breitling, at that point began to tip the conversation away from including Bradley as a committee member.

"Mayor," Breitling began, "I don't think that the city treasurer 1) should serve as the chair, because that makes that six and..."

"He's a non-voting member," Velto interjected.

"As a non-voting member," Breitling continued, "I almost feel that, just for the sake of full, full transparency, because I can hear it already, if Mr. Bradley was the chair, I can see

people saying, 'Oh, he's influencing the committee. He's guiding the committee.' I'd just like to see the committee be the committee and Mr. Bradley be in an advisory capacity, there to answer questions and the committee be on its own. That's what I think. Complete independence from any influence or however it is to be tailored and name-called, for me that would be the best organic way of doing it."

"I'd like that, but Greg would not be a voting member," Velto proposed.

"An advisory capacity," Breitling said, qualifying and partially concurring and partially disagreeing with the mayor.

"He'd be in an advisory capacity," Velto said.

Councilman Carlos Garcia said, "I agree with the mayor pro tem."

Breitling is the mayor pro tem.

Velto, having come around to accept what Breitling was saying, stated, in essence, that the committee would form without Bradley being a member, but that he might be in attendance at the meetings as someone who was knowledgeable about city finances and thus could respond to the members' questions.

"I think we should allow the committee at that time to decide how they want, whatever role they want him to play," Velto said.

Toward the end of the meeting, Councilman Carlos Garcia, somewhat indirectly, stated the reason why Bradley had been left off the panel.

"I think we know that there's a lot of tension with the election coming up," Garcia said. "Elections are not supposed to divide us. They're supposed to [have] all of us work together. We are the City of Gracious Living. I think we also need, as leaders, to set an example for what that really means. It's okay to disagree with folks if we're not on the same page, but it also creates dialogue and communication when you talk

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## Some Assessors Served Themselves And Their Supporters More Than The County's Citizens *from page 4*

or otherwise supporting candidates and political issues he favored. Those who contributed to his electioneering fund or that of his allies Brad Mitzelfelt, Paul Biane, Tad Honeycutt and Anthony Adams were given a break on the taxes they paid. Those who did not paid the going rate. In Postmus, the pay-to-play ethos that pervaded San Bernardino County to greater and lesser degrees for decades had never been so grossly and clearly illustrated.

In 2009, after the degree to which Postmus and those he had put into place in the assessor's office were utilizing public facilities, assets and the assessor's office's authority for partisan political purposes became widespread public knowledge, Postmus imploded in scandal and was forced to resign as assessor and charged with six felony counts of misuse of his elected office. He was convicted on all six of those counts, along with eight other felony political corruption charges, in 2011. Four of the political operatives inexperienced in assessor's office operations Postmus had hired into lucrative posts within the assessor's office were indicted or criminally charged; ultimately three of those were convicted.

Postmus was replaced with Dennis Draeger, who took the office into a holding pattern. Draeger did not engage in anything approaching the over politicization of the assessor's office that Postmus had, but did little to erase the favorable assessments that had been conferred upon the class of landowners, property owners and business owners who were able to afford making exorbitant donations to the county's political elite.

Draeger, who was

not a politician, per se, but rather a journeyman county employee who had worked in both the assessor's office and treasurer's office, took on the role of a politician when he ran for assessor in 2010. Though Draeger did not tap into the largesse of the legion's of political donors who had consolidated behind Postmus to put him into the assessor's post, he obtained enough support overall to trounce his very poorly funded opponent, Al Palazzo 73.4 to 26.6 percent, in the election.

In 2014, Draeger opted to retire. Dan Harp, who as the chief appraiser under Williamson was the one of just two assessor's office in place under Postmus who had managed to keep the office functioning when Postmus and his political cronies were exploiting it for partisan purposes and had risen to the position of assistant assessor under Draeger, vied to replace him. Opposing Harp, who had never run for office, was an established politician, Bob Dutton. Dutton, the son of wealthy developer/entrepreneur Ted Dutton, had followed his father's lead relatively early on, making a name for himself as a shopping center developer partnering with his father and running related businesses in the City of Rancho Cucamonga during that municipality's formative years. From his position as the president of the Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce, Dutton had successfully run for the Rancho Cucamonga City Council. From that vantage, sponsored by his father's considerable wealth, he successfully ran for the California Senate. Following two terms in the upper legislative house in Sacramento, he sought to make the transition to Congress in 2012, vying in the newly formed 31st Congressional District, which was drawn up following the redistricting based on the 2010 Census. Despite his father's money and his own fundraising ability based upon his two

terms in the California Legislature, Dutton was thwarted in his ambition to hold federal office by Gary Miller, a fellow Republican and 14-year Congressional incumbent in California's 42nd Congressional District, who chose to run for reelection in the 31st District as well.

Two years after losing to Miller, Dutton sought a political comeback by running for the assessor's post. Dutton had nothing approaching Harp's degree of expertise and experience with regard to the function for the assessor's office. He thus had to bring his superior fundraising capability based upon his years in office and his previous successful electoral campaigns and single electoral defeat to bear in the contest against Harp, in which he prevailed by a very thin margin, with 73,549 or 50.61 percent of the total 145,332 votes cast to Harp's 71,783 votes or 49.39 percent.

With the office again in the hands of a politician, the favoritism shown toward those willing to pay for influence by means of political donations was back in vogue.

Four years later, with Dutton having locked up virtually all donations that could possibly go to anyone considering running for assessor, he was unopposed in his reelection bid.

Thereafter followed what is now widely recognized as an act of extreme disrespect by Dutton toward the voters and taxpayers of San Bernardino County, no matter how poignant and sad of a personal challenge he found himself in.

It is now known that Dutton had developed prostate cancer by 2019. It had progressed undetected for at least a year. In 2021 it had reached a critical stage. The Sentinel is reliably informed that on three separate occasions in the fall and early winter of 2021, paramedics had been summoned to Dutton's palatial residence in Rancho Cucamonga

when he suffered a medical emergency related to his condition.

Before the end of 2021, Dutton learned that his cancer had metastasized and had reached his bones.

Nevertheless, with the filing period for the 2022 election approaching, he chose to seek reelection as assessor/county clerk/recorder, the total annual remuneration for which had grown by that point to \$409,540.07. It was widely known that former San Bernardino County Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales was contemplating running for assessor and had retained a substantial amount of the money she had in her political war chest when she was supervisor, which she had transferred into her political fund for election to the assessor's position.

As had been the case four years previously, Dutton's status as an entrenched incumbent with substantial name recognition and virtually unlimited fundraising capability discouraged anyone who might have contemplated running against him. This extended to Gonzales, who had at her disposal more than \$200,000 that could be used to finance her run for assessor. Though a handful of people close to him knew of his medical condition, Dutton had succeeded in keeping word of it within a very tight circle and from the public at large.

The filing period for county positions to be contested in 2022, including the assessor's post, opened on February 14, 2022. Had Gonzales known that Dutton was ailing, she assuredly would have entered the race. But, Dutton, knowing his prospect of living long enough to serve out the next term as assessor, running from January 2023 until January 2025 was nil, kept everything under wraps. When the filing period for elected county government offices closed on March 11, 2022, Dutton was the sole candidate in the race.

Though circum-

stances had given him a glimpse of how incapacitated he was becoming, Dutton chose to seek reelection, knowing he would not be able to serve out his full term, resulting either in the expense of having to hold a special election to ensure that the county's residents are represented by an elected assessor/county clerk and recorder or giving to the board of supervisors control over who would fill the position. Advantaged with the power of incumbency and a substantial campaign fund, Dutton chose to stay in office, knowing that there was virtually no prospect he could be successfully challenged. In the 1980s, the 1990s and into the early 2000s, Dutton was heard decrying "career politicians" who were damaging the nation, the State of California and local government by holding onto office at any price to benefit themselves with no regard for serving their constituents and their needs. By 2022, at which point he had spent 20 of the previous 22 years in elected office, Dutton had himself become a career politician, one so intent on staying in office that he ran for reelection knowing he was dying and would be unable to fulfill the duties of the position and term which he had convinced the voters to entrust to him.

The June 7, 2022 primary in which the unopposed Dutton was reelected assessor until January 2027 took place. A mere month and 16 days later, on July 13, 2022, more than five months before his current term was to elapse and before he was to begin serving the term to which he had been elected, Dutton died.

At that point, the board of supervisors, had it acted with alacrity, could have solicited candidates for assessor, subjected them to an application process and put those meeting the qualifications for candidacy on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot by the August 12,

2022 deadline set by the county registrar of voters to include candidates on that year's general election ballot and voter pamphlet, giving the county's voters an opportunity to elect their assessor for the term running from January 2023 to January 2027. Instead, the board of supervisors tarried, and did not get around to recruiting those interested in serving in the position until later in August 2022. At that point, four candidates came forward: Dutton's widow, Andrea Dutton; former San Bernardino County Supervisor and former San Bernardino County Treasurer/Tax Collector/Auditor/Controller/Recorder/County Clerk Larry Walker; former San Bernardino County Supervisor/former Fontana Councilwoman Josie Gonzales; Bradley Snowball, a supervising auditor-appraiser in the assessor's office; and Chris Wilhite, who was serving in the capacity of assistant assessor, Dutton's second-in-command, at the time of his death.

Ultimately, the board of supervisors chose Wilhite to succeed Dutton, and scheduled a special election to fill the assessor's post from January 2025 until January 2027.

Running for the position are Gonzales, who is making a political comeback attempt after having been termed out of office as Fifth District County Supervisor in 2020; Williamson, who is seeking to make a political comeback 18 years after Postmus knocked him out of the assessor's position in 2006; Victorville Councilwoman Blanca Gomez; and Dara Smith, who is currently a director of assessor operations with the County of Los Angeles.

The 2024 San Bernardino County Assessor's race is beset with a plethora of peculiarities.

The contest for assessor is normally held in the even-numbered election year corresponding with California's gubernatorial election. This

*Continued on Page 16*

## San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner's Case #702406548: On Thursday, 09/26/2024, at 1:33 AM, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 210-Freeway at the Haven Avenue overpass in Rancho Cucamonga for a pedestrian on the freeway. 17-year-old male, Shirin Connor Furutan, of Fontana was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information, please contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Rancho Cucamonga Station.

Coroner's Case #702406517: On Tuesday, 09/24/2024, at 7:37 AM, The California Highway Patrol responded to 13901 San Bernardino Avenue in Fontana. The pedestrian, Johnny Gonzales, a 46-year-old male of Fontana, was pronounced dead on scene at 7:51 AM. For additional information, contact the California Highway Patrol – Rancho Cucamonga Area office.

Coroner's Case #702406429: On Friday, September 20, 2024, at approximately 5:30 AM, 39-year-old, Johnson Ngo, of Redlands, was a pedestrian on Barton Road just west of Campus Avenue in the city of Loma Linda, when he was struck by a vehicle. Paramedics transported him to Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 5:59 AM. For additional information, please contact the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department – Central Station.

Coroner's Case #702406407: On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at approximately 8:20 PM, Anna Cunerty, a 65-year-old resident of Rancho Cucamonga, was a pedestrian struck by a vehicle on Foothill Blvd, east of Orchard Place in Rancho Cucamonga. She was transported to San Antonio Regional Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased at 8:56 PM. For more information, please contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Rancho Cucamonga Station.

Coroner's Case #702406334: On Sunday, September 15, 2024, at approximately 10:54 PM, officers with California Highway Patrol responded to HWY 395, south of Desert Flower Road in Adelanto for a traffic collision. Victor Bautista, 53-years-old, of Hesperia was confirmed dead at the scene. For additional information, please contact CHP Victorville area.

Coroner's Case #702406333: On Sunday, September 15, 2024, at 9:35 PM, the California Highway Patrol responded to a traffic accident located on Pepper Avenue in Rialto. The driver was 26-year-old, Alex Otero, of Fontana. He was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased at 9:56 PM. For additional information contact the CHP-San Bernardino.

Coroner's Case #702406309, #702406310, #702406311: On Saturday, September 14, 2024, at approximately 11: 26 PM, officers with the California Highway Patrol responded to a traffic accident on the northbound I-215, south of University Parkway in San Bernardino. Nicole Hester 27-years-old (6309), India Hester 19-years-old (6310), and Leann Martin-Hester 18-years-old (6311) were pronounced dead on scene. For additional information please contact CHP-San Bernardino.

Coroner's Case #702406139: On Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 7:14 AM, Deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Rancho Road, west of Bellflower Street in the city of Adelanto, for a solo motorcycle traffic collision. Eddie Sanchez, age 59, a resident of Hesperia was pronounced deceased on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Victorville Station.

Coroner's Case #702406077: On September 4, 2024, at 01:23 PM, the California Highway Patrol responded to a traffic collision at the intersection of Cherry Avenue and Beech Avenue in Fontana. The driver of one of the vehicles was 64-year-old, Richard Pshock, of Fontana. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 01:39 PM. For additional information please contact the California Highway Patrol.

Coroner's Case #702406009: On 08/31/2024 at approximately 10:38 PM, the Ontario Police Department responded to a single vehicle traffic collision at S. Mountain Ave. north of W. Philadelphia Street. The passenger, 19-year-old, Steven Lievanos, of Riverside, California was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information please contact the Ontario Police Department.

Coroner's Case #702405857: On August 23, 2024, at approximately 10:19 PM, the Rialto Police Department responded to W. Valley Blvd. west of Lilac Ave. for a traffic collision. The driver, 31-year-old resident of Fontana, Christopher Mejia, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information please contact Redlands Police Department.

Coroner's Case #702405855: On 08/23/2024 at 7:50 PM, the San Bernardino Police Department and emergency medical service personnel responded to N. G Street at W. Baseline St. a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. The pedestrian was Cynthia Young, a 60-year-old resident of San Bernardino. She was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead at 8:30 PM. For additional information contact the San Bernardino Police Department.

Coroner's Case #702405794: On August 21, 2024 at approximately 4:00 AM, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Mesa View Drive and Olivine Road in Victorville. A pedestrian, Jesse Perez, Jr., an 18-year-old resident of Bloomington, was found down after being struck by an unknown vehicle. He was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center and later pronounced deceased. For additional information contact The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Victorville Station.

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### In The Heat Of Battle, Bradley Acknowledges, He Might Have Gotten A Little "Carried Away" from page 13

things through. We may walk away with differences of opinion but we have to respect each other professionally. I think as leaders, we have to really focus on that, for our community especially."

Breitling said, "To echo some of Councilmember Garcia's comments: One of my fa-

vorite quotes is by Ruth Bader Ginsberg who says, 'It's okay to disagree. It's not okay to be disagreeable.' Whatever your position is on the upcoming Measure N, just be respectful and get the facts. That's all I ask."

The council voted unanimously to form the committee without specifying Bradley as the chairman.

In an exclusive interview with the Sentinel, Bradley initially downplayed the degree to which he has been involved in the campaign to promote Measure N.

"I was pretty heavily involved in Measure L," Bradley said. "We have a professional consultant this time. Two years ago, people formed the wrong conclusions, so we hired a professional consultant this time."

Bradley indicated that a health challenge he dealt with earlier this year and deferring to the campaign consultant had kept him out of the thick of things with regard to Measure N.

"I did not meet who is running it [the Measure N campaign] until yesterday," Bradley said with regard to Farooqi.

"I don't have a lot of energy."

When informed that despite his not taking an official role in running the Measure N campaign, his was the most frequent and recurrent presence on the social media sites in which the measure has been heavily discussed in recent weeks, Bradley acknowledged that he was a participant in the impromptu exchanges relating to the measure that take place in those online forums relating to the Upland community. He has taken part to set the record straight when

inaccuracies make their way into the collective conversation.

"I am relying on the information I have learned over the years

### Letter To Yucaipa From Friends Of Live Oak Canyon President from page 6

redevelopment. Three steps are necessary to move the warehouse proposal forward:

For the first time to listen to all your constituents and neighbors here in Live Oak Canyon. We are most affected by your

I have been treasurer," he said. "I have monitored things in the form of Facebook, so I'm

*Continued on Page 16*

actions.

Arrange for a new EIR.

Move forward on the recall of Councilmembers Jon Thorp and Bobby Duncan, especially Jon Thorp.

Respectfully,  
David Matuszak,  
president

Friends of Live Oak Canyon and coordinator, Friends of Live Oak Canyon Firewise Community

## He Is Merely Countering Rampant Misinformation Spouted By Measure N's Misguided Opponents, Bradley Maintains *from page 15*

running one corner of it. There's been a lot of misinformation, so I've been trying to put out the facts."

The conversations that take place on and through social media, in the final analysis, will probably not be a major factor in how the vote on Measure N goes. A few individuals with strong opinions one way or the other are engaging with each other and growing animated, but He realizes now that those exchanges are not likely to move the needle when it comes to whether Measure N passes or fails, he said. He had, he admitted, become abstracted in the online exchanges and gotten caught up in the polemic.

"To be honest, I did get a little bit carried away," Bradley said.

Farooqi pointed out

and he had come to concur, Bradley said, that "Social media is a zoo," and that he should use his understanding of the Upland's financial situation and his intensity in a more productive manner in an effort to promote Measure N.

Queried on whether the city council and senior city administrators had been plotting all along since the defeat of Measure L to reintroduce another sales tax measure, which has now manifested in the form of Measure N, Bradley said, "I have no idea." He indicated that if the game plan had been to lull the opponents of Measure N into a state of complacency and then spring what became Measure N on the voters at the eleventh hour, using the deception and misdirection of the business license schedule makeover measure to obscure city officials' true intent, Bradley said he had not been made privy to the strategy.

"It took me by surprise when they made the flip [from the business fee increase measure to the sales tax mea-

sure] at the last minute," he said. "It [discussion of revisiting the sales tax proposal in 2024 after its failure in 2022] was in the background. There was talk about it. They did a survey and when they saw that people might support it, they changed their minds. That [the survey results] made them confident it was a good time to put it on the ballot."

To the extent that he has now found himself front and center in the debate over whether the sales tax increase in Measure N is necessary, Bradley said that in at least some respects he is ill-suited for the role.

"I was drafted into this job," he said. "I am not an advertising person. My thinking is in science and technology and math. I never had any interest in politics. I just know we need it [the tax increase]."

Still, when offered the opportunity to do a sales job for Measure N, he did not shrink from the task, using virtually every standard tactic conceivable, from confidently pronouncing it would pass to touting

the professionalism of city employees to engaging in dire warnings of the catastrophe that will ensue if the voters don't go along with it this time around. Either on his own or working from a script put together by Farooqi, Bradley made his Madison Avenue pitch for Measure N.

The odds of the city's success in getting the residents to vote to impose a higher sales tax on themselves this year is far greater than what Measure L's prospects were, Bradley asserted.

"Obviously, it is going to be better than the last time," Bradley said. "A lot of people who voted against Measure L tell me they are for Measure N this time."

Without the money that Measure L will provide, Bradley said, "It is going to be bleak. Our streets are falling apart. We need some more police officers. We are six or seven short at the moment. Los Angeles is pushing the homeless in this direction. The crooks are getting very bold. In a few years we will have the Olympics and there will be

even more people being pushed this way from Los Angeles."

This brought him close to reinstating his attacks on those who are against Measure N.

With a series of elliptical statements, he accused those who had opposed Measure L two years ago and those who are now opposing Measure N with having conflated efforts by senior staff, including the assistant city manager, to standardize the city's policy with the failure of city officials to transfer the burden of paying for current retired employees' pensions and of paying for future retirees' pensions from the city's taxpayers to the employees themselves.

"There are a lot of uninformed people out there," Bradley said.

The Sentinel asked Bradley if such uncharitable characterizations of the city's residents might have led to the city council electing against designating him as the chairman of the sales tax oversight committee. He said he did not think his having engaged in a spirited back and forth with

members of the community over the sales tax measure had anything to do with his not having been named committee chairman. Rather, he said, concerns about the Brown Act's restrictions on committee members communicating with one another, which would have prevented the committee members from being able to speak freely and outside the context of official meetings with him, one of the most knowledgeable sources available about the city's financial picture, is what convinced the council it would be better for him not to be a committee member.

As to the controversy that had developed as a consequence of his pointed and sometimes vitriolic displays while he was engaged in dialoguing with the public, Bradley said his First Amendment rights allowed him to speak his mind.

"The city attorney said as long as I'm talking as Greg Bradley and not as the treasurer I can say whatever I want," Bradley said.

-Mark Gutglueck

## As Usual, More Politicians Than Professionals Covet The Assessor's Post *from page 14*

election is being held in a presidential election year. The contest for assessor normally involves the victor being elected to a four-year-term. The winner of the election in November will serve a two-year term. Normally, the race for assessor, as is the case with all elections in San Bernardino County, including those for supervisor, district attorney, sheriff, treasurer and superintendent of county schools, consists of a contest corresponding with the primary election, in which a winner is declared immediately upon the vote tallying if a candidate receives a majority of the vote and a runoff is held between the two top vote-getters in November if in a con-

test involving more than two candidates none polls a majority of the vote. In this year's assessor's race, no voting took place during the March primary. Instead, a single contest for the position is being held in November. The winner will be the top vote-getter, even if he or she does not receive more than 50 percent of the vote.

The peculiarities extend to the contestants in this year's race.

Gonzales is a former member of the board or supervisors. Though members of the board of supervisors vying for another county political office is not unheard of – as was the case with Bill Postmus running for assessor in 2006 and Larry Walker running for auditor/controller-county clerk/recorder in 1998 and again in 2002 and 2006 and the merged office of auditor controller-treasurer/tax collector in 2010 and 2014 – it is a rare enough occurrence

to be remarkable.

Williamson is staging an attempted political comeback two years shy of two decades after he left office. From a historical standpoint, this is noteworthy. Such attempts are rare, as generally, once an officeholder leaves office, he or she in only the rarest of circumstances returns to that office. Dennis Hansberger, who was one of the youngest supervisors in county history, was first elected Third District supervisor in 1972 and served two terms, leaving in 1980. In 1996, he vied once more for Third District supervisor, successfully and was re-elected twice thereafter. The sixteen year gap between his two stints on the board of supervisors is two years less than the 18 years between the time Williamson last served as assessor and the time he will return to that post in January, if, of course, he is victorious on November 5.

Blanca Gomez, an incumbent Victorville councilwoman elected at-large most recently in 2020, is vying for reelection to the council in the November election, this time in District 3, now that the city has chaged to by-district elections. Thus, Gomez is seeking two elected positions in the same election, an extremely rare circumstance.

Smith, a political neophyte, is seeking the assessor's post based upon her professional experience as an assessor's office employee. Her position as one of four director of assessor operations with the County of Los Angeles under Assessor Jeff Prang makes her the fifth highest-ranking employee below Prang in that office. Historically in San Bernardino County, assessors have consisted variously of politicians with little prior experience with regard to the assessor's office function

being elected to the post or what have been non-politicians who came up through the ranks of the San Bernardino County Assessor's Office and were appointed or elected at least partially on the basis of their professional accomplishments and competence with respect to the function of the assessor's office. Smith falls into neither category. Until entering the current contest, she was not a politician. Though she has accrued substantial experience with regard to the function of the assessor's office, she did not achieve that experience in San Bernardino County but rather in Los Angeles County. Her status as a San Bernardino County resident qualifies her to run for assessor.

An anticipated issue in the race is that of professional experience. In this regard, Williamson and Smith best Gonzales and Gomez.

Another anticipated

issue in the race is that of political experience. In this regard, Gonzales, Gomez and Williamson best Smith, although to some voters at least, a candidate's status as an established politician is not seen as a desirable trait.

Another anticipated issue in the campaign is familiarity with and previous integration into San Bernardino County. Gonzales, Gomez and Williamson have claim to being, or having been, San Bernardino County establishment insiders, to one degree or another. Smith stands as an outsider. Nevertheless, Smith's aloofness from the pay-to-play ethos that has dominated San Bernardino County politics for decades and the degree to which Gonzales, Gomez and Williamson were or are immersed in it, could, if played properly, redound to Smith's benefit.