

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-

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

its on the November 2022 ballot. Velto and Bradley took the lead in promoting that initiative, 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 mil-

lion per year in added revenue.

In what a good cross section of Upland 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 **See P 2**

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

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, Delaware, 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 Cen-

tury, 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 member of the board of su-

pervisors 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 in. In San Bernardino **See P 4**

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

Despite being more than 92 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**