

## Wapner's Attack On Leon Set To Touch Off A Reciprocally Detrimental Revelation

By Mark Gutglueck

Ontario City Councilman Alan Wapner is on the brink of being overtaken by events following his decision last year, 31 years after he was first elected to the city council, to run for mayor.

There were two primary factors and several smaller considerations in Wapner opting to seek the mayoralty at this juncture. One was his sense that upon turning 70 this year, the sands in



Alan Wapner

the top half of his political career hourglass are nearly depleted and he has already waited far too long in claiming the

mayoral title which he believes is rightly his. The second major factor was his belief that his relative strength vis-à-vis Paul Leon, who has monopolized the mayor's post at this point for 21 years, has grown to the point that he can exploit what he takes to be the incumbent's current, ongoing and long-dormant weaknesses.

Foremost in Wapner's panoply is his readiness, or the readiness of his



Paul Leon

supporters, to revive a womanizing scandal that in the early going of Leon's run as mayor crippled but did not topple

him. Wapner now stands ready, with the funding and resolve, to vector attention to that now obscure matter in a way that will make it impossible for Ontario's voters to not know about that nadir in Leon's tenure as the city's leader.

Unbeknownst to Wapner and his circle of supporters, however, is that the below-the-belt tactic he is set to utilize in vanquishing his rival is about to be **See P 2**

## County Laying Out A Quarter Of A Million Dollars Yearly To Administer Electroshocks

The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health is paying just under a quarter of a million dollars per year to have a limited subset of county residents receive electroconvulsive therapy.

Somewhere on the order of seven to eleven of what are deemed psychiatric patients under the county's care are subjected to the controversial process, which is intended to assist them in recovery from cases of severe mental illness, on an annual basis. While the sessions are represented as being therapeutic in nature, they have also been utilized as a form of punishment or means of behavior modification in a subset of cases.

At the time the county entered into an arrangement with the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center for the provision of electroshock therapy, former San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health Director Georgina Yoshioka described the treatment in question as involving vectoring electrical charges into the brains of subjects, resulting in "a brief painless seizure which causes changes in brain chemistry that can quickly reverse symptoms of certain severe mental health conditions, such as depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder, which have not responded to reasonable pharmacological treatment. It is an evidence-based, safe and effective alternative that may provide relief."

According to **See P 5**

## Despite Dwindling Enrollment & Attendance, MUSD Not Yet Prepared To Shut Schools

The Morongo Unified School District, like 76 percent of the school districts throughout California, has experienced declining enrollment in the last several years. Moreover, the drop-off in the number of students throughout the Morongo Basin has been more pronounced than in virtually every other part of the state and appears very likely to persist.

Throughout California in the 2014-15 school year, there were 6,163,001 students from kindergarten to the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade in all of California. In the 2025-26 school year, as a consequence of declining birth rates, that number had dropped to 5,731,260, a diminution of 7.533 percent.

Meanwhile in the Morongo Valley Unified

School District, enrollment has receded from 9,700 students in 2006 to right around 7,300 students at present, a whopping 24.7 percent.

Despite the Morongo Unified School District being San Bernardino County's largest such jurisdiction geographically at 1,342.44 square miles, there are 17 other school districts in the county with a more substantial

student enrollment.

With 11 elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools, the number of students in the district had climbed to 8,005 at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, when in-class instruction had been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline in students attending the district's schools has re-

mained constant since. Prognostication suggests that by 2031, the number of students in the district will have attrited to approximately 6,821.

Late last year, with the writing on the wall, Superintendent Patricio Vargas recognized that operating the district's schools as they had been in the past would not be sustainable. Nevertheless, given the **See P 3**

## County Recruits Nine Contractors At \$10 Million Each For A Range Public Works Assignments

In one fell swoop, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved contracts worth \$90 million to cover work and supplies to be provided over the next four-and-a-half years to the county's public works division.

In approving the disbursement of the funds, the board, acting as both the governing body of

San Bernardino County and as the governing body of the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, approved contracts of \$10 million each with Yucaipa-based Alexander Lawrence Bohanek doing business as A.B. Landscape; San Bernardino-based Bridgewater Equipment, Inc; Chino-based California

Arbor Care, Inc; Rancho Cucamonga-based Connected Enterprises Group, Inc doing business as Galloway Boys Trucking; Victorville-based CornerStoneCC doing business as Cornerstone Construction Company; Adelanto-based MWC Group, Inc; City of Industry-based Quinn Rental Services; Seven Hills, **See P 3**

## Once Major Highway Stop Yermo Losing Its Historic Independence

Yermo, which throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was an independent and flourishing community in San Bernardino County's vast desert outback, over the last several months has made preparations toward surrendering a key element of that independence. Further anticipated administrative action later this and

next year will likely result in all aspects of the Yermo community's public safety operations residing in the hands of county officials in San Bernardino.

Situated at a division point of the old Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad which was later absorbed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Yermo **See P 3**

## Victorville Council Falls Short Of Supermajority Needed For 2<sup>nd</sup> Sales Tax Override

Almost six years after Victorville's voters by a very narrow margin passed a measure to impose on themselves an additional one-cent-per-dollar sales tax burden, three of the five members of the Victorville City Council on June 16 indicated their willingness to ask for another cent in sales tax to be borne by the city's consumers every time they

make a dollar's worth of purchases.

A bare majority vote of the council – 60 percent – was not able, however, to put the measure before the voters in November. A request of the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Office to place the proposed tax ballot measure before Victorville's 70,572 registered voters needed to be approved

by a supermajority of the council, meaning four of its five members.

In 2020, public safety advocates, in particular supporters of the sheriff's department, which serves as the contract law enforcement agency/police department for the City of Victorville, proposed a sales tax override, the proceeds from which would be used to beef up the city's con-

tract with the sheriff's department to include putting more deputies on the city's streets.

It is a peculiarity of the California Government Code, the California Tax Code and the California Elections Code that tax measures involving a tax proposed to be used for a specific purpose must be passed by a two-thirds margin, i.e., a 66.67% superma-

majority. General tax measures in which there is no commitment as to how the tax proceeds are to be spent need obtain a mere majority of the vote, i.e., 50.01 percent, to pass. The sponsors of the 2020 Victorville public safety tax proposal were divided over how the measure was to be presented to the county registrar of voters and thereby to the **See P 3**

**Wapner & Leon  
Have Inhabited The  
Same Political Stage  
For More Than A  
Quarter Century,  
With The Former  
Calling Most Of The  
Shots But The Lat-  
ter Possessing The  
More Impressive  
Title** *from front page*

turned on him, and in a way he will be unable to deflect, given that his own improper behavior involved an underage girl whose care and protection had been entrusted to him.

Over the last two decades, Leon and Wapner have stood at the apex of the Ontario community, both politically and in a larger social context. Because of Ontario's position as the wealthiest of San Bernardino County's municipalities, both elected officials have taken on an even larger significance as pillars of the Inland Empire.

Of note is that neither Leon nor Wapner are Ontario natives, but transplants from the greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Wapner grew up in Los Alamitos, which is in the northeasternmost extension of Orange County, flush up against Los Angeles County. Leon was raised in both Ojai, in Ventura County, and in East Los Angeles, where he grew acquainted, well before reaching the age of majority, with Antonio Villaraigosa, who was the mayor of Los Angeles from 2005 until 2013, corresponding to the first eight years that Leon was the mayor of Ontario.

Wapner, after attending USC and getting his juris doctor degree from Whittier Law School, went to work as a police officer with the Ontario Police Department in 1981. With his college education, law degree and ambition, Wapner was perceived as being on track for relatively fast promotion up the police department's chain of command, reaching, potentially, police chief, if he did not depart to pursue a career as a

lawyer. Meanwhile, he evinced an uncommon level of interest and dedication to the community by running for and winning a seat on the Ontario-Montclair School District Board of Trustees.

Wapner continued to work his way slowly but steadily up the ranks of the police department. In 1994, he vied for the Ontario City Council and was elected. At that time, under the California Government Code, an employee of a city could, if he or she resided in that city, vie for mayor or a position on the city council and accept the elected position if victorious and remain as a city employee. California law did, however, restrict a mayor or member of the city council from being hired by the city while holding office. In 1995, the California legislature passed a law restricting anyone elected mayor or to the city council from 1996 onward from simultaneously holding elected office in a city while working for that city. At that point, Wapner was faced with a choice of keeping his job as a sergeant with the Ontario Police Department or running for reelection. In 1998, he took a disability retirement from the department, vied for reelection, and won, just as he would be six more times, such that he can claim eight straight municipal electoral victories, in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022.

In 1998, Leon was appointed to the Ontario City Council to fill a vacancy and then elected to the city council in a special election in 1999 and re-elected in 2000 and 2004. In June 2005, in the aftermath of Mayor Gary Ovitt's departure to take a position on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Leon was elected mayor in a special election. Since then, he has been reelected to five consecutive four-year terms as mayor in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022.

As fate would have it, from 2006 onward, Leon and Wapner found themselves on the ballot in

each successive electoral cycle, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022, for mayor and one of two positions on the city council, respectively.

Statistically in California over the last two decades, incumbents in local office prevail in 89 percent of the elections they compete in. While both Leon and Wapner, in each of those five election cycles, held the advantage of being incumbents, Wapner was accordingly at a disadvantage in terms of following through with what his true ambition was: becoming Ontario mayor.

Wapner, who had graduated from USC, attended the law school at the college from which Richard Nixon had graduated, who had vied successfully in every race for the school board that he ran in and then launched himself upward to be elected to the city council and was consistently reelected and never lost, considered himself Leon's superior in virtually every way they might be compared – morally, intellectually, physically, experientially, philosophically, in terms of depth of personality and politically. As Wapner saw it, Leon had seized the one advantage he possessed – an Hispanic surname in a city where upwards of 65 percent of the population was Latino – and played it to the hilt. Were it not for Leon's name and his name only, Wapner truly believed, he would have himself acceded to his rightful position as mayor.

Leon and Wapner had no choice but to live with one another, they had both realized long before.

At the time he took up the mayor's gavel, Leon held the upper political hand. In addition to being mayor, which made him the presiding officer at the meetings of the city council and conferred on him the ability to recognize who had the floor and thereby control the ebb and flow of discussion and debate, Leon had the advantage of having Jason Ander-

son, a deputy district attorney whose entire personality and orientation runs toward moving with the flow of the establishment and the powers that be, on the city council. Anderson gravitated into a loosely-knit alliance with the council's top-dog, the mayor. Leon was on decent terms with another of the members of the council, Jerry Dubois, who was in failing health and would die in March 2006. Replacing Leon as a council member when he resigned that post to become mayor was Sheila Mautz, who had been appointed to the council by the Leon-led panel shortly after the special mayoral election in June 2005. She gravitated toward Leon and pretty much followed his lead, giving Leon what was essentially a four-member ruling coalition on the five-member council. Since resistance to Leon's leadership at that point would have proven pointless, Wapner surrendered to the inevitable and essentially joined in with the rest, such that Leon led what was for all intents and purposes a city council that was in lockstep with itself.

In the 2006 election, Jim Bowman, who had twice been on the city council previously and had also been a firefighter with the city who acceded to the position of fire chief, was elected to the council for the third time. As public safety employees who had worked for the city, there was a ready-made alignment between Wapner and Bowman. The numbers at that point, however, were against the two, as the three votes of Leon, Anderson and Mautz prevented Wapner from commandeering control of the city. Over the course of the two years between 2006 and 2008, the subtle enmity between Wapner and Leon, at first imperceptibly and then more markedly, hardened and grew, with Bowman constantly hewing to Wapner's side of the equation.

Still, in 2007, with Leon in control of the council and both Wapner

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and Bowman needing the support of the rest of the council to make progress toward achieving their own goals, the two city employees-turned-councilors had to be part of the team and stay on Leon's good side. Wapner did this by suggesting that the city augment the mayor's annual stipend by \$30,000, saying Leon's constant participation in ceremonial roles tied to his function as mayor should be given tangible and financial recognition. Wapner then made a motion to that effect and virtually overnight Leon saw his remuneration as a city official more than doubled. That gesture boosted Leon into being the highest-paid mayor in the county and highest paid elected municipal city official in San Bernardino County other than the San Bernardino city attorney and the San Bernardino, Redlands, Rialto and Rancho Cucamonga city clerks.

In 2008, Debbie Dorst-Porada, whose political career, like Wapner's, had initiated with having been elected to the Ontario-Montclair School Board, defeated Anderson in his bid for reelection to the city council. Of significance was that Dorst-Porada was very close to Bowman and his family, and a very natural alignment between her and the former fire chief formed even before she was installed on the city council. At once, the power dynamic shifted from Leon, whose lone ally on the council was then

Mautz, to Wapner, whose connection with Bowman carried with it the bonus of Dorst-Porada's readiness to back any action Bowman agreed to, which in virtually every particular was dictated by Wapner.

Wapner and Bowman set about retaining the services of Loredana Nesci, a one-time Los Angeles police officer-turned-attorney, giving her the assignment of digging up enough damning dirt on Leon to destroy his political career and then exposing it in a dramatic fashion that would achieve that goal.

Nesci did as she was told, going over Leon's campaign finance documents and his city expense accounts with a fine-toothed comb, shadowing him as he made his rounds as mayor at official events such as groundbreakings and ribbon-cuttings, attended council meetings and those of governmental joint powers boards of which he was a member, examining his votes as a member of those various panels for potential or actual conflicts-of-interest where his own personal or familial financial prosperity might have been entangled with those companies or individuals favored by his votes, and surveilling the mayor as he went about in his function not just as mayor but in his capacity as the pastor of Hope Chapel, the church he led.

Armed with a compendium of her find-

*Continued on Page 4*

### Five-And-A-Half Years After Victorville Voters Proved Willing, Barely, To Up The Sales Tax They Pay, City Officials Were Considering Asking For More *from front page*

voters, with some asserting that the measure should be drafted in such a way that voters would be assured the money was going to be used and used only for public safety purposes, so that city officials could not re-route the money for other

uses or programs. Others, however, asserted it would be doubtful that two-thirds of the city's residents would rally to support raising taxes. Instead, they reasoned, and ultimately prevailed, with an argument that the tax increase should be presented as a general tax so that it could garner passage, with the understanding – guaranteed on the basis of a few winks and nods from members of the city council – that if approved, the money raised through the sales tax increase would be devoted entirely to im-

proving public safety in the city. The measure, which was given the nomenclature of Measure P by the registrar of voters office, called for the one percent increase to be levied as a general tax rather than for a specific purpose.

That November, Victorville voters approved Measure P by a razor-thin margin, with 19,280 votes or 50.22 percent in favor and 19,109 votes or 49.78 percent in opposition.

In 2022, the city said Measure P revenue had been used to add

11 sheriff's department personnel to neighborhood patrols, speed law enforcement response times, and increase traffic enforcement.

A dual perception fueled the willingness of members of the community, pushed heavily by City Hall, to see if city residents would be willing to double the sales-tax add-on in Victorville this year. The first thing those higher-tax advocates saw is that the Victorville community, despite the enhancement in revenue the city is already getting from the

Measure P sales tax add-on, is in need of yet more money for other municipal services, further public safety programs and infrastructure improvements. The second element of that perception is that the city's residents were willing, although perhaps just barely, to increase their taxes before, and some believe average residents might be willing to tolerate an even higher surcharge when they shop.

Given the rate of retail activity in Victorville, with its present a population of 143,860

and a set of commercial subdivisions at which nearby residents in Apple Valley, Adelanto and Hesperia shop in droves, the city could expect to see its annual revenue boosted by as much as \$29 million per year if another one-cent-per-dollar override were to be approved, advocates for the tax increase said. They said given that city residents went for the assurance given in 2020 that the Measure P money would be used for public safety, it would be an even bet this year that *Continued on Page 4*

### A Key Service City Along One Span Of The Early National Highway System, Yermo Later Became A Primary Military Depot *from front page*

was founded in 1902. A post office was established there in 1905. From 1910 to 1920, as the federal government was attempting to establish what was referred to as the all-weather Auto Trails System in the Southwest, the Arrowhead Trail, running from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, was routed

through Yermo. In the 1920s, the Arrowhead Trail would be rechristened U.S. Route 91. It was as a major stop along Route 91 that Yermo came to full fruition as a community.

In its heyday, Yermo featured 27 gas stations, most of which employed mechanics, a machine shop capable of fabricat-

ing a host of auto parts, a hardware store, four real estate offices, seven restaurants, two grocery stores, a hardware store, seven bars/taverns, three motels, a thrift store, roadside camping sites and two parks.

In 1942, the Marine Corps established in Yermo on federal land set aside for the U.S. Navy the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies at what was called the Nebo Base. It was intended as a storage site for supplies and

equipment needed for Fleet Marine Forces in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. By the end of that war, the base had been enlarged multiple times, and another 2,000 acres then earmarked for use by the U.S. Army, approximately seven miles east of the Nebo Main Base, were transferred to the authority of the Marine Corps in 1946. In 1954, Marine Corps Depot of Supplies Commanding General Roy

Gulick transferred his headquarters from San Francisco to Yermo. The necessity of the base to the Marine Corps has intensified since, and it has grown in size, stature, capability and prestige.

In 1961, the importance of Marine Corps Logistics Base Yermo, which was identified as the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, increased dramatically with the establishment of the Depot Maintenance Facility. In November 1978,

the base was redesignated to its present title of Marine Corps Logistics Base to emphasize its broad logistics support mission. In the early 1980s, the headquarters for all Marine Corps logistics support operations was consolidated to the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, though Marine Corps logistics operations on the western half of the continent and in the Pacific remained centered in Yermo. The *Continued on Page 20*

### County Contractors Count A Staggering Inventory Of Equipment As The Tools Of Their Trade *from front page*

Ohio-based SCA of CA, LLC; and Lancaster-based Spadaro Enterprises, Inc.

The nine vendors were contracted to provide "on-call public works maintenance services."

Work being contracted for includes chip seal material testing, concrete and concrete-repair

work, debris control, erosion and sediment control, electrical services, fence installation and repair, guardrail installation and repair, hazardous waste removal, pavement maintenance and repair, snow removal and snow plowing, street sweeping, traffic control and flagging, traffic striping and weed abatement.

The equipment the companies were required to have included air compressors, arrow boards, backhoes, concrete pumps, crack sealers, cranes, bull-

dozers, excavators, flail mowers, generators, hand tampers, hydraulic hammers, hydro axes, hydrovactors, Jackhammers, light towers, loaders, message boards, motor graders, mowers, boom mowers, both push and pull scrapers, sheep foot tows, skid steers, trash pumps, trench equipment, power screeners, asphalt emulsion distributor trucks, berm builders, cold planers, asphalt milling machines, paving machines with both tracks and wheels, asphalt spreaders, vibratory steel drum

rollers, pneumatic rollers, snow blowers, wheel loaders, bucket wheel loaders, hydraulic angel blade wheel loaders, street sweepers, bottom trucks, dump trucks, off-road dump trucks, low bed and tractors, truck & transfer trailers and water trucks.

Each of the contracts is to run from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030.

According to Sameh Basta, a purchasing agent with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, in accordance with the county's intent

to establish a list of pre-qualified contractors to provide on-call public works maintenance services, the county and the department jointly issued a request for qualifications to perform the work specified. The nine companies submitted proposals in response to the request, Basta told the board of supervisors, and flood control district personnel assigned to the matter determined the nine were "qualified to provide on-call public works maintenance services."

In responding to the

request for qualifications and in signing the contracts, all nine vendors further agreed to pay prevailing wages/union scale wages to their employees while those employees were engaged in work done for the county and the county flood control district.

According to the contract, "Contractor shall not offer (either directly or through an intermediary) any improper consideration such as, but not limited to cash, discounts, service, the provision of travel or *Continued on Page 20*

### As The County's Largest School District Geographically, MUSD's Sharp Enrollment Drop Has Presented It With A Daunting Challenge *from front page*

sheer expanse of the Morongo Basin and the distance between its communities of Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms, Wonder Valley, Joshua Tree, Morongo Valley, Landers, Piopneertown and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and the extant to

which schools served households scattered throughout the region, the closing of any of the district's schools would be an imposition on at the very least scores and more likely hundreds of families.

Schools within the district consist of Condor Elementary School

in Twentynine Palms, located on the grounds of the US Marine Corps Base; Friendly Hills Elementary School; Joshua Tree Elementary School; Landers Elementary School; Morongo Valley Elementary School; Oasis Elementary School in Twentynine Palms; Onaga Elementary School in Yucca Valley; Palm Vista Elementary School in Twentynine Palms; Twentynine Palms Elementary School; Yucca Mesa Elementary

School, which offers instruction from Kindergarten to the 8th grade; Yucca Valley Elementary School along with La Contenta Middle School in Yucca Valley; Twentynine Palms Junior High School, which was the original all purpose elementary, junior high school and high school in the town in the 1950s; as well as Twentynine Palms High School; Yucca Valley High School; and Black Rock Continuation High

School,

Palm Vista, Landers and Morongo Valley elementary schools have fewer than 350 students each and at present are receiving in per diem reimbursements for those students' daily attendance an amount of money from the state that in total is less than what it is costing the district to operate them.

SchoolWorks Inc., a consulting firm retained by the district, suggested that the district close at

least one and perhaps all three of the underattended schools as well as, perhaps, Friendly Hills. This would require that the district defray the cost of busing students a considerable distance to the next closest campus, including six buses roughly 16 miles back and forth from Landers to Joshua Tree five days a week.

In January, the district formed an enrollment advisory committee, *Continued on Page 18*

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# San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

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## **Early In Leon's Tenure As Mayor, Wapner Devised A Plan To Unseat & Supplant Him, Which, At Least Penultimately, Failed** *from page 2*

ings, the Leon Dossier as it were, Nesci began speaking up at city council meetings. Rather than highlighting what she had learned about graft at City Hall or the pay-to-play ethos that predominated there, which extended as much or more to Wapner than it did to Leon, Nesci dwelt upon the far more titillating and salacious fruits of her research: Mayor Leon was, she declared, a predator, one who was using his vaunted position as a mayor and pastor to impose himself on women, whether or not they wanted his attention or not. Exhibits A, B, C, D, E & F in this regard were photographs and video snippets of Leon and Diana Huizar, the executive assistant to the general manager of the Ontario Convention Center. Leon and Huizar were too friendly, Nesci claimed.

For her part, Huizar pointed out that the Ontario Convention Center is owned and operated by the City of Ontario and serves as a key public venue for conventions, conferences, and trade shows that were being sponsored, in some cases, by the city as part of a strategy to boost local economic development and attract visitors as well as atten-

tion and positive publicity for the city. She said that in her role as the top clerical employee within the convention center's administrative office and the liaison between the convention center and the city, she routinely came into contact with city officials. She publicly stated that there was no "impropriety" between her and the mayor.

Nesci steadfastly declined to identify who her Ontario client[s] was or were. When that question persisted, Bowman agreed to acknowledge having retained Nesci to shield Wapner and prevent Leon or his surrogates from discrediting Nesci's charges by characterizing them as spurious political attacks that originated with Wapner because of his rivalry with the mayor. Nonetheless, Wapner's hidden hand in the orchestrated attacks on Leon were patently obvious to everyone knowledgeable about internal politics at Ontario City Hall.

Wapner's enmity toward Leon was given further emphasis when in 2009, he orchestrated a vote in which he, Bowman and Dorst-Porada withdrew the \$30,000 raise that had been provided to the mayor two years previously, returning Leon to a pay grade identical to the rest of the city council.

Wapner's hope had been that the combination of reducing the mayor's remuneration and subjecting Leon to the public obloquy, condemnation and embarrassment of Nesci's public

presentation of her findings at city council meetings would persuade Leon to simply opt out of politics altogether and not seek reelection in 2010. At that point, Wapner calculated, he would run not for reelection as a member of the council, but throw his hat in the ring for mayor. With the nearly \$200,000 in his campaign fund with which to wage his electioneering effort, Wapner figured he would be a shoo-in.

At that point, Wapner was blindsided by something he should have seen coming.

In the same timeframe that Wapner was readying to vault past Leon, he and his second wife had welcomed into their home a foreign exchange student, Camilla Costanzo. When the girl's tour in America had concluded, Wapner accompanied her in a cross-continent flight, where they stayed in Washington, D.C. overnight before she was to catch a flight home.

Rather than obtain separate rooms, Wapner and the girl checked into a single room in a hotel with a single queen size bed. According to statements Costanzo subsequently made, Wapner did not have pajamas as bed clothes and instead was clad only in underwear behind the closed door of the room at a certain point in the evening. Costanzo slept alone on a loveseat in the room that night and into the next morning.

Before catching her flight, Costanzo con-

tacted the Washington, D.C. Police Department, which in turn contacted the Ontario Police Department, leading to the involvement of Ontario municipal officials. Among the exchanges going back and forth between Ontario officials and the district attorney's office was direct contact between Mayor Leon and then-District Attorney Mike Ramos relating to what Wapner had involved himself in while in the nation's capital.

At least in part because of jurisdictional conflicts and the consideration that the alleged victim and primary witness was out of the country, no prosecution of Wapner was mounted.

These events transpired during what in common parlance is now referred to as the "Great Recession," the downturn that ensued and persisted for roughly five years following the subprime mortgage

crisis of 2007 and the resultant collapse of the U.S. housing and real estate markets. Among the impacts of the financial meltdown were dwindling revenues to regional and local governmental entities such as counties and municipalities. Ontario, which prior to the recession had two thirds of a billion dollars flowing through all of its municipal funds on an annual basis and was established as San Bernardino County's most fiscally sound city, was not immune to what was happening elsewhere. As a consequence of the city's advantageous financial circumstance, city officials had previously proven generous in agreeing, during collective bargaining with the unions for the city's various employees, to contracts which made Ontario's city workers the most handsomely remunerated municipal employees in the region. In addition, Ontario of-

officials had committed to providing those employees with future raises that would ensure they stayed abreast of or in front of their counterparts with other cities throughout Southern California.

With the bottom dropping out of the economy, Ontario, which was riding higher and stronger than other cities before the downturn, was hit that much harder than other local governments, seeing its anticipated annual revenue dropping by a staggering amount, at first approaching and then exceeding \$100 million. In a Herculean effort to avoid massive layoffs of staff, then-Ontario City Manager Greg Devereaux had negotiated with the city's employee unions, getting them to agree to let the city rescind the pay and benefits increases that had been promised in the employment agreements signed prior to 2008.

*Continued on Page 6*

## **Two Of Victorville's Four GOP Council Members Last Month Showed They Are Not Shy About Asking Their Constituents To Okay Another Tax Increase** *from page 3*

the city's voters would welcome the tax if the community were offered an assurance the city's officials would apply the revenue toward public safety, city services and infrastructure.

There was and still is complication and danger to the members of the city council who jumped on the tax increase bandwagon. Two of those, who were formerly high-

ly thought of in Republican circles, after the June 16 meeting at which they gave indication they supported the tax hike, found themselves being demonized as "tax and spend" bureaucrats by at least a handful of their former supporters.

In California, local races – ones for county positions such as sheriff or member of the board of supervisors, city posts

such as mayor or council member or board members of local fire, school or water agencies – are supposed to be nonpartisan. In San Bernardino County, however, political races of any kind are greatly influenced by party affiliation. California as a whole nowadays is under the sway of the Democrats, with the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state attorney general, the California secretary of state, the superintendent of public instruction, the insurance commis-

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## Use Of Electroconvulsive Therapy Has Invited A Certain Degree Of Controversy from front page

literature put out by the American Psychiatric Association, electroconvulsive therapy, also referred to by its acronym ECT, is a psychiatric treatment consisting of passing an electrical current through the brain for the purpose of causing a generalized seizure. Electroconvulsive therapy has been used as an intervention for mental disorders when other treatments are inadequate. Conditions responsive to electroconvulsive therapy include major depressive disorder, mania, and catatonia, according to the association.

Modern electroconvulsive therapy, having evolved from earlier seizure-inducing treatments, advanced in the 1930s into a formal procedure with the development of equipment designed to deliver electrical currents to the brain using either unilateral or bilateral electrodes positioned on the scalp to stimulate one or two of the brain's hemispheres. Electroconvulsive therapy became widely used in the 1940s, 1950s and into the 1960s. Its use declined by the 1970s in reaction to negative publicity, untoward side effects, misuse extending into abuse and safety concerns.

A significant minority of psychiatrists by that point had expressed concerns about both the short-term and long-term impacts that electroshocks have on cognition and memory, application of the treatments as a means of behavioral modification or punishment, abuse, less than fully regulated and uneven standards in its application, failure in multiple cases or generally to document outcomes and other issues.

Despite the widespread use of electroshock therapy, the American Psychiatric Association did not

complete and publish a comprehensive evaluation of the practice until 1978's *"Electroconvulsive Therapy: Report of the Task Force on Electroconvulsive Therapy of the American Psychiatric Association."* The report endorsed the use of electroconvulsive therapy in the treatment of depression.

The use of electroconvulsive therapy continued to decline until the mid-1980s. During a 1985 joint conference devoted to electroconvulsive therapy put on by the National Institute of Mental Health and National Institutes of Health, a consensus was expressed by psychiatrists that despite drawbacks and significant side-effects, electrical stimulation of brain tissue had been shown to be effective for a narrow range of severe psychiatric disorders. Thereafter, this was taken as overt recognition that electroshocks have, in certain tightly circumscribed instances, therapeutic value.

Electroconvulsive therapy under typical circumstances involves multiple administrations given two or three times per week until the patient no longer has symptoms, which is referred to as remission. The return of depression is labeled as relapse. Electroconvulsive therapy can differ in its application in three ways: electrode placement, treatment frequency, and the electrical waveform of the stimulus. Differences in these parameters affect symptom remission and adverse side effects. Electroconvulsive therapy can be administered bilaterally or unilaterally, with high-dose unilateral application matching the efficacy of bilateral application but causing fewer cognitive effects.

Psychiatric professionals gravitate toward the use of electroconvulsive therapy in the treatment of severe depressive disorder or in those cases where patients' conditions have proven resistant to other forms of treatment. Psychiat-

ric patients commonly show improvement with the application of certain therapies but the efficacy of treatments are frequently undercut by relapse in which the patient returns to a disturbed state. Electroconvulsive therapy is commonly reported or represented to have high efficacy and remission rates of around 50 percent to 60 percent. Advocates of electroconvulsive therapy tout its effectiveness in mitigating major depressive disorder, where it is statistically demonstrated to reduce suicide risk, and outperforming alternatives such as antidepressants in this regard, though relapse is common without maintenance treatment.

While Canadian psychiatric professionals differ and have suggested that electroconvulsive therapy can and should in many cases be used as a first line treatment, American psychiatrists generally hold that electroshock therapy be resorted to when one or other treatments have failed, or in emergencies, such as imminent suicide. Electroconvulsive therapy has also been used in selected cases of depression occurring in tandem with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, developmental delay, brain arteriovenous malformations, and hydrocephalus.

Electroshock therapy is generally considered a second-line treatment for people with catatonia who do not respond to other treatments, but is a first-line treatment for severe or life-threatening catatonia. There is substantial evidence for its efficacy in treating catatonia, although evaluations reaching that conclusion are plagued by a dearth of randomized controlled trials.

Electroconvulsive therapy is used to treat people who have severe or prolonged mania. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommends it only in life-threatening situations or when other treatments have failed and as a second-line

treatment for bipolar mania.

Electroshock therapy is widely used internationally in the treatment of schizophrenia. In North America and Western Europe, however, its use is generally limited to treatment-resistant schizophrenia in which symptoms are not mitigated by antipsychotics.

There has been little attention paid in scientific literature to what long-term damage might result from continuous, repeated and constant passage of an electrical current through the brain, and no such long-term studies were found in the search of a comprehensive research paper database.

In 2019, Dr. Bennett Omalu, the forensic neuropathologist who first identified chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in National Football League players, without citing any empirical data, stated that functional injuries resulting from electroconvulsive therapy should be considered as both repetitive traumatic brain injury and repetitive electrical injury.

While it has for decades been acknowledged that side effects of electroconvulsive therapy include an impact on cognitive function and memory along with the generation of confusion in those subjected to it, defenders of the therapy have asserted that in most cases those effects are fleeting, transient and temporary. That is controverted by the claims of a number of electroconvulsive therapy treatment patients, including the late actress Gene Tierney and the late author Ernest Hemingway, who complained, bitterly, that they had suffered severe and lasting memory impairment. Tierney, who underwent ECT to alleviate severe depression, claimed it had destroyed significant portions of her memory. Hemingway received electroconvulsive therapy to counteract severe depression, anxiety and what is now diagnosed as bipolar disorder. He

later wrote to a friend, "What is the sense of ruining my head and erasing my memory, which is my capital, and putting me out of business? It was a brilliant cure but we lost the patient."

Within the last year, an analysis of the downside of electroconvulsive therapy was published in the *International Journal of Mental Health*. The study, bearing the title *"The adverse effects of electroconvulsive therapy beyond memory loss: an international survey of recipients and relatives,"* was written by John Read, Sue Cunliffe, Sarah Price Hancock, Chris Harrop, Lucy Johnstone & Lisa Morrison and published on November 19, 2025.

The abstract of the paper begins, "Research into the safety of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) usually focuses on memory loss. Studies asking patients directly reveal a broader range of adverse effects. This paper reports the responses of 747 ECT recipients and 201 relatives/friends, from 37 countries, to a question about 25 possible adverse effects, in an online survey. Seventeen of the 25 were reported by more than half of both the ECT recipients and the relatives/friends. Eight were reported by more than 67 percent of both groups: losing train of thought, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, emotional blunting, relationship problems, loss of independence, difficulty navigating and loss of vocabulary. The first four of these were described as 'severe' by at least 30 percent of both groups."

By the numbers, 87.5 percent said they had lost their train of thought; 85.6 percent complained of difficulty concentrating; 79.6 percent said they suffered from fatigue; 77.7 percent complained of having difficulty reading; 76.4 percent said they experienced emotional blunting; 72.8 percent said they had difficulty navigating; 71.8 percent remarked on a loss of vocabulary; 67.8 percent stated they experienced

relationship problems; and 67.2 percent were burdened with a loss of independence.

Another 62 percent said they had difficulty recognizing faces; 61.6 percent said they had sensitivity to noise; 60.9 percent said they experienced difficulty shopping; 60.7 percent said they had difficulty using a computer; 60.7 percent said they had difficulty cooking; 59.9 percent said they had difficulty driving; 54.4 percent said they underwent the loss of a job; 53.9 percent said they had headaches beyond when waking up from ECT; 49.7 percent complained of difficulty in using money; 49.2 percent said they experienced sensitivity to light; 46 percent said they had shaky hands; 45 percent said they experienced walking into things; 40.3 percent complained of falling over; and 37.5 percent reported slurred speech.

The paper reported that the patients and their family members/friends reported, with far less frequency, other effects.

Those ranged from 4.5 percent reporting pain to 4 percent reporting trauma/post-traumatic stress/flashbacks to 3.9 percent reporting anxiety and nervousness to 3 percent reporting depression, despair and crying to 2.7 percent reporting anger, rage and fury to 2.4 percent reporting lasting confusion to 2 percent expressing new or intensified inclination toward suicide to 1.9 percent reporting issues with self-esteem and confidence to 1.9 percent reporting problems sleeping to 1.7 percent reporting emotional dysregulation and irritability to 1.6 percent reporting eye or vision problems to 1.6 percent reporting nausea and/or vomiting to 1.6 percent reporting distrust of others to 1 percent reporting dizziness or vertigo. Tinnitus or ringing in the ears, loss of balance, incontinence, loss of identity, loss of creativity and nerve damage were expressed but in each case by less than 1 percent of

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## Despite Considering Leon His Inferior, Wapner Spent A Decade-And-A-Half Placating Himself As A Councilman And Contending With Other Challengers While Letting Leon Be Mayoral *from page 4*

Integrated into this mix was the city council, the members of which had been heavily supported, for the most part, by the city's employees' unions. Indeed, while he was a firefighter and prior to being fire chief, Bowman had been the fire union's president. The council had succeeded in getting the city's unions – which involved bargaining units for line employees, for the city's firefighters, the city's police officers and the city's police department management level officers – to hold still for the salary and benefit freezes.

As the calendar progressed from 2009 into 2010, however, the police union – the Ontario Police Officers' Association – was growing impatient. Wapner, in particular, because he had at one time been a police officer himself who could relate very personally and poignantly to the situation his one-time brethren-in-blue found themselves in, became the focus of the police officers' and the police unions' entreaties to end the pay freeze and restore the raises the officers had previously been promised. Wapner, who was acutely conscious of the number crunching that was ongoing and economies that were being imposed throughout all of the city's departments and the service reductions this entailed to the city's residents and businesses, responded by telling the officers and the union leaders that the city simply did not have the financial wherewithal to meet their demands.

By the late winter/early spring of 2010, officers within the police department were aware of Wapner's Washington, D.C. misadventure. At that time, a representative of the police union was utilizing the term "sexual predator" without restriction in describing Wapner, illustrating

the degree to which elements within the Ontario Police Officers' Association were on the verge of raising the issue during that year's election, in which Wapner would either stand for reelection to the council or seek to displace Leon as mayor.

During the summer of 2010, in the crucible of heat, seemingly intractable self-interest, competing personalities and politics, a compromise all the way around was worked out. City officials relented on their earlier position that the city did not have sufficient funding to increase police officer pay and benefits, at which point marginal raises were offered and accepted, with the promise of more substantial adjustments going forward. The police union backed off and, essentially, left sleeping dogs undisturbed by discontinuing the effort to make an example out of Wapner by harping on the Costanzo matter. Wapner and Bowman ended their focus on the Huizar affair. Leon did not duck out of the mayoral race.

Wapner had utilized the substantial financial resources in his political war chest to carry out extensive professional polling of the city's electorate, including samples across all order of the city's voters, including those most likely to vote as well as those whose voting patterns were spotty but who might be driven to the polls by creative tactics. No matter how the questions were asked, the voters who were surveyed indicated that in a match between the mayor and councilman, Leon would best Wapner. He could use the considerable money at his disposal to make a run for mayor, blazing at Leon with both barrels while hoping for the best, Wapner knew, but that involved tremendous risk. If he failed in the mayoral bid,

that meant he would lose the position as councilman he did have, because he could not run for both positions simultaneously. And there was the possibility – or more actually the probability – that if he assailed Leon with regard to the Huizar affair, Leon would clobber him with what was known about his trip to Washington, D.C. with Costanzo.

Begrudgingly, Wapner surrendered his dream of becoming mayor, at least temporarily. He sought a rapprochement with Leon. Taking a long drag off a peace pipe before offering it to the mayor, he proposed that he, Leon and Bowman all stay within their own lanes and carry forth as "Team Ontario," running for reelection as a triumvirate, one which was responsible for Ontario being in the position of San Bernardino County's wealthiest city, head-and-shoulders above all of its counterparts in San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire, setting the pace in terms of development, economic vitality, job creation and services to the community.

Wary but somewhat relieved that he would no longer need to constantly weather attacks being vectored at him by Wapner, Bowman, Nesci, Dorst-Porada and their allies, and heartened as well by the army of donors Wapner had cultivated who were willing to pledge money to him as well, Leon responded positively to Wapner's overture. Riding the crest of their combined incumbency, all three were handily reelected in the November 2010 election.

Over the next two years, Wapner and Leon, resignedly, lived with each other, not as true allies but neither as enemies. Yet able to rely on the votes of Bowman and Dorst-Porada, Wapner headed the city council's ruling coalition, controlling three of five votes. This was of marginal significance, however, as there were very few issues that came before the city council over

which Leon and Wapner had any sharp differences. Statistically, over the coming decade, they voted in virtual lockstep with one another, casting votes that were identical in all respects over 99 percent of the time.

Wapner, like Richard the Lionhearted, headed out on a crusade. Rather than seeking to liberate the Holy Land from the Muslims, Wapner was intent on wresting control of Ontario Airport from the City of Los Angeles, which had in 1967 been given responsibility for managing the aerodrome's operations and then assumed title to and control over it in 1985 after meeting certain performance criteria relating to expansion and passenger traffic as part of a joint powers agreement with Ontario. Leon acceded to Wapner taking on the lead role in that effort, which the councilman pursued aggressively.

In making that concession to Wapner, Leon allowed Wapner to assume the presidency of the board of the entity the city formed in 2012 with San Bernardino County, the Ontario International Airport Authority, which was intended to take over operation of the airport once Los Angeles, its Department of Airports and the corporate entity known as Los Angeles World Airports, which the megalopolis used to run Ontario Airport and Los Angeles International Airport, were out of the picture.

Wapner flourished in that role and was able to persuade Leon and his council colleagues to have Ontario file a lawsuit against Los Angeles, a move which ultimately succeeded in seeing the airport returned to local control.

Over the next several years, as well, there were developments beyond the control of both Leon and Wapner which preserved the uneasy alliance that united them.

In 2012, Paul Vincent Avila was elected to the council, supplanting Leon's one-time ally, Sheila Mautz. Early speculation was that Avila might

form some order of an alliance with the mayor, particularly when he seemed to get off on the wrong foot with Wapner, but that never materialized. Instead, Avila, who evinced an imperfect understanding of parliamentary procedure and standard governmental protocol, served to unify everyone else on the council against him. He antagonized his council colleagues, none more than Wapner, who he referred to as "old camel gut." Noting the frequency with which Leon's and Wapner's votes lined up, Avila attributed that to Wapner's dominance, and he constantly referred to Leon as "Wapner's puppet" and then, eventually, simply, "Puppet."

In the 2012 and 2014 elections, Ruben Valencia, who was employed as a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, ran unsuccessfully for city council. In that second effort, he targeted Wapner in particular. In the 2016 election, Valencia ran for a third time, achieving success by outpolling Avila.

Despite his obvious distaste for Avila, Wapner found the more sophisticated Valencia, who shared his law enforcement background, a far more realistically dangerous rival. Whereas Avila proved to be a pointed irritant who was able to get under Wapner's skin and provoke from him on occasion into making an intemperate or less-than-decorous heated response, Valencia's approach was more subtle. Valencia engaged in none of the undignified exchanges with nor hurled unseemingly insults at Wapner or the others on the dais. He joined with his council colleagues in supporting routine housekeeping items relating to city operations and normal municipal activity, meaning his votes registered as matching with the four others in regard to more than 95 percent of the matters that came before them. Occasionally, he asked staff for clarification on items being considered before

casting a vote in support of action the others were going along with. He was highly selective with regard to where he enunciated differences with the other members of the council. Where his dissenting votes extended to philosophical or policy differences, he generally articulated his rationale for his votes, without rancor and with a simple statement. In a minority of cases where he cast a dissenting vote, Valencia latched onto the connections – most often consisting of campaign donations or personal interactions – that linked his council colleagues with those benefiting by certain council actions. These embodied, he recognized, the pay-to-play ethos that had gripped Ontario, a situation in which those with business before the city – developers looking for project approval, those seeking licenses to operate businesses of various sorts within the city, those vendors or service providers competing for contracts with City Hall or those in pursuit of a franchise granted by the city – felt the need to support the establishment, meaning the mayor and the members of the city council, with campaign donations. All of Valencia's colleagues accepted money from such donors, which was part of the political reality, since running for office successfully required energetic campaigning, which is quite expensive. This was exacerbated by the massive monetary support provided to Wapner, Leon, Bowman and Dorst-Porada by the city's employees' unions and many individual city employees, who were provided with salaries and benefits that were far more generous than those provided to employees holding similar positions with other cities. That Ontario was steeped in a pay-to-play ethos was unmistakable to those who had an unobstructed perspective on what was going on. Valencia was one of those who held such a perspective. He did not

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## When Administered Without Anesthetics & Muscle Relaxants, Electroshocks Can Be Brutal *from page 5*

those surveyed.

Most respondents found the information given to them with regard to the electroconvulsive therapy they received to be inadequate.

Most respondents reported, on several different measures, that ECT either made no difference or made matters worse for them.

Most respondents reported memory loss that lasted more than three years.

The survey found that women are more likely to be given electroshock therapy and to suffer more memory loss.

While electroshock treatments are promoted by the psychiatric profession as therapeutic, passing an electrical current through brain tissue has been used as a form of punishment and as a means of behavior modification. The use of electroconvulsive therapy in this fashion was far more common in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s in the context of psychiatric institutions and asylums than it is today. Well into

the 1960s and in some institutions during the 1970s, ECT was administered without anesthesia or muscle relaxants, which would result in the patient experiencing violent convulsions that were extremely traumatic and on occasion resulted in fracture or dislocation of the long bones and/or fractured vertebrae. While far less widespread today than was the case in the past, administering electroshocks can serve as a form of control or punishment for misbehavior, non-compliance, disobedience, or actions/activities deemed to be immoral, reprehensible or depraved.

Generally, when administered for therapeutic purposes, electroconvulsive therapy is administered under anesthesia with a muscle relaxant. In some cases, this involves minute doses of curare, the muscle-paralyzing South American poison, or a safer synthetic alternative to curare, succinylcholine, to modify the convulsions. The use of anesthetics is done for multiple purposes, one of which is that patients would be less willing to submit to the treatment if they were not anesthetized.

Under normal conditions, convulsions, which are a disruption of normal brain function and manifest as sudden, uncontrolled muscle contractions, are undesirable and dangerous because they entail a loss of physical control, and in some cases can cause serious injury, including unrecognized internal harm. During a convulsion, a person may lose consciousness, fall or exhibit violent or uncontrolled movements. This can lead to bruising and organ trauma, broken bones and concussions with bleeding in the brain. During a seizure, a person may fall or not be able to stop shaking or protect himself or herself. Convulsions can manifest in breathing and airway problems by stopping the person experiencing them to discontinue breathing temporarily or inhale vomit, leading, potentially, to aspiration pneumonia or other respiratory complications. A seizure can induce further seizures. Brain damage can proceed from prolonged or severe seizures

Brief, controlled seizures usually do not cause long-lasting, prolonged or repeated seizures that continue for five minutes or more or

which occur in clusters and can cause permanent neurological injury, according to ECT advocates.

A long convulsive seizure, known as status epilepticus, is considered a medical emergency.

People with epilepsy or frequent seizures have a higher overall risk of dying earlier than the general population.

Nevertheless, inducing a controlled seizure is considered therapeutic primarily for certain severe, treatment-resistant mental health conditions.

One of the theoretical rationales behind using controlled seizures for therapy is that a seizure induces a rapid neurochemical reset in which the brain-wide electrical surge alters neurotransmitter levels. Repetitive brain stimulation triggers an increase in inhibitory signals, primarily through enhanced production and/or release of gamma-aminobutyric acid, the primary inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system, which can reduce neuronal excitability, calm overactive neural networks and promote calm and relaxation. The biological stress of a seizure is also likely to stimulate neuroplasticity by causing structural alterations in the brain, including the release of a substance – brain-derived neurotrophic factor – which serves to regrow brain cells and improve connectivity.

According to ECT advocates, when medications, psychotherapy, and brain stimulation fail, electroconvulsive therapy is considered the single most effective treatment for severe, suicidal, or psychotic depression, with claimed remission rates ranging from 70 percent to 90 percent in treatment-refractory patients. There have been successes using electroconvulsive therapy in broader psychiatric contexts beyond depression, and therapeutic seizures are used to remedy conditions like schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and catatonia.

Under the standards

that are in wide use today, measures are taken to safely apply a relatively minute electrical charge to a patient's brain. With the patient placed under general anesthesia and given muscle relaxants, a carefully measured, brief electrical or magnetic stimulus is applied to the scalp to induce a generalized seizure. Advocates of the process claim that because the patient is sedated and relaxed, he or she does not experience the physical convulsions or distress associated with a traditional epileptic seizure.

Though there is a general consensus within the psychiatric community, even among those who are opposed to the use of ECT, that electroconvulsive therapy achieves at least some of the results its advocates claim for it, the exact mechanism of action of ECT has eluded scientists, despite decades of research to come to an understanding of the force they are wielding.

There are several hypotheses in this regard, some of which are complementary and others of which are contradictory.

One theory is that the seizure triggers changes in brain chemistry, including modulation of neurotransmitters such as serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine, which are critical for mood regulation.

Along this tangent is the belief that ECT also promotes neurogenesis and brain plasticity, potentially restoring neural connections disrupted by depression or other psychiatric disorders

It is also believed by some that the electrically-triggered seizures influence hormonal and immune systems, including the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, toward a therapeutic effect.

A more recently arrived-at theory is that electroconvulsive stimulation alleviates depression symptoms by increasing aperiodic activity, a type of electrical activity in the brain that doesn't follow a consistent pattern and is gener-

ally considered what is described as being cerebral background noise.

San Bernardino County has had an arrangement with Loma Linda University Medical Center at least since 2017 for the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center to provide electroconvulsive therapy to patients designated for treatment by the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health.

In 2022, the county entered into a \$1,237,500 contract for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027 with the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center for those services. At that time, according to Yoshioka, it was anticipated physicians and medical staff in Loma Linda would provide up to 165 therapy sessions annually in both inpatient and outpatient settings, at a cost of \$1,500 per session with an average of 20 sessions per client at an average cost of \$30,000. In 2023, the county agreed to assign the rights and obligations relating to the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center's provision of those services to the Loma Linda University Medical Center.

There is at least marginal concern with regard to how electroshock administrations at the disposal of San Bernardino County officials are to be applied. The declared intent is that the technology is to be used in medical/mental health contexts for therapeutic designs. The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health often works with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in what is generally described as an effort to combat homelessness. Tactics sometimes used by sheriff's deputies in an effort to persuade elements of the homeless population living on the streets, sidewalks, in alleyways, in parks, in riverbeds or on riverbanks, flood control channels, beneath railroad trestles or under road and freeway overpasses, in

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## Avila's & Then Valencia's Presence In The Context Of Ontario Politics And Their Antipathy Toward The Mayor & The Rest Of The Council Artificially Suspended The Leon/Wapner Rivalry For Nearly A Dozen Years *from page 6*

scream or shout about what he was seeing. He simply did not join in with the other four on those occasions when they were returning favors to their donors, those who had paid the freight to put them in office and keep them there. And Valencia took stock of every time such a vote was made and filed it away in his memory, perhaps for use at a later date. The others knew what Valencia was about and what he represented. Wapner, as the member of the council rooted deepest in Ontario's pay-to-play culture, was the Ontario city official most vulnerable to Valencia.

In this way, the suspension of the natural enmity that existed between Leon and Wapner that came about when they found it to be mutually propitious to bury the hatchet in 2010 perpetuated itself. In December 2016, less than two months after Valencia's victory and less than a month after he was installed on the council, Wapner broached restoring the level of pay provided to the mayor that he, Bowman and Dorst-Porada had taken away in 2009.

"It's time we compensate the mayor fairly for what he does for the community," Wapner reverently said.

Bowman, Dorst-Porada and Valencia went along, and the \$25,135 a year Leon was being provided at that point was more than doubled, to \$58,684.

Wapner's mayoral ambition, which had been suspended in 2010 and 2014, was put on hold again, in 2018, as the priority at that time was extending the establishment-preserving arrangement that was keeping the money flowing in all directions – projects being allowed to proceed, contracts being approved, licenses and permits being granted and franchises being

rolled over or awarded such that the those businesses smiled upon by the city profited or continued to profit and the owners of those business endowed the campaign war chests of the politicians who voted to approve those projects and contracts, grant those licenses and permits and confirm the awarding of those franchises. One of the facts of life, or a fact of Wapner's life, was the establishment of which he was a principal player included Leon. For the gravy train to keep chortling on, it was best that they get along.

In 2022, when the fourth mayoral contest in which Wapner shrunk from stepping up and challenging Leon took place, Valencia boldly challenged Leon. Valencia put on a valiant effort, which included the most energetic sign campaign in Ontario municipal electoral history. He was inadvertently assisted by an event no one could have anticipated – the death of Leon's brother during the election season. Nevertheless, Leon's incumbency and the support of the Ontario establishment was something Valencia was unable to overcome, even with the mourning Leon distracted. Leon with 15,583 votes of 29,173 cast or 53.42 percent, easily outdistanced Valencia, who brought in 10,129 votes or 34.72 percent. A third candidate, Christian Garcia, polled 3,461 votes or 11.86 percent.

For his apostasy, Valencia was made to pay a price.

Beginning in 2014, a group of lawyers, all of them from outside San Bernardino County – Los Angeles-based Milton Grimes, Lancaster-based attorney R. Rex Parris, Malibu-based Kevin Shenkman, Los Angeles-based Matthew Barragan and Walnut Creek-based Scott Rafferty – alleging racially-

or-ethnically-polarized voting was taking place in various communities throughout San Bernardino County, used the California Voting Rights Act to push 14 of San Bernardino County's cities to switch from at-large elections in which the members of a city council were restricted only to living within the general city limits in order to run for office to by-district voting in their municipal elections by which the cities had to create political subdivisions or districts which had council representatives who resided exclusively within those districts.

The last city to make that transition in San Bernardino County was Ontario. Under the California Voting Rights Act, control over how the district voting maps are to be drawn is left to the local jurisdictions making the electoral mode changes. In Ontario, the city council assumed the authority in drawing those maps. In doing so, the city left in place a mayor, still voted for at-large by all of the city's residents, and created four council districts, each of which, within a few percentage points, is inhabited by one fourth of the city's population. Upon drawing the map, the council's next task was to determine the timing of the elections. In doing both, the council created a district in which Valencia was the only incumbent council member in what was designated as District 2. The council then scheduled the district elections so that voters in Districts 1 and 4 would go to the polls in 2024 and those in District 2 and 3 would choose their council representative in 2026. Given that Valencia was first elected to the council in 2016 and reelected in 2020, his term was due to end in 2024. Thus, since he was unable to run for the city council in 2024, his exit from the council was assured.

Valencia's presence on the council had been a unifying factor that brought Leon, Wapner, Bowman and Dorst-Po-

rada together. With Valencia headed toward at least temporary political extinction in 2024, a new dynamic took hold. Wapner could look toward a future in which the imperative of his becoming mayor could once more become the focus. It was at that point, with the 2024 election approaching, that Wapner pulled off a masterful coup.

Over the years, Leon had been touting Daisy Macias for a potential position in Ontario's governmental structure, either as an elected official or at the administrative level. Macias had grown up in Ontario's De Anza District and in her late teens and early 20s worked for the church where Leon is the pastor. From November 2014 until September 2019, Macias worked as Leon's personal assistant, after which she landed a position as a senior account executive at Old Republic Home Protection and thereafter became the community relations manager with the Hope Through Housing Foundation. Leon was instrumental in getting her appointed to the city's library board, where she eventually became president, and subsequently, to the Ontario Parks and Recreation Commission. Leon spoke openly of the potential that Macias would seek a position on the council as early as 2024, although her residency in the city's District 2, where a council election was not scheduled until 2026, seemed to rule that out. The conversation shifted to Leon perhaps appointing her to the city's planning commission, which would lay the groundwork for her seeking the city council post in 2026.

Early on, the perception was that Macias would naturally hew toward an alignment with Leon if she were to eventually be elected to the council. Leon repeatedly responded that people were misjudging Macias, and that she was nobody's girl but rather an independent thinker who would follow her own conscience. At one point, Wapner, con-

cerned that Leon indeed was grooming Macias to take up a position on the council to become his automatic ally, told Leon that if such a move were to be made, he would run a candidate of his own and provide her with enough money to outpoll Macias.

Out of the blue in 2024, Macias, claiming she was no longer living in District 2 but in District 4, declared she was running for city council. As soon as the city clerk's office qualified Macias's candidacy, certifying the paperwork and the signatures of District 4 residents endorsing her candidacy as valid, Wapner transferred \$40,000 from his campaign fund to hers. Starting out with that advantage, along with a \$3,037.12 in-kind contribution from Dorst-Porada, Macias hit the ground running and was embraced by a host of members of the Ontario establishment. The Ontario Police Officers Association provided Macias with \$30,000. Not to be outdone, the Ontario Professional Firefighters Association IAFF Local 1430 followed that with \$31,000 in donations to her campaign fund. Paul Hofer, the owner of Hofer Ranch, conferred \$5,000 on her. JRC Real Estate Investment provided her with \$5,000. JM Realty donated \$2,500 to her campaign. Community Prosperity Partners handed Macias \$12,500. An outfit calling itself Building A Stronger California, which is sponsored by the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, gave her \$4,000. For good measure and to make certain that Macias would succeed, Wapner supplied her with another \$10,150.27.

Word spread during the campaign that Macias was not living in District 4 and that she was in fact actually residing in a home in Upland. Evidence to that effect was sent to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, but elements of the Ontario establishment, who were supporters of District Attorney Jason

Anderson, interceded, and nothing came of those reports.

In the November 5, 2024 General Election, Macias, receiving 3,610 of 9,915 votes cast or 36.41 percent, was elected to the council in a five-candidate race in District 4. Her closest competitor was Celina Lopez, who drew 2,649 votes or 26.72 percent. A third candidate, Andrea Galván, received 2,422 votes or 24.43 percent. Two others, Norberto Corona and Jose Nikyar, accounted for the remaining 12.44 percent.

In early 2025, a proverbial eternity before the 2026 Ontario Municipal Election, Wapner was playing his intentions close to the vest. In years during which elected officials do not have to stand for election, they must file two reports with regard to their fundraising, one covering the period between January 1 and June 30, due on July 31; and another covering the period from July 1 to December 31, due by January 31 the following year. When Wapner filed his report for the first six months of fundraising in 2025 on July 30, 2025, the report related to his "Wapner for Council District 3 2026" committee, with no mention of a mayoral candidacy. As of June 30, 2025, there was no *official* indication he was going to make a run for mayor the following year.

Important elements of the Ontario establishment appeared to expect the status quo to remain intact that spring. On the same day, May 15, 2025, as if they were acting in concert, the Ontario Police Officers' Association gave Leon's mayoral reelection committee \$10,000, the Firefighters for Responsible Government/Ontario Professional Firefighters Association gave Leon's campaign \$12,500 and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 3061, known by its acronym AFSCME, which represents a portion of Ontario's non-safety

*Continued on Page 15*

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**SUMMONS – (FAMILY LAW) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):** WILLIAM DAVID BLACKWELL YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. Read the information below and on the next page. Lo han demandado. Lea la informacion a continuacion y en la pagina siguiente. PETITIONER'S NAME IS ANGELA MCKINNEY CASE NUMBER F A M S B 2 5 0 7 6 7 8 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (Form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), or by contacting your local county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citacion y Peticion para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefonica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo. Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar ordenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte tambien le puede ordenar que pague manutencion, y honorarios y costos legales. Para asesoramiento legal, pongase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener informacion para encontrar un abogado en el Contro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lahelpca.org) o poniendose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado. NOTICE – Restraining orders on page 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement office who has received or seen a copy of them. AVISO – Las ordenes de restricción se encuentran en la pagina 2 : Las ordenes de restricción estan en vigencia en cuanto a ambos conyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despidia la peticion, se emita un fallo o la corte de otras ordenes. Cualquier agencia del orden publico que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas ordenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California. FEE WAIVER : If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party. Exencion de cuotas : Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario un formulario de execion de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a peticion de usted o de la otra parte. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte son): SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

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351 N ARROWHEAD AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415 The name, address and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): ANGELA MCKINNEY, In Pro Per 18268 LAPIS LN SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 (213) 610-0903 360-9821 Filed: NOVEMBER 12, 2025 by Christa Martin Del-Campo, Deputy clerk (Asistente) for Clerk of the Court (Secretario) Published in The San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19, 26 and July 3, 2026.

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. CIVRS2500785 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):** MAXIMIANO CELSO GARCIA, an individual; and DOES 1 to 25, inclusive

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):** CAU VAN TRUONG, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after these summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and the court may enter judgment against you.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO Civil Division of the Rancho Cucamonga District 8303 Haven Avenue Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 Plaintiff: Cau Van Truong, an individual Defendant: Maximiano Celso Garcia, an individual; and DOES 1 to 25, inclusive Attorney for Plaintiff: Lillian Sedaghat (SBN 236962) Natalie Lozovsky, Esq. (SBN 356569) 9454 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 830 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Telephone: (424) 777-0078 Date Issued: March 1, 2025 Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE N U M B E R CIVSB2615436, TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:** Petitioner: Christine Andrea Ryan, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jacob Rudolph Sandoval to Jacob Rudolph Sandoval Ryan; Logan James Sandoval to Logan James Sandoval Ryan; THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the

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name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 07/13/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: Civil The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition. Dated: 05/26/2026 Judge of the Superior Court: Joseph T Ortiz Published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga on 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2616816, TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:** Petitioner: SANTINO ZEEKO DRACONIS filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SANTINO ZEEKO DRACONIS to ZEEKO SANTINO DRACONIS THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 07/24/2026, Time: 09:00 AM, Department: S23 The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition. Dated: 06/09/2026 Judge of the Superior Court: JOSEPH T. ORTIZ Indian Cuan, Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026

FBN20260002393 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as EXCEL TRANSPORTATION. 34755 ELMWOOD LN YUCAIPA, CA 92399: TERESA ZAROUR Business Mailing Address: 34755 ELMWOOD LN YUCAIPA, CA 92399 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the ficti-

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tious 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/ TERESA ZAROUR, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 03/19/2026

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 F3010

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 17 & 24 and May 1 & 8, 2026. Corrected on June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005074 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as FAJAS COLOMBIANAS INNER BEAUTY 8990 SIERRA AVE UNIT D FONTANA, CA 92335: VANESSA MARTINEZ Business Mailing Address: 11665 SUENO COURT FONTANA, CA 92337 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUNE 22, 2021.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ VANESSA MARTINEZ Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/01/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005280 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as ZAPATA INSURANCE SOLUTIONS 1536 CARNATION WAY UPLAND, CA 91786: ZAPATA PRIVATE WEALTH GROUP LLC 1536 CARNATION WAY UPLAND, CA 91786 Business Mailing Address: 1536 CARNATION WAY UPLAND, CA 91786 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: JUNE 1, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ DENISE M ZAPATA, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/04/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious

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business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005280 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as ATS DYNAMICS 13949 RAMONA AVE STE C CHINO, CA 91710: AIR TRADE SERVICES INC 13949 RAMONA AVE STE C CHINO, CA 91710 Business Mailing Address: 13949 RAMONA AVE STE C CHINO, CA 91710 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: JUNE 30, 2021.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ IVAN CAO, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/15/2026

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 K6677

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005060 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as C TAPIA AWNINGS 9471 KEMPSTER AVE FONTANA, CA 92335: CENOVIO TAPIA-GARCIA [and MARIA SANCHEZ Business Mailing Address: 9471 KEMPSTER AVE FONTANA, CA 92335 The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ CENOVIO TAPIA-GARCIA Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/01/2026

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 F3010

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260003949 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as MTZ MANAGEMENT GROUP 25489 LOS FLORES DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404: MTZ MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC 25489 LOS FLORES DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404 Business Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 3156 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92413 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ STEPHANIE VELEZ, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/12/2026

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 K7211

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

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Business Mailing Address: 6626 CARNELIAN ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUNE 1, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ LIDYA KHALIL, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/03/2026

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 J9676

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

Abandonment Of A Fictitious Business Name FBN20260005406 The following entity doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as SOUR CELLARS WINERY [and] SOUR CELLARS BREWERY 9495 9th ST UNIT D RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: SOUR CELLARS LLC 7865 LAYTON ST RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 is abandoning its fictitious business name. The original FBN number was FBN20230006558. The original date of filing was 06/28/2023 Business Mailing Address: 9495 9th ST UNIT D RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ BRYAN DOTY, CEO Abandonment statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 6/08/2026 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 J9676 Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260003949 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as INSPIRE BUSINESS NETWORK 11175 AZUSA CT #110 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: INSPIRE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES 7049 E. COTTAGE WAY ONTARIO, CA 91761 Business Mailing Address: 11175 AZUSA CT #110 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 2529011. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ STEPHANIE VELEZ, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/12/2026

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 K7211

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

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information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ CRYSTAL LEYVA Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/28/2026

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 K7326

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005034 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as IHEART INDEPENDENT HOUSING PROGRAM 10615 SEA VENTURE WAY VICTORVILLE, CA 92392: ROBIN A YOUNG Business Mailing Address: 10615 SEA VENTURE WAY VICTORVILLE, CA 92392 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ ROBIN A YOUNG, Director Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/29/2026

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 J9535

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005603 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as INSPIRE BUSINESS NETWORK 11175 AZUSA CT #110 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: INSPIRE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES 7049 E. COTTAGE WAY ONTARIO, CA 91761 Business Mailing Address: 11175 AZUSA CT #110 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 2529011. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ STEPHANIE VELEZ, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/12/2026

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 K7211

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

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and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN20260005215  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as  
CYRIL DENTAL CARE  
6626 CARNELIAN ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701:  
L. KHALIL DENTAL CORPORATION 11687 MOUNT WAVERLY CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737  
Business Mailing Address: 6626 CARNELIAN ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUNE 1, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ LIDYA KHALIL, CEO  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/03/2026

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 J9676

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

FBN 20260003494  
The following person is doing business as: CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BILLING & CONSULTING. 6560 ENCINA ST CHINO, CA 91710:[ MAILING ADDRESS 6560 ENCINA ST CHINO, CA 91710]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CORONADO SPORT SALES 6560 ENCINA ST CHINO CA 91710 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 2048505  
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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ JULIAN A. CORONADO, CEO  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 14, 2026  
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 04/17/2026, 04/24/2026, 05/01/2026, 05/08/2026 CN-BB16202601MT CORRECTION DATES 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: NANCY LYNN ROOTLAND  
CASE NO. PRO-VA2600066  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent

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creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of NANCY LYNN ROOTLAND: a petition for probate has been filed by MICHAEL JASON ROSS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

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

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held September 30, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Michael Jason Ross:

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603  
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC  
454 Cajon Street  
REDLANDS, CA 92373  
Phone (909) 328 7000  
Fax (909) 475 9500  
attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: NANCY LYNN ROOTLAND  
CASE NO. PRO-VA2600066

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who

**Public Notices**

may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of NANCY LYNN ROOTLAND: a petition for probate has been filed by MICHAEL JASON ROSS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

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

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held September 30, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Michael Jason Ross:

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603  
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC  
454 Cajon Street  
REDLANDS, CA 92373  
Phone (909) 328 7000  
Fax (909) 475 9500  
attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3, 2026.

SECOND AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2614066,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: ROMAN BISHOP HILL

**Public Notices**

filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ROMAN BISHOP HILL to ROMAN BISHOP EPPS

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:  
Date: 07/27/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S31

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 06/12/2026

Judge of the Superior Court: JOSEPH T. ORTIZ

Erika Hernandez, Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026

FBN20260004086  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ALLIED TOWING [and] ALLIED HEAVY DUTY TOWING 1335 W RIALTO AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410: ALLIED TOWING, LLC SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410  
Business Mailing Address: 1335 W RIALTO AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 201917010092

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: July 19, 2024.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ JOSE RODARTE, Managing Member

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/04/2026

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 K9232

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2026. Corrected on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026.

FBN20260004937  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

CURA & FORM 8443 HAVEN AVE STE 105 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: VICTORIA CERVANTES  
Business Mailing Address: 11114 MINERS TRL MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the

**Public Notices**

fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ VICTORIA CERVANTES  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/27/2026

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 K7326

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026.

FBN20260005644

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

REVLIN GARAGE 851 S PALMETTO AVE APT D ONTARIO, CA 91762: JOVANI CALDERON ROBLES  
Business Mailing Address: 851 S PALMETTO AVE APT D ONTARIO, CA 91762

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ JOVANI CALDERON ROBLES, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/15/2026

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 K9232

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026.

FBN20260005502

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

VALI WESTERN WEAR 2160 W RIALTO AVE SPC 63 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410: VA RANCH WEAR INC 2160 W RIALTO AVE SPC 63 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

Business Mailing Address: 2160 W RIALTO AVE SPC 63 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

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

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ AMAIRANI GARCIA, CEO  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/10/2026

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 K9236

Notice-This fictitious name

**Public Notices**

statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026.

FBN20260005115  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

UNWOUND PEONY 5994 COLD CREEK CT FONTANA, CA 92336: MARIA D RODRIGUEZ  
Business Mailing Address: 5994 COLD CREEK CT FONTANA, CA 92336

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
/s/ MARIA DEL REFUGIO RODRIGUEZ, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/02/2026

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 K7325

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026

FBN 20260004698

The following person is doing business as: ROLLIES PEST CONTROL 13982 EL CAMINO PL FONTANA CA 92337:[ MAILING ADDRESS 13982 EL CAMINO PL FONTANA CA 92337]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RAUL ZERMENO ESPINO  
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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/20/2026

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026 CN-BB22202601MC

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
William John Springer, aka William J. Springer Case NO. PRO-VA2600461

To all heirs, beneficia-

**Public Notices**

ries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of William John Springer, aka William J. Springer A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Roseanne F. Grubb in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority., Roseanne F. Grubb be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F2 at 09:00 AM on 07/30/2026 at Superior Court of California, County of Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino Fontana Division, San Bernardino, 17780 Arrow Boulevard, Fontana, California 92335, Fontana Division

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

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

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

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

## Public Notices

201 West F Street Ontario California 91762  
Telephone No: (909) 391-9000  
Published in the SBCS Ontario on: 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CHERYL DIANE VANDERWALL CASE NO. PRO-VA2600469**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of CHERYL DIANE VANDERWALL: a petition for probate has been filed by KRISTI JO DIANE GEMOLL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR Probate requests that KRISTI JO DIANE GEMOLL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held July 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F1 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Kristi Jo Diane

## Public Notices

Gemoll: Mathew Alden (California Bar Number 288429) 255 North D Street Suite 200 San Bernardino, CA 92401 (909) 414-0797 mralden123@gmail.com  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3 & 10, 2026.

FBN20260005872  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as BLUEFIN 15229 HALLMARK LN VICTORVILLE, CA 92394; MARLON R SOLARES Business Mailing Address: 15229 HALLMARK LN VICTORVILLE, CA 92394

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ MARLON R SOLARES, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/24/2026

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 J9535

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

FBN20260005091  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SCIENCE EDVENTURES 18217 BETONY PLACE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407; JOANN C PERSAUD

Business Mailing Address: 18217 BETONY PLACE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: April 19, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ JOANN C PERSAUD, MRS

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/01/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

FBN20260005255  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

RC PIANO LESSONS 8006 HENBANE STREET RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739; LINO LEVERAGE GROUP INC. 8006 HENBANE STREET RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739

Business Mailing Address: 8006 HENBANE STREET

## Public Notices

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739

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

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: June 1, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ KIMBERLY LINO, Secretary

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/04/2026

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 J9676

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

FBN20260005984  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ANOVIS 1 SOURCE 3350 SHELBY STREET SUITE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91764; ANOVIS SOLUTIONS LLC 3350 SHELBY STREET SUITE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91764

Business Mailing Address: 3350 SHELBY STREET SUITE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91764

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number B20260250841.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ CINDY ALEJANDRA MALDONADO GOMEZ, Manager

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/25/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**PETER WILHELM HETZEL Case NO. PRO-VA2600425**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of PETER WILHELM HETZEL A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Thomas Eric Hetzel in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate.

## Public Notices

The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority., Thomas Eric Hetzel be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F3 at 09:00 AM on 07/20/2026 at Superior Court of California, County of Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino Fontana Division, San Bernardino, 17780 Arrow Boulevard, Fontana, California 92335, Fontana Division

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

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

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

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

Selters, John Benjamin: 399 W Mission Blvd Ste K Pomona CA 91766

Telephone No: 909-622-2507

Published in the SBCS ?

Rancho Cucamonga on: 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026

## Public Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2618579,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Lauren Sanchez, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lauren Christine Sanchez to Lauren Christine Ervin, THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:

Date: 08/10/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S33The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBCS ? Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 06/25/2026

Judge of the Superior Court: Joseph T Ortiz  
Published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga on 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026,

**NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

CASE NO.: FAMSS 1303808

VICKY CENTER, Petitioner,

v. ANDREW CENTER, Respondent

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment and Order on a Deed of

Trust issued by the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, in the above entitled action, directing the enforcement of a Judgment entered on July 24, 2023 and

Amended February 26, 2025, the beneficiary, JAMES J. KENNY by and through his

attorney, Anderson & LeBlanc, APLC will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for

cash, cashier's check, certified check, or other form of payment acceptable under California

law, all right, title, and interest of the judgment debtor in the following described real

property: Property Address: 881 State Highway 173, Lake Arrowhead, California 92352

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 0335-231-04-000

Legal Description: Lot 30 of Tract No. 8283, in the County of San Bernardino, State of California as per flat recorded in Book 115, Pages 49 to 55 inclusive of maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said County.

Date of Sale: August 11, 2026

Time of Sale: 8:30 AM  
Place of Sale: Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse 8303 Haven Ave. Rancho Cu-

## Public Notices

camonga, California 91730 South Entrance

The property is being sold to satisfy a judgment in favor of the judgment creditor and against the judgment debtor, together with accrued interest, costs, and expenses of sale. Prospective purchasers are advised to independently investigate the nature, extent, and value of the interest being sold.

DATED: June 30, 2026

ANDERSON & LeBLANC, APLC

JEFF W. LeBLANC - STATE BAR NO. 253200

ADRIAN D. VERDUZCO - STATE BAR NO. 336027

RICHARD G. ANDERSON - STATE BAR NO. 041246 - OF COUNSEL ANDERSON & LeBLANC, APLC

123 E. 9th Street, Suite 105 Upland, California 91786  
Tel: (909) 949-2226 Fax: (909) 985-7553

Email: lawoffice@andersonleblanc.com

Attorneys for James J. Kenny

By: /S/ JEFF W. LeBLANC

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on July 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2026

FBN20260006130

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

THE BLANK ALBUM 9890 ESTACIA CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; JEFF B HAVANA

Business Mailing Address: 9890 ESTACIA CT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: June 17, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ JEFF B HAVANA  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/30/2026

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 K4616

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on July 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2026

FBN20260005984

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

ANOVIS 1 SOURCE 3350 SHELBY STREET SUITE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91764; ANOVIS SOLUTIONS LLC 3350 SHELBY STREET SUITE 200 ONTARIO, CA 91764

Business Mailing Ad-

## Public Notices

dress: 1384 N EUCLID AVE UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number B20260250841

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ CINDY ALEJANDRA MALDONADO GOMEZ, Manager

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/25/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

FBN20260006081

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

GN ACCOUNTING & TAX FIRM 1384 N EUCLID AVE UPLAND, CA 91786; GENOVEVA CHIPANA NIELSON

Business Mailing Address: 1384 N EUCLID AVE UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: June 1, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ GENOVEVA CHIPANA NIELSON, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/29/2026

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 K7211

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on July 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2026

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Are you looking to publish a Fictitious Business Name Notice? An Order To Show Cause? Notice Of A Trustee Sale? Notice Of A Petition To Administer An Estate?

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San Bernardino County Sentinel

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

Public Notices

FBN20260005997 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as NATURAL & ELEGANT AESTHETICS LLC 1775 ROSEWOOD WAY UPLAND, CA 91784...

Public Notices

COMPASSIONATE HEALING COUNSELING SERVICES 17697 BITTERTMINT DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407: MIAISHA JAMES Business Mailing Address: 17697 BITTERTMINT DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407...

Public Notices

MINT DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: June 26, 2024...

Public Notices

name or name listed above on: May 23, 2025 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 17913)...

Public Notices

17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ CHARLEY J DUNCAN, Owner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/18/2026...

Public Notices

original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy 4624 Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk...

Public Notices

KLEY CA 92347; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 287 HINKLEY CA 92347; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SHIRLEY M LOPEZ 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...





Public Notices

FBN 20260005732  
The following person is doing business as: SIERRA LAKE CLEANERS, 16953 SIERRA LAKE PKWY #109 FONTANA, CA 92336; [MAILING ADDRESS 16953 SIERRA LAKE PKWY #109 FONTANA, CA 92336]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO THE TRABUCO, INC. 16953 SIERRA LAKW PKWY #109 FONTANA CA 92336 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION C2201898 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/ JEAN H. CHUNG, C.E.O. Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/17/26 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026 CNBB26202601MT

FBN 20260005656  
The following person is doing business as: BELTRAN TRANSPORTATION, 9859 VICTOR AVE HESPERIA, CA 92345; [MAILING ADDRESS 9859 VICTOR AVE HESPERIA, CA 92345]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ARMANDO BELTRAN FLORES. 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

**In 2025, Involving City Employee Unions That Had Long Been Supportive Of The Ontario Status Quo & With The Support Of The Mayor’s Protégé, Wapner Initiated What He Calculates Is To Become The 2026 Palace Coup That Will Bring Leon’s Political Career To A Definitive Close from page 8**

division workers, gave Leon \$2,000.

Still, there were tell-tale signs that Wapner was not going to fall into the familiar pattern he had in 2022, 2018, 2014 and 2010, when he contented himself, somewhat discontentedly, with running for reelection to the council rather than for mayor.

One hint of what was coming was the cool reserve with which the councilman conducted himself around the mayor and the physical distance it seemed he was trying to maintain when they were together. Wapner, did not look at Leon directly, particularly if the mayor was looking his way.

In June 2025, there was an even stronger hint.

Public Notices

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/ ARMANDO BELTRAN FLORES, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/16/26 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026 CNBB26202602MT

FBN20260004636  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

MY HEART WERXS 1752 E. LUGONIA AVE. 117 #228 REDLANDS, CA 92374; CHARLEY J DUNCAN

Business Mailing Address: 1752 E. LUGONIA AVE. 117 #228 REDLANDS, CA 92374

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on: May 13, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CHARLEY J DUNCAN, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/18/2026

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San

Public Notices

Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy K3379

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 26 and July 3, 10 & 17, 2026

FBN 20260005958

The following person is doing business as: WRIGHT MOUNTAIN METAL WORKS 8079 MIRA MAR RD PHELAN CA 92371; [MAILING ADDRESS 8079 MIRA MAR RD PHELAN CA 92371]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO TIMOTHY M MACDONALD The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 03, 2009 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/ TIMOTHY M MACDONALD, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/25/2026

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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026

FBN 20260006092

The following person is doing business as: ESTELAS'S HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES 10240 STAFFORD ST RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730; [MAILING ADDRESS

CNBB27202601MT

FBN 20260006083  
The following person is doing business as: LEAN STREAM CAPITAL RECOVERY 320 NORTH E STREET SUITE 516 F SAN BERNARDINO CA 92401; [MAILING ADDRESS 320 NORTH E STREET SUITE 516 F SAN BERNARDINO CA 92401]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CNM EXECUTIVE BUSINESS CONSULTING LLC 320 NORTH E STREET SUITE 516 F SAN BERNARDINO CA 92401 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION 202357916949 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CURTIS MEIGHAN, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/29/26

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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026 CNBB27202603MT

FBN 20260006259

The following person is doing business as: UNIQUE WHOLESALE 9565 C AVE UNIT G HESPERIA CA 92345; [MAILING ADDRESS 9565 C AVE UNIT G HESPERIA CA 92345]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO UNIQUE WHOLESALE DOORS 17130 MESA STREET STE 3 HESPERIA CA 92345 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20250229995 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 in-

formation 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/ OSCAR MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT. Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 07/02/26 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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026 CNBB27202604MT

The following person is doing business as: MUSCLE FIT 127 INNER LOOP FORT IRWIN, CA 92310; [MAILING ADDRESS 2014 CAMERON CT BARSTOW CA 92311]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LILLIAN MEDINA 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/ LILLIAN MEDINA

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 07/02/2026

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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026 CNBB27202606MT

Public Notices

10240 STAFFORD ST RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ESTELA RIOS DE TORRES The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 10, 2021 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/ ESTELA RIOS DE TORRES, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/29/26

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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026 CNBB27202603MT

FBN 20260006259

The following person is doing business as: UNIQUE WHOLESALE 9565 C AVE UNIT G HESPERIA CA 92345; [MAILING ADDRESS 9565 C AVE UNIT G HESPERIA CA 92345]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO UNIQUE WHOLESALE DOORS 17130 MESA STREET STE 3 HESPERIA CA 92345 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20250229995 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 in-

Public Notices

formation 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/ OSCAR MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT. Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 07/02/26 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

FBN 20260006258

The following person is doing business as: MUSCLE FIT 127 INNER LOOP FORT IRWIN, CA 92310; [MAILING ADDRESS 2014 CAMERON CT BARSTOW CA 92311]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LILLIAN MEDINA 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/ LILLIAN MEDINA

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/30/26

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

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FBN 20260006201

The following person is doing business as: 3 BROTHERS NURSERY 1449 LYTLE CREEK RD LYTLE CREEK CA 92358; [MAILING ADDRESS 1449 LYTLE CREEK RD LYTLE CREEK CA 92358]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO NORMA A JAUREGUI 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/ NORMA A JAUREGUI

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/30/26

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 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026 CNBB27202606MT

Public Notices

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FBN 20260006201

The following person is doing business as: 3 BROTHERS NURSERY 1449 LYTLE CREEK RD LYTLE CREEK CA 92358; [MAILING ADDRESS 1449 LYTLE CREEK RD LYTLE CREEK CA 92358]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO NORMA A JAUREGUI 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/ NORMA A JAUREGUI

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 06/30/26

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FBN 20260006258

The following person is doing business as: MUSCLE FIT 127 INNER LOOP FORT IRWIN, CA 92310; [MAILING ADDRESS 2014 CAMERON CT BARSTOW CA 92311]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LILLIAN MEDINA 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/ LILLIAN MEDINA

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 07/02/2026

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

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ily members and myself because of these ongoing arrests. ICE [the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement] has been wrongfully arresting many of our residents without criminal backgrounds.”

Leon sought to reassure the young woman that she and other Ontario residents were not going to be arrested and deported. Obliquely referencing his own Hispanic heritage, the mayor said, “I’m not getting profiled just for being around,” Leon said. “To think that they’re coming after you, just profiling you on the way that you look, I just haven’t seen that happen in this town yet. I don’t live in fear and I don’t want you to live in fear, because our police are not looking for you.”

Leon said those who might otherwise be a target of federal agents could avoid trouble by keeping a low profile. He said he believed that “if we behave, and don’t cause a problem” the residents of Ontario could

fly below the immigration authorities’ radar.

Wapner, who had been searching for nearly two decades to break Leon’s Svengali-like hold on the city’s majority Latino population, seeing his chance, pounced.

As the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Indivisible Inland Empire, which is chartered to “oppose fascism” and “stop ICE overreach,” and the Greater Ontario Democratic Club condemned Leon, noting he was dis-trusted by a wide cross section of those in the Ontario community and is perceived as “out of touch ... insensitive... [and] a coconut – brown on the outside but white on the inside,” Wapner piled on, telling the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, the most widely circulated newspaper in Ontario, “I was really put off by what I heard that evening.”

As that hoopla was reaching a crescendo the following month, Wap-

ner announced he was running for mayor in 2026 and had formed a political committee to do just that.

After a decade and a half of uneasy collegiality, the thin veneer of unity and cooperation that Wapner and Leon had donned to mutually take credit for transforming Ontario into San Bernardino County’s wealthiest city was shattered as open hostility broke out between them.

Shortly thereafter, Wapner moved to rapidly advance past the off-balance Leon, revealing in quick succession that he had nailed down endorsement commitments from the city’s three safety employee unions – the Ontario Firefighters Association, The Ontario Police Officers Association and the Ontario Police Management Association – and that he had a tentative indication that the Teamsters Union, which represents that portion of Ontario’s municipal employees who are not represented by the American Fed-

eration of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 3061, was leaning toward providing him with its endorsement. Similarly, he said, he was in an active dialogue with American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees representatives, who had expressed the belief that they would fare far better under his guidance at City Hall than had been the case with Leon leading the city.

The best was saved for last. Wapner trotted out Leon’s one-time protégé to kick him in the gonads. Daisy Macias announced that she was a member of the Wapner for Mayor Election Committee.

Leon had been caught flatfooted, while Wapner had been hustling, which is demonstrated by the campaign reporting documents that were filed by both the mayor and the councilman for the period between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. Leon’s report, which was completed on

### Three-Fifths Of The City Council Wanted Victorville To Have The Highest Sales Tax In The County from page 4

sioner, the state controller and three-fourths of the members of both the State Senate and the California Assembly being Democrats. San Bernardino County is one of only five bastions of Republicanism remaining in the Golden State.

While Democrats in San Bernardino County solidly outnumber Republicans, the San Bernardino County GOP has consistently shown itself to be an irresistible force that has undercut its counterpart across the aisle in terms of control over local government. Of the county's 1,234,971 voters, 477,960 or 38.7 percent are registered as Democrats. The Republican numbers are comparatively inferior, as there are 376,285 voters in the county who identify as Republicans or 30.5 percent. Still, the Republicans pack a far more powerful political punch within the 20,105-square mile con-

finer of the county, as the GOP seemingly outthrusts the Democrats at every turn – raising money, applying that money into campaigns, appealing to independent voters, carrying out polling, running campaigns, tailoring campaign material including handbills, mailers, newspaper ads, radio spots, television commercials, yard signs and billboards to appeal to the local electorate. Across the board in San Bernardino County, Republicans hold the vast majority of local offices. Four of five members of the board of supervisors are Republicans. The sheriff is a Republican. The district attorney is a Republican. The county treasurer is a Republican. In both of the county's incorporated towns, the majority of the council members are Republicans. In 16 of the county's 22 cities, there are more Republicans on their city councils than Democrats.

The Republican dominance of the county extends to Victorville. While Democrats convincingly outnumber Republicans in Victor-

ville, with 28,705 or 40.7 percent of the city's 70,572 voters registered as Democrats to the 18,103 Republicans or 25.7 percent in comparison, the Party of Lincoln is yet in control of Victorville. Four of its council members – Mayor Liz Becerra and councilors Bob Harriman, Corinne Mora and Tiffany Gaudin – are Republicans. Councilwoman Leslie Irving used to be a Democrat but she left that party with some bitterness and great fanfare some five years ago.

Generally speaking, Republicans are hostile toward taxing, while Democrats are more accepting of handing money over to the government.

For that reason, it was somewhat jarring when Becerra, who has made her mark in politics as a no-nonsense, pro-law enforcement Republican, and Gaudin came out in favor of the second sales tax add-on measure in Victorville that was being pushed earlier this year. It was less surprising that Irving, with her Democrat roots, embraced the idea.

Members of the GOP did double and triple takes when they heard Becerra's and Gaudin's rationalizations for placing the tax measure on the November ballot. Gaudin acknowledged that city residents are upset at escalating costs, which in the view of some are being driven by ever-increasing taxes. At the same time, she said, residents are discontented with crumbling roadways and infrastructure. She hinted that bumping up the sales tax locals pay to make those street and highway improvements would be worthwhile. This appeared to be the major plank in her support of placing the sales tax increase before voters.

This enraged some of her Republican constituents, ones who said they voted for her because they believed she would hew to the conservative side, particularly on fiscal matters. They lambasted her for not instead taking up with state officials an inquiry into why Sacramento is withholding from local agencies their fair share of gasoline tax. California im-

poses a gasoline tax that is greater than any such levy among the other 49 states in the union, using the justification that the revenue stream is to be used for maintaining roads.

Gaudin next sent her fellow Republicans into orbit when she said that the increased sales tax would form the basis of a "partnership" with the city's car dealerships by which the tax on big ticket items such as cars, SUVs and trucks would generate some "real" income for the city. Gaudin was willfully disregarding or ignorant of the reality that by layering another one percent on the price of vehicles, the city would encourage those in the market for a new car to take their business out of the city to another car dealership where added sales tax would not be a cost they would need to bear, some said.

Becerra attempted to dress the sales tax override up as an opportunity to let the city's residents decide for themselves whether they want to pay more taxes than they already are. She, like Gaudin, dwelt upon the

dilapidating streets residents travel on, without reference to the inflated gasoline tax her constituents are already paying.

Ultimately, Becerra and Guadin joined with Irving to support placing the measure on the ballot.

Councilman Harriman and Councilwoman Mora were not sold on the concept of increasing taxes on residents to shore up City Hall.

Mora, while stating she was in "support of the police department" and both improving and constructing "fire stations and our infrastructure," said she could not see her way clear to increase taxes while homeowners are experiencing escalating mortgages, insurance payments and utility costs. She said it was doubtful residents would vote to support the tax add-on and that the city would have to squander \$260,000 on the election to confirm what she already suspected.

Harriman said turning a wish list for improved road and infrastructure into an even

### Concern Has Surfaced That Electroshocks Would Be Used By The Sheriff's Department As A Means Of Behavior Modification To Keep The County's Homeless Population In Line & Compliant With Deputies' "Lawful Orders" from page 7

abandoned buildings and elsewhere that they should take leave of the county have included physically abusing or assaulting them into submission. Given that approach, some have misgivings about the sheriff's office requesting the employment of unmodified ECT, which can be very painful, as a form of punishment or behavior modification on individuals who have proven intransigent or defiant in the face of demands that they should comply with orders to move along and discontinue their loitering in various San Bernardino County communities.

The *Sentinel* on June 23, 2026 asked San Bernardino County officials

to lay out in general terms the way in which electroconvulsive therapy is being provided to patients.

San Bernardino County Deputy Public Information Officer Janelle Needham responded on June 29.

"The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health reimburses electroconvulsive therapy [costs] provided by contracted treatment partners following a comprehensive clinical evaluation," Needham said. "ECT is approved for reimbursement when the individual meets established clinical criteria, including documented treatment resistance, a prior positive response to ECT, the need for a rapid

response due to a potentially life-threatening psychiatric condition, or when medications are not appropriate because of documented intolerable adverse effects."

Needham said that the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health reimburses the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center for the electroconvulsive treatment it provides when, "following a comprehensive evaluation, the individual meets one or more of the following clinical criteria:

- A history of poor response to two medications indicated for the existing psychiatric condition;
- A history of an effective response to ECT for the same condition in the past;
- A need for rapid response due to the potentially life-threatening nature of the individual's condition; or
- ECT is an effective

alternative because the individual has a documented history of intolerable adverse effects from indicated medications."

Needham said, "Treatment is provided by contracted clinical partners in accordance with applicable clinical standards and legal requirements."

The *Sentinel* further inquired as to what guardrails are in place to ensure that someone who does not want to be subjected to electroconvulsive therapy can avoid being forced to undergo it and whether an or any individual[s] who are receiving services from the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health had been subjected to electroconvulsive therapy against his/her/their will. The *Sentinel* asked what the standard is for obtaining the consent of those who undergo electroconvulsive therapy provided by the

San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health and, if an individual being treated by the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health or someone subject to the care or authority of the Department of Behavioral Health did not want to receive electroconvulsive therapy, what means of registering that objection are open to him/her.

Needham responded, "For individuals who have the capacity to consent to treatment, informed consent is required before electroconvulsive therapy may be administered. Consent is obtained by the treating contracted provider as part of the clinical treatment process. An individual may decline ECT or withdraw previously provided consent at any time, either verbally or in writing, and such withdrawal is effective immediately."

Needham did indicate, however, that an

individual might be subjected to electroshock therapy against his or her will if those in positions of authority deem the individual to be treated to be incapable of or resistant to making a decision that would have a bearing on his or her best interest.

"ECT without a patient's consent may occur only when an individual lacks the capacity to consent and only in accordance with the requirements and protections established under California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5326.7," Needham said. "Accordingly, individuals who have the capacity to consent may object to ECT by declining treatment or by withdrawing consent at any time. The department of behavioral health does not have additional information to provide regarding individual patient treatment due to applicable privacy protections."

-Mark Gutglueck

*Continued on Page 20*

## Wapner Looks To Have A 13-to-1 Fund-raising Advantage Over Leon Going Into The 2026 Ontario Mayoral Election from page 15

January 28, 2026, was date stamped as having been received by the city clerk's office on February 2, 2026.

Leon spent \$26,985 last year getting ready to run for reelection this year. He started the year on January 1, 2026 with \$37,396 in the bank to spend on his campaign, which, based on past practice, will consist of carrying out voter surveys, purchasing billboard space, yard signs, printing handbills and door hangers as well as mailers and the postage to send those mailers, radio spots, television commercials, newspaper advertisements and phone banks. It is reasonably projected that Leon will be able to bring in another \$150,000 to \$200,000 in donations. It thus appears that he will be able to wage a campaign costing as much as a quarter of a million dollars to convince Ontario's voters to keep him as their mayor.

Wapner made two separate filings: one for his city council reelection committee, which was still open, and one for his mayoral election committee. Both were filed with the Ontario City Clerk's Office on January 31, 2026. The mayoral committee report showed that throughout 2025, he had spent \$20,203.04 in gearing up to run for mayor this year and that as of December 31, 2025/January 1, 2026 he had \$133,646.96 to spend in the campaign going forward. The city council campaign committee report showed that he spent \$137,511.39 from it in 2025 in preparing for his mayoral run and that as of December 31, 2025/January 1, 2026, he had \$370,905 remaining in it to wage his campaign this year. Money from a city council campaign fund can be transferred into a mayoral campaign

fund opened by the same politician, virtually at the will of the candidate as long as the transfers are reported on campaign finance reporting documents required under the California Election Code which are filed with the city clerk's office. Totaled together, Wapner spent \$157,714.63 last year to get into position to seek the mayoralty this year and as of January 1 of this year had \$504,551.96 to spend campaigning this year. Knowledgeable sources have told the *Sentinel* that they believe that in the first six months of this year, Wapner has received another \$400,000 or so in donations to his mayoral campaign. Between now and November, they predicted he should be able to pick up another \$200,000. Wapner is thus in a position to spend close to \$1.2 million on this year's mayoral race.

Of note is how Wapner expended some of that money available to him. In 2025, he spent \$3,163.16 to sew up getting on several sets of slate mailers which are to be sent to both high propensity Democrats and high propensity Republicans.

The term "high propensity" means likely to vote and is generally defined as voters who have voted in six of the last eight elections.

Wapner spent \$2,109.51 to get his name on another set of slate mailers going to both Democrats and Republicans and another \$4,920.16 on a similar set of slate mailers going to both Democrats and Republicans.

Wapner shelled out \$1,147 to get on a slate mailer going to voters who are not affiliated with any political party or have no party preference. He spent another \$223 on a slate mailer to be sent to voters with no party preference and followed that up with \$308 to get on a slate mailer sent to voters who are not registered as members of any political party.

Wapner also spent \$1,443 and then another \$324 to ensure he will be

on a slate mailer known as the California Homeowners Guide.

According to available campaign reporting documents, which cover the period up until December 31, 2025, Leon had not secured a place on any slate mailers. Six months have elapsed since that reporting period, however.

Based on the *Sentinel's* interactions with individuals close to Wapner and those involved both directly and indirectly in his campaign, there appears to be a high degree of confidence in his camp that his financial advantage will overcome the factors that have favored Leon during his 21-year run as mayor and in his elections for city council prior to that.

Statistically, incumbents have a substantial advantage over non-incumbents in political races. "Incumbent officeholders hold an electoral advantage that typically translates to a 2-to-8 percentage point bump in the vote share and a 20 to 25 percentage-point increase in campaign funding compared to open-seat races," according to Ballotpedia, "This translates to historic re-election rates that frequently exceed 90 percent across various levels of government."

In the case of Wapner going head-to-head with Leon this year, the aluded-to advantage that would normally fall to Leon, as the incumbent, in terms of campaign funding has not only been neutralized but reversed. Leon does retain his status as an incumbent, which with voters overall might represent a marginal advantage. In terms of name recognition, Leon's mayoral status is a plus, while Wapner's longevity in public office – nearly 32 years as a councilman and his previous time as a school board member – have given him as much or nearly as much exposure throughout the community as Leon has accrued in his more than 27 years in office, 20 of them in the higher profile role as

mayor.

One element of Leon's strength which Wapner is gunning to counter is the factor that for four previous election cycles convinced Wapner the discretion of not fulfilling his aspiration to become mayor was the better part of valor: the consideration that 68.6 percent of the current population of Ontario is Latino. That statistic is daunting for Wapner on its face, based on a primary assumption that Hispanic voters are more likely to vote for a Hispanic candidate. The advantage to Leon in this regard, Wapner's supporters have concluded, may not be as lopsided as assumed, particularly if two other statistics prove to be of relevance in November. A mere 67 percent of the eligible Latino voters in Ontario are registered to vote. Moreover, of the city's highest propensity voters, i.e., those most likely to vote, only 44.46 percent are Hispanic or at least have Spanish surnames.

In his campaign, Wapner intends to hammer Leon with his statement made at the June 17, 2025 council meeting that Ontario's Latino residents have nothing to fear from Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers if they merely behave themselves.

If Leon does not see his more-than-two-decade-long run as Ontario mayor brought to an end by the application of that strategy, those in the growing support network around Wapner have come to believe, the coup de grâce to be delivered at the height of the campaign will prove sufficient to initiate the Wapner Administration era at City Hall. That blow is to consist of a blitz of attack mailers, which are to contain photographs and video stills, reviving the issue of the mayor having carried on with Huizar.

The Wapner campaign, meaning the electoral effort most directly associated with the candidate, has been somewhat skittish in approaching that issue.

Earlier this year, there was some hope that the attack using the Huizar material could be done by proxy, either through what is considered the traditional press and media ostensibly discovering or more accurately "rediscovering" the story or having individuals ostensibly unconnected to Wapner or his campaign instigate press/media interest in the matter by having one or more social media outlets dwell on what flashed by as a passing frenzy 17 years ago. Approaching the matter in that fashion could conceivably, it was hoped, result in a reprise of the scandal in current journalistic coverage of the election. Handling the matter in this way, with an artificial firewall erected between Wapner and the attacks, would, it was thought, insulate the councilman from the perception that he was engaging in mudslinging himself.

At this point, leaving the matter to chance is not considered advisable from a larger strategic standpoint.

Under the California Elections Code and the regulations applying to political activity enforced by the California Fair Practices Commission, entities known as "independent expenditure committees" can and do play an effective role in who is elected and who falls short at the ballot box.

An independent expenditure committee is a group or individual using its or his or her own funds to support or oppose a candidate, ballot measure, or political issue without coordinating with the candidate's campaign or political party committee. These expenditures are not considered to be contributions to the candidate's campaign and are not subject to reporting requirements applied to the candidate, and are instead reported as expenditures by the independent committee. Under the law, the candidate and the candidate's committee are not supposed to communicate with the independent com-

mittee with regard to the campaign or coordinate their actions. That is a rule that is not strictly honored, and when the full range of activity relating to candidates or initiatives is examined historically, the application of the term "independent" with regard to independent expenditure committees often strains credulity.

The campaign disclosure documents filed by Wapner last year show that \$20,000 was placed into an account referred to as "Wapner for Mayor 2026." This was interpreted by more than one experienced election analyst as perhaps an effort to provide seed money for the creation of an independent entity or a holding account for an independent entity to be actuated once the election season is underway in full later this year. Disclosure of expenditures by the Wapner campaign in the first six months of 2026 are due in a filing to be provided by July 31. It is thus, at this point, unknown publicly if there have been further infusions of funds by the Wapner campaign to the Wapner for Mayor 2026 entity.

In an immediate response to an email sent to him by the *Sentinel* on June 26, 2026 which sought to explore how the Huizar and Costanzo issues were to be balanced during this year's mayoral campaign, Wapner stated, "My campaign is not raising any issues involving Paul Leon's personal affairs. Those issues are irrelevant, and I campaign on policy issues. I have never brought family or rumors into my campaigns or discussions nor will I."

As to the reports pertaining to his interaction with Costanzo at the hotel in Washington, D.C., Wapner said, "The other issues that you discussed are absolutely false, never occurred and not worthy of discussion."

Widely recognized is that over the last year the larger support network among the Ontario establishment has aban-

*Continued on Page 18*

**Morongo Basin Parents, Dead Set Against The School District Administration's Proposal To Close Schools To Deal With Attrition In Attendance, Expressed Opposition To That Approach Through The Enrollment Committee Formed In January** *from page 3*

consisting of Chairwoman Jennifer Cusack, Vice Chairwoman Karla Buchanan, Krystal Conrad, Nicole Hitch, Jeff Brady, Daniel Ramon Iniguez, Wayne Hamilton, Amanda Mayes and Sara Smith.

Simultaneously, Vargas and members of the school board were huddling, holding discussions during closed sessions of the board which were part of regular meetings at which the financial reality facing the district was discussed. In California, funding is in major measure provided to school districts by the state government based on daily student attendance, with the upward limitation being a function of the district's enrollment. Keeping all of the campuses open was thus going to be, Vargas and the school board recognized, a challenge. From a fiscal standpoint, it was most logical that the schools with the fewest enrolled students be closed. Between SchoolWorks Inc., Superintendent Patricio Vargas and other senior district staff, options on how the district should deal with the declining enrollment were outlined.

Vargas gave the public more than a hint of what he was contemplating at the committee's April 9, 2026 meeting, when, acknowledging that campus closures were not the only solution, he indicated that the most sensible way of approaching the matter is to contemplate the closure of at least one of the schools by August 2027 at the beginning of the 2027-28 school year, with further closures to follow thereafter. In this way, Vargas broached the concept of "a gradual decrease in the number of schools and adjustment of busing routes."

Vargas said the district could, if it chose, leave all schools in place and open, make some school attendance

boundary changes and live with the enrollment in as many as eight of the district's 11 elementary schools having their enrollment fall below 350 by 2031.

The district could, Vargas said, close Palm Vista, Landers and Morongo Valley elementary schools and reassign students to the closest campuses. This would entail the district adding eight bus routes, which would increase transportation costs by \$3 million. The transportation cost increases would be matched or more than offset by savings from the school closures, Vargas said. Even with the shuttering of Palm Vista, Landers and Morongo Valley, he said three of the schools that would remain open would see their enrollments dip to below 350 by school year 2031-32.

The district could also, Vargas said, close Landers Elementary and bus those students to Yucca Mesa Elementary. This would require the addition of three bus routes with the maximum drive time for one such bus being 57 minutes, less than the current 72 minutes. This would put kindergarteners though 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the same buses as high school students. Six of the remaining ten elementary schools would see reductions in the number of their students to below 350 by 2031-32.

Another approach Vargas outlined would be for Morongo Valley Elementary to close, with its students sent to Yucca Valley Elementary School. This would require the addition of two bus routes, in which the maximum trip time would drop from 67 to 56 minutes. Seven of the remaining ten schools would see an attrition to less than 350 students by 2031-32, he said.

A contemplated move is the closure of Palm

Vista, with the displaced students moved to either Oasis or Twentynine Palms Elementary. This would call for the addition of three bus routes, with students spending as many as 50 minutes going to school and 50 minutes returning home. Six of the district's elementary schools would have fewer than 350 students by 2031-32 under this plan.

If Vargas and the board were hoping that the enrollment committee would assist or back them in pressing for one or two or three campus closures in upcoming years, they were disappointed.

Right from the time of the committee's formation, there were parents and teachers who, correctly it turned out, surmised that school closures were part of Vargas's agenda. By April, everyone interested in the matter learned that closures were definitely being contemplated. Parents, students and teachers at or associated with the schools tentatively targeted for closure expressed opposition to the closure option, some in very strong terms. Some of those began lobbying the committee members to formulate another strategy beyond shutting down campuses.

Some parents, who were not as steeped in the hard financial numbers as Vargas, offered the opinion that the superintendent and other district officials were panicking needlessly. They said state education officials, including those with the California Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, which advises school districts on fiscal matters and traces the mismanagement of education funding, maintained the Morongo Unified School District's closing of campuses was not necessary.

Last month, the committee was due to complete its analysis of the situation, and bring forth some recommendations.

As it turned out, when Vice Chairwoman Buchanan, who is the principal of Onaga Elementary, presented the committee's final report

to the board of education on June 9, the report reflected greater sensitivity to the concerns of parents around the district who were worried that their children might end up spending as much as an hour-and-a-half each day commuting to and back from school than they did to the financial difficulty leaving all of those campuses running would entail.

Nevertheless, Buchanan told the board, "The committee understood the fiscal challenges facing the district and took those concerns seriously."

The committee, while not absolutely ruling out shuttering a campus or two, stated that school closures should be a solution of "last resort." The school board should hold off on closing schools and instead up its educational game and improve student's academic performance, the committee said.

District officials should deal with the financial crisis brought on by dwindling numbers of students pro-actively by interceding with Sacramento to alter its funding formula, at least for Morongo Valley Unified, by not tying the money it receives directly to enrollment or daily attendance, the committee opined. The district should make the point that the Morongo Valley Unified School District, given its vast size geographically, should be provided with some sort of funding augmentation to be able to keep its campuses around the far flung district open, the committee said.

In addition to having seen its enrollment drop,

the district has been bedeviled by lower than normal daily attendance. Average daily attendance in the district in 2024-25 was 6,565.

Shutting schools would, Buchanan said, have a negative and "lasting impact... on students, families, staff and communities."

The committee concluded, Buchanan said, that it would be better for the district to design a policy aimed toward boosting enrollment and student retention by curbing dropout rates and making a commitment to have students remain in school until graduation, which will pump up attendance numbers and enhance revenue to the district.

The committee concluded that the district should intensify its academic support programs for struggling students who are most vulnerable and therefore likely to drop out and give greater emphasis to its Academy of College and Career Excellence, aimed at preparing students to go on to receive a college education, which might influence parents who are taking their children out of the district to instead have them remain with Morongo Valley Unified. District officials should contact parents of students who have enrolled their children in charter schools, parochial schools, private schools or are home-schooling them to convince them to re-enroll in the district's schools, the committee suggested. This will bring more students into the district, the committee said.

Furthermore, the committee said, the dis-

trict should redraw the map relating to the attendance boundaries for the district's schools to more evenly distribute attendance across the board.

Buchanan, on behalf of the committee, called upon the district to consider "expanding academic, behavioral and social and emotional supports [to] improve student outcomes, increase attendance, strengthen student retention and positively impact district revenue."

"Meaningful alternatives exist and should be pursued before considering any campus closures," Buchanan said.

Vargas had vaguely hoped that the school board last month, during the final stage of the 2025-26 academic year, might make a commitment to closing one of the campuses down by the beginning of the 2027-28 school year. The board did not consent to scheduling a vote to do so.

While the board members are acutely conscious of the financial issues dogging the district, they are cognizant of the general attitude of the parents who are understandably anxious about having their children bussed substantial distances across the valley to attend school. As elected officials, those board members must answer to those parents when they come up for reelection. The board will conceivably take up the subject of possible school closures when the 2026-27 school year is in full swing and, as anticipated, the district's financial picture erodes yet further.

-Mark Gutglueck

**Wapner Has Left Leon & His Team No Option Other Than "Going Nuclear"** *from page 17*

condoned the long-running power sharing arrangement it formerly accepted by which Leon filled the titular role of mayor while Wapner headed the ruling coalition on the council that comprised the city's actual governing configura-

tion. Instead, a wide cross section of the community's movers and shakers are banking on Wapner moving into the mayoral post. It is widely assumed that in seeking to ensure that Leon does not survive politically, a combination of those establishment interests will publicly revive the Huizar affair in a way that will widely resonate with voters. That being the case, the political praetorian guard

around Leon, which remains intact, is equally convinced that it has no choice at this point other than to, in the parlance of one of its members, "go nuclear," and do so sooner rather than later, meaning that Wapner must be called out with regard to his interaction with Costanzo before he and his campaign effectively seize the high moral ground.

## San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner's Case #702603697: On Thursday, 05/28/2026, at 09:45 a.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Fourth Street and Buffalo Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga for a traffic collision. Passenger Alejandra Esperanza Cervantes-Medina, a 34-year-old resident of Fontana, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603696: On Thursday, 05/28/2026, at 09:45 a.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Fourth Street and Buffalo Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga for a traffic collision. Driver Jesus Valtierra, a 37-year-old resident of San Bernardino, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603692: On Thursday, 05/28/2026, at 02:55 p.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to the 2400 block of N. Mountain Avenue in Upland for a traffic collision. Driver Brandon Silva, a 24-year-old resident of Rancho Cucamonga, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603646: On Tuesday, 05/26/2026, at 03:49 p.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to Highway 1388 near Highway 18 in Crestline for a traffic collision. Motorcycle driver Johnny Ramirez, Jr., a 55-year-old resident of Fontana, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603620: On Sunday, 05/24/2026, at 10:20 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Sandia Road and Kiowa Road in Apple Valley for a traffic collision. Pedestrian Johnny Guerra, a 76-year-old resident of Apple Valley, was pronounced dead on scene. For further information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/25/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603604: Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 09:12 a.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to the 2000 block of Central Avenue, north of the 210 freeway. A 33-year-old female homeless resident of San Bernardino, name withheld pending notification to next of kin, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/24/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603594: On Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 12:47 p.m., BNSF Railroad Police responded to the BNSF tracks located north of Yucca Avenue in the city of Barstow. Pedestrian Mykeon Tanner, a 55-year-old homeless resident of Barstow, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the BNSF Railroad Police. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/24/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603583/84: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 0820 hours, the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound State Route 62 near Cadiz Road in the city of Freda. Passengers Naomi and Nyah Leon, were pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603582: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 0820 hours, the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound State Route 62 near Cadiz Road in the city of Freda. Passenger Herminia Hernandez, a 39-year-old resident of Fresno, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603581: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 0820 hours, the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound State Route 62 near Cadiz Road in the city of Freda. Passenger Antonio Leon, a 36-year-old resident of Sanger, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603580: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 0820 hours, the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound State Route 62 near Cadiz Road in the city of Freda. The driver Sergio Leon, a 38-year-old resident of Fresno, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603579: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 0820 hours, the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound State Route 62 near Cadiz Road in the city of Freda. Driver Holly Chafey, a 60-year-old resident of Desert Hot Springs, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/29/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603574: On Friday, 05/22/2026, at 08:02 a.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 35000 block of Ghost Town Road in the city of Yermo. Robert Ashworth II, a 63-year-old resident of Loma Linda, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/23/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603543: On Wednesday, 05/20/2026, at 10:06 p.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to the intersection of Sheep Creek Road and Dos Palmas Road, in Phelan for a traffic collision. Passenger Aracelis Castaneda, a 79-year-old resident of Lancaster, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/23/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603540: On Wednesday, 05/20/2026, at 07:54 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 42000 block of State Highway 38 in Angeles Oaks. Robert Holloran, a 68-year-old resident of Angelus Oaks, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/23/2026)

Coroner's Case #Coroner's Case #Coroner's Case #702603507: On Tuesday, 05/19/2026, at 11:58 a.m., the San Bernardino Police Department responded to the area of W. 2nd Street and N. Mountain View Avenue in San Bernardino. Henry Solorzano, a 76-year-old homeless resident of San Bernardino was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/23/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603472: On Monday, 5/18/2026, at 05:27 a.m., the Fontana Police Department responded to the 18000 block of Foothill Boulevard in Fontana. Brian Stowers, a 55-year-old resident of Fontana, was confirmed dead at the scene. For additional information contact the Fontana Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/23/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603465: On Sunday, 05/17/2026, at 07:16 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Monarch Boulevard and Cottonwood Avenue in Victorville. A 61-year-old homeless resident of Victorville, name withheld pending notification to next of kin, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/18/2026)

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## Once & Still Dynamic With Its Railroad, Highway And Military Ties, Yermo Surrendering Fire Safety Responsibility To The County *from page 3*

base at present operates under the Marine Corps Logistics Command.

The fast-food restaurant chain Del Taco originated by Ed Hackbarth and David Jameson was first established in Yermo on September 16, 1964 under the name "Casa Del Taco," catering to motorists on their way to and returning from Las Vegas.

Yermo once had a State of California agriculture inspection station for traffic coming from Nevada heading southwest on Interstate 15 toward Los Angeles.

Interstate 15 opened in 1968, such that traffic traveling to and from Las Vegas bypassed Yermo. Consequently, over 80 percent of the local businesses failed.

While Yermo is

served by the U.S. Postal Service under the ZIP Code 92398, its post office branch does not provide home or business mail delivery but rather offers post office boxes to customers.

Yermo's form of local governance evolved into a community services district authorized by the County of San Bernardino. The community services district is governed by an elected five-member board of directors which meets monthly and oversees the community's volunteer fire department, local street lighting, parks and the water system.

Faced with declining sales tax revenue from the area's businesses and other reductions in subsidies that were sustaining the Yermo Community Services District operations, on March 19, 2026, the district's board of directors adopted a resolution to initiate the process for annexation of the Yermo Community Services District's territory into the San Bernardino County Fire

Protection District. The resolution included a request for a sphere of influence amendment for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, as well as requesting the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission to initiate the necessary proceedings for the reorganization to include annexation of the Yermo Community Services District's territory into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and divestiture of Yermo Community Services District's fire protection and emergency medical services functions. The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District was required to adopt a substantially similar resolution requesting the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission to initiate proceedings for the sphere of influence amendment, annexation, and divestiture. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors serves as the board for the San Bernardino

County Fire Protection District.

The board of supervisors, on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, acting as the governing body of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, adopted a resolution requesting the Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County to initiate proceedings for the sphere of influence amendment or service area expansion and a reorganization to include annexation of the Yermo Community Services District into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and divestiture of the fire protection and emergency medical services functions of the Yermo Community Services District, whereby the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District will assume responsibility for fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services.

Law enforcement in Yermo since the community's inception has been handled by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

The board of supervi-

sors' resolution, together with Yermo Community Services District's resolution, constitutes a formal request for the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission to initiate annexation proceedings.

According to San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munssey, "The community of Yermo currently faces significant challenges in sustaining reliable fire and emergency medical services due to limited financial resources, declining volunteer staffing availability, aging infrastructure, and increasing service demands along the Interstate 15 corridor. Annexation into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District provides a sustainable, long-term solution that improves emergency response capabilities, stabilizes service delivery, enhances regional coordination, and supports future economic development within the community and surrounding desert region."

An agreement ad-

ressing the transfer of a percentage of the Yermo Community Services District's ad valorem property tax to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District for the provision of fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services will be presented to the board of supervisors for approval at a later date.

If the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission ultimately approves the reorganization, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District would assume all responsibility for the provision of fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services to the community of Yermo. Following completion of the reorganization proceedings and execution of the property tax transfer, Yermo Community Services District will have no further service responsibility or funding obligations for fire protection, rescue, or emergency medical services within Yermo.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Raising Sales Tax Would Have Crimped Victorville Car Sales, Dealers Said *from page 16*

more onerous tax burden than the one that already exists would prove out as a mistake.

"Victorville residents might be thinking about how they'd like to improve roads, but for a lot of people, their first thought is how to afford filling up their tank or paying their mortgage," he said. "I can't in good conscience support raising the sales tax this year."

John Sackrison, the executive director of the Inland Empire Auto Dealers Association, sought to educate Gaudin and Becerra on how layering further costs on car buyers would ultimately scare potential purchasers off and result in less revenue to the city rather than more because sales of big-ticket items will take place elsewhere as buyers seek to avoid increased sales tax.

According to a survey, Sackrison said, 69.7 percent of prospective car buyers will avoid making a vehicle purchase in a city that charges a higher sales tax rate. He implied that Measure P's 1 percent sales tax has already made a dent in car sales in Victorville.

Throughout California, the underlying state sales tax is 7 percent. In San Bernardino County, countywide consumers pay a one-half percent sales tax, based originally upon 1989's Measure I tax override to pay for transportation projects, plus an added quarter percent county tax. That means San Bernardi-

no County has a basic sales tax of 7.75 cents per dollar. In addition, the municipalities of Apple Valley, Barstow, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Ontario, Redlands, San Bernardino, Victorville, Yucaipa, and Yucca Valley have an added tax of 1 percent over the base rate for an overall sales tax rate of 8.75 percent.

In Montclair, host to what was formerly called the Montclair Plaza but is now referred to as Montclair Place, the city has an added tax of 1.25 percent over the base rate, making that city's sales tax 9 percent.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Pay Level Requirements & Influence Restrictions Accompany County Public Works Contracts *from page 3*

entertainment, or any items of value to any officer, employee or agent of the district in an attempt to secure favorable treatment regarding this contract. The district, by written notice,

may immediately terminate this contract if it determines that any improper consideration as described was offered to any officer, employee or agent of the district with respect to the proposal and award process. This prohibition shall apply to any amendment, extension or evaluation process once a contract has been awarded."

-Mark Gutglueck



# Soup on the rocks.

Campbell's Beef Broth right out of the can and onto ice. Take it straight or add a dash of Worcestershire or lemon peel for a kicky switch. Great way to cool off on a hot day. It's perfect for dieters, too. Only 16 calories in a 5-ounce serving. Don't even wait for a real hot day; start pouring now. Cheers!

**M'm! M'm! Good!**