

Dogged By The FBI, Wapner Makes A Last-Minute Political Switcheroo

By Mark Gutglueck

With the FBI scrutinizing virtually every element of his political existence, Ontario Councilman Alan Wapner has abandoned his challenge of Mayor Paul Leon and will instead run for reelection to the city council for the eighth consecutive time in the upcoming November 3 election.

Leon and Wapner are two of San Bernardino County's longest-serv-

ing local elected officials. Wapner was first elected to the city council in 1994. Leon was appointed to the council in 1998.

Wapner, who has stated on numerous occasions, in numerous contexts and to numerous individuals privately and publicly that he considers himself to be comprehensively superior to Leon with regard to every consideration the voters should make

in selecting a mayor, seriously contemplated running for mayor in the special election that took place in June 2005 after former Mayor Gary Ovitt was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in November 2004 with two years remaining on his term. Leon, however, beat Wapner in filing to compete in that race, and Wapner opted against making it into a race between two incumbent

trial in the matter began.

Lucero was accused of, and has now acknowledged killing his 42-year-old girlfriend, Erlinda Villareal and her two sons, ages 9 and 12, on April 29, 2020.

Lucero, then 35, Villareal, then 42, and the children lived at a home in the 15400 block of Ferndale Road. The morning of Wednesday, April 29, 2020, a call came into the San Ber-

In A Ploy To Split Ontario's Hispanic Vote, Wapner Runs Macias For Mayor

(ONTARIO—August 5) In a bid to assist Alan Wapner in his mayoral effort, Ontario Councilwoman Daisy Macias is jumping into the November 3 race.

At the behest of Wapner, who has offered her assistance in funding what both have agreed will be a token campaign not intended to succeed in getting her elected but rather to divide the city's Hispanic vote, Macias took out mayoral candidacy papers, Ontario Assistant City Clerk Claudia Isbell confirmed on August 4.

Wapner was first elected to the Ontario City Council in 1994, and had contemplated running for mayor in the 2005 special election to

council members. Leon prevailed in the special election against former Ontario City Attorney Sam Crowe, who had also served on the city council in the 1960s. Wapner contemplated running against Leon in 2010, but again deferred to the reality that Leon, given his Spanish surname, had an electoral advantage over him in a city in which upwards of 60 percent of the population is Hispanic. Pri-

replace former Mayor Garry Ovitt after Ovitt left the mayoral position to serve as Fourth District San Bernardino County supervisor following his election to that post in 2004, but did not do so when Paul Leon, who had been on the city council since 1998 beat him to the punch by declaring he was going to seek the office. Leon prevailed in that contest over Sam Crowe, Ontario's former city attorney and former city councilman.

Wapner and Leon thereafter found themselves on the same electoral cycle, such that each was up for reelection, Leon for mayor and Wapner for councilman, in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022. See P 2

Morongo Valley Unified Teaching Assistant Jailed Over Molestation Accusations

Isaac Elias Carrillo, a 28-year-old instructional assistant at Condor Elementary School in Twentynine Palms has been charged with two counts related to sexual abuse of a child.

Carrillo, who lives in Twentynine Palms, will not be returning to resume his work assignment with the district when the new school

vately, Wapner lamented that Ontario was being poorly and inadequately represented by Leon who was doing a disservice to the city's residents by monopolizing the mayor's position. Nevertheless, he chose, again in 2024, 2028 and 2022 to run for city council rather than mayor, and even arranged to run as a troika with Mayor Leon and Councilman Jim Bowman, who together shared the same See P 2

year begins later this month.

Carrillo has been charged with sexually abusing a developmentally disabled student under age 14 at Condor Elementary School.

The five foot-eight inch, 200-pound Carrillo was taken into custody on July 1 at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's See P 4

Fed Ex Shuttering Victorville Center In September 28

Federal Express is going to going to shutter its shipping center in Victorville, in September, which will entail laying off 54 employees.

The current operation at 12212 Industrial Boulevard is the 16th largest employer in Victorville, offering a range of FedEx shipping services, including express and ground drop-off, package pickup, packaging supplies, and international shipping. It also provides in-store services such as getting shipping labels, holding packages for pickup, and offering Saturday service.

Federal Express will maintain a presence at the location, rebranded as a FedEx Office, after September 27, but it will be reduced to customer interface with a skeleton crew.

More Clarity On November Mayoral And City Council Match-Ups

With the deadline for elected public office candidacies for most of the municipal positions to be contested in the November 3 general election eclipsing at 5 p.m. today, a clearer picture of who is vying for mayoral and council positions in San Bernardino County's cities and towns has emerged.

In Barstow Sonia Compton, Valerie Lee, Kelly M. Parker are vying to represent the city's District 1, which is currently filled by Councilwoman Carmen Hernandez. Hernandez is not seeking reelection. Bartow District Two Councilman James Noble is seeking reelection and is being challenged by Latron Lester.

In Needles, incumbent Mayor Janet Jernigan is being challenged by former Mayor Jeff Williams

and incumbent council members Henry Longbrake and Jamie McCorkle are seeking reelection with Wayne Colburn, Sandra Queen Noble and Charles Dressler competing against them.

In Apple Valley, incumbent Mayor Scott Nassif is running this year and David Dencker, and Robert Lucero and Angelita Valles are running against him. In District 4, incumbent Curt Emick is seeking reelection, with Brian Cochrane and Matthew Rutledge vying against him. In District 3, incumbent Kari Leon is facing challengers Ted Bohanon and Evaggelia Markov.

In Adelanto, incumbent Mayor Gabriel Reyes is seeking See P 3

Unknown Intruders Make Crude Death Attempts On Man In Summit Valley

A man who lives in Summit Valley in the rugged area south of Hesperia was attacked by a group of people after they came onto his property on August 6.

The man survived two ineffective attempts to kill him. Thursday night, just before 8 p.m., residents of a home located in the isolated Summit Valley area in the unincorporated area outside the Hesperia City Limits saw several individuals in a vehicle, described as a gray Chevrolet Traverse drive onto their approximately 37-acre property. When they confronted them, the Traverse left, but less than 15 minutes later a black Jeep Cherokee came onto the property, located in the 4600 block of Summit Valley Road. It is not known whether those in Jeep Cherokee were the same group in the Traverse. The driver of the Cherokee angled the 4X4 SUV at, and attempted to hit, one of the residents, who managed to avoid being run down. At least one of the Jeep's occupants then fired at least two gunshots at the man before driving away.

After sheriff's depu-

ties were summoned to the scene, they came across two 9mm bullet casings believed to have been ejected from the gun used in the shooting attempt, were found on the ground near where the two murder attempts occurred.

29 Palms Council Unable To Meet EmergencyCenter Grant Deadline

The Twentynine Palms City Council on July 28 failed to reach a consensus on pursuing a grant to work with the Sanctuary Church to establish a comprehensive emergency services/disaster response center, resulting in the city now being unable to meet the filing deadline for the grant.

Since 2011, the Sanctuary Church, has run the Hope Center out of an Adobe Road building, receiving food from the FIND See P 2

Lucero Pleads To The Whole Bill In Murder Of His Girlfriend & Her Kids 6 Years Ago

More than six years after Louis Lucero killed his girlfriend and her two children, he has entered guilty pleas to all three murders, one day short of a month after his