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The San Bernardino County Sentinel

News of Note
from Around the
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Form 700 Violation Prosecution Miscues Prompt Policy Change

There has been a significant change in the manner in which the San Bernardino County District Attorney's office is handling suspected or alleged violations of the state's income disclosure requirements.

Within the last month, San Bernardino County prosecutors have opted to refer such cases to the California Fair Political Practices Commission, a departure from the office's past approach of filing criminal charges

against those who have made no or inadequate disclosure of outside income.

That change follows an embarrassing episode involving district attorney Mike Ramos's failure to make full disclosure on his Cali-

fornia Form 700s of household income he had himself received. California Form 700s are documents used by public officials in the state to list the full range of their incomes and economic interests.

The San Bernardino County district attorney's office announced on January 17 that it sent a referral to the California Fair Political Practices Commission relating to county Second District Supervisor Paul Bi- See P 4

DA Charges Desjardins With Theft



SAN BERNARDINO—Jason Desjardins, the electoral challenger who eked out a victory over incumbent Second Ward councilman Dennis Baxter in November despite a spate of negative publicity in the final week before the election over his alleged stealing of his opponent's campaign signs, has now been charged with two misdemeanor counts relating to those thefts.

Desjardins' victory is considered to be a political watershed in the county seat, since his displacement of Baxter later this spring is expected to create a shift in the political balance on the council.

At present and for the last two years, Mayor Patrick Morris, a Democrat, has headed a ruling coalition that includes Baxter, Tobin Brinker, Rikke Van Johnson, and Esther Estrada. More recently, on most issues, that coalition was strengthened by the presence of Fred Shorett, who was elected in a special March 2009 election to replace Neil Derry after Derry was elected to the board of supervisors in November 2008. Shorett was returned to the council in November 2009, but Estrada, a Democrat, was ousted by another Democrat, Virginia Marquez.

Desjardins, who stands accused by the district attorney- See P 3

Army of Redlands WalMart Supercenter Foes Assembling

REDLANDS—An array of forces are lining up against the Wal-Mart Corporation relative to its plan to establish one of its so-called supercenters on this city's north side.

Foremost among the proposal's opponents is the Good Neighbor Coalition. That group is

working in conjunction with Upland-based attorney Cory J. Briggs and the United Food and Commercial Workers. More recently, they have been joined by the Redlands Area Democratic Club, which has now gone on record as being opposed to the Redlands Walmart supercenter



proposal.

The Good Neighbor Coalition, a grass roots organization, officially undertook an effort to derail the supercenter project last spring. Members in April began collecting signatures on a petition to subject the approval of the development to a city- See P 6

Phelan Pinon Hills CSD Says No to Lobbyists

Concerned that the diversion of taxpayer money to a firm that counts among its members a politically well connected former congressman might be seen as a squandering of the district's limited resources, the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District's board of directors this month elected not to hire a lobbying team to advocate on the district's behalf in the

nation's capital.

Among the issues presented to the board on January 6 was a proposal to hire former U.S. Congressman Ron Packard and the law/lobbying firm of Ball Janik LLP, who had proposed a joint venture in representing the community services district in Washington, D.C.

Initially, the Packard/Ball Janik Team had proposed See P 2

Quottrochi Making Run for Republican 63rd Assembly Nomination

Joe Quottrochi, Jr., who is hailed in some circles as a determined David who brought down a powerful collection of Goliaths, will vie for the Republican nomination in the 63rd Assembly District this June.

Opposing Quottrochi are Rancho Cucamonga mayor Donald Kurth, Redlands mayor Pat Gilbreath, Fontana councilwoman Aquanetta Warren, Mike Morrell, Lyn

Greene, Paul Chabot, Henry Nickel and Long Pham.

Foremost in Quottrochi's platform is his call for comprehensive legal reform, a stance which is not surprising given the Herculean battle he waged in the court system to prevent his father from being removed to a convalescent care facility by a now-discredited conservator and a bevy of attorney's working in

league with her.

Melodie Scott, a Redlands-based conservator whose ability to ply her trade has since been compromised by the state of California's refusal so far to license her, set her sights on Joseph Quottrochi, Sr. in 2005, going to court and declaring the elder Quottrochi, who is now 87, incompetent. Scott then took control of Quottrochi senior's per- See P 6

29 Palms Gives Hampton Inn Approval

TWENTYNINE PALMS — The Hampton Inn & Suites project to be constructed at the corner of Twentynine Palms Highway and Encelia Avenue approved by the planning commission on December 15 and then appealed by councilman Steve Spear on December 16 was given go-ahead by the full city

council on January 12.

The council's approval was given after it was modified only slightly from its original proposal.

Spear had used his authority as a council member to appeal the planning commission decision, thus avoiding the need for a group of citizen appellants to pay

over \$2,000 to file that official challenge.

At the January 12 council meeting Spear aggressively questioned both city engineer Richard Pedersen and Mark Crisci, the vice president of investment and development for Texas-based K-Partners Hospitality Group, which is proposing to build the hotel

and which already owns the nearby Fairfield Inn & Suites hotel which opened last year.

Spear propounded the view that the plan for three-story, 87-bed hotel as proposed by K-Partners together with the traffic circulation scheme for it put together by Pedersen, represented a danger to

pedestrians. At the heart of this, Spear suggested, is the need for a well demarcated crosswalk at the intersection.

Pedersen defended K-Partners' assertion that a marked crosswalk at the intersection would be unsafe because it would mislead pedestrians into believing they were safe while tra- See P 2

The San Bernardino County

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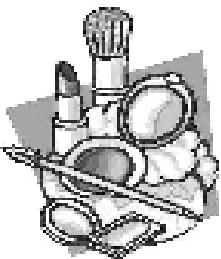
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CDBG Funds Approved for Arrow Route Sidewalk Project

SAN BERNARDINO – A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation approved by the board of supervisors on January 12 will allow the county to greatly improve pedestrian safety along a segment of Arrow Route in unincorporated Fontana.

The \$105,785 will be used to build a sidewalk

on the south side of Arrow Route between Lime and Almeria Avenues. The area has a significant amount of pedestrian traffic, including a number of disabled adults who are clients of a nonprofit employment and training center on Almeria Avenue.

The sidewalk project was requested by the county department of

public works to complement planned improvements to an at-grade railroad crossing west of Lime Avenue. The county plans to utilize about \$495,000 in Prop. 1B funds to install new safety arms and make other road improvements at the railroad crossing. There have been 15 vehicle or pedestrian accidents at or near the rail-

road crossing in the past 10 years.

“The original project was focused on improving traffic flow at the railroad crossing, but the addition of CDBG funding allows us to move forward with a more comprehensive road safety project for the unincorporated Fontana community,” Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said.

BUSD Handing Out Bronze Parachutes

BARSTOW—Officials with the Barstow Unified School District are hoping to lure both teachers and district workers into taking early retirement through the use of buyouts and other incentives.

In this way, officials hope to avoid the need for layoffs that will otherwise be needed for the district to come to terms with major cutbacks in state funding.

The district board this week examined two proposed cost cutting programs, one dubbed the 25/10 Plan and the other the 40 Percent Plan, both of which commit district money to covering retirement costs for those willing to walk away from their teaching assignments.

29 Palms

from front page

versing Twentynine Palms Highway, the region's major arterial. In attempting to rebuff Spear's call for the crosswalk, he cited a study that concluded a person on foot is seven times more likely to be run down in a marked crosswalk rather than

The 25/10 Plan calls for giving teachers a one-time \$25,000 stipend to retire and for giving full-time classified staff \$10,000 to leave the district's employ.

The 40 Percent Plan gives both certificated and classified employees 40 percent of their base pay.

While district officials seemed more favorably disposed to the 25/10 Plan, union representatives, not surprisingly, pushed the school board toward going with the 40 Percent Plan.

The plan will be offered to the district's most senior educators, who under the existing contract with the district, are remunerated at a higher level.

in an unmarked crosswalk.

Spear vehemently disagreed, asserting that the intersection in the desert town was somewhat different than those in an urban setting and that the traffic engineers who had

No Lobbyist

from front page

a fee of over \$5,000 per month but had agreed to reduce the price to \$3,000 per month.

Three of the board members, however, still considered the discounted price tag to be too steep.

While Al Morrisette and Mark Roberts indicated that the district stood to gain

The district hopes to save money by paying the remaining teachers, who are less experienced, less.

This week the board tentatively decided to go with offering the 40 Percent Plan, but indicated that another, more generous formula will be provided to management employees.

Under the program, teachers will be given until February 19 to declare their willingness to retire at the end of the school year in June. Eighteen teachers so far have indicated an interest in the offer.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to deal with the state's anticipated budget shortfall next fiscal year calls for cutting

looked at the issue were insufficiently familiar with the area.

Spear, however, lacked the requisite support from the rest of the council to force the issue, and accepted the compromise offered by Crisci which called for

more money back from federal earmarks and appropriations through the lobbyists intercessions than the costs associated with hiring the lobbyists, Ken Anderson, Joe Farhlender and Charlie Johnson were unwilling to make the outlay.

During discussion it was noted that the district board had not felt it could justify spend

per student spending throughout the state by roughly \$200 in the next school year. The state and school fiscal year runs from July 1, 2010 to 2011.

Barstow Unified is considering making \$3 million worth of economies next year.

In 2008-09, the district pared \$4.1 million out of its operating budget by laying off 20 teachers and closing Barstow Intermediate School.

Barstow Unified has been particularly hard hit in recent years because of declining student enrollment. Paradoxically, as the number of students in the district have decreased, the size of classes have increased.

boosting from \$12,500 to \$15,000, the amount of money his company was to put up for ensuring the safety of pedestrians transiting between the hotel and the Stater Bros. shopping center.

\$36,000 on a park and recreation project and that hiring a lobbying firm with no guarantee of results was an extravagance the district could not afford.

By a vote of 3-2, the board elected to forego hiring the lobbyists and instead encourage the district's grant writer, Steve Bucknam, to redouble his efforts.

29 Palms Cemetery District Board Slot Open

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Corinne Dobler is resigning her position as a board member with the TwentyninePalms Public Cemetery District, effective upon the selection of her replacement.



Accordingly, the district, the five-member cemetery board for which meets the last Thursday of every month to direct operations at the public cemetery at 5350 Encelia Ave, is seeking Dobler's successor.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will very likely officially appoint Dobler's replacement based upon a nomination by the current cemetery board.

Applications for the position can be picked up at the cemetery office or can be downloaded at www.sbcounty.gov/cob.

Further information can be had by calling the cemetery administration office at (760) 367-9316.

Desjardins from front page

ney's office of stealing Morris's campaign signs on the same day that he allegedly lifted Baxter's, will join with councilwoman Wendy McCammack and councilman Chas Kelley as a solid vote against Morris. Desjardins, Kelley and McCammack are all Republicans, as is Shorett.

When Desjardins takes his place on the council dais, it appears there will be sufficient Republican political muscle, to break the Morris regime's hold on the city, if Shorett remains loyal to his GOP roots.

Ironically, the charges against Desjardins, a former Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, were filed by the a prosecutor's office now under the sway of district attorney Mike Ramos, a Republican.

Two separate filings of PC M484(A), theft of personal property, were filed against Desjardins, stemming from the October 21 incident.

Just ten days before the day of the election,

a video clip allegedly showing the theft was posted on the internet site You Tube. That clip was, however, less than fully incriminatory.

Desjardins and an accomplice allegedly stole the signs from the yard of a home at 308 West 18th Street at the corner of Arrowhead Drive.

Two eyewitnesses, and a security camera posted at a nearby home, were used by police to ascertain the identity of the culprits. Accusations were made that it was Desjardins and an associate of his who committed the theft of four yard signs — two promoting Morris and two promoting Baxter, Desjardins' opposition for the Second Ward seat.

Dutton Named Next Senate Republican Leader

His party colleagues have unanimously selected California State Senator Bob Dutton (R-Rancho Cucamonga) as the next Senate Republican leader.

Dutton was elevated into the position during a caucus meeting January 13.

Saying that his priorities include private sector job creation and balancing the budget without increasing taxes or imposing new taxes, Dutton stated, "I'm humbled and honored that my Republican colleagues have unanimously chosen me to be their next leader," said Republican Leader-elect Bob Dutton. "We currently have an outstanding leader in Dennis Hollingsworth, and I intend to work closely with him to solve the



Senator Bob Dutton

important issues facing California residents."

No schedule with regard to promoting Dutton to head the GOP caucus has been set, though it is anticipated the changeover from Hollingsworth to Dutton will take place this Spring.

Hollingsworth (R-Murrieta) said, "My Republican colleagues have unanimously selected an exceptional leader in Bob Dutton. Together we will work

to control spending and ending the regulatory barriers that prevent job growth in our state."

Supervisor Neil Derry, one of four Republicans on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, hailed Dutton's appointment as a positive development.

"The tax and spend recklessness of Sacramento needs to end and I believe that Senator Dutton will oppose taxes, make much needed cuts in wasteful spending and fight for local governments," Derry said. "Senator Dutton will hold our out-of-touch politicians accountable and oppose their attempts to steal money from our county to cover up their fiscal mismanagement and incompetency."

the signs were. Then each one of them took two signs, one from Morris and one from Baxter, and put them in the back of Desjardins' truck," Nolen said. "They sat around for a minute. Then, when he saw us on our porch, he came to the edge of the lawn and looked at us.

"We thought he was campaigning, and was coming over to talk to us, but he stared at us for a minute, and then got kind of nervous, jumped in his truck and took off," said Nolen.

San Bernardino police detectives Rogers and Passo were assigned to the case.

Carroll Named Wrightwood MAC Chairman

The Wrightwood Municipal Advisory Council has elected Chuck Carroll as its chairman and Joyce Harrison as board vice-chair.

Carroll replaces Kim Floyd, who is leaving the panel.

The Wrightwood MAC board is an advisory council chartered by county supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt.

Mitzelfelt is now considering applicants to replace Floyd, who recently announced his resignation.

His replacement will likely be sworn in at the scheduled February 8 meeting.

Baxter filed a complaint and generated a police report which has been forwarded to the district attorney's office.

The complaint filed by the district attorney's office is dated November 5. Through his attorney, Desjardins pleaded not guilty.

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Form 700*from front page*

ane and newly hired county administrator Greg Devereaux, asking for an opinion as to whether they violated disclosure laws by failing to report gifts they received in the form of private jet flights.

According to available records, Biane flew to West Virginia on Sept. 26, 2008, for the purpose of "meeting donors." His campaign fund subsequently reimbursed Ray Crebs, of Rancho Cucamonga, \$380.40 for the flight and another \$131 for tee fees so Biane could "golf with donors" on Sept. 28, 2008. Biane reimbursed Daniel Richards, one of two managing partners with the Colonies Partners development firm, \$300 for tee fees that same day. Crebs is a partner with the Colonies Partners.

Biane did not initially report the trip on two separate Form 700s he filed in October 2008, but entered the information onto an amended form dated March 11, 2009 after a spate of negative publicity in early 2009 over other public officials' failures to make full disclosure on their Form 700s. There appears to be a discrepancy in Biane's reporting of the matter in that his Form

700s list expenses for hotel and meals during the California Republican Party Convention in Anaheim the same weekend Biane was in West Virginia.

The district attorney's office also referred a situation involving Devereaux to the state Fair Political Practices Commission which stemmed from the same trip to Morgantown, West Virginia involving Biane.

Both Devereaux and Richards are alumni at the University of West Virginia. That weekend the West Virginia University Mountaineers hosted the Marshall University Thundering Herd in an NCAA football match-up.

Devereaux failed to note the trip on his Form 700s that he was required to fill out as Ontario city manager.

Less than two weeks ago, on January 12, Devereaux was hired as San Bernardino County's chief executive officer. He has been employed as Ontario city manager for 13 years. He is scheduled to officially go to work for the county on February 13.

There are complicating considerations to both Biane and Devereaux's acceptance of the plane rides.

First, a change in the law that went into effect just prior to the

September 2008 trip called for any reimbursement that government officials make for travel accommodations aboard a private plane correspond to the actual cost of chartering a private plane rather than to commercial fare.

The \$380.20 Biane reimbursed Crebs does not meet that criterion.

On the advice of Ontario City Attorney John Brown, Devereaux reimbursed Crebs an amount calculated to be twice the value of a commercial trip to Morgantown. That amount falls short of the requirement under the law as well.

Typical cost of a cross country flight on a private jet can run from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

In November 2006, Biane voted with supervisor Gary Ovitt and then-supervisor Bill Postmus to confer upon the Colonies Partners a \$102 million payment to settle a lawsuit the company had filed against the county over flood control issues at its development project in northeastern Upland.

In Ontario, the city redevelopment agency worked out a deal earlier in the decade that provided, at well below the going market rate, property to a company owned by Richards in accordance with a development plan there.

There were conflict-

ing reports as to who actually owns the plane upon which Biane and Devereaux flew. One held that the plane belonged to Crebs. Another account was that the plane belonged to another developer, Jim Previti.

Under the standard previously applied by the district attorney's office, criminal charges against both Biane and Devereaux could have been filed.

The Fair Political Practices Commission has the authority to levy fines of up to \$5,000 for Political Reform Act violations such as failure to meet the state's income or campaign finance reporting requirements but does not have the authority to pursue criminal charges relating to those violations.

Two former San Bernardino County officials - Bill Postmus and Jim Erwin - were charged with felonies for failure to properly report income or gifts on their Form 700s.

Postmus, who was once a county supervisor and county assessor, was charged with one count of perjury for failure to disclose the receipt of a \$12,000 cashier's check from developer John Dino Defazio on his Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest. Erwin, who served as an assistant assessor as well as chief of staff to super-

visor Neil Derry, was charged with ten felony counts pertaining to his having initially failed to report being provided with air fare and accommodations pertaining to a round trip to New York City and Washington D.C., as well as a \$12,765 Rolex watch by Jeff Burum, another managing partner with the Colonies Partners. Like Biane and Devereaux, Erwin belatedly reported receiving the gifts on an amended Form 700.

Erwin has denounced the charges against him as politically motivated and vindictive. He maintains that his transgressions should have merited no more than an FPPC fine.

Despite the district attorney's office's recently adopted policy of referring income reporting violations to the Fair Political Practices Commission, it has not dismissed the previously filed charges against Erwin or Postmus.

Despite the hard-nosed approach Ramos and his prosecutors have taken with Erwin and Postmus, the district attorney himself engaged in activity that was practically indistinguishable from those he has criminally charged.

Documents on file with the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters office covering the period between January 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008, show that The Friends of Mike Ramos paid Gretchen Ramos \$10,000 for "campaign services" and \$124.64 in reimbursement money for a "CDA [California District Attorneys Association] dinner."

Gretchen Ramos is Mike Ramos' wife of 28 years.

Ramos's payment of \$10,000 to his wife for "campaign services" in 2008 represents a potential issue for investigators, prosecutors and regulators in that 2008 was not an election year for the district attorney's post in San Bernardino County. Ramos elevated the is-

sue into a potential legal question by failing to disclose the \$10,000 payment to his wife on his California Form 700 he filed in 2009.

Erwin noted that discrepancy and in October 2009 filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Ramos overcame that legal issue by agreeing to pay a \$200 fine to close out the California Fair Political Practices Commission's inquiry into his failure to disclose income his campaign provided to his wife.

Under the Political Reform Act, elected officials in California are required to fill out the Form 700 statements of economic interest to provide disclosure of the full range of their economic interests, including all income and gifts to his or her entire household. Since California is a community property state, Ramos should have declared the payment to his wife as income to his household.

In the district attorney's office's filing against Erwin, prosecutors alleged that Erwin's failure to disclose the income from Burum constituted felonious activity since he had signed the Form 700 that omitted the report of the gifts under the penalty of perjury.

Erwin maintains that Ramos likewise signed his Form 700 under the penalty of perjury. Moreover, Erwin has suggested, Ramos's provision of money to his wife for campaign services during a year - 2008 - during which no election for the post of district attorney in San Bernardino County was held - very likely entailed fraud on Ramos's part.

Unlike Ramos, however, Erwin lacks prosecutorial authority.

Ramos maintains that his failure to disclose the money paid to his wife does not rise to the level of criminality and that the omission he made "was simply an oversight."

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FUSD Budget Deficit at Least \$23 Million

The best prognostication now available is that the Fontana Unified School District will be faced with a budgetary shortfall of at least \$23 million.

Previously district officials were informed that the district would likely need to overcome a \$13 million to \$16 million deficit. That calculation has

since been increased by at least \$7 million.

District officials were apprised of the sobering circumstance during a workshop in Long Beach in which Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget plan was previewed. Schwarzenegger's proposed budget, an attempt to balance the state's own projected



FUSD

Fontana Unified School District

\$19.9 billion deficit, calls for cuts to state employee compensation, Medi-Cal and prison operations and

what have been described as "massive" cuts to education spending. Schwarzenegger's plan calls for

cutting per student spending throughout the state by roughly \$200 in the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2010 to 2011.

In the face of the cutbacks, layoffs appear inevitable along with the elimination of programs.

State law requires that teachers be given tentative notification of a possible layoff for a school year commencing in August or September by the previous March 15 and definite

notification by May 15.

Last year, Fontana Unified provided such notices to just under 400 employees. The district followed through with only about half of those layoffs.

It is likely that in 2010-11 at least another 300 layoffs will be made, meaning the district will undertake its educational mission with close to 400 fewer teachers and another support personnel in 2010-2011 than in 2008-09.

Karger Donates Dough to Revive GT Drug Discount Program

GRAND TERRACE - An infusion of funds from a private donor has allowed the city of Grand Terrace to initiate its never before actuated prescription drug subsidization program.

The city council approved the city's enrollment in the National League of Cities-sponsored program, which provides a 20 percent discount on pharmaceutical purchases through specified national drug stores. The city was required, however, to pay a nominal \$1,500 fee to initiate the program.

But city officials balked at forking over the \$1,500 to get things started.

The National League of Cities went so far as to halve the initiation

fee. The city was still not ready to sign up.

Barney Karger, an 81-year-old resident of Grand Terrace who has successfully plied his trade as a developer and contractor nationally and internationally, learned of the hold up and simply wrote a check to the National League of Cities.

"Councilwoman Bea Cortes approached me and asked me to help out some people who might need it and I said, 'Yes, I would donate to keep the drug discount cards coming.'"

Karger, said he was

conscious of the political tension in the city, specifically a rivalry that has developed between Cortes and another member of the city council, Jim Miller. Karger said he actually felt himself more in consonance with Miller's political approach than that of Cortes, but that he had responded positively to her call for assistance with the drug price discount program nonetheless.

"I did not mean this as an endorsement of Bea Cortes or anyone else," Karger said. "Bea has many political contacts that are good for the city

and I think she can be a very useful council member from time to time, but no more so than Jim Miller. I think this whole brouhaha between Jim Miller and Bea Cortes is insane. But that had nothing to do with what I did. I simply donated some money to sustain this program."

The program is available to residents who lack health insurance and provides them with an average discount of 20 percent off the price of prescription drugs at CVS Pharmacies and other retail drug outlets.

RUSD Shortens School Year by Three Days

REDLANDS - The Redlands Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved reducing the 2010 school year by three days

Traditional school schedules would drop from 180 days to 177 days. Schools in Bryn Mawr, which function on a year-round schedule, would go from 175 days to 172 days.

Redlands Unified School District superintendent Lori Rhodes said the instructional day reduction was a "travesty" necessitated by "our legislature not being able to come up with real solutions to support the educational program."

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to deal with the state's own projected \$19.9 billion deficit next fiscal year calls for cutting per student spending throughout the state by roughly \$200 in the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

The district must incorporate as much as \$20.8 million worth of cuts into its 2010-11 spending plan.

Charlie Johnson Elected CSD President

Members of the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District's board of directors on January 6 chose Charlie Johnson to serve as board president.

Johnson is a founder of the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District.

In the past year, Johnson has served on the district's parks and recreation as well as its finance committees.

Joe Fahrlander was elected Vice President for 2010.

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Flo's Airport Café to Continue at the Chino Airport

Flo's Airport Café, a long-standing restaurant operation at the Chino Airport, has reached agreement with the county of San Bernardino regarding its continued presence at the airport. This lease extension will allow Flo's to remain at the Chino Airport through 2012.

Flo's has maintained a presence at the Chino Airport for many years and has a loyal group of customers. It is known for providing quality, home-style food at reasonable prices with "down home" service. Local citizens as well as pilots throughout Southern California travel to Flo's each day for breakfast, lunch or dinner, to enjoy the atmosphere and view the historic aircraft that frequent Chino Airport.

"Flo's is part of the unique atmosphere at the Chino Airport and we look forward to its continued presence at the Chino Airport," said county director of airports Mike N. Williams.

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Quottrochi from front page

son, and then, his entire estate. Scott was abetted in this action by attorney E. Joan Nelms and signed off on by judge Frank Gafkowski.

The younger Quottrochi, was not willing to accept that his father, a World War II veteran who had been decorated with a presidential citation and the Bronze Star for heroism when he was serving with George Patton's Fourth Armored Division in December 1944 during the march to Bastogne to free the trapped 101st Airborne during the Battle of the Bulge, was no longer capable of managing his own life.

Through dogged determination, Quottrochi carried out an energetic and cunning game plan that included capturing video footage of his father engaging in spontaneous conversations and cogent exchanges with others to prove that his father was not only mentally aware but entirely competent to carry out his own affairs. After two years - and the ex-

penditure of \$205,000, the young Quottrochi liberated his father from the clutches of Scott and her cohorts, just like his father had liberated his Army colleagues from the Nazis sixty years previously.

"We need to protect the elderly," the junior Quottrochi said. "I feel the senior citizens and veterans in our community deserve to be protected because they are the ones that worked to make this country great. If it were not for their contributions, we would not have anything. There are a lot of things in government that are in need of reform. Based on my personal experience with an illegal and corrupt conservatorship process, my first effort will be toward reforming the way our courts are run. I and my father went up to Sacramento and got four new laws put into effect. One has my verbiage in it, AB 1363. Assemblyman Dave Jones carried that legislation. I helped write that law. I went up to Sacramento to fight for that law and advocate for the elderly. It seems to me that veterans and

the elderly in this country are seeing their rights and benefits eroding. They paid taxes all their lives and they don't deserve in their last years to have the nonsense that is being pulled on them."

Quottrochi said he has a formula that would effectuate massive social reform with one bold stroke by subjecting the legal profession, which he said is wildly out of control, to regulation. The problem, Quottrochi, said, is that lawyers are regulating lawyers. By placing attorneys under the watchful inspection of a regulatory agency, he said, the abuse of common citizens by an elite group that often acts unethically and illegally would come to a fast end.

"I would get rid of the state bar and create a department of law," he said. "I would have the state looking at these lawyers. When you have lawyers watching over and watching out for other lawyers, they end up hiding issues of concern to everyone."

In one other area, Quottrochi said he favored greater regulation.

"I am very concerned about the medical review board," he said. "Both healthy and unhealthy senior citizens along with mentally competent senior citizens have no jurisdiction over fraudulent medical evaluations," he said. "Fraudulent medical evaluations put people in harm's way in the court system. I think there is a need to improve the function of the medical review board. I think proper reform there would help stop corruption in probate and conservatorship court."

Outside those two areas, Quottrochi said he opposed further government regulation.

With regard to other issues, Quottrochi came across as a conventional Republican concerned with reining in government bureaucracy to allow entrepreneurs to pursue their goals without the intrusion of the encumbrance of over-regulation.

"Through my own personal experience, I know that too many people in office are not sensitive to the needs of the people," he said. "Dave Jones was

an exception, of course. The ones who are professional politicians have had their chance. They have shown what they are really about. With cities spiraling out of control and with budgets collapsing, I say it is time for someone to go up there and make a change. There are major problems with our cities. Government has created problems for our businesses. The professional politicians don't care. We need to elect someone who does care. I do."

His commitment to his constituents would be to ensure that government runs efficiently and comports itself responsibly.

"First of all, I would with my Assembly colleagues put a budget together that would be on time," he said. "Second, I would look at past performances and how things need to be cut instead of waiting to the last moment to make the cuts. If cuts have to be made we have to do so in an equitable and well thought out fashion."

Quottrochi said the state government should work with the federal

government to ensure that manufacturing jobs remain in the state.

"We have scrap steel going out of this country that is being shipped back to us in the form of different products," he said. "We should be manufacturing goods here. We are not taxing imports properly. If others don't have our environmental regulations, they should pay a tariff. What I am saying is presently falling on deaf ears, but why are we giving foreign markets an advantage and our domestic companies a disadvantage? Why are our jobs going to other countries?"

Government needs to reduce its burden on the construction industry, he said.

"If we are going to see construction get started again, we are going to have to do something about the fees imposed on builders," he said. "The fees to build a house run to \$30,000. Most of that needs to be eliminated."

Quottrochi said he embraced the law and order ethos of the Republican Party, but said

Continued on Page 7

Wal-Mart from front page

wide vote. The group filed the petition with the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters on October 14. The registrar examined the petition and ascertained that it contained 5,830 valid signatures of Redlands residents - more than 15 percent of the city's registered voters - enough to qualify the initiative for placement on the June ballot.

The Redlands City

Council this week accepted city clerk Sam Irwin's report of the initiative petition's filing.

It is unclear whether the city will go on record as opposed to the anti-Wal-Mart initiative or whether it will take no stand with regard to the effort.

Briggs has generated considerable attention over his efforts in suing over proposed Wal-Marts, having fought proposed stores in Ontario, San Diego Coun-

ty, Barstow, Victorville and elsewhere. One of his techniques is to find technical inadequacies in the environmental impact reports for the projects. Typically, his claims against the stores exceed 1,000 pages. The developers, the cities in which the projects are approved and Wal-Mart are obliged to respond to each contention in the claim.

Briggs' lawsuits against Wal-Mart are paralleled by the spon-

taneous manifestation of citizens groups that militate against the retailer in each of the communities where the Wal-Marts in question are proposed, an examination of internet references to Briggs show.

Briggs utilizes elements of the California Environmental Quality Act to propound his suits.

The United Food and Commercial Workers, a union representing grocery store clerks, is opposed to Wal-Mart because its employees are not unionized.

The union maintains that Wal-Mart does not pay its employees union

wages or even decent wages and has attacked Wal-Mart, which once eschewed foreign made merchandise in favor of American made brands, for selling Chinese and other foreign goods. The union further maintains that Wal-Mart has contributed to global warming because in the places where those goods are manufactured there are not the same environmental regulations in place as in the United States.

The Redlands Area Democratic Club has endorsed the initiative to prevent Wal-Mart from establishing one of its supercenters - which in-

cludes a standard Wal-Mart general merchandise store with a full service grocery section under one roof - in Redlands

Wal-Mart maintains the efforts against their proposals for the massive supercenters are not spontaneous grassroots reactions but are a money-making stratagem by obstructionist lawyers who are less interested in environmental issues than they are in getting paid off to go away.

Cities generally favor Wal-Mart in the disputes because of the sales tax revenue that will be generated from Wal-Mart's retail sales.



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County, Barstow Agree on Funding for Lenwood Road Rail Overpass

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement between the County, the City of Barstow and San Bernardino Associated Governments to provide funding for the design and approval of the Lenwood Road bridge over the BNSF Railway in Barstow.

“The Lenwood Road

bridge is a high priority project that will spur much-needed economic development in the Barstow area, while also improving traffic flow and safety,” said First District

Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “This is a time when agencies and jurisdictions need to work together to keep projects moving forward and I’m

gratified the County was able to step up with additional funding to avoid delays.”

Lenwood Road is an important link between Interstate 15 and Highway 58, and is a strategic location for development of warehouse and distribution centers. The project would construct a bridge on Lenwood Road over the railroad

tracks.

The total cost of the design, environmental review and approval process is expected to be \$4,159,000. The project is half in the City of Barstow and half in the unincorporated County area. The design cost is being covered with \$938,108 from Measure I (the County’s half-cent sales tax for transporta-

tion) and the balance of \$3,223,900 was to be split evenly between the County and Barstow. The total estimated cost of the project is \$34 million.

Barstow paid \$723,900 to hire URS Corporation to begin the work. Under the agreement, the county will cover Barstow’s remaining share of project design and environmental review in the

amount of \$888,000. The project was also awarded \$6.3 million from Proposition 1B, the \$20 billion transportation bond approved by state voters in 2006, but those funds can only be used for construction. To qualify for the state bond funds, the project must be under construction by 2013 so keeping the project moving is critical.

Taco Bell Founder Made Fast Food Start in SB

Glen W. Bell, who founded the Taco Bell fast food chain, died January 17 at the age of 86 at his Rancho Santa Fe home.

Bell was born September 23, 1923, in Lynwood and was raised in Muscoy. He enlisted in the Marines in 1942 and fought at Guadalcanal. After leaving the military, at the age of 25 he opened a fast food res-

taurant, Bell’s Drive-in in San Bernardino. That establishment was the forerunner of what eventually evolved into the nationwide chain that still bears his name. That first undertaking did not originally feature tacos, but did offer chili dogs, a then-relatively recent amalgam of American and Mexican food.

Within one year,

he added tacos to his menu and in an effort to streamline production, developed a method of deep frying taco shells.

Bell stood at the forefront of capitalizing on the Southland’s hunger for fast Mexican food, starting with a partner three Taco Tia restaurants in 1954 and 1955.

He subsequently established the El Taco chain.

In 1961, he co-founded with John Galardi Der Wienerschnitzel, the hot dog chain.

An early partner in his fast food restaurant ventures was Neal Baker, who in the 1950s created his own chain of restaurants.

It was not until 1962 that Bell actually christened one of his outlets located in Downey “Taco

Bell.”

In 1964 he began licensing Taco Bell franchises and by 1969, the chain was doing quite well, with most featuring a trade mark fire pit in the outdoor seating area. By the early 1970, the Taco Bell operation was phenomenally successful.

In 1978, when Bell sold the chain to Pepsi-

Co, there were 868 Taco Bell locations. Taco Bell is now owned by PepsiCo spinoff Yum Brands Inc., which operates more than 5,600 Taco Bells worldwide.

Bell is survived by his wife of 54 years, Martha, three sisters, Delores, Dorothy and Maureen; daughter, Kathleen; two sons, Gary and Rex; and four grandchildren

Body Shop Owner Arrested

San Bernardino, CA - On November 13, 2009, a felony warrant was issued for the arrest of Roberto Alvarez Moran, 62, for 532a PC, obtaining money, labor or property under false pretense. On December 21, 2009, Moran was located at his place of business in Upland, by auto insurance investigators of the San Bernardino district attorney’s office and arrested.

Earlier this year, a complaint was filed by Mercury Insurance with the Bureau of Automotive Repair. A customer had complained about Moran, who owns Sierra Auto Body in Upland. Moran had used after-market parts to repair the vehicle

and billed the insurance company for original parts. He also added charges to the bill so the insurance company would be paying the deductible for the claimant and promised to give it back after the insurance company paid off the repair.

The Bureau of Automotive Repair began an investigation and then submitted it to investigators in the auto insurance fraud unit of the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s office to complete the investigation and file the case. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga for booking.

Run or Walk to Better Health!

The 4th Annual ARMC 5K Community Walk-Run & Fitness Expo is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2010. Registration begins at 7 a.m., warm-ups at 8a.m., and walk/run at approximately 8:30a.m.

Quotrochi from page 6

that the emphasis on enforcement and prosecution presently used by authorities was not prioritized properly.

“We have people being imprisoned for stealing food,” he said. “It is not that I condone that but why are white collar criminals being given a free ride? White collar criminals are not being challenged. They are getting away with their crimes because no one wants to prosecute them. Yet people who are in a

The on-line pre-registration for participants is now active and can be accessed at www.arrowheadmedcenter.org

This is a free community event staged by Arrowhead Regional Medical Center to raise

desperate situation and who are driven to stealing food are much more likely to be caught and to be imprisoned. That is because they do not have the means to offer any resistance in our legal system. But the legal system protects those who embezzle or who engage in white collar crime because they are better equipped to go into the legal system. That is not right.”

Quotrochi said he knew it would be “an uphill battle going against Don Kurth and Aquanetta Warren and the

awareness regarding the ever-increasing rates of obesity and diabetes in San Bernardino County. Obesity and diabetes are dangerous conditions and can lead to life-long medical complications, especially for children.

other established politicians, but I am hoping to spread the word around about these issues so people will know what is going on. Maybe I can convince them to vote for me.”

Quotrochi, 61, was originally from Staten Island. He has lived in Southern California since 1971 and in Fontana since 1987. He was employed in his younger days by Twentieth Century Fox as shoemaker on movie sets and has more recently worked as a real estate broker.

All ages, all abilities welcomed to participate. Professional timing for the truly competitive, but this is first and foremost an awareness raising event and beginning walkers always outnumber runners. No charge for the event or the Fitness Expo. Breakfast snacks will be

provided to participants as they return from the route back to the medical center staging area.

Come out, wear your company or school shirts, and have a terrific morning - the afternoon will be all yours.

Flyer, photos, waiver, map, route course, and

pre-registration form are all available on the web site www.arrowheadmedcenter.org

Call Lynda VanHoof the business development & marketing coordinator at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for more information: 909-580-3142.

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Protect Your Family from Lead

The EPA Requires Remodelers to Become Certified To Work in Pre-1978 Homes

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) is making homeowners aware of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that will take effect April 22, 2010, requiring remodelers working in homes built before 1978 to follow practices designed to minimize the exposure of residents to lead hazards.

“Lead is harmful to both children and adults. In children, a tiny amount of exposure can lead to neurological damage, and in adults,

lead inhalation can lead to hypertension, muscle and joint pain, fatigue and nausea among other symptoms,” says Bob Boothroyd, owner of The Boothroyd Group and an EPA Certified Renovator in Connecticut.

The EPA is calling for all remodelers who intend to work in pre-1978 homes to register their company and complete an 8-hour training and certification course with an accredited trainer. The course teaches remodelers how to safely contain lead in a home as it is being disturbed and

reduce exposure to residents and workers.

NARI wants homeowners to know how to protect themselves from harmful lead exposure during renovations. If you know your home was built before

1978 and your renovation will disturb painted surfaces you will have to hire an EPA Certified Firm.

“Consider it a red flag if a remodeler doesn’t mention lead if you live in an older home. Even though the law is not in effect until April, they still need to make homeowners aware of lead exposure,” Boothroyd says.

He adds that current law requires that renovators give homeowners an EPA brochure called “Renovate Right,” which includes facts about lead and lead safety in the home and have it signed to signal that homeowners have been properly notified of the dangers.

If owners of a pre-



1978 home decide to remodel, it is important to assume lead is present unless testing is done to identify exactly where the lead is by using a lead test. The following three main areas of safe work practices recognized by the EPA can be used to help homeowners start the lead conversation:

* Containing the work are so that dust and debris does not escape, complete with warning signs, heavy-duty plastic and tape.

* Minimizing the dust by using methods such as misting water on ar-

ea before sanding or scraping.

* Clean up thoroughly on a daily basis using special cleaning methods such as using a HEPA vacuum and wet mopping with plenty of rinse water.

Certified firms are obligated to prove the certification by displaying their training certificate to homeowners and on the jobsite. Note that states are able to create more stringent criteria in addition to the EPA’s criteria, and the certificate should reflect the state in which the work is being completed.

The EPA also recommends that homeowners have the remodelers specify what the final lead inspection entails. If a homeowner has any doubts about the quality of lead safe practices being conducted in their homes, call 1-800-424-LEAD.

NARI can connect you with remodel-ready contractors who will take care of the entire remodeling process. Find a NARI member on www.nariremodelers.com. For green remodeling information, please visit www.greenremodeling.org.

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