



Fire chief's son found dead in Lake Arrowhead

By [ALI TADAYON](#)

2017-01-29 09:01:37



Dawson Hartwig, son of San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, was found dead early Sunday, Jan. 29, in Lake Arrowhead, a day and a half after [he went missing](#).

The sheriff's dive team found his body about 1:10 a.m. in about 30 feet of water near the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

"The Sheriff's Dive Team sends our deepest condolences to the Hartwig family," team leader Bryan Lane said via Twitter. "Fire and Sheriff are one big family and we all feel your loss."

Dawson Hartwig, 20, and some friends went to the mountains Friday, renting a cabin in the 200 block of Burnt Mill Road, Mark Hartwig said Saturday. Dawson went for a walk Friday afternoon and never came back.

Dawson left without a cellphone and officials said he was not properly dressed for the weather, which included below-freezing overnight temperatures.

His friends reporting him missing at 10:44 a.m. Saturday. A large search party formed, including more than 70 fire and law enforcement personnel, three K-9 units and numerous volunteers.

This story is developing. Check back for updates.

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Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

San Bernardino fire chief's son remembered with #LoveLikeDawson hashtag

By *Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Monday, January 30, 2017



LAKE ARROWHEAD >> Hours after the son of San Bernardino County's fire chief was [found dead in Lake Arrowhead](#) early Sunday morning, a hashtag emerged to remember the 20-year-old's love of the outdoors, adventure and his family and friends.

"Dawson was a man among men. His love of others made the world a better place. Family loved him deeply & will miss him dearly [#LoveLikeDawson](#)," [tweeted](#) his father Mark Hartwig late Sunday night. His words were accompanied by three photographs of Dawson Hartwig with friends.

The sheriff's dive team found his body around 1:10 a.m. in about 30 feet near the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

Several people took to social media, especially Twitter, to express their grief and to send condolences to the Hartwig family.

"The Sheriff's Dive Team sends our deepest condolences to the Hartwig family," team leader Bryan Lane said via Twitter. "Fire and Sheriff are one big family and we all feel your loss."

Others using the hashtag #LoveLikeDawson posted pictures of the 20-year-old outside with friends and family. "I'm the luckiest little brother in the world to have spent 18 years with you Dawson. I (love) you so much [#LoveLikeDawson](#)," Dawson's younger brother, Jeremiah Hartwig, [posted on Twitter](#).

A group of friends even [wrote his name with string on a Milliken Avenue](#) overpass fence, although it wasn't clear if it was over the 10 or 210 freeways.

A memorial [Facebook page](#), also bearing the name Love Like Dawson, shared details of the young man's life.

"He was about to start his next semester at (Riverside City College) and had a sports marketing internship lined up for this summer," read a portion of the post on the page. "He loved his job as a lifeguard at the Fontana Aquatics Center where he also coached young kids to play water polo. He was a constant joy to those he was around."

It went on to describe Dawson as "inspiring."

"He put others above himself and was a man of immense integrity," it read. "He could almost sense when those around him were hurting and he would be there to show them love."

Mark Hartwig, who spoke with this news organization by phone earlier Saturday, said his son and a couple friends had traveled to the area Friday to enjoy the recent snow.

That afternoon, Dawson, 20, left their rented cabin in the 200 block of Burnt Mill Road and went for a walk, according to a sheriff's news release.

"He never came back from his walk," said the elder Hartwig.

Dawson left without a cellphone and was not properly dressed for the weather, officials said. His friends reporting him missing at 10:44 a.m. Saturday.

A large search party formed, including more than 70 fire and law enforcement personnel, three K-9 units and numerous volunteers. By about 8 p.m. Saturday, the local temperature had dropped to 35 degrees.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170130/san-bernardino-fire-chiefs-son-remembered-with-lovelikedawson-hashtag>

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The search for Dawson Hartwig has concluded

Posted: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:09 am

UPDATE:

On Sunday, January 29, 2017 at approximately 1:10 a.m., Sheriff’s Dive Team members continued their search of Lake Arrowhead and located a deceased male in about 30 feet of water near the Yacht Club. The Coroner responded and confirmed the victim was Dawson Hartwig.

No additional information is available at this time; new information will be posted as it becomes available



Dawson Hartwig

UPDATE - January 28th 8:20 p.m:

The search efforts continue with personnel from SBSD(approximately 71), which includes deputies, volunteers(Search & Rescue and citizen patrol), Three K9’s (Dare, Deja & Ellie) and Dive Team members. Also, Co. Fire Urban Search & Rescue (USAR), CERT members and numerous volunteers.

The search cover the Lake Arrowhead Village and surrounding areas, including the lake.

New information will be posted as it become available.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:44 a.m.

INCIDENT: Missing Person/Search and Rescue

LOCATION: 200 block of Burnt Mill Rd., Lake Arrowhead

VICTIM: Dawson Hartwig, 20 years old

6’4”, 160 lbs., Blonde hair, Brown eyes

Last seen wearing: White shirt, Khaki pants, Snow boots, Beanie hat

On Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 10:44 a.m. friends of Dawson’s contacted the Twin Peaks Sheriff’s Station and advised deputies that Dawson left their rented cabin on Burnt Mill Rd. late Friday afternoon, stating he was going for a walk but had not returned. Dawson did not take his phone or any other personal property with him. Dawson was last seen on Friday in the Lake Arrowhead Village area around 5:00 p.m.

Deputies began a search and are using the following resources:

Patrol deputies, Sheriff's Aviation, K9's, Search and Rescue volunteers, Citizen on Patrol units and Community Emergency Response Team(CERT) members.

Local business owners, residents and visitors are asked to look at Dawson's photo and if anyone sees him or has any information regarding his whereabouts they are asked to contact Sheriff's Dispatch immediately at (909)387-8313.



UPDATE: Fire Chief's 20-year-old son found dead in Lake Arrowhead early Sunday

Sunday

Posted Jan 29, 2017 at 10:17 AM

Updated at 8:27 AM

By Staff reports

The body of a missing 20-year-old man was found by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Dive Team members early Sunday morning, authorities said.

The Sheriff-Coroner responded to the scene and confirmed the victim was Dawson Hartwig, who was found in about 30 feet of water near the Yacht Club in Lake Arrowhead.

The son of San Bernardino County Fire Department Chief Mark Hartwig had been reported missing Friday night and was last seen in the 200 block of Burnt Mill Road in Lake Arrowhead. According to the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 official Facebook page, a post from Mark Hartwig's wife, Holly Hartwig, was shared stating their son had gone missing Friday night.

On Saturday at 10:44 a.m., friends of Dawson Hartwig contacted the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station and advised deputies he had left their rented cabin on Burnt Mill Road late Friday afternoon, stating he was going for a walk but had not returned.

Dawson Hartwig was also reported to not have taken his phone or any other personal property with him and was last seen in the Lake Arrowhead Village area around 5 p.m., officials said.

Deputies began an active search, patrol deputies, Sheriff's Aviation, K-9's, Search and Rescue volunteers, Citizen on Patrol units and Community Emergency Response Team(CERT) members all helping in the search.

The investigation is ongoing.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

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County Fire settles lawsuit for \$4 million



Crest Forest Fire Protection District headquarters building located at 23407 Crest Forest Drive, Crestline where the accident occurred (Photo by Gail Fry)

Saturday, Jan 28, 2017

By Gail Fry

On December 28, Chino Hills resident Seandor Flis filed a dismissal of the lawsuit he filed on July 2, 2014, against the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the Crest Forest Fire Protection District for an incident where he was "struck by a Brush Fire Truck" on December 9, 2013.

According to settlement documents obtained by *The Alpenhorn News*, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD) and the Crest Forest Fire Protection District (CFFPD) or their insurers will contribute \$3,685,000 while the cross-defendant, Brandon Coles and his insurers, will contribute \$315,000.

Details of the settlement indicate it will be paid as follows: \$1.3 million by the County of San Bernardino to BHG Structured Settlements; \$1.635 million by the County of San Bernardino payable to Seandor Flis and his attorneys, Panish, Shea & Boyle; \$750,000 payable to Seandor Flis and his attorneys by American Alternative Insurance Corporation; and Glatfelter Claims Management under an auto policy issued to the County of San Bernardino and CFFPD; \$300,000 payable to Flis and his attorneys by Farmers Insurance under Brandon Cole's homeowner's policy; and \$15,000 paid to Flis and his attorneys by Geico Insurance under Brandon Cole's automobile policy.

Additionally, the settlement documents reveal the County of San Bernardino will make monthly payments, guaranteed for forty years, in the amount of \$4,148 to Flis for "damages on account of personal physical injuries or physical sickness."

The settlement documents indicate the County of San Bernardino, the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and Brandon Coles, "deny any and all liability but enter into this settlement agreement to avoid future costs/expenses and the uncertainty of litigation."

According to court documents, the circumstances leading to the lawsuit began on December 9, 2013, when Chino Hills resident Seandor Flis was found by Crestline resident Brandon Coles, "in his vehicle unconscious."

Coles "drove Flis to a fire station [sic] at 23407 Crest Forest Drive" in Crestline making "repeated attempts to summon emergency aid, including ringing the doorbell, knocking on the door, and/or honking his car horn."

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In his complaint, Cole claims, “no one answered” despite having a “ring for service” bell and “public address speaker” and being “designated as a ‘Safe Surrender’ site.”

With no response, Cole explained, he “placed Flis, who was unconscious, in front of the entrance door to the firehouse, covered in a yellow blanket,” drove “back to his house and immediately called 911.”

The lawsuit claims SBCFPD “firefighter” Timothy Schenck, responding to another call for assistance, walked “around the fire engine” failed “to see Flis” and drove the vehicle “forward [sic] ran over Flis’ body, crushing him and proximately causing him incredibly severe injuries.”

Flis claimed the fire truck was equipped “with two different kinds of vehicle chains” causing it to “undulate wildly” contributing to Schenck’s inability to “stop” the truck.

Additionally, Flis’ lawsuit claims the premises had “dangerous conditions” as its bell labeled “call for service” was “not working,” the 911 emergency phone located at the entrance “was not working,” lighting was insufficient, the building was “improperly designed” causing “insufficient forward visibility” with no “warning signs” posted to keep the area “clear of obstructions.”

The settlement closes the final chapter of the Crest Forest Fire Protection District, which was finally absorbed by the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District on July 13, 2016, when its three-year contract expired.

The accident occurred on December 9, 2013, five months after CFFPD’s contract with SBCFPD went into effect on July 13, 2013, incorporating CFFPD employees into SBCFPD and where it leased its headquarters building to the County.

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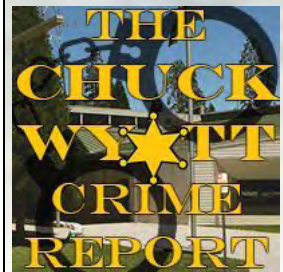
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Video captures deputy threatening to 'create something' to arrest Victorville man

Friday

Posted at 3:39 PM

Updated at 3:39 PM

By **Rene Ray De La Cruz**

Staff Writer



VICTORVILLE - Duncan Hicks said he wasn't at a local San Bernardino County Sheriff's Station "to cause problems" when a deputy allegedly told him he'd find a reason to arrest him.

Hicks told the Daily Press he went to "file a new domestic incident report" at the Victorville Sheriff's Station on Amargosa Road last week when he claims a "rude" deputy "brushed off" his request and a female clerk "became agitated" with him.

"I went there as a taxpayer and law-abiding citizen to take care of a report," said Hicks, 34, who visited the Daily Press with cell phone video in hand soon after the incident on Jan. 20. "How can someone threaten me like that? It's so disrespectful and it doesn't reflect well on the police department."

With Hicks' cell phone capturing his visit to the Sheriff's Station's lobby, an unidentified male deputy is seen leaving his office and approaching Hicks, who is standing on the other side of the security window.

"Duncan, you know what man? I'm about getting tired of you and you're about to go to jail - just so you know," said the unidentified deputy.

After Hicks asks the deputy, "Why am I going to jail for?," the deputy responds with, "I'll create something. Do you understand? You'll go to jail. Do you understand?"

As Hicks responds it is illegal to make up something to arrest someone, the deputy tells him that recording him is illegal without his knowledge, asking him, "Do you want to go to jail for that too?"

Hicks then becomes defensive and tells the deputy he's recording for his own protection. The deputy then retreats to his office and the clerk wags her finger at Hicks, telling him multiple times to "step back from my window."

"You're going to create an incident? I am in duress and that is not constitutional what she just did - what he just said," Duncan exclaims as he walks away from the window, announcing he was "not aggressive or a threat."

Hicks said Victorville sheriff's Sgt. Brian Roper later contacted him and apologized.

Victorville Sheriff's Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez, who forwarded Hicks' video from the Daily Press to her superiors, also said: "It is not illegal to record a deputy when he is on duty."

On Friday, the video sparked a response from San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon.

"Since viewing the video, our employee's response to the citizen is not consistent with my expectation of customer service," McMahon told the Daily Press.

"Additionally, the deputy's responses are not consistent with the interpretation of the law."

McMahon said his department will conduct an administrative investigation into the incident and the four previous contacts with Hicks to ensure all were professionally handled.

He added the department will contact Hicks and address his concern and appropriate action will be taken once the investigation is completed.

"I appreciate Sgt. Roper and what he told me," Hicks said. "But I'm still afraid to drive at night. I don't want to be a victim of racial profiling, or possibly shot or beat by deputies.

"I don't have a criminal record and I don't want one," said Hicks, who said he is training to become a truck driver. "All I'm trying to do is obey the law."

*Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLa
Cruz@VVDailyPress.com or on Twitter @DP_ReneDeLaCruz.*

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Here's what happened during week 4 of the Colonies corruption case

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Saturday, January 28, 2017



The Colonies corruption trial, involving a Rancho Cucamonga-based developer and three former San Bernardino County public officials, is underway in San Bernardino Superior Court, and here is what happened during Week Four. The case began nearly 15 years ago as a land-rights lawsuit against the county — and over the course of a decade — grew into what prosecutors have called the biggest public corruption scandal in county history, involving allegations of bribery and the misappropriation of public funds in connection with the Colonies development.

Former county Assistant Assessor Jim Erwin, developer Jeff Burum, former county Supervisor Paul Biane, and Mark Kirk, former chief of staff for erstwhile county Supervisor Gary Ovitt, were indicted in May 2011. They stand accused of conspiring to fix the November 2006 settlement between the county and Upland-based real estate investor group Colonies Partners LP in exchange for bribes and political favors.

All four defendants deny any wrongdoing.

Jan. 23: Defense attorney Rajan Maline [continued his cross examination](#) of witness Brett Granlund, chipping away at the credibility of his recollection of events and his motives for assisting prosecutors in their investigation from 2009 through 2011. Granlund, a former state assemblyman and lobbyist, testified that Erwin told him in the latter half of 2006 about his plans to put pressure on Biane and Postmus via the political “hit piece” mailers, but did not specify what his motives were.

Jan. 24: [Trial was postponed](#) due to a sick juror.

Jan. 25: Former state assemblyman and senator [Jim Brulte took the witness stand](#), testifying about his role in assisting one of the defendants in helping facilitate a settlement with the county in 2006 that prosecutors allege was tainted by bribery. Brulte testified that he was hired by Burum in late 2004 to assist in helping him resolve a lawsuit Burum filed against the San Bernardino County in March 2002 on behalf of his investor group, Colonies Partners LP.

Jan. 26: [Tim Johnson, who served](#) as Biane’s campaign manager, field representative and ultimately district director during the eight years Biane served as a county supervisor, testified about Biane’s relationship with Burum. Prosecutors questioned Johnson about contributions Burum and his businesses made to Biane’s campaign during and following a nearly 5-year legal battle Burum’s investor group, Colonies Partners LP, had with the county from 2002 through 2006.

Jan. 27: [Attorneys for Erwin argued](#) in court that 17 documents prosecutors plan to present as evidence at trial should be excluded due to the attorney-client privilege.

• [READ MORE: Colonies corruption case](#)

Here's what is happening this week at the Colonies' trial:

Jan. 30: Testimony continues before Judge Michael A. Smith.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170128/heres-what-happened-during-week-4-of-the-colonies-corruption-case>

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Stars bring healing and hope to victims of tragedy in San Bernardino

Stars of Hope continue to inspire

By Michel Nolan, The Sun

Saturday, January 28, 2017



Stars align each time a group of caring people gets together with paint, brushes and wooden Stars of Hope.

These stars take on super-galactic importance at the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, where Humane Education Teacher Lynn Hildebrand uses her own creativity and kindness to make Stars of Hope for others — colorful pieces of hope and healing to empower people and transform communities impacted by natural and man-made disasters.

In addition to stars for the community, Lynn and company have already created and sent stars to the Lutheran Church Charities' K-9

Comfort Dog Ministry in Northbrook, Illinois and the New Rochelle Humane Society in New York for a beloved therapy dog.

On Thursday, I was invited to join the Humane Society staff as they painted a kaleidoscope of colors and inspirational messages on the 1-foot wooden stars we would give others as a symbol of our support, encouragement and understanding — or to recognize and thank people for their helpfulness.

Two particularly beautiful stars had been painted for Dr. Jane Goodall and would be shipped to Africa.

Humane Society staff members, volunteers and other animal lovers with their therapy dogs joined us in the Joyce Martin Education Auditorium with plastic plates, paints, brushes and stacks of wooden stars.

Lisa Medina and her therapy dog, Kohlett, a cousin of beloved therapy dog Havoc, were there, as were Bonnie Strom, of Colton, with her rescue dog, Max.

Most noticeable of all, perhaps, was Joyce Banks, with her 5-year-old miniature horse, JJ.

These therapy animals visit schools, convalescent homes and hospitals, bringing joy and a sense of peacefulness to those they visit.

The group was part of Hooves and Paws, the therapy visitation team that helped “de-stress” people at the Inland Regional Center, site of the Dec. 2, 2015 terror attack.

Passing out stars, Lynn greeted volunteers and helped get painting and creativity started.

“There is something magical that happens as you are painting, talking with others, thinking of words of encouragement and empathy,” she said.

Lynn had asked me to stop by that day. “Take a break from being a reporter, and just have fun creating colors and designs and words of inspiration and compassion. Sprinkle some stardust, align the stars, and turn tragedy

into triumph.”

A galaxy of these stars brought hope to San Bernardino after we suffered the heinous terror attack.

The colorful stars, bearing the names of the 14 victims who lost their lives, hung from a tree in the makeshift memorial that sprung up at the corner of Waterman Avenue and Orange Show Road in San Bernardino.

Jeff Parness, founder and executive director of the nonprofit Stars of Hope, remembers painting and hanging the stars, along with his family, in December 2015.

Stars of Hope transform tragedy into hope, loss into healing.

“These are acts that happen and leave us so powerless, shaking us to the core, and then suddenly you have a simple gift of humanity. The underlying message of the stars is to let people know that others care for them — especially in a time of need.”

And Jeff should know. A resident of New York, his best friend was killed in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, inspiring his family to pay it forward for the love New York City received from people around the world following 9/11.

They established the New York Says Thank You Foundation, along with Groesbeck Rebuilds America.

Since the Stars of Hope took shape in 2007 after the Greensburg, Kansas tornado, more than 65,000 stars have aligned to give others hope.

Stars of Hope volunteers, with New York Says Thank You Foundation and Groesbeck Rebuilds America, have been blessed to travel to disaster sites to empower children, families, and entire communities, transforming devastated physical and emotional landscapes with Stars of Hope.

Hope also has been sent to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, scene of the deadly wildfire; Dallas and Baton Rouge, after the floods; Fort McMurray, Canada, following the fire; and Orlando, scene of a mass shooting.

Visitors on Thursday included Julie Swann-Paez, who has painted many stars.

Julie was shot twice during the Dec. 2 attack, nearly losing her life from internal bleeding after the bullets shattered her pelvis.

An environmental health worker for San Bernardino County, she was one of the gunshot victims rushed to Loma Linda University Medical Center, enduring multiple blood transfusions and surgeries. She still walks with a limp.

“I love painting the stars,” she said. “It’s like art therapy, but I feel I have an obligation to be an advocate for my coworkers who are not up to dealing with this,” she said about the survivors not having access to the care they deserve.

Julie is working with the San Bernardino Police Department in a terrorist training program they call “Lessons Learned.”

Julie’s daughter, Ellie, now 12, created Stars of Hope for Orlando.

Wishing them healing, love and hope — always hope.

Michel Nolan appears in The Sun on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Reach her at mnolan@scng.com or on Twitter @MichelNolan.

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Lake dredging bogged down



A recent view of Lake Gregory's eastern shoreline, now that the water level has been reduced five feet. (Photo by Douglas W. Motley)

Saturday, Jan 28, 2017

By Douglas W. Motley

The long-awaited seismic rehabilitation of Lake Gregory Dam is on hold, awaiting official clearance to begin necessary dredging, which appears to be bogged down in the mud and mire of the permitting process.

According to County Special Districts Department Interim Division Manager Tim Millington, before dredging can proceed, the county must obtain permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lahonton Regional Water Quality Control District and Army Corps of Engineers. Millington said the county had obtained all necessary permits from the Lahonton agency, as well as partial approval from Fish and Wildlife and Army Corps of Engineers, but is still waiting for one more permit from the Corps of Engineers and two more from Fish and Wildlife.

With the state's Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD) demanding Lake Gregory's water level be lowered by 20 feet while the dam undergoes seismic retrofitting, Second District County Supervisor Rutherford travelled to Sacramento in January 2016 to meet with the DSOD. After presenting DSOD officials with a half-dozen letters from Crestline business owners concerned about how such a drawdown would negatively impact Crestline's economy, the DSOD relented and agreed to a five-foot drawdown.

"She talked to the DSOD people and explained the importance of the lake to the local economy. Then she squirreled away several million specifically for dam repair," said Rutherford Communications Director Scott Vanhorne.

Now that the dam's long-defective drain valves have been successfully replaced, following a botched replacement attempt in 2014, the lake's water level has been lowered five feet below the spillway, as demanded by the DSOD. "As the lake fills up from the current storms, the Special Districts Department will need to release more water," said Vanhorne.

Asked how the lowering of the water level might affect recreation opportunities for beach goers this coming summer, Vanhorne told *The Alpenhorn News*, "We have to make some adjustments. The county is asking Cal Parks (The private company that operates Lake Gregory's recreation facilities) to add more sand to make the beach look normal."

Vanhorne said Monday that the DSOD is reviewing plans for retrofitting the dam and if they give the go-ahead to start, the county hopes to be able to award a construction contract by the end of this summer.

Speaking at last December's Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council meeting, Councilman Rick Dinon explained that the two new 30-inch outlet valves are able to drain half of the water out of the lake in seven days, as required by the DSOD. He said the previous valves were stuck and didn't work at all.

Beset with cost overruns ever since the dam retrofitting project ordered by the DSOD got underway with a stuck outlet valve replacement in 2012, the original estimate of \$6 million to make the dam safe has now spiraled upward to \$16 million.

Robert Shumaker's

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The dam problem occurred 80-years ago when the contractor apparently did not properly compact the soil. The DSOD says that the middle 20-foot section of the dam may be subject to liquefaction and failure during a major earthquake. With current requirements for dams, if it failed the dam would never be replaced, so seismic retrofitting is required if Lake Gregory is to be preserved.

Once dredging of the lake is approved, those dredged soils will be placed on the Lake Gregory Ball Field to drain, and later will be used to buttress the dam. This results in a significant savings, since it can be reused instead of being trucked away. The biggest impact to residents will be the temporary closure of the road over the dam, probably beginning at the end of summer, with a detour around the lake, Millington said.

Supervisor Rutherford, who is fully behind the dam's retrofit, said in a press release, "I am disappointed that the state is mandating the lowering of Lake Gregory, but I understand the state believes it is necessary for public safety." Once the retrofit project is complete, the county will seek state approval to allow the lake to refill.

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THE CHUCK WYATT CRIME REPORT



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Hundreds participate in San Bernardino human trafficking awareness walk

By [MONICA RODRIGUEZ](#)

2017-01-28 12:13:03



Hundreds of people came together Saturday morning in support of victims of human trafficking.

The group gathered outside the offices of the San Bernardino County Children's Network where they heard a young woman speak about her own experiences and about her life since she was able to break away from sexual exploitation.

Organizers said the event, consisting of the short gathering and one mile walk, are part of celebrating the success of those who were once trafficked and to raise public awareness about the issue.

This story is developing. Check back later for more details.

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

How SkyPark at Santa's Village is shifting focus now that the holidays are over

Operators hope for a full park opening in May

By Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Saturday, January 28, 2017



LAKE ARROWHEAD >> SkyPark at Santa's Village reopened this weekend, after being closed since Jan. 20 due to stormy weather, with a new thrust and significantly lower admission fees.

With the passing of its peak holiday season, the amusement park, which began in 1955 as Santa's Village, has shifted to themed promotions, said Bill Johnson, general manager.

"But Santa is still there, and so is Mrs. Claus," he said. "We are keeping the Santa's Village theme alive for the little kids," he said.

For this weekend, the new theme is WinterWonderland, which will continue as the season provides.

Activities will include snowman-making, snow play, ice-skating, winter crafts, wintertime entertainment, artisan hot cocoa and coffee, craft beer and restaurants, Johnson said.

And there is WinterWonderland pricing: Adult admission is now \$29 and for children, \$19, down from \$59 and \$49 respectively.

The hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Friday through Monday.

The park stopped seven-day operations on Jan. 9, he said, but is still maintaining a weekend workforce of about 260, Johnson said.

The theme shifts to Super Bowl in the park on Sunday, Feb. 5, he said.

There will be special activities planned for that day, including a large screen television setup in the amphitheater area and every television will be fixed on the appropriate Super Bowl channel, he said.

And then the theme moves to a Valentine's Day weekend on Feb. 11-12, allowing couples to build a special kind of memory, Johnson said.

And the park will be open Tuesday, Feb. 14 until 8 p.m., as well, he said.

Looking ahead, Johnson said he was hopeful the full, year-round destination concept for the full 153-acre SkyPark site will be approved and open with the expanded attractions in May.

When SkyPark opened on the old 72-acre footprint of Santa's Village on Dec. 2, it was through a temporary permit issued by the county with many conditions, including a prohibition from using a 300-space parking lot on the south side of Highway 18, using trails for hiking and mountain biking, setting up a zip-line and allowing people on a 30-foot climbing tower, which simulates an iceberg.

That permit expires April 1.

All of those will be offered with the new permit later this year, Johnson said.

The concept for fly-fishing lessons and fishing will not be incorporated into this year's operations.

"It will take some time to go through that process," he said.

"They can apply for a new temporary use permit to modify or extend the current use, but no application has been filed yet," he said.

Jeff Brandt, a senior environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the park's management needs to provide more detail on how they plan to stock the pond.

Depending on the fish variety, the park may need to deepen the pond so the fish remain healthy during the warm summer months, he said.

Lauri Kemper, assistant executive officer at the South Lake Tahoe-based Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, said her staff is evaluating a proposal to correct changes made to the flow of water through a marshland area on the property.

"But we wouldn't want them to start making those changes until late June, after things dry out," she said.

Brandt said the project deserves kudos for removing thousands of tree logs from the marshland area.

And the department is excited about the educational opportunities the park plans, he said.

Johnson said SkyPark will offer programs in riparian biology, wilderness ecology and endangered species.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/lifestyle/20170128/how-sky-park-at-santas-village-is-shifting-focus-now-that-the-holidays-are-over>

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Nominees sought for County's Medal of Honor in education

Sunday

Posted Jan 29, 2017 at 8:26 PM

By Staff Reports

The San Bernardino County Education Medal of Honor is seeking nominations for this year's awards that recognize outstanding contributions to public education by volunteers, business/government partners, educators and alumni.

The deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. Feb. 21.

Nominations can be made in six categories: Volunteer in Action/Community Volunteer; Volunteer in Action/Service Group; Partners in Education/Small Business or Franchise; Partners in Education/Corporation or Government Agency; Excellence in Education/Education Professional; and Excellence in Education/Student Alumni.

Nomination forms are distributed to all school districts in San Bernardino County. The nomination forms also can be downloaded from the County Schools' website at

Entries need to be returned to the County Schools office. For more information, call 909-386-2413.

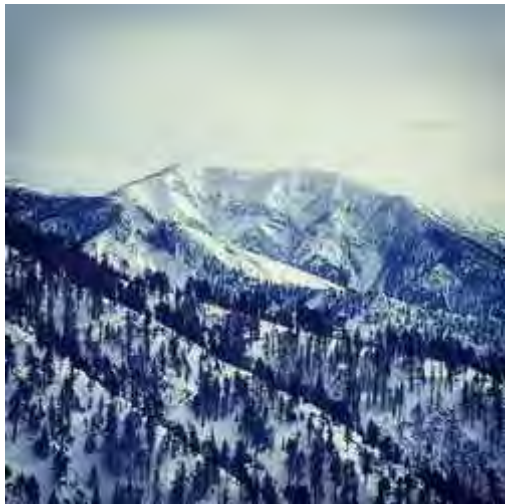
San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Avalanche danger lurks in Inland mountains, experts say

More snow, wind and warmer temperatures ratchet up the risk in area mountains

By Suzanne Hurt, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, January 28, 2017



Experts are warning about continued avalanche risk above 8,000 feet in Southern California mountains after two hikers using crampons and ice axes survived a 3,000-foot avalanche and were rescued by helicopter from Mount Baldy last week.

San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies and firefighters hoisted out the pair, who slid about 1,000 feet after they and a third hiker possibly triggered the avalanche during an ascent of Baldy Bowl on the south face of the peak at about noon Thursday.

"As soon as it broke free, one of the hikers yelled 'Avalanche!' and they were all tumbling," said San Bernardino County firefighter/paramedic Eric Sherwin, a department spokesman.

Backcountry skiers and/or mountaineers using the Sierra Club's nearby San Antonio Ski Hut, an overnight shelter, wrapped the two injured men, Long Beach resident Cody Ayala, 27, and Chris Chung, 32, of Irvine in blankets and tied one into an ice-axe anchor to keep him from sliding further before emergency personnel arrived.

While the third hiker was uninjured and able to hike out, Ayala and Chung were at times buried beneath the snow but came to the surface as they stopped a third of the way down the slide, which continued another 2,000 feet, highlighting the potential danger of avalanches.

Significant risk to Southern Californians remains for those who venture high into the region's snow-covered San Gabriel, San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains following last week's heavy snowfall.

Recent strong winds and warm temperatures are just adding instability, especially on southern slopes, said So Cal Snow Avalanche Center founder and President Allen Giernet.

"It's a crazy situation we're dealing with, because we don't get avalanches here very often," said Giernet, who teaches avalanche safety classes.

"But when they do happen, it can be very serious because we have such a large population surrounding these mountains," he added. "They don't generally look at these mountains as serious mountains, but they are."

The last Southern California avalanche deaths were in 2008. Three backcountry skiers died in avalanches on the same day outside the boundaries of Mountain High near Wrightwood.

Since 1950, at least 64 people have died in avalanches in California, nine of those in Southern California, Giernet said.

Avalanche basics

An avalanche is a mass of snow, and sometimes ice and rocks, sliding downhill.

Avalanches require four things: a steep-enough slope, usually 30 to 45 degrees; a weak or sliding layer beneath surface snow; a slab or block of snow above a weak layer; and a trigger, U.S. Geological Survey avalanche expert Erich Peitzsch said.

The trigger could be human — a hiker, skier, snowmobiler or snowshoer — or more snow. But noise, like someone yelling or laughing because they're loving that fresh powder, doesn't trigger an avalanche.

"Noise? No. That's a myth," said Peitzsch, a scientist with the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center.

High winds kept Giernet and a team from going up 10,064-foot Mount San Antonio or "Mount Baldy" to investigate the avalanche Friday at Baldy Bowl, which sits just below the San Gabriel Mountains' highest peak.

Giernet believes the avalanche was triggered when at least one of the three hikers, who traveled to the bowl via the San Antonio Ski Hut/Baldy Bowl Route, stepped into a soft slab of wind-loaded snow that wasn't well-bonded to layers beneath it. The slab broke loose.

Wind during the last storm likely transported snow from the northern side of the ridge top into the bowl and left rounded, smooth pillows of snow. Layers of ice, rain and/or hard-packed snow may have kept the softer wind slab from connecting well to the base layers of snow, Giernet said.

Giernet warns against traveling in avalanche terrain and on slopes greater than 35 degrees above 8,000 feet in any of the region's mountains. Natural avalanches are possible and human-triggered slides are likely, he said.

Peitzsch said it doesn't have to be snowing to put more weight on a weak layer of snow. Wind moving snow is enough.

"We sort of say wind is the architect of avalanches," he said. "You can have wind moving snow from one side of the mountain to another. When it does that, it creates a bigger and bigger slab."

Avoiding danger

The best way to avoid an avalanche is to take an avalanche safety class.

Travel with a partner, carry survival equipment and first aid, and in avalanche terrain, wear an avalanche beacon and carry collapsible avalanche probes and avalanche shovels.

Watch for red flags: recent abundant snow; strong winds moving snow; rain on snow, which quickly adds weight; and a warm, sunny day, which can decrease the snowpack's strength, Peitzsch said.

"If you haven't taken an avalanche class, it's basically best to just stay out of avalanche terrain," he said.

Safety Tips

SAFETY TIPS

- Take an avalanche safety class.
- Travel with a partner.
- Wear an avalanche beacon and make sure it's turned on.
- Carry collapsible avalanche shovels and avalanche probes.

- One person should travel across a slope at a time.
- Watch for warnings such as recent abundant snow, wind moving snow, rain on snow, rapid warming, fresh avalanche signs, cracks in snow and collapsing snow.

Events: So Cal Backcountry Session avalanche safety clinics, Saturday at Snow Valley Mountain Resort, \$45-\$75; So Cal Snow Avalanche Center Level 2 Avalanche Class, Tuesday, Glendora and Mount Baldy, \$180; So Cal Snow Avalanche Center fundraiser, 5 p.m. Feb. 11, Mount Baldy Resort

Information, classes: fsavalanche.org; socalsnow.org

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170128/avalanche-danger-lurks-in-inland-mountains-experts-say>

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Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

Why Upland council members voted to give themselves more work

By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Saturday, January 28, 2017

UPLAND >> The [City Council](#) has decide to give themselves more work.

The council unanimously agreed Monday night to rescind a 2012 resolution that ended the practice of holding a second meeting in August and December.

The move five years ago was done to accommodate holiday and vacation schedules, Upland Deputy City Manager Jeanette Vagnozzi said, — “and to recognize that public participation was traditionally lower at that time.”

Currently, if the council has pressing business, Upland has to call a special meeting to meet twice during either of those months.

When Stone made the request at the Dec. 12 council meeting, she said she was doing so with the hopes that it would help provide the council and staff the ability to address business in a timely manner and have more flexibility of scheduling of their meetings.

Councilwoman Carol Timm was initially concerned about reinstating the December date because the second December meeting would fall so close to the holidays.

“Right now, we have some very crucial items. I know the deputy city manger and the city manager are not going intentionally bring these back to us in December. But if they do, we need an option to do that,” Stone told Timm.

While the ordinance approved Monday does put those meetings back on the calendar, if there is no city business pending or it falls on Christmas, it’s a very simple process to cancel them, Vagnozzi said. All it would take is notifying residents about the cancellation at the prior council meeting.

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URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170128/why-upland-council-members-voted-to-give-themselves-more-work>

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Redlands Daily Facts (<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com>)

Those who serve homeless say they see a growing need in Redlands

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Saturday, January 28, 2017



REDLANDS >> Robert Marsh said he has been homeless for a few months, but because of the services offered here he can still have a meal every day.

The 48-year-old from Yucaipa relies on nearby organizations and churches that provide food and other items to the homeless.

“If I have to be homeless it’d be in Redlands,” Marsh said Friday.

It was unclear Friday if Marsh was included in the countywide [Point-In-Time Count](#) on Thursday, the day volunteers fanned out across San Bernardino County to survey the homeless population.

The annual homeless census, sponsored by the county Homeless Partnership, aims to quantify the homeless population and identify the needs of those without permanent homes.

While preliminary results are not expected to be released until the end of February, Redlands had the fourth-largest homeless population in the county in 2016.

Volunteers participating in this year’s count covered more territory than the previous year, which could give a more accurate number for 2017, said the Rev. Pete Wright, priest at Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands, who participated in the count.

For example, Wright said, volunteers were able to join Redlands police officers in surveying people living in the Santa Ana River.

Wright said they approached a man who had lost his job and was staying with a friend who was already camping in the wash until he could get his truck fixed. There also were people who just wanted to be off the grid, he said.

“There were roughly about 15 people from down in there,” Wright added.

A complex issue

The count will give the Redlands Police Department a clearer picture of the [homeless population in the city](#), said Redlands police Chief Mark Garcia.

“We’re always trying to find ways to help them get into transitional or permanent housing and get things that they need,” Garcia said.

The department helped place 138 people into transitional housing in 2016, which is a pretty high number for the city, Garcia said.

Given the resources the department has, Garcia said, he thinks it has been doing a good job, but it needs help.

“The issues are so complex,” he added. “It’s not something the Police Department can solve on its own. We can’t arrest our way out of the problem. We have to have partnerships. We have to have cooperation from those in that situation and, frankly, there are many folks that are in that situation that don’t have a desire to get out.”

The department works with organizations in the community that are assisting the homeless, Garcia said, such as churches, assistance organizations and the Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition, a group of people from nonprofits and faith-based organizations who are concerned about the homeless.

The coalition publishes a guide to local resources that provide a variety of services, such as housing, health, food and job assistance.

The guides are available at all 57 churches in Redlands, assistance organizations, City Hall, the Redlands Chamber of Commerce and the Redlands Police Department, said Wright, the coalition’s treasurer.

“We give them literally to everybody that we possibly can,” Wright said. “They’re passed all around town and all the churches. As far as we can tell it’s done quite a bit of good in terms of helping people.”

‘They’re people too’

There are numerous organizations in town that help the homeless and low-income populations, such as The Blessing Center, Salvation Army, Youth Hope, Building a Generation, Helping Hands Pantry, churches and The Family Service Association of Redlands.

These services may also be a reason so many homeless people are drawn to the area, said Richard Brimhall, a volunteer with The Blessing Center, a faith-based nonprofit that offers food, clothing, dental and medical care, and other assistance to homeless individuals and families.

Brimhall said some residents have blamed the center for the number of homeless people in town, but the volunteers continue to be dedicated to helping those in need.

“We just take care of the homeless. That’s our ministry,” Brimhall said. “That’s what we do, especially on Friday. The homeless know when they come here, when they walk through this door they’re going to be treated like human beings, not like the plague. They’re people too.”

In addition to the regular group of homeless they serve, Brimhall said he saw many newcomers on Friday.

“If we can’t find it we’re going to go look for whatever they need,” he said. “It’s just what we do here.”

While many organizations assist those who are already living on the streets, The Family Service Association of Redlands tries to help families before they become homeless.

“We work with families who are in eviction, who are maybe doubled up in an apartment or in a motel to get their lives stable,” said Kyra Stewart, executive director of Family Service Association of Redlands. “We’re trying to prevent that situation from happening.”

Stewart said the organization is still analyzing its numbers from 2016, but the need appears to have increased. The organization serves about 200 families through its housing program and about 3,000 families through its family support program every year.

“Visually we see more around our agency because we do a daily breakfast and daily dinner and it’s open to the community,” she said. “We definitely see an increase in the chronic homeless population for 2016 to 2017 so far.”

Help for the homeless

• The Blessing Center

760 E. Stuart Ave., Redlands

909-793-5677

www.theblessingcenter1.org

• Building a Generation

Food assistance for families with young children

932 W. Cypress Ave., Redlands

909-793-8822

<http://www.buildingageneration.org/>

• Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at City Hall, 35 Cajon St.

<http://www.rcrchelp.com/>

• Family Service Association of Redlands

612 Lawton St., Redlands

909-793-2673

<http://www.redlandsfamilyservice.org/>

• Helping Hands Pantry

<https://helpinghandspantry.org/>

• **Salvation Army**

838 Alta St., Redlands

909-792-6868

<http://redlands.salvationarmy.org/>

URL: <http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/social-affairs/20170128/those-who-serve-homeless-say-they-see-a-growing-need-in-redlands>

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Editorial Counting homeless people — and hoping to get the number right



Homeless people gather near tents on L.A.'s Skid Row at San Julian and 6th Streets. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)



By **Carla Hall**

JANUARY 28, 2017, 5:00 AM

We have ventured out into the night in Van Nuys armed with flashlights, clipboards, maps — and our best judgment — to count homeless people.

“Ok, I see two people in sleeping bags,” says a sharp-eyed counter as we stride past an office building with a little courtyard where homeless people have bivouacked. I make two hash marks on the tally sheet.

The annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count took place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. More than 7,700 volunteers — a record number — registered for it, according to officials of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which coordinates the count. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires such counts as a condition for receiving federal grants for homelessness programs, but the exercise is about

more than just money. It's also an essential tool for measuring the shifting homeless population and the progress we've made — or lost — in getting people off the streets.

On Tuesday night, I am part of a team with Cynthia Gonzalez, a Cal State Northridge junior; Ilyce Dawes, a retired legal consultant who does volunteer work full time, and Rd (pronounced like the initials R.D.) Plasschaert, who lives in the neighborhood and sees homeless people every day. "I wanted to make sure their bodies are counted," she said.

“

Even when you are looking intently for homeless people, it's remarkable how easy it is to miss them.

At our deployment center, coordinators assign us specific census tracts and give us instructions: Don't shine your flashlight at anyone. Don't approach homeless people to engage them. (We are supposed to count with our eyes only.) Don't go up to a tent and pull up a flap to see who's inside. Be respectful.

We start out on Van Nuys Boulevard near Victory, walking past a tattoo parlor, a restaurant, a barber shop. We pass a strip mall and see a woman slumped against a wall outside a shop. We count her. Plasschaert is our navigator and, with map in hand, she guides us down side streets, crisply calling out directions. We study parking lots and dumpsters, all in the shadow of Van Nuys City Hall, lighted ghostly white and towering in the near distance. We peer down an alley and see a profusion of carts and trash. Plasschaert is the first to zero in on the homeless people in the midst of all that.

"You know how I can tell where people are? I used to be homeless," she says, surprising us all. Later she tells us, "I was serially homeless over five times in my life."

We walk down residential streets, scanning bushes, driveways, vehicles. We see fog on the windows of several cars — one sign that people are living inside. Wait — that's not fog, it's frost.

We pass a red brick church where a homeless person has taken refuge in a doorway. We mark him down. As we round the corner where the church sits, Dawes points at a low brick wall along the side. I turn to look. On the other side of the wall, a homeless person is nestled in a side entryway. I'm annoyed at myself. How did I not see that person?

After all, homeless people are visible everywhere. As their ranks swelled in L.A. County — 47,000 by last year's count — the percentage of makeshift shelters and tents on the streets rose dramatically.

Passersby often work hard to ignore them. Here I was trying hard to find them. Yet even when you are looking intently for homeless people, it's remarkable how easy it is to miss them.

It made sense that many seek out the warmest, most secluded, safest places in an unsafe landscape and then practically mummify themselves there in blankets and sleeping bags to ward off the cold. Even in entryways that were lighted, some people were so completely covered that all I could make out was the form of a human and shoes.

We get in Dawes' car to go to another census tract. We pass an encampment: a purple tarp-draped tent adjacent to a maroon tarp. Is the maroon tarp the side of another tent? Or part of the same tent? I'm not sure. We turn around and drive by again. And then a third time. We stop the car in the street. I say there's just one tent, and brood all the way back to the deployment center about whether I was right.

Episodes like that make me wonder whether it would be better to leave this task to professionals. But there is something profoundly moving about thousands of volunteers choosing to go out into the streets over three nights to find the most vulnerable and cast-off people in our society — and make them count.

carla.hall@latimes.com

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This article is related to: [Homelessness](#)



City bankruptcies should be a state responsibility

By [STEPHEN EIDE](#) and [DAN DISALVO](#)

2017-01-27 14:10:19



Within the next couple months, San Bernardino will exit Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy in a condition very similar to how it entered: a poor city burdened with excessive pension debt.

Because San Bernardino, like Vallejo and Stockton before it, opted not to pursue pension cuts in bankruptcy, costs are certain to rise and there's a high risk of a "Chapter 18" repeat trip through federal court.

In a new report, we argue that municipal bankruptcy is more effective when state governments take control of the process.

In states which have taken over cities before letting them go bankrupt, insolvent cities have faced up to their pension problems in a way that Stockton, Vallejo and San Bernardino did not.

California, by contrast, does almost nothing for cities on the brink of insolvency.

This should change. Instead of passing the buck to local officials on the toughest, chips-are-down bankruptcy decisions, state government should appoint receivers to manage cities' bankruptcies for them.

Reform is urgent in California because of the many pockets of severe fiscal weakness that may be found throughout the state. Sixteen California cities with a population above 50,000 have a poverty rate above 25 percent. (The statewide poverty rate is 16.3 percent.) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 10 out of the 15 metro areas with the highest unemployment are located in California.

The most recent data from the Census Bureau show that California local governments' debt load has steadily risen over the last four decades and now stands at 100 percent of annual revenues, a near-historic peak.

California cities' pension costs, which have been rising since the dotcom bubble burst in 2001, are about to surge still higher, thanks to last month's vote by CalPERS' board of directors to lower the system's investment rate of return from 7.5 to 7 percent. The less a city's pension system reaps in stock market gains, the more it must contribute from its budget.

Across the nation, many cities are challenged by excessive poverty and debt levels and pension costs. What is distinctive to California is Sacramento's notably hands-off approach towards municipal insolvency.

Shortly before Central Falls, Rhode Island and Detroit, Michigan filed for bankruptcy in 2011 and 2013, respectively, their state governments appointed receivers with full control over fiscal and administrative affairs. Unlike in the three California bankruptcies, all of which were managed by local officials, neither Central Falls nor Detroit left pensions untouched. A 2015 Moody's report estimated that Central Falls cut its pension claims by 39 percent and Detroit by 18 percent, compared with 0 percent for Stockton, Vallejo and San Bernardino.

Since Vallejo exited bankruptcy in the fall of 2011, its pension bill has risen by more than half. In the current fiscal year, Stockton was contributing about 50 percent of salary for its public safety workers' pensions, up from 30 percent when it first filed for bankruptcy.

These outcomes may have been avoided had California followed the Rhode Island and Michigan models.

Adopting what we call an “intervention bankruptcy” approach will require ideological concessions for both the left and the right. Left-leaning state officials will have to acknowledge that an insolvent city implies a failure of state policy. They, or their appointee, will have to face up to the choice between funding basic services and funding pensions, instead of leaving these decisions in local hands.

Conservatives should not assume that powerful government unions will run roughshod over a state-appointed receiver just as they have over local officials and the Legislature in Sacramento.

Central Falls’ receiver was put in place by a state government controlled by a Democratic legislature and liberal governor, Lincoln Chaffee. Rhode Island boasts a larger share of unionized government workers than California (62 percent versus 55 percent). Though he was appointed by a Republican governor, Kevyn Orr, the emergency manager of Detroit, was a Democrat.

By definition, an unelected state appointee enjoys a certain distance from local political pressures and would stand a stronger chance of designing a truly effective bankruptcy plan than the same local officials who were responsible for the city’s going broke in the first place.

Municipal bankruptcy is always the result of a lack of leadership. But only strong leadership can make the bankruptcy process work, and it’s more likely to come from the state than the local level.

*Daniel DiSalvo is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and an associate professor of political science at the City College of New York-CUNY and Stephen Eide is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. They are authors of the report *When Cities Are at the Financial Brink: The Case for “Intervention Bankruptcy.”**

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Interviews to replace late Riverside County Supervisor Benoit set for Tuesday

By [JEFF HORSEMAN](#)

2017-01-27 16:00:54



Candidates to serve the rest of the late John Benoit's term on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors are being summoned to Riverside on Tuesday, Jan. 31, for interviews as Gov. Jerry Brown considers who to appoint to the county's top elected body.

It's not clear who will be interviewing the candidates, where the meetings will take place and how many are scheduled. But Friday afternoon, three applicants – Coachella City Councilman V. Manuel Perez, Cathedral City Councilman Greg Pettis and Desert Healthcare District board member Jennifer Wortham – confirmed they will be interviewed.

Deborah Hoffman, the governor's deputy press secretary, said: "We don't disclose the number or names of applicants and we don't discuss the process of choosing a candidate."

Benoit died Dec. 26 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer about a month earlier. By law, only Brown has the authority to fill a vacancy on the five-member Board of Supervisors.

The governor last did so in 2015, when he appointed then-Temecula Councilman Chuck Washington to serve the term of Jeff Stone after his election to the state Senate.

When Washington was a finalist for the appointment, he spoke with Brown during a private meeting at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

Benoit's term runs through the end of 2018. He represented the Fourth District, which covers the Coachella and Palo Verde valleys.

Brown's pick will have to run for a full, four-year, term in 2018 if he or she wants to stay on the board after Benoit's term expires.

The governor's office has refused to share details about who's applied and the process for choosing a replacement. Brown is under no deadline to make a choice. Before he died, Benoit sent a letter to Brown with thoughts on his replacement, but county and state officials have declined to reveal its contents.

It's believed Brown will choose a fellow Democrat. It's also possible he'll want to add more diversity to the board, like he did in 2015 when he added Washington, who is black, to what had been an all white-male board.

Re-electability might be another factor. Brown is believed to want someone who stands a good chance of winning a full term.

Candidates who have confirmed their interest in the appointment include Perez, Pettis, Wortham and Desert Recreation District board member Silvia Paz. Another rumored candidate is Riverside County school board member Elizabeth Romero.

Perez has the backing of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León and others as he seeks the seat he ran for in 2014.

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Weed 101: Marijuana is legal now, but plenty of restrictions remain

Monday

Posted at 8:27 AM

Updated at 8:28 AM

By **Rene Ray De La Cruz**

Staff Writer



VICTORVILLE - The legalization of recreational marijuana through the passage of Proposition 64 on Nov. 8 has business owners, patients, entrepreneurs and residents wanting to know more about cannabis-use laws.

A white cargo van with a large green cross graphic emblazoned on its side sits outside SB Medical Evaluation near the corner of Seventh Street and Valley Center Drive in Victorville.

The text on the van reads, "We'll come to you if you can't come to us," along with a phone number to the evaluation facility where a licensed physician has evaluated hundreds of patients and provided medical marijuana card recommendations to qualifying patients under Prop. 214 and SB 420.

Reggie Morales of Hesperia said he was puzzled after he saw the van, wondering why anyone would need a medical evaluation and card to use marijuana since recreational use of cannabis became legal in the state on Jan. 1.

"I thought we could just buy it and light up after Prop. 64 (The Adult Use of Marijuana Act) passed last year," said Morales, 47, a construction worker who wants to experiment with medical marijuana to ease back pain after suffering a recent work injury. "I know it's legal and all, but I didn't realize we're still waiting for the state to set laws."

Medical card holders are the only ones who can legally purchase medical marijuana from a delivery service or collective in permitted cities, but recreational sales are not allowed until state licensing is implemented in January 2018, when the sale of cannabis will be taxed.

When taxes on recreational and medical cannabis kick in, both types will be subject to a 15 percent tax, but "qualified patients" will pay less, anywhere from 7.5 to about 10 percent, said attorney Pamela Epstein.

Morales, who walks with the support of a cane, said he's working on getting his medical marijuana card from SB Medical and purchasing cannabis from a local delivery service.

Currently, Apple Valley, Hesperia and Victorville prohibit mobile dispensaries, and the commercial cultivation and manufacturing of marijuana. Adelanto is the only city that has permitted the marijuana-themed activities.

"Proposition 64 was a landmark set for California and it demonstrated the true will of the people," Epstein told the Daily Press. "The local lawmakers must not only understand this mandate, but be willing to put aside their own interest to truly serve at the pleasure and direction of the people."

Medical cards can be issued to patients 18 and older compared to recreational users who must be 21 year of age. Adults without a medical card can possess, for personal use, not more than 28.5 grams (about an ounce) of marijuana. An adult without a medical card can be given a small amount of marijuana from a card-holder.

While recreational marijuana collectives won't be allowed to open for a year, medical cannabis collectives can operate in permitted cities. Individuals who use, sell or cultivate marijuana outside the law may still face criminal penalties.

California residents are currently allowed to possess and grow up to six plants per parcel of land for their personal use. Card-holding patients may grow up to 100 square feet of potted cannabis.

The passing of Prop. 64 did not affect the rights of card holders, who can still smoke marijuana in most places where tobacco smoking is allowed.

Local municipalities and regions may ban outdoor cultivation, but won't have the authority to ban personal grow (six plants) indoors or in a "secure" location. Patients with a doctor's recommendation can still grow more plants if needed, provided their local jurisdictions will allow it.

As for delivery services, Prop. 64 allows licensed retailers and mobile services to deliver, with local governments unable to prevent delivery of marijuana or marijuana products.

As Adelanto continues to work through its permitting process for dispensaries, authorities continue to close collectives in and investigate illegal grows throughout the High Desert.

San Bernardino County Hesperia Sheriff's Station deputies detained three adults after an illegal marijuana grow was found at a Hesperia home on Wednesday. Evidence that the electricity at the home had been bypassed was also discovered.

State officials are working to develop the regulations that will be applied to those who cultivate, transport, test and sell cannabis.

When it comes to the workplace, Prop. 64 maintains the status quo for employers seeking to maintain a drug- and alcohol-free workplace. Employer policies related to drug possession, use and impairment as well as testing should not be altered with the legalization of marijuana use.

As for those behind the wheel, drivers are subject to California DUI laws, with marijuana viewed like a prescription drug, alcohol and unknown substance that impairs driving.

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California's new pot economy valued at \$7 billion



Medical marijuana at the dispensary Canna Care in Sacramento on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016. (For the Times)

By **Associated Press**

JANUARY 29, 2017, 11:35 AM

The future of California's legal marijuana industry is being shaped in a warren of cubicles tucked inside a retired basketball arena, where a garden of paper cannabis leaves sprouts on file cabinets and a burlap sack advertising "USA Home Grown" dangles from a wall.

Here, in the outskirts of Sacramento, a handful of government workers face a daunting task: By Jan. 1, craft regulations and rules that will govern the state's emerging legal pot market, from where and how plants can be grown to setting guidelines to track the buds from fields to stores.

Getting it wrong could mean the robust cannabis black market stays that way - outside the law - undercutting the attempt to create the nation's largest legal marijuana economy. The new industry has a projected value of \$7 billion, and state and local governments could eventually collect \$1 billion a year in taxes.

California is "building the airplane while it's being flown," lamented state Sen. Mike McGuire, a Democrat whose sprawling Northern California district includes some of the world's most prized pot fields.

He questions if the state can meet January deadlines to create a coherent system that accounts for the loosely regulated medical marijuana industry, now 2 decades old and developing its own rules, while transforming the enormous illegal market into a legal, licensed one.

"It's going to take us 10 years to dig out of the mess we are in," predicted McGuire, referring to the unruly market, legal and not.

It's likely that tens of thousands of people and businesses will need licensing. The job of overseeing the industry touches on issues from protecting water quality for fish in streams near pot grows, to safely collecting hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes from businesses that often operate in cash.

Inside the former arena, Lori Ajax, the state's top pot regulator, acknowledged the challenges but said the state can, indeed must, be ready on Jan. 1 when California is required to issue licenses.

"We're small but mighty," she said of her staff of 11 full-time workers spearheading the project.

The new law calls for nearly 20 different types of licenses, including permits for farmers; delivery services that will take pot to a buyer's front door; testing labs; distributors; and dispensary operators at the retail level.

Part of the job heading toward the start of next year falls to other agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Department, which will issue licenses for cultivators.

In November, California joined a growing number of states in legalizing recreational marijuana use for adults. In general, the state will treat cannabis like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to an ounce of pot and grow six marijuana plants at home.

The law kicks in Jan. 1, 2018, but many communities already turn an indifferent eye toward pot smoking and local cultivators.

Earlier this month, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed spending more than \$50 million to establish programs to collect taxes and issue licenses while hiring dozens of workers to regulate the industry, a figure some say is too low. His office stresses that one regulatory framework is needed, not separate ones for recreational and medical cannabis, even though there are laws for each that could duplicate costs and confuse businesses.

One of the new law's requirements calls for the state to develop a computerized system to track cannabis, sometimes called "seed-to-sale" monitoring. It's envisioned that scanners will be used to keep tabs on pot as it moves from the leafy raw product to street-level sales.

McGuire, however, projects it could take much of this year for the state to evaluate and hire a company to do the work, making it questionable if a functioning system could be in place when legal sales launch in January.

Attorney Aaron Herzberg, a partner at CalCann Holdings, which leases property to cannabis operations, called the governor's funding only a starting point. He doesn't believe there's enough time to get a regulatory system in

place by January.

"You are always going to have a black market," he said. To make the new economy work, "you have to reduce the black market to tolerable levels."

With the rules in development, there are concerns that cottage-industry growers could be driven out by corporate-type businesses, much the way large-scale agribusiness doomed family farms in the Midwest.

State Treasurer John Chiang, who is running for governor, has asked President Trump for guidance on how the state's marijuana industry can participate in the nation's banking system, while pot remains illegal under U.S. law.

Legislators will hold a hearing Monday on whether the state can meet the January deadline.

Ajax, whose agency is an arm of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, is well-versed in controlled substances. Six badges she carried while rising through the ranks as an agent with the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control are on display in her sunny, corner office.

Along with her extensive experience, she brings a sense of humor to the job. Her office decor includes a psychedelic-style painting of a 1960s hippie wearing a peace symbol necklace with a marijuana plant, joints and a bong.

It's inscribed by the artist to the "new czarina of weed."

"We're confident that we can get this accomplished," Ajax said.

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Californians compete for a rare prize: a blue-collar union job paying up to \$200,000

By [NATALIE KITROEFF](#)



Part-time casual longshoremen outside the [International Longshore and Warehouse Union](#) Casual Longshore Dispatch Hall in Wilmington, where some lucky workers will nab a shift. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

If Cynthia Byington wins her version of the lottery, she will probably have to wait a decade to claim her prize. But Byington doesn't mind, because the reward is a shot at one of the rarest lifelines left for working-class Americans: a unionized blue-collar job.

In February, for the first time in over a decade, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union will raffle off thousands of part-time gigs working at Los Angeles-area ports. **The slots don't come with benefits or steady hours.** But eventually, after putting in years at the docks, some of those part-timers may earn the chance to become unionized longshoremen, who can make as much as \$200,000 per year.

"You get full benefits your entire life. Even if it's not 'til I turn 90, it's worth it," Byington, 53, said.

You get full benefits your entire life. Even if it's not 'til I turn 90, it's worth it.

— Cynthia Byington

Casual longshoremen who showed up for shifts earned less than \$31,000 on average in 2016. Full-time union members get paid \$161,000 on average. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

The 2,400 names drawn in the raffle will become “casual” longshoremen.

Although they perform the same work as union members — loading thousands of containers on and off massive cargo ships to keep the ports running on time — they work far fewer hours. And the wait to receive full union benefits can stretch over a decade.

The average casual worker who showed up for weekly shifts earned nearly \$31,000 in 2016, according to data from the Pacific Maritime Assn., which represents the shipping companies and terminal operators that employ the dockworkers. Full-time union members get paid \$161,000 on average, but those with seniority can earn tens of thousands more.



A worker shows a ticket with her assignment for the day. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)



Angeles Times)

A part-time worker waits near the gate at the dispatch hall. (Mark Boster / Los

Today, there are part-timers who have been waiting 13 years to get into the union. But the PMA said that for now, there are no firm plans to elevate any of them.

Hundreds of thousands are expected to have applied for the new casual slots, the PMA said. Scores of Southern Californians rushed to post offices and postal stores across the South Bay in January, buying up the 4x6-inch blank cards required to enter the raffle.

At the Postal Annex, a tiny storefront about five miles from the ports in San Pedro, owner Patrick Meehan could barely take a breath without getting a phone call about the lottery. He said hundreds of people streamed into his store in the three days before the deadline hit in late January.

The massive interest in the longshoremen's lottery is a sign of just how desperate Americans are to gain even the most tenuous ground toward a stable, high-paying career working with their hands.

"It says a lot about the state of our current labor market," said Ken Jacobs, chairman of the UC Berkeley Labor Center. "There are a dwindling number of blue-collar union jobs where people with just a high school education can make a good living."

Fewer than 14% of workers in manufacturing, construction and trucking belonged to a union in 2015, down from nearly 40% in 1973, according to a database of Census data compiled by economists from Trinity University and Georgia State University.

That's what propelled Byington to put her name in the running.

"It's once in a lifetime," said Byington, who lives in a mobile home in Wilmington. She has seen longshoremen and women buy houses and put their kids through college on their union-won paychecks. Another friend recently got a full set of teeth implants, thanks to union-provided dental care.



Workers line up on the street to find out if they'll get a shift at the ports. This ritual is repeated every morning for casual longshoremen and women. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

“If you say someone is a longshoreman, it means respect, even if they are a little spoiled,” Byington said.

Earning that title, and the respect that comes with it, takes longer than ever.

In the 1990s, longshoremen would spend three to five years freelancing before they got elevated onto the rolls of the ILWU, according to interviews with more than a dozen current and former casual workers. But then the recession hit, trade faltered, and the PMA temporarily stopped hiring union members.

The ports are using more [automated machines](#), which is part of the reason the **union workforce hasn't grown much. In 2016, the Port of Los Angeles** processed 17% more container traffic than in 2005, but the number of full-time union longshoremen had increased by only 3.5% over that period.

Longshoremen also say employers have been relying more and more on part-timers.

“The PMA, terminal employers and ILWU work together to maintain a **balanced approach on the number of registered workers needed at the ports,**” said Wade Gates, a spokesman for the PMA.

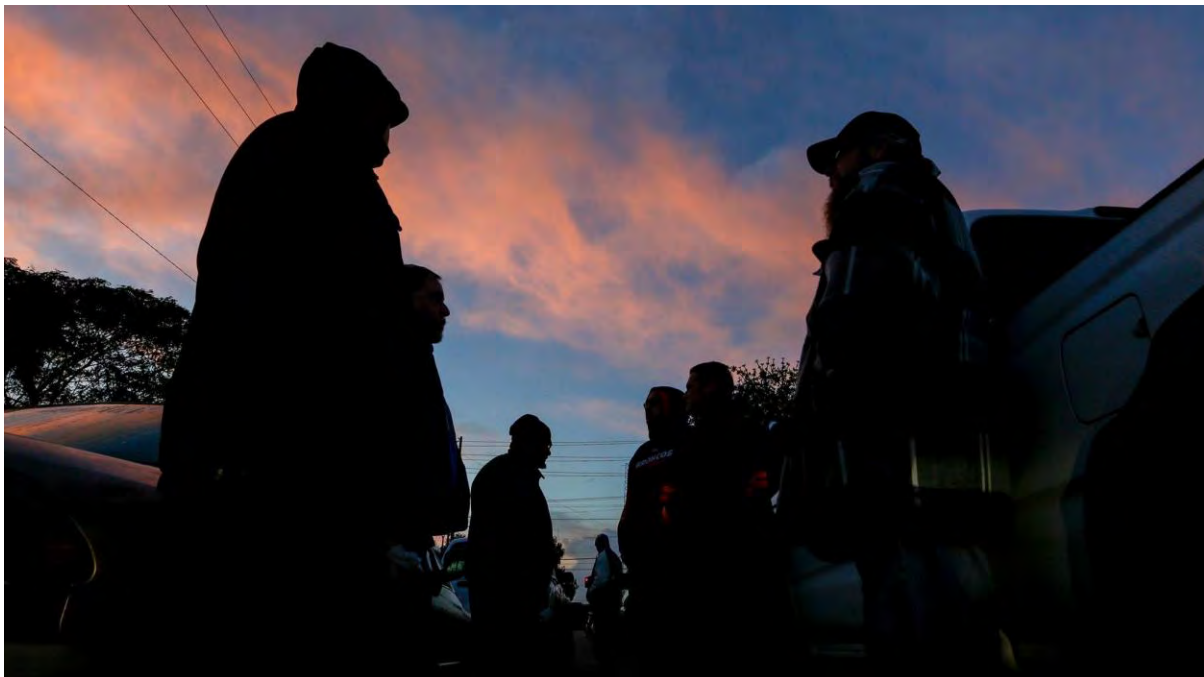
Craig Merrilees, a spokesman for the union, said the union has traditionally pushed to get more full-time positions, **but the dockworkers' bosses are reluctant.** The last time the PMA added full-time union members to the payroll was in 2012.

“Generally speaking, the employers would like to see more casual workers earning a little less pay,” Merrilees said.

Mario Huerta says he has been working part time for 10 years at the docks, desperately trying to amass enough experience to become a union longshoreman.

Huerta and other casuals show up around 6 a.m. at a dingy dispatch hall and wait to hear if their number gets called for one of three shifts at the port. **If they don't get called up in the morning, they can return around 4 in the afternoon** for the next round of work opportunities.

On good weeks, a part-timer will manage to nab two to three eight-hour shifts, casuals said.



Part-timers gather near the dispatch hall early in the morning. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

After driving 60 miles to Wilmington from his home in Riverside on a recent Friday, Huerta was assigned a shift that would likely involve securing containers to a ship deck.

“Sometimes I get work two or three days a week. Sometimes it's only one day a week,” Huerta said, **standing in the rain just outside** the building where casuals go to get dispatched. He has no idea when the unsteady work will turn into something long-term.

“How close am I to being elevated? Nobody seems to know,” he said. **“At least today I have work.”**

Several others who failed to get work **that day said they felt as if they're being** kept out of the union for as long as possible so that the shipping companies can avoid hiring more highly paid, full-time longshoremen.

Sometimes I get work two or three days a week.
Sometimes it's only one day a week

— Mario Huerta

The casuals all cobble together odd jobs on days they can't find work at the docks, including gigs in construction, landscaping and as security guards.

Chris Grove, 39, has spent 13 years reporting for duty at the casual hall and **says the instability of the work “tore up” his marriage.** Grove, who comes from a long line of longshoremen, including his mother, says the work at the ports was steady and continuous until the recession of 2008-2009.

“I was able to put groceries on the table and keep the wife happy,” he says.

After the financial crisis, though, his name barely ever came up for shifts. So he got a second job, installing security systems, and then another, installing satellite dishes for DirecTV. He put his name on a list to join an elevator

construction union and became a bouncer and then a security guard at a cannabis collective. He even got paid to register voters.

The work was unpredictable, he says, and his paycheck was so much thinner than it once was.

Grove still shows up for work at the casual hall some weekends, but now he's more focused on his day job: In 2014, after waiting for eight years, he was admitted into the International Union of Elevator Constructors and makes good money with a full slate of benefits.

Times staff writer Ronald D. White contributed to this report.

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Community colleges aren't just cheaper - for many, they're career starters

Monday

Posted at 12:01 AM

By **Charity Lindsey**
Staff Writer



Amid the widest recorded earnings gap between college graduates and everyone else, an alternative to costly four-year institutions exists for students, which may especially appeal to those undecided about their career - community college.

Two-year colleges offer students an opportunity to "sample or try on introductory career courses," said Mike McCracken, a counselor for Victor Valley College, one of two High Desert CCs, along with Barstow Community College.

While many college graduates have floundered trying to find well-paying jobs in a recovering economy, few experts believe the solution is to send more students to four-year colleges, . In fact, since four in every 10 college students drop out before graduating, "often with debt loads they will struggle to repay without a degree," labor economists suggest they might benefit more from obtaining skills.

"Over 99 percent of the job growth during the economic recovery has gone to workers with more than a high school diploma," VVC Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Peter Maphumulo said. "So, a college credential is now a minimum requirement for anyone who wants to earn a decent living."

"When we started our educational system and we guaranteed a K through 12 education, that was enough, you could get a good job with a high school education," said Barstow Community College Superintendent/President Dr. Deborah DiThomas. "Not now."

Citing a report from Georgetown University Center on Education in Workforce, DiThomas noted that by 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require some form of postsecondary education, compared to 28 percent in 1973.

"From these and all of the reports I've studied, it is more important now, than it ever was before, to go beyond a high school education and get technical training or a college degree," DiThomas said. "In addition to all of the social and cultural opportunities a college education offers, the bottom line is that if young men and women want jobs and careers that will pay enough to provide for a family, they need to go to college."

Skill-related education is the way of the future for students who are looking for "immediate college credentials in order to enter the job market," Maphumulo said. He noted, however, that this is not for students who intend to transfer into bachelor's and graduate programs.

"There certainly is a movement about the emergence of (Career Technical Education), but the overarching message is still that higher education leads to success, but now the strongest candidates for placement in the workforce will also demonstrate skilled training and/or experience as a supplement to their education achievement," VVC spokesman Robert Sewell said.

"Some associate degrees are designed for transfer while others are geared toward skills leading to employment," VVC counseling department chair Diane Wollan said.

The latter would include nursing, respiratory therapy and paramedic while other CTE programs include welding, auto and construction technologies and administration of justice.

Wollan claims that CCs offer many benefits aside from just being cheaper, including smaller class sizes, more direct contact to instructors, a diverse community which "puts students of any age at ease, even those who have

dropped out and are returning years later," and a comfortable transition from high school to the college environment.

Maphumulo noted that VVC partners with local high schools to establish pathways across five industry sector areas with its RAMP Up program, with participating schools aligning to regional curriculum.

"We can do a better job of making a case for the value proposition that community colleges have the best solution for lifting people out of poverty into middle class life than anyone else," Maphumulo said.

BCC counselor/articulation officer Apineru J. Lealofi added that, in general, a college education "provides opportunity for upward mobility."

"It provides many opportunities that give a person stronger means to support oneself and their family," Lealofi said. "It also strengthens one's confidence and critical thinking to allow one to succeed in any opportunity - academically, personally and professionally."

*Charity Lindsey may be contacted at 760-951-6245 or
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EDUCATION LIFE

Wanted: Factory Workers, Degree Required

By JEFFREY J. SELINGO JAN. 30, 2017

When the German engineering company Siemens Energy opened a gas turbine production plant in Charlotte, N.C., some 10,000 people showed up at a job fair for 800 positions. But fewer than 15 percent of the applicants were able to pass a reading, writing and math screening test geared toward a ninth-grade education.

“In our factories, there’s a computer about every 20 or 30 feet,” said Eric Spiegel, who recently retired as president and chief executive of Siemens U.S.A. “People on the plant floor need to be much more skilled than they were in the past. There are no jobs for high school graduates at Siemens today.”

Ditto at John Deere dealerships, which repair million-dollar farming machinery filled with several dozen computers. Fixing tractors and grain harvesters now requires advanced math and comprehension skills and the ability to solve problems on the fly. “The toolbox is now a computer,” said Andy Winnett, who directs the company’s agricultural program at Walla Walla Community College in Washington.

These are the types of good-paying jobs that President Trump, blaming trade deals for the decline in manufacturing, has promised to bring back to working-class communities. But according to a study by Ball State University, nearly nine in 10

jobs that disappeared since 2000 were lost to automation in the decades-long march to an information-driven economy, not to workers in other countries.

Even if those jobs returned, a high school diploma is simply no longer good enough to fill them. Yet rarely discussed in the political debate over lost jobs are the academic skills needed for today's factory-floor positions, and the pathways through education that lead to them.

Many believe that the solution is for more Americans to go to college. But the college-for-all movement, which got its start in the 1970s as American manufacturing began its decline, is often conflated with earning a bachelor's degree.

Many high school students rush off to four-year campuses not ready for the academic work or not sure why they are there. Government data show that 44 percent of new graduates enroll directly in a four-year college, but based on recent trends, less than half of them will earn a degree within four years. And though two-year colleges have long been identified as the institutions that fill the job-training role, some 80 percent of community college students say they intend to go on for a bachelor's degree, or they leave with generic associate degrees that are of little value in the job market.

Students in the United States are offered few feasible routes to middle-skill careers — jobs that require more education than a high school diploma but typically not a bachelor's degree. The National Skills Coalition, a nonprofit organization, calculates that middle-skill jobs — in computer technology, health care, construction, high-skill manufacturing and other fields — account for 54 percent of the labor market, but only 44 percent of workers are sufficiently trained.

“The bachelor's degree is the gold standard, but the higher education system has to create ways for students to choose training and education in their own time and sequence,” said Anthony P. Carnevale, the director of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. “Higher ed,” he said, “needs to respect the dignity of labor.”

Faced with a skills gap, employers are increasingly working with community colleges to provide students with both the academic education needed to succeed in

today's work force and the specific hands-on skills to get a job in their companies. John Deere, for example, has designed a curriculum and donated farm equipment to several community colleges to train technicians for its dealer network. About 15 to 20 students come through the program at Walla Walla each semester. Because they are sponsored by a John Deere dealership, where the students work for half the program, most graduate in two years with a job in hand. Technicians start at salaries just shy of \$40,000, on average.

Dr. Carnevale's research has found that 40 percent of middle-skills jobs pay more than \$55,000 a year; some 14 percent pay more than \$80,000 (by comparison, the median salary for young adults with a bachelor's degree is \$50,000).

Jobs like the ones John Deere offers are still associated in people's minds with students who performed poorly in high school, those considered "not college material." But to succeed in programs like those at Walla Walla, students need to take advanced math and writing in high school, academics typically encouraged only for those going on to four-year colleges.

Persuading students and their parents to consider the apprenticeship track is a tough sell, especially because companies want students who have a strong academic background.

Struggling to fill jobs in the Charlotte plant, Siemens in 2011 created an apprenticeship program for seniors at local high schools that combines four years of on-the-job training with an associate degree in mechatronics from nearby Central Piedmont Community College. When they finish, graduates have no student loans and earn more than \$50,000 a year.

"These are not positions for underachievers," said Roger Collins, who recruits apprentices for Siemens at 15 Charlotte-area high schools.

Chad Robinson was one of those students. Ranked in the top 10 of his high school's senior class, with a 3.75 grade-point average, he had already been accepted to the engineering school at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte when he told his parents he wanted to shift course and apply for the Siemens apprenticeship.

“They were very against it,” he said, until they went to the open house. “A lot of my friends who majored in engineering in college told me they wish they had done the apprenticeship because my work experience will put me ahead of everyone else.”

IT is not uncommon to find executives in Europe who got their start in apprenticeships, which are seen as a respected path to a profession in a variety of fields, from hospitality to health care, retail to banking.

In the United States, on the other hand, apprenticeships have long been associated with the construction trades and labor unions. That can be traced to a Depression-era labor shortage that led Congress to pass the National Apprenticeship Act. The act formalized standards and empowered the Labor Department to certify training, which was mostly in manual labor occupations. Unions took on the task, tightly controlling apprenticeship opportunities and passing them down through the generations.

In the decades after World War II, registered programs expanded in number and type, with the addition of fields like firefighting and medical technician. But apprenticeships never caught on, relegated to a second-class career track as college enrollment ballooned in the 1960s and '70s, and more recently mirroring the falloff in the influence and membership of labor unions.

The Department of Labor’s registry now lists 21,000 programs with about 500,000 apprentices, which sounds impressive but represents only 1.5 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds in this country and is far short of demand. Still, participation is up 35 percent and the number of programs by 11 percent since 2013.

Apprenticeships are making a comeback thanks in part to bipartisan support among lawmakers. In the last two years, Washington has allocated \$265 million to spur programs. President Obama’s secretary of labor, Thomas E. Perez, a strong proponent, attempted to rebrand apprenticeships to appeal to educators and parents. During his tenure, the department established a partnership between registered community colleges and sponsors that allowed on-the-job-training to count as academic credit toward a degree.

“Apprenticeship is the other college, except without the debt,” said Mr. Perez, who had a goal of doubling the number by 2018. Advocates are hopeful that the trend will continue with new leadership in Washington, given President Trump’s familiarity with construction.

While the building trades still dominate, the types of occupations offering internships have expanded to include jobs like pharmacy technician, I.T. project manager and insurance adjuster. Aon, the insurance and financial services company, last month announced a program in Chicago in which high school graduates get training in account management, human resources, financial analysis and information technology while earning an associate degree from Harold Washington College or Harper College.

Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado wants to make apprenticeships ubiquitous in high schools around his state. Later this year, backed by \$9.5 million from Bloomberg Philanthropies and JPMorgan Chase, Colorado will begin offering hands-on training, starting in high school, in financial services, information technology and health care as well as manufacturing. The goal is to make the program available to some 20,000 students at all academic and income levels within the next decade.

“Apprenticeships can start with a job and end with a Ph.D.,” said Noel Ginsburg, who heads up the program and is president and founder of Intertech Plastics in Denver. The initiative was inspired by a visit that Mr. Ginsburg and dozens of politicians and business and education leaders made to Switzerland in 2015. Although German apprenticeships are often held up as the model, Mr. Ginsburg preferred the Swiss approach, which involves a wider range of fields.

In Switzerland, compulsory education ends after ninth grade, when students can choose either an academic or a vocational path. Between 20 percent and 30 percent of students choose the academic track, which focuses on the few professions, such as medicine and law, that require a university education; nearly 70 percent choose the vocational track, with programs for about 230 occupations.

Beginning in 10th grade, students rotate among employers, industry organizations and school for three to four years of training and mentoring. Learning

is hands-on, and they are paid. Switzerland’s unemployment rate for the young is the lowest in Europe and about a quarter that of the United States’.

Here in the United States, most students are offered a choice between college or a dead end. The college-for-all movement, it seems, has closed off rather than opened up career options. For working-class voters who feel left out in this economy to be able to secure meaningful jobs, educational pathways must be expanded and legitimized — in the process redefining and broadening what is meant by higher education.

“The silver bullet comes by adding more training opportunities during and after high school,” said Dr. Carnevale. “And whatever you do with training, you need to call it college. You want to make people feel good about the path they choose.”

Jeffrey J. Selingo is author of “There Is Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow.”

A version of this article appears in print on February 5, 2017, on Page ED10 of Education Life with the headline: Blue Collar Redefined.

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Government Policy Hurts Pensions: Low Interest

POSTED BY : ED MENDEL JANUARY 30, 2017 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The two big state pension funds have been on very different paths since both had large surpluses in 2000. But they will have identical funding levels if CalSTRS, like CalPERS last month, adopts a recommended lower investment earnings forecast this week.

Though their pension generosity and investment portfolios are different, both of their funding levels will have dropped from about 69 percent of the projected assets needed to pay future pensions, before the earnings forecast were lowered, to 64 percent afterward.

Identical funding levels are even more surprising because the annual rates school districts pay to CalSTRS, a public pension oddity with no power to raise employer rates, have been frozen for most of the time since 2000 when it was 120 percent funded.

Legislation for a "funding solution" in 2014 and pension reform in 2013 gave CalSTRS limited power to raise state and new teacher rates, following small current rate increases for the state and teachers. School districts were hit hard with new rates that more than double by 2020.

CalPERS dropped employer rates to near zero when it was 135 percent funded in 2000. Then rate increases were limited by an unusual actuarial method (reformed in 2013) that "smoothed" investment gains and losses over 15 years and refinanced pension debt annually.

CalPERS also had major losses from ill-advised real estate investments, made an untimely shift to global stocks outperformed by U.S. stocks in recent years, and had a five-year investment performance that Wilshire consultants ranked dead last among big pension funds.

Yet despite their different paths, the 69 percent funding levels last year of the California Public Employees Retirement System and the California State Teachers Retirement System were not far from national averages.

The aggregate funding level for the 100 largest U.S. public pensions was 70 percent last year, Milliman actuaries reported, using their own earnings forecasts for the investment portfolios rather than those of the pension funds, which critics say are too optimistic.

The aggregate traditional funding level for a sample of 160 state and local pensions in the Public Plans Database was 74 percent in 2015, the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College reported last year, and 72 percent under new government accounting rules.

Why the similarity among pension funding levels? Experts say they are all in an investment "low return environment" caused in large part by a government policy that keeps key interest rates low to spark

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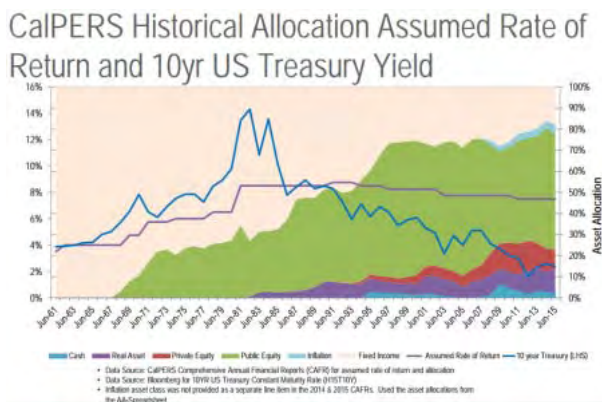
“Recent economic conditions have seen continuing declines in long-term government bond interest rates that serve as the foundation of capital market returns,” *said a report* by actuaries that recommends CalSTRS lower its earnings forecast from 7.5 percent to 7.25 percent.

“This has resulted in a general lowering of the expected returns (at least over the medium term) from the various asset classes and translated into a lowering of the investment return assumption by many public pension plans across the nation.”

CalPERS consultants predicted last year that a “low interest rate and low return environment” would give its investment portfolio a 6.2 percent return during the next decade before averaging more than 7.5 percent over the next three decades.

The CalPERS board responded last month by adopting a more conservative investment portfolio and lowering the earnings forecast used to offset or “discount” future pension obligations from 7.5 percent to 7 percent.

To fill the resulting funding gap, a major employer rate increase will be phased in over eight years, the fourth increase since 2012.



A chart created by CalPERS staff last year to “frame the big picture” funding challenge shows a long drop in interest rates, after a peak in the early 1980s, and an increased shift from predictable fixed-income bonds to stocks and other risky investments to get higher yields.

Ted Eliopoulos, CalPERS chief investment officer, told the board last September the funding challenge was “precipitated” by an unusually long decline of interest rates around the globe for more than three decades.

He said the low rates “resulted in many if not most U.S. pension and institutional investors, including CalPERS, having an asset allocation that is dominated by equity and growth assets, which poses the largest risk in our portfolio.”

CalPERS had a cushion going into the last financial crisis and stock market crash. The funding level of 101 percent in 2007 dropped to 61 percent in 2009 after the investment fund plunged from about \$260 billion to \$160 billion, a loss of \$100 billion.

With an investment fund valued at \$308 billion last week and a funding level of 64 percent, little improved after nearly a decade, CalPERS has a thin cushion if there is another major economic downturn.

A funding level that drops below 40 percent or even 50 percent could be crippling, CalPERS board members have been told by experts. Raising employer rates and the earnings forecast high enough to project a funding level of 100 percent may become impractical.

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The chart shows that in the early 1960s all CalPERS investments were in fixed-income assets like bonds, avoiding the risk of big losses but yielding limited earnings to pay for pensions.

In what can seem ironic in the current “pension crisis,” voters approved two legislative ballot measures allowing pension funds to shift from bonds to stocks and other risky investments in an attempt to get greater yields and reduce taxpayer costs.

Proposition 1 in 1966 allowed up to 25 percent of pension fund investments to be in large-company stock that paid dividends and met other safety tests, beginning the move away from bonds shown on the chart.

A proposal in 1982 to allow up to 60 percent of pension fund investments in stock, Proposition 6, was rejected by 61 percent of voters. A less restrictive proposal allowing any “prudent” investment, [Proposition 21](#), was approved by 53 percent of voters in 1984.

The shift from bonds allowed optimistic projections of investment earnings to justify generous pension increases critics say are “unsustainable,” pushed massive debt to future generations, and made government an owner of large parts of the private-sector economy.

Pension funds have helped reshape the economy by pushing for corporate governance reform, lobbying for the Dodd Frank Wall Street regulation after the financial crisis, and investing in high-yielding private equity leveraged buyouts that critics say resulted in layoffs and outsourcing jobs.



Even if California pension funds had remained limited to predictable bonds, they would likely be struggling in the current investment environment.

Warnings that record low global interest rates are harming pension funds and insurance companies were issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris two years ago and the International Monetary Fund last year.

“The solvency of many life insurance companies and pension funds is threatened by a prolonged period of low interest rates,” [the IMF said](#) in its Global Financial Stability Report.

A Pensions & Investments editorial (“Damage of Low Rates” Jan. 26, 2015) urging an interest rate increase briefly mentioned CalPERS but was mainly concerned about the impact on the remaining private-sector pension plans.

The low interest-rate policies “put defined benefit plans (pensions) on an accelerated path toward extinction, damaging the idea of a prudently funded and financially secure safety net of retirement income,” said the editorial.

Well-managed Netherlands public pension funds, required to be 105 percent funded to avoid pushing debt to future generations, cut the pensions of some retirees by an average of 2 percent in 2013.

After warning of a pension cut, a [big Dutch civil service](#) fund announced earlier this month that “the rise in interest rates and better returns on its investments” pushed the funding level above the required minimum and avoided the need for cuts.

Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen said this month interest rates may continue to rise over the next two years, which for pension advocates would be a welcome and long overdue change.

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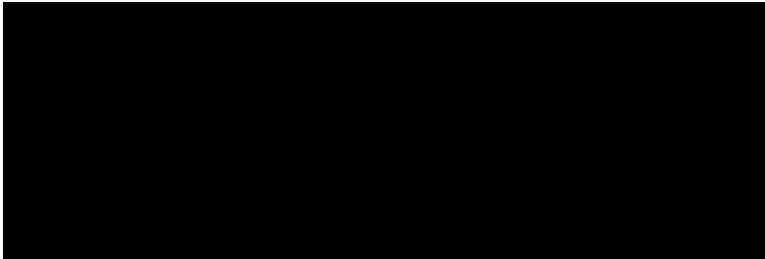
To stimulate the economy, the influential overnight federal funds rate was held at zero to 0.25 percent from 2008 until a quarter percent increase in December 2015, followed by a second quarter percent increase last month to a range of 0.50 to 0.75 percent.

Yellen's speech at Stanford University, with cautions about unforeseen economic changes, said federal officials expect to increase the target a few times a year until "by the end of 2019, it is close to our estimate of its longer-run neutral rate of 3 percent."

Originally posted at Cal Pensions.

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ABOUT ED MENDEL



Reporter Ed Mendel covered the Capitol in Sacramento for nearly three decades, most recently for the San Diego Union-Tribune. More stories are at Calpensions.com.

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY JANUARY 27, 2017 1:52 PM

Anger erupts in Miami-Dade after mayor abandons 'sanctuary' policy



Protestors demand entry to a sealed-off lobby at Miami-Dade's County Hall 0:37



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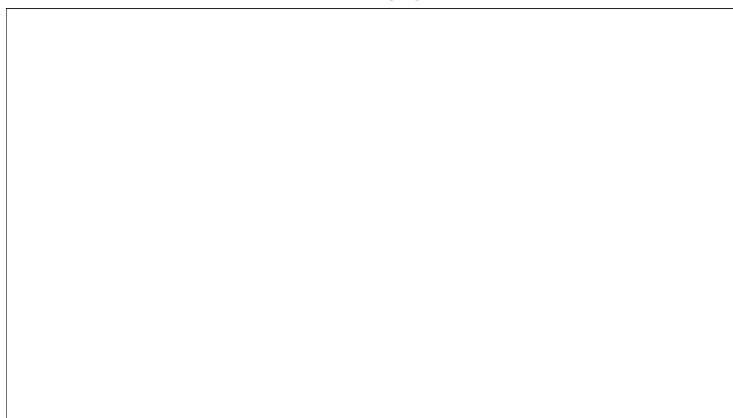
BY PATRICIA MAZZEI AND DOUGLAS HANKS
pmazzei@miamiherald.com

Political furor erupted Friday against Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez for requiring local jails to detain immigrants in the country illegally at the behest of the federal government, effectively abandoning Miami-Dade's stance as a "sanctuary" county.

Immigration advocates descended on County Hall, staging a protest — called on short notice — of more than 100 people that forced an extraordinary lockdown of the Stephen P. Clark Center in downtown Miami to keep the demonstrators out.

"Hey, Gimenez, shame on you!" Miami labor union organizer Kathy Bird Carvajal shouted into a megaphone. "You are an immigrant, too."

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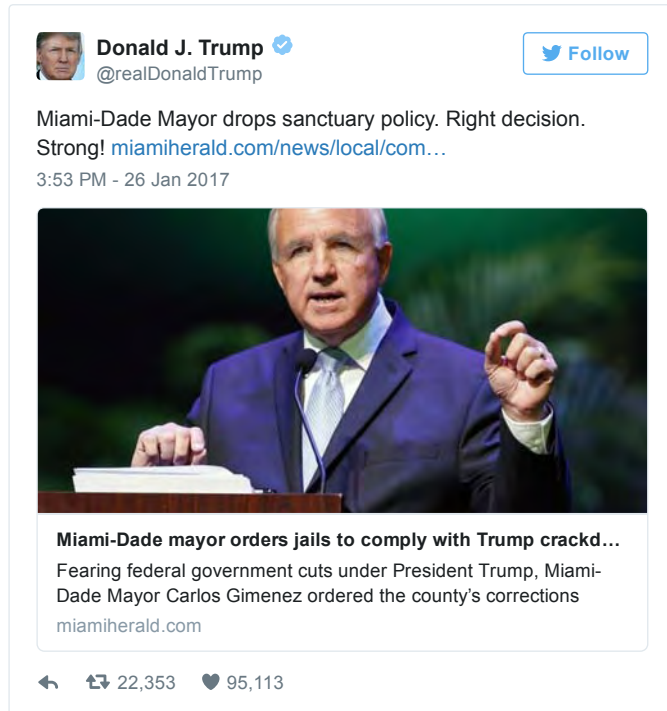
The shuttered County Hall lobby forced pedestrians to undergo questioning at the door about why they wanted to enter a public building that houses Metrorail and Metromover stations. Buses were diverted from their popular stops outside the building on Northwest First Street, which was closed to traffic.

Gimenez decided Thursday to comply with non-binding, two-day "detainer" requests after President Donald Trump signed a wide-ranging executive order Wednesday threatening to deny unspecified federal grants to cities and counties that don't fully cooperate with immigration authorities. In 2013, Miami-Dade stopped holding inmates for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, citing the feds' failure to reimburse the county for the expense.

The Justice Department took that to mean Miami-Dade was a "sanctuary" for undocumented immigrants, a designation the county has disputed though there is no legal definition for a sanctuary jurisdiction. Other big-city sanctuaries have pledged to defy Trump.

The president praised Gimenez's swift action late Thursday on Twitter, calling it the "right decision."

"Strong!" Trump wrote, bringing worldwide notoriety to Gimenez's action, the first of its kind in the country.



The uproar that followed seemed to catch county leaders by surprise. Gimenez was on vacation Friday on a trip to Orlando with his grandchildren, leaving his communications director, Michael Hernández, and other top aides to field a barrage of questions from reporters about what Gimenez's hasty action would mean in practice.

Hernández insisted county cops would not act as immigration deputies, though the corrections department will in effect subsidize immigration detentions.

"Miami-Dade police officers will never act as immigration-enforcement agents," he said. "They never have. Nor will they." ("The mayor appreciates the tweet," Hernández added about Trump.)

The county's tax-funded jails will now extend custody by 48 hours — but not indefinitely, county administrators say — for someone held on local criminal charges if federal immigration authorities request it. Prior to Thursday, the jails released everyone immediately once they served their time or bonded out, whether the feds wanted them to or not. As a matter of course, police notify federal agencies of every person they arrest by sharing fingerprints and identification.

Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum Action Fund, an immigration advocacy group, said using detainers to hold inmates longer than 48 hours has been ruled unconstitutional by some courts elsewhere in the country.

"A detainer is not a warrant," he said. "So in that way it has very limited legal standing in being able to actually hold somebody."

That's why counties like Broward and Palm Beach have adopted administrative rules saying they will honor detainer requests only if the feds provide a deportation order or warrant signed by a judge. Miami-Dade established no such criteria in Gimenez's memo.

The prior Miami-Dade policy allowed jails to grant 48-hour detention requests, but only if the feds agreed in writing to cover the additional housing costs of about \$200 a day. With Washington refusing to pay, the requests weren't honored. Gimenez's action dropped the reimbursement requirement.

Last year there were 174 such requests, out of more than 80,000 people booked, according to Deputy Mayor Russell Benford, who oversees the corrections department.

"It is a minuscule number of people that are actually affected by this," he said, as the mayor's office tried to quell the public disquiet.

A report released Thursday by the liberal Center for American Progress and the National Immigration Law Center found that sanctuary counties fared better on a number of key indicators — including crime rates, median household income and labor-force participation — than non-sanctuary counties. The study included Miami-Dade.

On Friday, only one man showed up outside County Hall to support Gimenez. Alex Gonzalez, a law-firm employee and Cuban American, brought a "Make America Great Again" sign bearing Trump's name.

"We have a new president," Gonzalez, who also wore a "Cubans 4 Trump" T-shirt, said in English and Spanish. "Our laws must be respected. Our borders must be respected."

A brief scuffle with a protester — captured by a swarm of television cameras — ensued.

Anti-Gimenez protesters were much more plentiful in blue Miami-Dade, where 52 percent of residents are foreign-born. Hillary Clinton won Miami-Dade with 64 percent of the vote — including one from Gimenez, despite his Republican affiliation.

"*Aquí estamos y no nos vamos*," they chanted. We're here and we're not going away.

Maria Bilbao, a domestic worker and North Miami Beach resident who said she secured her green card the day Trump was inaugurated, said Miami-Dade shouldn't add to the hardships of immigrants living here illegally.

"I was undocumented for 16 years," said Bilbao, a native of Argentina. "I know what it's like to be in fear. This is terrible."

The Migration Policy Institute has estimated that some 150,000 undocumented immigrants live in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Sanctuary advocates argue that fear of police cooperation with the feds could make the undocumented think twice about reporting crimes.

Florida Democrats accused Gimenez of "caving" to the Trump administration.

"It's unconscionable that the mayor of Miami-Dade County would turn his back on immigrants because he lacks the spine to stand up to Donald Trump," Miami-Dade Democratic Party Chairman Juan Cuba, who attended Friday's protest, said in a statement.

The political drama reached a crescendo when U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, who's running for Democratic National Committee chairman and happened to be in town, joined the protest and then a failed effort to enter County Hall.

"Sanctuary cities promote public safety," Ellison told protesters. "Look, Miami. You're not alone. We believe in what you're doing."

The congressman eventually met privately with the mayor's staff and police brass.

Gimenez's office was deluged with emails — more than 400 by 1 p.m., Hernández said — most of them angry at the mayor for his decision. By 5 p.m., his aides had fielded more than 800 calls, almost all of them in opposition. About 30 percent came from non-local 305 or 786 area codes.

Flooded by requests from reporters — more than 50, compared to the usual 10 or so — Gimenez appeared on CNN Thursday night and on CNN and Fox News Friday morning to explain his decision. He cast it not as a moral question but as a dollars-and-cents analysis of how much the county could stand to lose in federal funding.

"For me, this thing started actually with the Obama administration, and they also said that they might withhold federal funds," Gimenez said on "Fox & Friends." "We were trying to work this thing out with them, but when the president put out his executive order, he just put an exclamation on it for me, and it was really a no-brainer."



Since last year, Miami-Dade has tried to shed its “sanctuary” label in anticipation of Trump’s retaliation.

Gimenez’s move appeared to portend quick results: His office heard Friday from the office of U.S. Rep. John Culberson, a Texas Republican who chairs the appropriations subcommittee that funds the Justice Department’s law-enforcement grants.

“We are dedicated to ensuring Law Enforcement receive the resources the federal government can provide but are adamant that applicable federal laws are complied with as the authorizing statute requires,” Scott Mackenzie, a Culberson aide, wrote in an email to Gimenez’s staff.

“I was pleased to learn last night that the [sic] Mayor Gimenez sent a memo to the County’s corrections director on this topic. We would like to review a copy of the memo in hopes that Miami-Dade can be removed from our list of jurisdictions which are not in compliance and ensure that Miami-Dade will have no problems accessing funding going forward.”

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'I'm not going to do it.' Police aren't eager to help Trump enforce immigration laws



Veteran L.A. police Officer J.C. Duarte, left, on patrol with partner Harold Marinelli, says adding federal immigration enforcement to peace officers' to-do list will just drive a wedge between immigrants and law enforcement. (Gary Coronado / Los Angeles Times)

By **Cindy Chang, Kate Mather and Nicole Santa Cruz**

JANUARY 30, 2017, 3:00 AM

A day after Donald Trump was elected president, two detectives walked up to a building site in Koreatown. The pair was hoping to find someone who might have witnessed a motorist intentionally knocking down a construction worker.

They introduced themselves to a group of Latino workers. The workers got up and walked away.

“Trump is coming,” one of them said as he left.

To Det. Brent Hopkins, the scene was a stark illustration of the difficulties he could face depending on how far President Trump goes in enlisting local law enforcement to rid the country of people who are in the U.S. illegally.

“It is my job to investigate crimes,” said Hopkins of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division, who also serves on the police union’s communications committee. “And if I can’t do that, I can’t get justice for people, because all of a sudden, I’m losing my witnesses or my victims because they’re afraid that talking to me is going to lead to them getting deported.”

After Trump’s unveiling last week of two executive orders that called for empowering local law enforcement officers to take on the duties of immigration agents, police officers and sheriff’s deputies across the Los Angeles area said in interviews that enforcing immigration laws is not in their job descriptions. Many expressed concerns that immigrants already wary of reporting crimes or being interviewed as witnesses will retreat further into the shadows.

“They should be running to us, not away from us,” said LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos of Central Bureau, which includes Boyle Heights, MacArthur Park, Chinatown and other areas with many immigrant residents. “We are here to be their protectors.”

Besides, some officers said, they are too busy answering 911 calls, arresting robbers, stopping erratic drivers and solving homicides to add federal immigration enforcement to their to-do lists.

“We have enough issues just trying to keep the peace anyway,” said J.C. Duarte, a veteran LAPD officer in Northeast Division. “It’s just going to create a wedge between immigrants and law enforcement. Whether they’re here legally or not, there’s going to be a fear generated.”

Many officers said they believe their bosses will resist Trump’s directives, despite the president’s threat to withhold federal funding.

The LAPD has long had a policy that forbids officers from initiating contact with a person solely to ask about immigration status.

On Wednesday, hours after Trump unveiled his executive orders, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck reiterated that his officers would continue to focus on building relationships with city residents, regardless of where they were born. L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell said his deputies do not ask anyone about their legal status and that immigration enforcement remains a federal responsibility.

In the state Legislature, Senate leader Kevin de León is championing a measure that would prohibit California police officers from engaging in immigration enforcement.

“We’re not going to be enforcing any immigration laws whatsoever,” said Cmdr. Keith Swensson, who oversees the Central Patrol Division, which includes Compton and parts of East and South L.A., for the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department. “The whole concept seems to be overpoliticized, when in fact we’re going to be doing the same thing we’ve always been doing.”

The racial demographics of L.A County’s two largest law enforcement agencies reflect those of the region as a whole. In both the LAPD and the county’s Sheriff’s Department, nearly half of the sworn officers are Latino. It

is not uncommon for a police officer or sheriff's deputy to be an immigrant or the child of immigrants. Duarte, the Northeast Division officer, came to the U.S. legally from Guatemala at age 2.

During the presidential election, Trump found support among some law enforcement officers who viewed him as more pro-police than his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. But locally, even some officers who privately said they voted for him are not eager to help with his immigration agenda.

Trump's executive orders call for the resurrection of Secure Communities, a program from earlier in Obama's administration that asked jail officials to hand over inmates to immigration authorities, including inmates who had no criminal records and were guilty only of immigration violations.

But Trump has not spelled out any specific plans to enlist street officers in apprehending immigrants without legal status. The executive orders say that local law enforcement agencies will be empowered "to perform the functions of an immigration officer ... to the maximum extent permitted by law" but provide no detail.

An Arizona law, Senate Bill 1070, tested the legal limits of what immigration enforcement duties police officers could perform. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down most of the Arizona law but let stand a provision that required police to check the immigration status of someone they had already stopped if there was "reasonable suspicion" the person was in the country illegally.

If Trump asks police agencies to perform immigration checks along the lines of the Arizona law, participation would have to be voluntary, because the federal government cannot coerce local governments to do its work, constitutional law scholars say.

The funding component of Trump's executive orders, which involves withholding federal funds to so-called sanctuary cities, could face legal hurdles, because courts could view it as an underhanded way to force cooperation, said Hiroshi Motomura, an immigration scholar and professor at UCLA School of Law.

"If the LAPD doesn't want to be involved in immigration checks, the feds can't force the LAPD to do that," Motomura said.

Still, the specter of police officers checking residents' legal status has stirred anxiety among some immigrants.

At roll calls, Capt. Martin Baeza of the LAPD's Hollenbeck Division has been reiterating to his officers that their job is enforcing state laws, not federal immigration laws.

At community meetings, he tries to tamp down fears, answering questions that included one about whether internment camps, such as those used to imprison Japanese Americans during World War II, might arise again.

"I completely understand the anxiety that our community is having, because I've lived that as a child," said Baeza, who came to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 2.

Baeza's parents had green cards, but they still viewed the police with fear. His parents would tell him not to get into trouble and not to have anything to do with the police, he recalled.

After the presidential election, the LAPD's Central Division, which includes Hollenbeck, held a series of community meetings to reassure immigrants that police officers are there to help them, not deport them.

But comforting words can only go so far when people fear being separated from their families and livelihoods.

At a community meeting in South Los Angeles on Thursday night, a man asked if he could be deported for a traffic ticket. LAPD Officer Marcela Garcia assured him that would not happen.

Inglewood Police Officer Chris Beckman said that when he investigated sex crimes, he had a hard time getting some Spanish-speaking victims to come forward because they feared being deported.

If police officers do take a role in immigration enforcement, some victims "are not going to want to deal with the police whatsoever," Beckman said.

Some police officers and sheriff's deputies said that if their bosses tell them to ask people about immigration status, they will have to obey the orders.

But Duarte, the LAPD officer in Northeast, said he would "flat out just refuse." He plans to retire next year and has little to lose.

"At this point in my career, I'd take whatever consequence came down the pipe," he said. "So what? Go ahead and suspend me for 10 days. I'm not going to do it."

Times staff writer Alene Tchekmedyian contributed to this report.

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[Travel ban is the clearest sign yet of Trump advisors' intent to reshape the country](#)



Trump official justifies travel ban with attack that would not have been stopped by new rules

By **Athena Jones, CNN**

🕒 Updated 9:16 PM ET, Sat January 28, 2017

Story highlights

Neither of the San Bernardino shooters would have been affected by the new ban

Pakistan is not on the list of countries subject to this ban

Washington (CNN) — A senior Trump administration official on Saturday pointed to the 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, to justify the President's order to ban US immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations.

But neither of the attackers in the shooting, which left 14 people dead, would have been affected by the new ban.

"The current process for screening and vetting refugees is woefully inadequate to the needs of national security," the official told reporters on background during a briefing Saturday to discuss Trump's travel ban.

"There are 1,000 open ISIS investigations, approximately, inside the United States. There's a very strong nexus between our immigration and visa programs and terrorist plots and extremist networks inside the United States," the official continued. "Look at the recent, high-profile attacks that have occurred inside the country -- an immigration nexus is not at all uncommon. I won't go through the list of them all now. One obvious example would be Tashfeen Malik and the San Bernadino incident with the K1 visa."

A K1 visa is a non-immigrant visa issued to the foreign-citizen fiance of a US citizen. Tashfeen Malik was from a family of wealthy landowners in Pakistan and later moved to Saudi Arabia with her immediate family. Her husband, Syed Rizwan Farook, was a US citizen.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, however, are not on the list of countries subject to the new ban.

The administration is facing criticism from Democrats on Capitol Hill and from leaders around the world for taking steps their critics say are unconstitutional and anti-American.

The second mention of San Bernardino came when the official was trying to explain why there was no grace period before the executive order went into effect, to help ease implementation.

"Imagine if this had been an executive order that had been contemplated the day before the San Bernardino shooter entered the United States?" the official asked. "Would have delaying its implementation served the best interests of the country? The reality is we don't know who the next individual is who will exploit our immigration programs successfully. If you choose that something is necessary to do for the sake of national security, it should be done immediately."

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Foes of Trump travel ban protest at Ontario airport

More than 200 people attend demonstration against president's executive order on immigration

By John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Sunday, January 29, 2017



ONTARIO >> A couple of hundred protesters, charged up with anger, indignation and hope in the power of banding together for a common cause, gathered Sunday afternoon at Ontario International Airport to demonstrate against [President Donald Trump's immigration order](#).

“Enough! This is our America! We will not sit down and we will not go quietly,” protester Julia Peacock of Corona said to applause.

• **Video:** [Hundreds gather at Ontario airport to protest Trump travel-ban](#)

[Protesters have been assembling at airports](#) nationwide where federal officials say more than [100 people had been detained](#) because they are covered by the order and were in transit when Trump signed it Friday afternoon.

Among the order's provisions, it temporarily bars the citizens of seven majority-Muslim nations from entering the U.S.

No one has been detained at Ontario International Airport. Chief Marketing Officer Dan Adamus noted that any international arrivals to Ontario would be from Mexico. Anyone coming from a country

affected by the travel ban would be cleared by U.S. Customs at another originating airport, he said.

• **Related Story:** [Thousands protest Trump's travel ban at LAX](#)

The Ontario protest was organized by the Claremont chapter of Young Progressives Demanding Change and spearheaded by the group's Ian Schiffer, who frequently lead people in chanting slogans and made sure protesters followed the safety requests of police officers.

Some parents saw the Ontario protest as an opportunity to instill in their children a sense of civic responsibility.

“We're starting them young,” said Omar Ahmed of Claremont, a Muslim who brought his son Ibraheem, 5, and daughter Maryam, 3.

“It's disheartening to see so much division and hate” in our country, he said. “We just want to show our kids we should be standing up for everybody's rights.”

Ahmed was born in India and immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 5. He said Americans are being pushed away from the characteristics of faith that are good for the country and its people.

Janet Nasir's husband, Omar Nasir, is a first-generation Pakistani-American. The Rancho Cucamonga couple attended the protest on behalf of their mixed-heritage sons and others.

• **Video:** [Trump travel ban protesters join together in a chant at ONT](#)

"We're here because we want justice for ourselves and our two children and the rest of the Muslim community," Janet Nasir said.

Nancy Hernandez, a senior studying environmental analysis at the Claremont colleges, said she came because of outrage at Trump's executive order and "a need to express that in a positive way."

She hopes Sunday's Ontario protest will make more people aware of what's going on.

"Even if it doesn't affect their daily lives, it's still happening — and happening to other people."

• **Social Media:** [Protests against Trump's travel-ban at Southern California airports continue](#)

There wasn't an obvious or large presence of people in disagreement with the protesters. Many cars honked as they passed by, though it was unclear whether they were honking in support or disagreement.

"Nobody is hearing you," Tammy Brown of Portland, Oregon, said to a protestor who asked why Brown and another woman sitting on a bench across from Terminal 2 flipped them off.

"I don't agree with everything Trump is doing or a lot of what he says ... (but he) is our president. There is nothing we can do about it," Brown told a reporter.

Adamus, the airport's chief marketing officer, said before the protest began that officials had been advised of the plans in advance and took precautionary measures to protect guests and protesters.

Afterward, Adamus, who watched the protest, described it as peaceful and mostly problem-free. One woman complied with a request not to stand on a wooden container, he said.

Shannon Cornwell of Orange County came to the Ontario protest recently returned and "charged up" from the Women's March on Washington.

"It's more empowering to see my friends and neighbors just as charged up," she said as she surveyed the group.

Cornwell said Trump's actions have had a unifying affect, if not in a way some people might have expected.

"He's unified them against his ideology," she said. "It goes to show you we have more in common than we don't."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170129/foes-of-trump-travel-ban-protest-at-ontario-airport>

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What is a 'violent crime'? For California's new parole law, the definition is murky— and it matters



Fugitive rapist Andrew Luster is led out of the U.S. Customs building in June 2003 after arriving at LAX in federal custody. Luster was caught in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. (Gina Ferazzi/Los Angeles Times) (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)



By **Jazmine Ulloa**

JANUARY 27, 2017, 12:05 AM | REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

Andrew Luster, the great grandson of cosmetics magnate Max Factor, [drew global attention in the early 2000s](#) when, after being accused of rape, he jumped his \$1-million bail and was later captured in Mexico by a bounty hunter on TV.

Ventura County prosecutors said he drugged three women and videotaped the assaults, and a jury convicted him of 86 counts of poisoning, sexual battery and rape of an unconscious or intoxicated person. But with none of his offenses listed among the 23 crimes that California considers [“violent” felonies in its penal code](#), does the state consider him a violent felon?

As California undergoes the largest overhaul of prison parole in a generation, determining which criminals are violent in the eyes of the state has taken on a new urgency among some lawmakers and law enforcement officials who argue it's time to revisit how "violent crime" is legally defined.

Gov. [Jerry Brown's](#) Proposition 57, which voters overwhelmingly approved in November, continues a statewide effort to increase rehabilitation services and decrease the prison population. Among its provisions, the initiative will give new power to the state parole board to consider the early release of prisoners who have served the full term of their primary sentences, and whose crimes are not designated as "violent" under the California penal code.

But since the early days of the ballot measure campaign, debate has brewed over just who the law will benefit, with prosecutors arguing the state's short and porous violent felony list could allow dangerous inmates like Luster to walk free. Now the debate has moved to the state Capitol, as some lawmakers hope to expand the number of the crimes outlined in the penal code.

State Sen. Patricia Bates (R-Laguna Niguel), who filed a bill to reclassify more than 20 offenses as violent felonies, said there must be a public discussion about the criminal charges she is proposing to add to the list, such as inflicting injury on a child or assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon.

"There are many of them that really need a second thought," she said. "If you put yourself in the position of a victim in any one of those crimes, you will say, 'That was violent because that affected me physically and emotionally.'"

Corrections officials have until October to develop the most controversial details of Proposition 57: a set of regulations to expand prison programs that offer incentives for good behavior and participation in rehabilitation, and that govern who is eligible for early parole and when.

[In a budget proposal unveiled this month](#), Brown excluded all sex offenders from early parole consideration, whether their crimes were designated as "violent" or not. Law enforcement officials called it an appropriate response to concerns over cases such as Luster's.

But lawmakers and prosecutors remain intent on expanding the violent felony list, saying sex offender exemptions from early parole eligibility can be challenged in court, while the violent felony penal code will still be used to determine — and limit — how much credit offenders receive for following the rules and attending counseling behind bars.

The violent felony penal code dates to 1976 and has been expanded over the years through piecemeal legislation and voter initiatives. It includes obvious violent crimes like murder and sexual abuse of a child. But it excludes others, such as some rape crimes and domestic violence.

Debate over the offenses on the list has occurred since its inception. Lawmakers "didn't want to add everything conceivable," said San Mateo Dist. Atty. Steve Wagstaffe, who helped negotiate the penal code 40 years ago. "There was lot of give and take in Sacramento."

The latest major changes came in 2000, when a juvenile punishment ballot measure backed by district attorneys revised the list of crimes and made them count as “strikes” under the state’s three strikes law, subjecting defendants with previous violent or serious offenses to longer prison sentences.

That ballot measure, Proposition 21, also made it harder to change the violent felony penal code by requiring any bill seeking to do so to receive a two-thirds majority vote in each house.

But in recent years, bills seeking to add more crimes to the code have died at the Capitol, as California has grappled with prison overcrowding and with finding a permanent solution to a federal court-ordered cap on its inmate population.

That might change this legislative session, as the list “has taken on a whole new meaning under Prop. 57,” said Wagstaffe, president of the California District Attorneys Assn.

“It has a whole new purpose,” he said. “Now it will help determine whether you are eligible for early release, and that’s what is causing this new discussion.”

Governor's budget gives a glimpse into challenges ahead for prison parole overhaul in California »

The most heated discussion has been over sex offenders. In August, Brown called out a Fresno County sheriff [over what he termed a “malicious” campaign mailer](#) for Proposition 57, which featured Luster’s case and claimed he would be eligible for early release.

Meanwhile, the case of former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner [stirred worldwide rage](#) over the loopholes in punishment for rape and sexual assault. At least three bills filed this session seek to expand the list of sex crimes in the violent felony penal code.

A bipartisan proposal filed by Assemblywomen Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore) and Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) would add to the list all forms of rape, spousal rape, sodomy, oral copulation and sexual penetration committed against a victim incapable of consent, including those victims who are intoxicated or mentally ill.

Bates’ bill also would revise the list to include certain rape crimes and human trafficking involving minors, but also seeks to reclassify crimes including vehicular manslaughter, assault with a deadly weapon and solicitation of murder. Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Roseville) would add child abduction for prostitution to the list in addition to crimes against the elderly and cruelty to animals.

“I think it is particularly important to do this now,” Kiley said. “The initiative passed, and its language suggested that it applies to only nonviolent offenders. But the people who have been convicted of the type of crimes in my bill would be considered nonviolent, even though common sense shows they are acting out violence against their victims.”

But not everyone is in support of expanding the list. Even when debate over the Turner case was at its peak last year, some groups abstained from taking sides on sexual assault legislation, saying tougher sentencing laws [have historically taken a toll on communities of color](#).

Among those organizations remaining neutral on changing the penal code is the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, which says it wants to hold offenders accountable, but has been taking a closer look at other forms of intervention and rehabilitation.

“We keep hearing from survivors that criminal legal sanctions are not necessarily what they want,” said Jacquie Marroquin, the organization’s director of programs. “They tell us: ‘We don’t want to break apart our families. We want the abuse to stop.’”

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