

Cannabis Grower Buys California Town to Build Pot-Friendly Outpost

By **Jennifer Kaplan**

August 3, 2017, 5:00 AM PDT

Updated on August 3, 2017, 7:02 AM PDT

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- American Green seeks to reinvigorate Gold Rush rail town
 - Move reflects industry's goal of broadening customer base
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Nipton, California *Photographer: Gina Ferazzi/LA Times via Getty Images*

American Green Inc., a maker of cannabis products, is taking an unusual step to attract new customers as it capitalizes on California legalizing marijuana: It's buying an entire town.

The company has acquired the tiny burg of [Nipton](https://goo.gl/Ebg7St) [<https://goo.gl/Ebg7St>](https://goo.gl/Ebg7St), California, for about \$5 million and plans to invest as much as \$2.5 million over the next 18 months to create a pot-friendly tourist destination. The purchase includes 120 acres of land with a general store, a hotel, a school building and mineral baths.

[American Green](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ERBB:US) [<https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ERBB:US>](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ERBB:US), based in Tempe, Arizona, will use the existing structures and build new ones - powered by renewable energy -- to revitalize the town, said project manager Stephen Shearin. Ideally, the outpost will spawn imitators, he

said.

“We thought that showing that there was a viable means of having a cannabis-friendly municipality and further making it energy independent could be a way of really inspiring folks to say, ‘Why can’t we do that here?’” he said.

The move shows how far marijuana has moved out of the shadows despite an uncertain federal policy outlook. With pot now legalized for recreational and medical use in California, Nevada and six other states, one in five American adults can consume the formerly taboo plant as they please. That’s created an opportunity for companies to try to make cannabis a more mainstream product.

‘More Sophisticated Spending’

Pamela Johnston, senior vice president at Electrum Partners, a cannabis industry advising and consulting firm, said restrictions on pot use and availability have limited tourism-related activities, but predicted it will be on par with other types of travel.

“But before we blink, it will soon outpace other niche affinity travel” like wine, she said.

Nipton, with a population of about 20, is situated in California’s San Bernardino County next to the Mojave National Preserve and just across the border from Nevada. It’s about three hours by car from Los Angeles and just an hour from Las Vegas. Temperatures soar to more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months.

The former mining town already draws visitors due to its location on the road and railway between the major cities, Shearin said. He sees curiosity about weed drawing more.

Mixed Reactions

Small towns have had mixed reactions to marijuana, even in states where it’s legal. That’s why American Green decided to take on the project: The company wants to demonstrate the benefits cannabis can provide.

American Green plans to include a new facility to manufacture water infused with CBD, the cannabis component that is typically associated with reducing pain and inflammation. The new Nipton will also have a production site for edible marijuana products, retail stores, and artist-in-residence programs.

The project reflects a shift toward making marijuana more appealing to a broader audience. This includes reaching beyond the stereotypical stoner aesthetic and making products with milder doses per serving size. American Green has also sought to expand sales by building a vending machine that uses biometric scanners to ensure customers are of age.

The industry needs this wider acceptance to fuel its growth. Cowen & Co., a provider of investment and banking services, is optimistic companies will succeed and forecasts the legal weed business growing to \$50 billion by 2026 from \$6 billion in 2016.

Federal Threat

Even as companies seek to expand the market, they face a more existential threat -- looming government intervention. While President Barack Obama implemented policy stating it would not go after operators in states where the plant had been legalized, the Trump administration is not a fan. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has made clear that he sees no use for the plant, saying at one point "it's not a healthy substance."

American Green, which [trades <https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ERBB:US>](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ERBB:US) over the counter for a fraction of a penny, had lost about half its value this year through Wednesday. That followed a rally in 2016 as more states moved to legalize the drug. The shares' value jumped by more than 40 percent on Thursday, but are still worth well below 1 cent.

Companies like American Green are opting to hope for the best. As long as policy remains unchanged, Shearin expects the company's investment will be returned and the town will be profitable.

"The Gold Rush built this city," Shearin said. "The Green Rush can keep it moving the way people envisioned it years ago."



4 Sanctuary Cities Facing Loss of Crime Fighting Assistance

By SADIE GURMAN



WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions moved Thursday to again punish so-called sanctuary cities, this time threatening to deny federal crime-fighting resources **to four cities beset by violence if they don't step up efforts to help detain and deport** people living in the country illegally.

The Justice Department sent letters to cities struggling with gun violence, telling them they will be ineligible for a new program that aims to root out drug trafficking and gang crime unless they give federal immigration authorities access to jails and provide advance notice before releasing someone in custody who is wanted on immigration violations. The cities — Baltimore, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Stockton and San Bernardino in California — **all expressed interest in the Justice Department's new Public**

Safety Partnership, which enlists federal agents, analysts and technology to help communities find solutions to crime.

“By taking simple, common-sense considerations into account, we are encouraging every jurisdiction in this country to cooperate with federal law enforcement,” Sessions said in a statement that accompanied the letters. “That will ultimately make all of us safer — especially law enforcement on our streets.”

In the letters, the department asked the four prospective cities’ police departments to show proof of their compliance by Aug. 18.

The threat marks Sessions’ latest effort to force local authorities to cooperate with federal immigration authorities, part of a push to reduce crime he believes is linked to illegal immigration. Sessions has pledged to make fighting street crime the Justice Department’s top priority, but the strategy is putting him at odds with some city leaders, who say the best way to fight crime and build community trust is to keep local police out of federal immigration matters.

Sessions last week told jurisdictions they need to meet the same conditions or lose out on millions of dollars from a separate program that aims to send grant money to support law enforcement. That move made some local officials more defiant.

The Justice Department in June tapped 12 cities to receive aid through the Public Safety Partnership, and officials said the four cities that were sent the letters had expressed interest in the next chance at participating. Cities were chosen based on higher-than-average rates of violence and willingness to receive the help and training. Cities that want to be involved going forward will have to show they allow unfettered communication between police and federal immigration authorities, give agents access to jails in order to question immigrants, and provide them **48-hours’ notice when** someone in the country illegally is about to be released.

Dead crow tests positive for West Nile Virus in Yucaipa

Posted: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:27 pm

A dead crow collected in the city of Yucaipa has tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first dead bird that has tested positive for West Nile Virus in 2017 in the Yucaipa area. When a dead bird tests positive for West Nile Virus it means people are at a higher risk of being infected with the disease if bitten by a mosquito.

Individuals bitten by an infected mosquito may develop West Nile fever and experience flu-like symptoms that can include fever, body aches, skin rash, and fatigue. In some individuals, West Nile fever can develop into a more serious form of the disease. If you have been bitten by mosquitoes and are experiencing these symptoms, contact your medical care provider.

Residents can protect themselves from WNV by following these tips:

Drain or dump – Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes can lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, flower pots, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.

Avoid spending time outdoors at dawn and dusk – this is when mosquitoes are most active.

Dress appropriately when outdoors – Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.

Apply insect repellent – Check that your insect repellent contains, DEET, PICARDIN, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to manufacturer's directions and apply it according to manufacturer's directions.

Doors – Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods.

To learn more about West Nile virus or to report a dead bird please visit www.westnile.ca.gov. For more information or to report a green pool or mosquito breeding source, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/programs/ehs/mosquito-vector-control/>.

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

Cracker Barrel sets date for first California restaurant, country store

By Nancy Luna, The Orange County Register

Thursday, August 3, 2017



Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, a staple along highways in the South and Midwest, has broken ground on its first restaurant in California.

The Victorville restaurant is slated to open in February. The Tennessee-based casual dining chain, founded in 1969, is known for its homestyle comfort food.

The 10,000-square-foot restaurant will employ 250 employees. Like its other Southern-themed restaurants, the Victorville Cracker Barrel will be decorated with antiques that are custom to the local

community.

“Our design team will begin researching Victorville and selecting the antique décor in the coming weeks,” the company said in a statement.

The restaurant will be part of about a dozen other restaurants along the 15 freeway, south of the Bear Valley Road. Earlier this year, Victorville City Manager Doug Robertson said Cracker Barrel selected the city because of its high-visibility along the 15, a highway frequented by travelers headed to Las Vegas.

Victorville will be Cracker Barrel’s 649th location when it opens. Another California eatery is reportedly in the work in north Rialto, in the Renaissance Marketplace shopping center.

The chain owns and operates all of its restaurants, currently located in 44 states. For the third quarter ended April 28, Cracker Barrel reported flat sales of \$700.4 million, compared to the same period a year ago.

Address: 11612 Amargosa Road, Victorville, 92392.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/business/20170803/cracker-barrel-sets-date-for-first-california-restaurant-country-store>

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Search for missing couple at Joshua Tree enters 6th day

By Scott Schwebke, Orange County Register

Wednesday, August 2, 2017



Tracking dogs scoured a section of Joshua Tree National Park on Wednesday, Aug. 2, as the search continued for Joseph Orbeso, a 21-year-old from Lakewood, and Rachel Nguyen, a 20-year-old from Westminster.

They went missing nearly a week ago.

The search centered near Maze Loop, in the northwest area of the park, where authorities on Friday found fresh footprints leading away from the couple's vehicle.

About 25 searchers on the ground and deputies aboard a San Bernardino Sheriff's Department helicopter were slated to assist search dogs and their handlers, said George Land, a spokesman for Joshua Tree National Park.

The search is expected to last the remainder of the week, but the chances of finding Orbeso and Nguyen safe are diminishing as each day passes, Land added.

"We are winding down, because we are facing the reality of a (body) recovery situation," he said.

Thursday, Orbeso and Nguyen left a bed and breakfast near Joshua Tree National Park to go hiking, Land said.

Authorities were alerted the following day when the inn's operator determined that Nguyen and Orbeso hadn't checked out and also found clothing, an iPad, and food in their room.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170802/search-for-missing-couple-at-joshua-tree-enters-6th-day>

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San Bernardino Line track work on August 12-13 will result in fewer trains and bus bridge

Posted: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:51 pm

Some nighttime work may cause traffic impacts, additional noise and light for residents and nearby businesses.

LOS ANGELES – Metrolink will operate a limited schedule August 12-13 due to required railroad maintenance.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, all San Bernardino Line service will operate on a Sunday schedule, which is fewer trains. On both Saturday and Sunday, buses will transport passengers between the Rancho Cucamonga and San Bernardino stations. Riders can anticipate delays as buses stop at connecting stations along the San Bernardino Line.

In addition to the impact to Metrolink riders, this project may affect homes and businesses near the work. Some examples may include:

Noise from heavy machinery and from equipment backup alarms.

Light from generators will be used for nighttime activities.

Traffic detours at Sierra Avenue and Juniper Avenue between Orange Way and Ceres Avenue. Use Citrus Avenue and Mango Avenue via East Foothill Boulevard and Merrill Avenue.

Metrolink schedules railroad track maintenance to ensure a continued safe environment and reliability.

For more information about Metrolink, please visit www.metrolinktrains.com.

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

Ontario history gets special recognition from heritage group

By Suzanne Sproul, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, August 2, 2017



Ontario has a long and storied history and it's about time more people knew.

Ontario Heritage has gotten the ball rolling. Its begun an historic plaque program designed to let people know about the history around them. The first plaque is in place and on the Paul Williams Gallery building on Transit Street. It honors local entrepreneur Charles Frankish, who along with the Chaffey brothers, helped mold the city.

The location once was the main post office when it was established in 1926. Paul Revere Williams was the architect. It represents what the

group hopes will be the first of many to come including ones at the Holt Boulevard post office and the Beverly Hotel.

“We first started an historic plaque program a few years ago. It takes a long time to raise the money. But it goes along with purpose of Ontario Heritage which is to preserve, protect and promote the historical environment of the city,” said Petrina Delman, long-time resident and president of Ontario Heritage.

Commonly called the Frankish building, it houses the Charlemagne Apartments, which were part of its original design. It consists of 32 residential units, 16 on each floor. At the time they were built, they were considered “high-class” with disappearing Murphy beds, gas heaters, telephones and hardwood floors with rents ranging from \$12.50 to \$30 per month, Delman said. The building also has an elevator.

San Bernardino County renovated/restored it. “It’s awesome that the county cared about an historic building in Ontario,” she said. “Ontario Heritage considers the Frankish building to be very significant.”

George and William Chaffey established Ontario, but Frankish also played a key role in its development. He organized a land improvement company and when the Chaffeys returned to their native Australia, Frankish managed their local holdings. He was responsible for planting trees along the boulevard in south Ontario; for organizing the Ontario and San Antonio Heights Railway Company; and installing tracks on Euclid Avenue for the mule car trip to north Upland, she said.

Frankish saw great potential in the city. Delman cited a May 21, 1887 The Daily Courier of San Bernardino newspaper article that said, “Charles Frankish ... was in the city yesterday. He says the auction of lands in South Ontario was one of the greatest successes in the country, and reports a great building boom in his flourishing town. He thinks it will be one of the principal towns between here and Los Angeles. The people of Ontario are determined to make South Ontario the business portion of the town, keeping the other section north of the railroad track for residences.” He also pointed out that a number of business blocks were already in the process of being built. A city was taking shape.

He was right.

“The city of Ontario has a wonderful historic past and has lots of historic homes,” she said.

Homeowners can get a plaque commemorating their homes. They must apply with the city’s planning department and pay a \$350 fee. The city covers the installation cost.

“Ontario Heritage wants people to know we care about our history and we’re trying to get the word out,” Delman said. “We invite you to our events. Come and find out what we’re trying to do to promote the history of Ontario.”

The nonprofit is hosting its third quarter potluck on Aug. 27 at the Graber Olive House, 315 E. Fourth St., Ontario. The event begins at 4 p.m. For more information about Ontario Heritage and its programs, visit www.ontarioheritage.org

SCOUTS EARN SILVER AWARD

Three Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 1984 have been working hard to complete their Silver Award project. This week all the work paid off. The Scouts donated 50 adopt-a-dog goodie bags to Priceless Pets in Claremont, a non-profit no kill pet rescue organization. The girls, Sophia Richter, Olivia Soliman, and Ava Villegas, raised more than \$1,000 and secured a donation of dog food from Costco, Montclair, for the project. A goodie bag will be given out with every adopted dog. The bag will include a leash, dog food, dog toy and three different brochures. The girls designed the brochures, which include information about dog food, play and health care.

Send news of social events with charitable purposes to ssproul@scng.com or on Twitter [@SuzanneSproul](https://twitter.com/SuzanneSproul). Include a contact phone number. Attach high-resolution JPEG photos, and include group name and identification of individuals from left to right.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/social-affairs/20170802/ontario-history-gets-special-recognition-from-heritage-group>

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Tragedy strikes Chino Hills' RV Gypsy family

By Josh Thompson | Posted: Saturday, July 29, 2017 8:00 am

A former Chino Hills family known locally as the RV Gypsies was involved in a car crash in Colorado that claimed the life of the father and older son, and left the mother and younger son with serious injuries.

Robert Streett, 52, and 16-year-old son Robby, were killed in the July 21 head-on crash on U.S. Highway 160 east of the La Plata County line when their 2017 Honda SUV was struck by a 2013 Nissan that had hydroplaned into the opposite lanes of traffic according to Colorado State Patrol officials.

Josslyn Streett, 49, was taken to St. Anthony's Hospital in Lakewood and 14-year-old Sawyer Streett was taken to Mercy Regional Center in Durango, officials said.

Mr. Streett died at the scene and Robby was pronounced dead a short time later at Mercy Regional.

The Nissan's driver, identified as Anthony Rodriguez, 36, of Mancos, Colo., was taken to the Durango hospital. His condition was not released by authorities.

Investigators believe speed was a factor and that all five people were wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. Drugs or alcohol are not suspected.

The Streetts left Chino Hills in 2007 to embark on a 31,000-mile, 14-month and 24-state trip in a \$50,000 truck and \$70,000 42-foot customized fifth-wheel trailer as they looked for a new home.

They ended up in the small farming community in Sequim, Washington in early 2009. Mr. Streett, a Cal Poly Pomona graduate, owned Clear Water Bidet in Carlsborg and was an active member of the Sequim community.

Robby, a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and a golfer, was set to begin his junior year at Sequim High School this fall, and start taking classes at Peninsula College to get a head start on an associate's degree.

He was an honor roll student.

A Go Fund Me account has been set up for Mrs. Streett and Sawyer at www.gofundme.com/street-family-support-fund.

More than \$33,000 of a \$45,000 goal had been donated as of Friday morning.



Robert Streett, left, and his son Robby, 16, were killed in a head-on crash that also injured Josslyn Streett, 49, and 14-year-old son Sawyer. The family was known as the RV Gypsies because of its 31,000-mile journey in search of a new home.

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

Aquinas High School in San Bernardino has three major projects planned for the coming year

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Wednesday, August 2, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO >> Aquinas High School students will find a much different campus this year — and administrators hope the rest of the city will, too.

Three major projects are slated for completion in the coming school year: a refurbished gym in August, a new administration center in December and a new Performing Arts Center in February.

Principal Chris Barrows said the \$10 million Performing Arts Center in particular would open up new opportunities for the school's 460 students, including a new "academy" allowing students to focus on

visual and performing arts (including music) for their four years at the school.

But it's not just for the students, he said.

They have an agreement for [Junior University](#), the nonprofit musical theater group based at Perris Hill Park, to begin performing there, and they will work hard to attract the rest of the area to use the center, too, Barrows said.

"It's going to be the best building in San Bernardino when it's done," he said. "We're the best keep secret in San Bernardino. We'd like to start sharing."

Key donors included the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which provided a \$3 million gift, J.F. Shea Company and Shea Family Charities.

"Without those two," said Aquinas President Jim Brennan, "we'd be building a shack."

Alumni and other supporters of the school, which draws students from Cherry Valley to Upland, provided additional funding. The simultaneous construction allowed them to save money on permitting and labor costs, according to Barrows.

Already, construction reveals something far from a shack.

The gym has gained a new entryway, where trophies from the school's 60-year history will at last be displayed to pump up students before games and other events. They also plan to add a snack bar and other amenities to the entryway, according to Barrows.

"On the first day of school, Aug. 14, they'll enter in the lobby of the new gym," he said. "It will be exciting."

That will expand the gym to 3,000 square feet. The administration center will be 6,000 to 7,000 square feet, and the Performing Arts Center will be 17,000 square feet.

The new 350-seat center also will include a theater, band room, rehearsal space and a scene shop, with state-of-the-art lighting and sound — with acoustics checked by a Disney Concert Hall veteran, Barrows said.

It's a big shift for the school, which Barrows remembers as surrounded by chain-link fences and dirt when he started 17 years ago.

“We would lay down plywood when it rained,” he remembered.

Seven years ago, Aquinas — the only Catholic high school serving the area — [was \\$472,000 in debt](#) and in jeopardy of closing.

Founded in 1955, the school is again on the upswing, he said, with enrollment steadily increasing. It was 420 for the 2016-17 school year, and 460 to 470 for the 2017-18 year, according to Barrows.

Tuition is \$7,000 per year, with 60 percent of students receiving some form of financial aid.

That's part of the same commitment to helping others that now has the school eager to share their resource once it's finished this spring, said Nick Karavedas, a teacher, coach and marketing official for the school.

“The Performing Arts Center is a community project,” Karavedas said. “We love to share. This is what faith-based organizations like ours should be about.”

Aquinas High School

2772 Sterling Ave, San Bernardino

909-886-4659

www.aquinashs.net

- Founded: 1955
- Enrollment: 460 to 470 for 2017-18
- Tuition: \$7,000 per year
- Financial assistance: 60 percent of students receiving some form of financial aid

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20170802/aquinas-high-school-in-san-bernardino-has-three-major-projects-planned-for-the-coming-year>

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Washing feet and mending hearts

By Rene Ray De La Cruz

Staff Writer



Posted Aug 2, 2017 at 4:12 PM

Updated Aug 2, 2017 at 4:45 PM

VICTORVILLE — Jesus’ mandate to wash each other’s feet — as a sign of humility and service to others — came to life as several groups ministered to those in need or living on the streets of the Victor Valley.

Nursing students from Azusa Pacific University rolled up their sleeves to clean, inspect and treat the feet of over 200 individuals during the third annual “Socks, Shoes & Salvation” outreach held Wednesday at the Salvation Army near the corner of Seventh Street and La Paz Drive in Victorville.

“We have about 30 nursing students and many community volunteers who are assisting the homeless at various stations,” said APU nursing instructor Garcia-Ursy. “Everyone here is serving from their hearts as they demonstrate the love of Jesus in practical ways.”

During the event, Mayor Gloria Garcia and representatives from the offices of Assemblyman Jay Obernolte and Senator Scott Wilk were also in attendance, Garcia-Ursy said.

Along with the nursing students, several organizations served meals, cut hair, handed out hygiene kits and ministered to the masses in various ways.

Wearing an old Nike T-shirt and tattered shorts, 42-year-old Robert Ripton laid down his dirty backpack, sipped on a cold bottle of water and allowed a student to inspect his feet.

“I don’t know when or how I got to Victorville, but I’m glad these people are doing this,” Ripton told the Daily Press. “It’s nice — these people doing this — it’s nice, very nice.”

As she prepared a container of warm water, student Yriel Tuazon, 24, said helping the homeless is a “passion and dream” that was “ignited” in her heart when she was 9 years old.

“Being here is an amazing thing and I’m blessed to see so many organizations ministering to these wonderful people,” Tuazon said. “We’re caring for them medically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.”

Tuazon, who has helped the homeless along side various service organizations, said she wants to take her passion of serving to others countries, such as the Philippines.

Eileen Flowers, owner of Atomic Photo and Party Creations, set up her portrait studio and snapped photos of several hesitant individuals.

“To come off the street and have your photo taken means so much to these people,” Flowers said. “It’s nice to see them smile when they see a photo of themselves among flowers and hearts.”

Like Tuazon, nursing student Mary Jane Schultz said serving the people of the Victor Valley has solidified her “purpose and passion” of serve the needy here and globally.

“Meeting these people face-to-face puts everything into proper perspective,” Schultz said. “When you get to know them, you begin to understand that you’re not just treating the homeless — you’re treating people.”

Salvation Army Major Sylvan Young told the Daily Press that “Seeing the smiles of men and women,” as they eat a warm meal, receive prayer or are given a “bit of kindness,” is what makes the outreach so meaningful to him.

“It’s a blessing to see these people leave their worries back on the streets and come here to be served like kings and queens,” Young said. “Events like these not only allow us to minister to them, but it also builds a trust factor with a group of people who struggle with trusting others.”

As a group of children ate snow cones and had their faces painted, volunteer Camille Ramirez, with the Ready 4 Reading Book Club, handed out free books.

Ramirez said homeless and needy children are often overlooked by the system, with many of them never hearing a story read aloud or owning their own books.

“It’s amazing when you see a child holding their own book,” Ramirez said. “We’re hoping that these books will stimulate a hunger for reading and education.”

Armed with a bag of food, a toothbrush and a new pair of shoes, Ripton waved goodbye to several nursing students as Tuazon prepared to minister to another individual.

“Seeing these broken, shattered, hungry and empty people leaving here totally blessed is a great feeling,” Tuazon said. “That’s why we’re all here — to be a blessing to others.”

Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLa

..... *or on Twitter*

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Victorville voters will decide half-percent sales tax for public safety

By **Shea Johnson**

Staff Writer



Posted Aug 2, 2017 at 5:05 PM

Updated Aug 2, 2017 at 6:03 PM

The ballot measure presenting the special tax, technically a transactions and use tax, will require two-thirds voter majority to pass.

VICTORVILLE — Determined to secure longer-term adequate funding for public safety amid rising contract costs, the city will send a half-percent sales tax to voters in a special election Nov. 7.

The City Council unanimously approved the resolution to call for the election Tuesday evening, with Councilman Eric Negrete abstaining from voting. Maybe unexpectedly, no one from the public sought to speak before the decision was solidified at the dais.

But residents will have the ultimate say-so: The ballot measure presenting the special tax, technically a transactions and use tax, will require two-thirds voter majority to pass.

The tax is projected to generate roughly \$8.4 million yearly in restricted general fund dollars to be spent on fire and police services, officials have said.

The boost could mean opening San Bernardino County Station 315, which was built in 2008 on Eucalyptus Street but never fully staffed, adding 15 firefighters/paramedics and at least 10 Sheriff's deputies, while setting aside reserve funds for a rainy day.

The tax, officials warned, is necessary to keep up with increasing costs to fire and police contracts — unsustainable even as the city budget experiences modest growth — and to perform several needed upgrades that are currently backlogged in the queue.

It would add to the city’s current 7.75 percent sales tax rate, increasing it to 8.25.

Conversations about a tax earmarked for public safety were an off-shoot of the Council’s February decision to terminate the city’s contract with County Fire. It acted not as an indictment on the agency’s performance but instead as a launch-point for the city to vet different agencies for fire services based on costs before County Fire’s deal officially expires June 30, 2018.

Officials initially were reviewing all options on the table, including Apple Valley Fire Protection District and CalFire. As of Wednesday, however, city spokeswoman Sue Jones said three options remained: a city-run department, a renewed contract service with County Fire or annexation to County Fire.

But the Council will likely wait until after the election to make its decision since the ballot measure’s failure will essentially force the city into annexation, officials say.

By annexing into County Fire’s Service Zone FP-5, accompanied by a \$153 special tax levied on nearly 38,000 parcels in the city, officials have said services would improve and the city would transfer financial responsibility to County Fire for certain fire protection and other related costs.

Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DP_Shea](https://twitter.com/DP_Shea).

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Snoop Dogg to revisit a classic at Hard Summer



Snoop Dogg at Staples Center in 2013. (Michael Robinson Chavez / Los Angeles Times)

By **August Brown**

AUGUST 2, 2017, 1:25 PM

In this recent wave of '90s hip-hop nostalgia — major new films on [N.W.A](#), Tupac Shakur and Bad Boy Records were all released in the last year or two — one core MC never quite got in on the rush.

That's because [Snoop Dogg](#) had never gone away.

Snoop, the de facto voice of SoCal party music for 25 years, remains a fixture on rap and pop radio, and he co-headlined the [Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival](#) with Dr. Dre (and the Tupac illusion) in 2012. His very suave 2017 album "Neva Left" sums it up nicely: Snoop never needed to come back, as he was right here all along.

But at this weekend's Hard Summer festival, the rapper will, for the first time, take a deep dive into his past. Snoop will perform his 1993 debut work, "Doggystyle," from top to bottom.

The album is burned into the memories of many an Angeleno and Long Beach resident who grew up around it — the bawdy skits, the slow-rolling funk bass and Snoop's sneering, laconic delivery. It's surprising it took him until 2017 to try it out at a festival.

The album was a ribald masterpiece that announced a major new voice in West Coast rap. As Southern California hip-hop culture was coming out of the N.W.A era, Long Beach native Snoop teamed up with Dr. Dre on the 1992 single “Deep Cover,” and that year bolstered Dre’s work “The Chronic” with his laid-back menace.

On “Doggystyle,” he found the perfect notch among the synthesized funk of his youth, the brash lyricism of his peers and the commercial potential of a country whose fear and fascination with gangsta rap would only escalate.

[Hard Summer has always known how to pair hip-hop with EDM and bass music.](#) Rae Sremmurd, Migos, Skepta, Ty Dolla Sign and Mike Will Made It are among the other hip-hop-leaning acts at the festival (and one, Egyptian Lover, has a career that even pre-dates Snoop’s).

Last year, Snoop’s ’90s L.A. peer Ice Cube headlined Hard Summer with a ferocious, explicitly political set that put his classic rap tracks in a new, urgent context.

For Snoop, the occasion finally made sense to try on his debut again.

“I’ve heard a lot about the energy that this festival brings,” he said via email. “Looking forward to giving L.A. another classic show for the books.”

Hard founder Gary Richards lights up when talking about the set, as “Doggystyle” easily slots into his all-time favorite albums list (the two collaborated on a song, “Hard for the Night,” under Richards’ DJ alias Destructo).

“Snoop is a god to me,” Richards said.

At other dance music festivals, Richards said, there were too many “lucky EDM dudes that got a break. Don't get it twisted, it's Snoop Dogg. I can't believe we got him, but I also want it to be special. What can we do? I want the bathtub and the doorbell rings, people pouring drinks, I want the whole shebang. Let's re-create the record.”

Snoop plans to bring out a bevy of guests from the album, although he declines to say who.

“I've been rehearsing and going to bring some extra surprises to fans, ya dig,” he said. But even though he’s finally allowed himself the chance to reach back to his first album, he’s more curious to see how it plays out for a very young crowd of 65,000.

Everyone’s likely to know “Ain’t No Fun” and “Gin and Juice,” but how many kids in the era of streaming services have heard the whole record in one go? Even for a generation raised on playlists and instant-gratification singles, there is still a certain joy to following an album through its intended long arc.

Everything — from the racy skits to the sound effects and track order — is essential to why “Doggystyle” made such an impact. And that’s where Snoop feels most confident about this show. The vibe and aesthetic he pioneered in 1993 more than holds up in a post-EDM, everything-all-the-time music culture.

“We're classic — we laid the foundation for the sounds, styles and artists you are hearing today,” Snoop said. “That never goes outta style. I love seeing these new artists out here flippin' it and putting their own on it.”

--

Hard Summer with Snoop Dogg, DJ Snake and more

Glen Helen Amphitheater, 2575 Glen Helen Parkway, San Bernardino

Noon Sat.-Sun.

Weekend passes \$199-\$309

hardfest.com

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This article is related to: [N.W.A](#), [Snoop Dogg](#), [Coachella](#)

BUSINESS

Some proof that Riverside, San Bernardino counties have what L.A. wants



Traffic moves along the 10 freeway west of the 15 freeway interchange in Ontario.

By **FIELDING BUCK** | fbuck@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
August 3, 2017 at 5:10 am



A migration from Los Angeles County to the Inland Empire from 2007-2011 was the largest county-to-county population shift during those years, during which the nation went from housing bubble to recession to recovery.

Thirty-five thousand more people moved east from L.A. to Riverside and San Bernardino counties than west, according to researchers from real estate data firm JLL.

Riverside County saw growth of 6.1 in that five-year period. San Bernardino County saw 4.1 percent.

ADVERTISING


Factors included relatively affordable housing and the “Inland Empire’s emergence as the nation’s premier big box logistics market.”

JLL noted that the influx continues, as people who track home prices probably know.

Tags: **real estate**

FIELDING_BUCK **Fielding Buck**

Fielding Buck has been a business reporter since 2014 with a focus on logistics, supply chain and GIS. Prior experience includes extensive entertainment reporting. He loves photography and dogs and lives in San Bernardino County.

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LOCAL NEWS

In two years, Riverside cuts spending on outside lawyers by more than 60 percent

By **ALICIA ROBINSON** | arobinson@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

August 2, 2017 at 3:13 pm



In a move that bucks government budgets' tendency to grow, Riverside has reduced spending on outside legal help to its lowest level in years.

Two years after an audit showed the city had spent \$19.4 million in five years on outside law firms — in addition to a staff of about a dozen city lawyers — City Attorney Gary Geuss appears to have made good on his pledge to **significantly trim costs** by bringing more cases in house.

Geuss said that, before Riverside hired him in 2015, the city's lawyers' job "was to oversee outside counsel, and that is generally how small cities look at a city attorney's office."

But with an estimated 324,000 residents, Riverside is not so small today. By bringing legal work in-house whenever possible, Geuss said, "Not only does it save money, but it encourages institutional memory that in the long run is cheaper."

A City Council committee asked for the [2015 audit](#) after officials learned that law firms were sometimes hired [without contracts](#) and the city council wasn't always informed of the spending.

Council members [tightened the rules](#) on hiring attorneys in response to the audit, and Geuss said he would use his staff more often to handle legal issues.

In a recent interview, he said he's done that.

For the five years before 2015, the city was spending an average of nearly \$3.5 million a year on outside lawyers. Geuss' latest report, which the council will receive Tuesday, Aug. 8, shows a fiscal 2016-17 spending total of \$1.3 million.

"I think everyone is pleased with that," City Councilman Mike Gardner said. "It was something he committed to do and it looks like he's accomplished it."

Geuss said he hired a couple of attorneys with court experience and began handing cases to staff attorneys who wanted to build their trial skills. Adding employees increased the office's operating budget, he said, but not significantly more than past annual increases due to inflation and employee raises.

He also noted that last fiscal year, his office resolved 27 cases with no payout by the city — the greatest number in at least five years.

There will always be times when the city has to hire an outside law firm, such as when a case is highly technical, Geuss said. Also, the city only has so much control over whether it gets sued, he said. The cost benefit of building an experienced staff of lawyers will be easier to see over time, Geuss said.

"I know there are going to be cases that we lose, that we settle, that I don't want to lose, that I don't want to settle, but you take 'em as you get 'em."

Tags: [Top Stories PE](#)

ALICIA_ROBINSON

Alicia Robinson

Alicia Robinson has been at The Press-Enterprise since 2007 and has covered Riverside and local government for most of that time, but she has also written about Norco, Corona, homeless issues, Alzheimer's disease, streetcars, butterflies, horses and chickens. She grew up in the Midwest but earned Southern California native status during many hours spent in traffic. Two

NEWS > POLITICS

Study: The fight against climate change added 41,000 jobs to the Inland economy



The Associated Press

This 2014, file photo shows an array of mirrors at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating site in the Mojave Desert. A new study found that climate change policies, including those encouraging the development of renewable energy, generated \$9.1 billion for the Inland economy from 2010 to 2016.

By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: August 3, 2017 at 6:01 am | UPDATED: August 3, 2017 at 9:32 am



More than \$9 billion and 41,000 jobs have been added to the Inland economy as a result of California's climate change initiatives, a new study found.

And the indirect effect of that spending supported more than 73,000 jobs and \$14.2 billion in economic activity in the Inland Empire from 2010 to 2016, [according to the study commissioned by Next 10](#).

"The report indicates that overall, policies including cap and trade, the renewable portfolio standard, as well as energy-efficiency and distributed solar programs, are contributing jobs and benefits," said Next 10 founder and venture capitalist F. Noel Perry in a news release.

A nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank based in San Francisco, [Next 10](#) focuses on economic, environmental and quality of life issues.

The study comes about two weeks after California lawmakers [narrowly approved extending the state's Cap-And-Trade program to 2030](#). The program sells credits, or licenses to pollute, with the goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

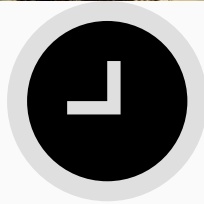
Cap-and-trade's supporters consider the program an essential tool in the quest to stop climate change from endangering humanity. Critics say cap-and-trade harms businesses and families who will bear the brunt of higher gasoline prices spurred by the program.

The Inland Empire is a unique testing ground for climate change policies. Its roughly 4 million residents tend to be poorer with longer commutes than other Californians, and the region's air quality is among the nation's worst.

At the same time, the region's vast expanse of open land, strong winds and constant sunshine make for prime real estate for solar and wind projects. The Inland Empire already is hotter on average than California's coastal areas, and the prospect of rising global temperatures could fuel more intense wildfires in a region brimming with bone-dry vegetation.

Next 10's study is billed as the first-ever look at the effect of climate change policies on the Inland economy. Researchers wanted to study the Inland Empire because the region's challenges are similar to those in other states, Betony Jones, the report's lead author, said in a telephone interview.

Jones is associate director of the Green Economy Program at UC Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education. Her center, along with the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at Berkeley's law school and an economist at Colorado State University-Pueblo, put together the study.



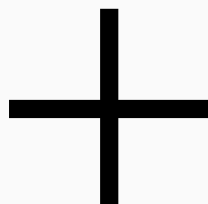
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Study: The fight against climate change added 41,000 jobs to the Inland economy

More than \$9 billion and 41,000 jobs have been added to the Inland economy as a result of California's climate change initiatives, a new study found.



Created by The Press Enterprise
on Aug 3, 2017



Climate change

Net benefits

The study looked at cap and trade, renewable energy development and programs promoting solar panels and energy efficiency to determine whether they help or harm the economies of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

From 2010 to 2016, climate change policies had a net positive impact of \$9.1 billion to the Inland economy with 41,284 jobs created directly as a result of those policies, the study found. The biggest gains – \$8.3 billion and 29,255 jobs – came in the construction of renewable energy plants.

The deserts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties have seen a boom in renewable energy development since 2010. [The Ivanpah solar plant](#), with its 352,000 mirrors, went online in the Mojave Desert in 2013, and [two solar plants near Blythe](#) representing \$1.2 billion in investment started producing electricity in November.

San Bernardino and Riverside counties are now home to 17 percent of the state's renewable energy capacity, providing enough power for 2.6 million homes, the study found.

After accounting for compliance costs, cap-and-trade created \$25.7 million for the Inland economy to go with 154 jobs between 2013 and 2016, according to the study. Programs to encourage homes and businesses become more energy-efficient or install solar panels supported 12,000 jobs and led to \$1.68 billion in economic activity, the study found.

It wasn't all good news. Inland companies involved in generating power through fossil fuels lost \$1.7 billion in sales and shed more than 1,100 jobs from 2010 to 2016, the study determined.

To make sure climate change programs continue helping the Inland Empire, the study suggests dispensing proceeds for cap-and-trade auctions “in a timely and predictable manner and (ensuring) that the Inland Empire receives an appropriate level of statewide spending based on its economic and environmental needs.”

Workers displaced by the decline of businesses that emit greenhouse gases need job training and placement help, the study added.

CLIMATE BOON

A new study concludes that California's climate change policies are a net benefit to the Inland economy.

\$9.1 billion – the direct economic benefit to the Inland Empire from 2010 to 2016.

41,284 – the number of Inland jobs created from 2010 to 2016 directly as a result of climate change-related investment.

2.6 million – the number of homes powered by renewable energy projects in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Source: “The Next Economic Impacts of California's Major Climate Programs in the Inland Empire.”

Tags: [California politics](#), [climate change](#), [environment](#), [Top Stories PE](#)

Jeff_Horseman **Jeff Horseman**

Jeff Horseman got into journalism because he liked to write and stunk at math. He grew up in Vermont and he honed his interviewing skills as a supermarket cashier by asking Bernie Sanders “Paper or plastic?” After graduating from Syracuse University in 1999, Jeff began his journalistic odyssey at The Watertown Daily Times in upstate New York, where he impressed then-U.S. Senate candidate Hillary Clinton so much she called him “John” at the end of an interview. From there, he went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he covered city, county and state government at The Capital newspaper before love and the quest for snowless winters took him in 2007 to Southern California, where he started out covering Temecula for The Press-Enterprise. Today, Jeff writes about Riverside County government and regional politics. Along the way, Jeff has covered wildfires, a tropical storm, 9/11 and the Dec. 2 terror attack in San Bernardino. If you have a question or story idea about politics or the inner workings of government, please let Jeff know. He'll do his best to answer, even if it involves a little math.

[Follow Jeff Horseman @JeffHorseman](#)

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BUSINESS

Home grocery delivery service Instacart expands to Riverside, San Bernardino counties



Home grocery delivery service Instacart expands to Riverside, San Bernardino counties

By **FIELDING BUCK** | fbuck@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
PUBLISHED: August 2, 2017 at 1:27 pm | UPDATED: August 2, 2017 at 3:11 pm



Instacart, which has been rolling out home delivery of Stater Bros. groceries in other parts of Southern California, will expand its service to the Inland Empire next week.

People from Pomona to Coachella will get delivery to their front doors in as little as one hour, according to a news release.

In addition to the San Bernardino supermarket chain, partner stores will include Smart & Final, Costco, Petco, and Ralphs.

Instacart is also expanding in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, expanding its reach by 1 million customers, the news release said.

Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 8, Instacart will serve the following cities and communities.

Riverside County: Riverside, Indio, Bermuda Dunes, Coachella, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Cahuilla Hills, Rancho Mirage, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Corona, Norco, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Temescal Valley, Arcilla, Belvedere Heights, Moreno Valley, Woodcrest, Crestmore Heights, Belltown, Edgemont, Highgrove

San Bernardino County: Chino Hills, Whittier, Rancho Cucamonga, La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora, Chino, Ontario, Montclair, Upland, San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana, Bloomington, Loma Linda, Kaiser, Declezville, San Antonio Heights, Muscoy


Los Angeles County: Pomona, La Puente, City of Industry, Baldwin Park, Hacienda Heights, Covina, West Covina, Walnut, Rowland Heights, Irwindale, Diamond Bar, El Monte, Arcadia, Claremont

Ventura County: Ventura, Casitas Springs, Mussel Shoals, Dulah, Faria, Camarillo, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Saticoy

Tags: **Retail**, **Top Stories PE**

FIELDING_BUCK **Fielding Buck**

Fielding Buck has been a business reporter since 2014 with a focus on logistics, supply chain and GIS. Prior experience includes extensive entertainment reporting. He loves photography and dogs and lives in San Bernardino County.

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

San Bernardino gets new small business bank

By Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Tuesday, August 1, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO >> Peggy Merryman likes to “grow something from nothing.”

That’s what the 40-year veteran banker is doing with a new branch of AltaPacific Bank in San Bernardino.

The bank branch, which caters to small and medium-sized businesses, may be new — having opened in June at 368 E. Vanderbilt Way — but the staff isn’t.

In the tumultuous world of banking, where small, people-oriented banks are gobbled up by financial behemoths, Merryman and her crew of four have moved from site-to-site, looking for opportunity at small, community oriented banks.

“We have certainly had the opportunity to stay on, but it’s not what we like,” she said in an interview Tuesday.

For Santa Rosa-based AltaPacific, San Bernardino joins Southern California branches in Covina, Ontario, Riverside and Temecula.

“We always felt it is important to be in Riverside, Ontario and San Bernardino, largely because that is where we had experience,” said Frank Basirico, president and chief operating officer, who lives in Redlands.

“It took us awhile to find the right fit and Peggy and her team are it,” he said.

The location, just off Hospitality Lane, is one that can easily draw customers from Redlands, Loma Linda, Colton, Grand Terrace and Rialto, Basirico said.

Merryman, a San Bernardino resident, has worked for downtown San Bernardino banks that have included American Security Bank, Bank of San Bernardino, which later changed its name to Business Bank of California, Southwest Community Bank, and Security Bank of California.

“We have gone from one corner to the next,” she said.

“Being a smaller bank, you get a real person when you call in,” she said of AltaPacific Bank. “And I can just about guarantee that the person who answers the phone will be able to answer your question,” Merryman said.

“Everybody is cross-trained,” she said.

“We think it is important the client take care of their business and we take care of their banking for them,” she said.

“San Bernardino is still an amazing place. Everybody downgrades this city, but the bank had faith in the community...,” she said.

“There are great businesses and great people here,” she said.

San Bernardino attorney Julie Peccorini said she has followed Merryman and her team to different banks for her entire legal career, which has been about 30 years.

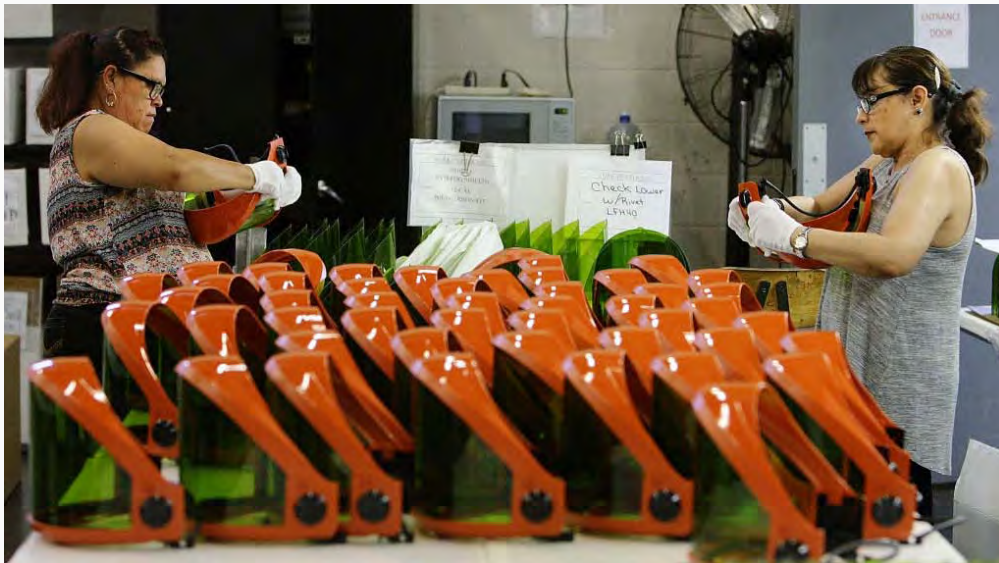
“There are a full service bank. It’s not like because they are small they can’t do things like international wire transfers... It’s actually easier to go through them.”

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/business/20170801/san-bernardino-gets-new-small-business-bank>

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BUSINESS

Growth up, but slowing for Inland manufacturing numbers in July



Terry Pierson/The Press Enterprise/SCNG

The Inland Purchasing Managers' Index rose in July. Paulson employees Maria Flores, left and Carmen Marquina assemble electrical safety glass shields at Paulson Manufacturing in Temecula, CA. Tuesday, Aug 30, 2016.

By **RICHARD DEATLEY** |

PUBLISHED: August 2, 2017 at 3:44 pm | UPDATED: August 3, 2017 at 7:44 am



The Purchasing Managers' Index for the Inland area jumped 3.5 points in July, recovering some of the nearly 8 points lost in the previous month and reflecting gains in production and new orders.

The July PMI of 58.3 was the seventh month that the index remained above 50, the baseline that signifies growth for the area's manufacturing sector, according to the Institute of Applied Research at Cal State San Bernardino, which tracks the regional numbers.

Production was at 63.8, up 7.3 points from June's figures and new orders increased to 56.9 for July, up 5.3 points over June's figure. Employment decreased from 58.1 to 53.4.

Since the figures held above 50, "we are seeing growth, however the pace of growth is slowing," institute director Barbara Sirotnik said in a statement accompanying the July findings.

The index surveys local manufacturing businesses, and there were 29 participants for the July numbers

A confidence survey of managers showed the majority, 60 percent, saw the local manufacturing scene as the same as the previous month. Another 36 percent saw it as stronger, and just 4 percent felt it was weaker.

Nationally, the PMI index was 56.3 for July, down from June's 57.8, according to The Institute for Supply Management. Despite the slip in month-to-month numbers, it marked the 98th consecutive month of growth.

KEY CATEGORIES

Inland Purchasing Managers Index for July and how five key components changed since June.

Overall PMI: 58.3, up from 54.8

Commodity prices: 63.8, up from 61.3

Production: 63.8, up from 56.5

New orders: 56.9, up from 51.6

Inventory: 63.8, up from 53.2

Employment: 53.4 down from 58.1

Supplier Deliveries: 53.4 down from 54.8

Source: Institute of Applied Research, Cal State San Bernardino

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-robot-can-be-a-warehouse-workers-best-friend-1501752600>

LOGISTICS REPORT

A Robot Can Be a Warehouse Worker's Best Friend

Companies are racing to develop 'collaborative' robots, which are relatively cheap and can boost employees' productivity



Above, the Wilmington, Mass., headquarters of Locus Robotics, a maker of a type of collaborative robot that is designed to work with humans. PHOTO: JOSHUA ANDRUS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By *Jennifer Smith*

Aug. 3, 2017 5:30 a.m. ET

In the battle of humans versus machine on the warehouse floor, some companies have found common ground.

Instead of developing technology to completely replace manpower, these firms are designing robots meant to work alongside people. These robots, for example, can guide workers to items to be picked or can transport goods across a warehouse to be packed and shipped.

Deutsche Post AG's DHL is testing "swarming" robots at a facility in Memphis, Tenn. These machines help workers pick out medical devices that need to be shipped quickly. Quiet Logistics Inc., which fulfills online orders for retailers like Bonobos and Inditex SA's Zara, uses the same type of mobile robots in one of its warehouses.

Known as "collaborative" robots, they are small and relatively cheap—costing tens of thousands of dollars—compared with miles of conveyor belts and automation systems that run into the tens of millions. The new robots are designed with the majority of warehouses world-wide in mind, where orders continue to be fulfilled manually by people pushing carts up and down aisles.

Robotics firms pitch them as a way to help people work faster and boost productivity during busy times, such as the holidays, when extra labor is harder to find. Surging online sales and a tight labor market have made it more difficult and expensive to fill warehouse jobs.

"It's not meant to replace human labor, but you can get greater throughput with the same size workforce," said John Santagate, an analyst with IDC Manufacturing Insights, part of research firm IDC.

For example, the robots can slash the number of steps workers take to fulfill an order. But they don't grab objects off shelves, a task that is simple for humans but tricky to automate, though developers are getting close.

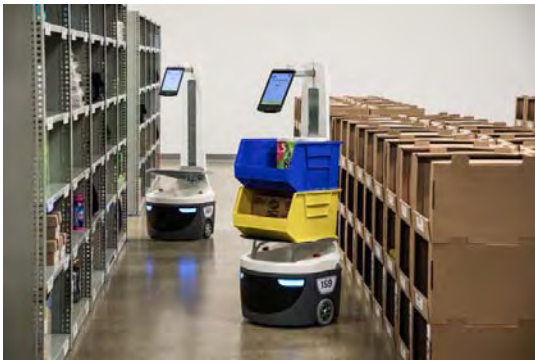
RK Logistics Group, a firm that runs warehouses for high-tech and industrial customers, leased three robots to ferry semiconductor parts when it needed to double its output at a 300,000-square-foot facility in Livermore, Calif.

"I physically could not fit any more people in the building," said Cindy Traver, the company's senior director of operations.

Employees pick parts off shelves and place them on blue racks on top of the robots, which then glide over to workers at stations where orders are packed and shipped.

The robots, made by San Jose-based Fetch Robotics Inc., now handle 30% to 50% of the items the facility ships each day, in about half the time it takes a human worker, and without a large, upfront investment, Ms. Traver said. She plans to add five large robots to move heavier parts.

Such robots aren't yet widespread compared to more-established technologies, like the shelf-moving robots developed in the mid-2000s by Kiva Systems Inc., which Amazon.com Inc. bought in 2012.



Locus Robotics robots. PHOTO: JOSHUA ANDRUS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

It can take years for technologies to move from the pilot phase to widespread use. Most operators want to see a few success stories before investing in new technology, said Tom Bonkenburg, a partner at St. Onge Co., a supply-chain engineering and consulting firm.

Many collaborative robots resemble motorized platforms fitted with shelves and touch screens. They use sensors to navigate past people and forklifts.

Their lower price point could speed adoption, analysts say. Some run between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per unit, plus software and licensing fees.

MORE ON ROBOTS

- Next Leap for Robots: Picking Out Your Online Order (July 25)
- Robots Are Replacing Workers Where You Shop (July 19)
- When Robots Take to City Sidewalks (April 12)
- BlackRock Bets on Robots to Improve Its Stock Picking (March 28)
- Autonomous Robots: The Warehouse Workers of the Near Future (Sept. 20, 2016)

This year, 6 River Systems Inc., a Massachusetts company co-founded by former Kiva executives, rolled out "Chuck," a robot that leads workers through aisles, lighting up when it

reaches the next item to pick.

The swarming robots that DHL is testing work in groups. At its Memphis facility, workers assemble multiple orders at once. The swarming robots help manage this complex job by parking themselves next to each item's location. Workers place the requested item on the robot and go on to the next machine.

"The worker doesn't have to look for the product, the robot tells them exactly where it is," said Bruce Welty, chairman and co-founder of Locus Robotics Corp., which makes the robots. Once the order is complete, the robot carries it over to a packing table, then returns to the aisles with another assignment.

The New York Times | <https://nyti.ms/2hpTy7w>

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS

To Protect Voting, Use Open-Source Software

By R. JAMES WOOLSEY and BRIAN J. FOX AUG. 3, 2017

Although Russian hackers are reported to have tried to disrupt the November election with attacks on the voting systems of 39 states, the consensus of the intelligence community is that they were probably unsuccessful in their efforts to delete and alter voter data. But another national election is just 15 months away, and the risk that those working on behalf of President Vladimir Putin of Russia could do real damage — and even manage to mark your ballot for you or altering your vote — remains.

Since the debacle of the 2000 election (remember hanging chads?) American election machinery has been improved to reduce the chances of mis-tallying votes, outright fraud and attacks by hackers. These improvements brought with them a new concern: lack of software security. Most voting machines' software can now be easily hacked. This is in large part because the current voting systems use proprietary software based on Microsoft's operating system.

One post-2000 change — a useful one — was to move away from all-electronic touch-screen balloting, with no paper record indicating how someone voted. Nearly half of voters are registered in jurisdictions that use optical-scan systems that read

marked paper ballots and tally the results. But one-quarter of voters still use direct-recording electronic voting machines, which produce no paper trail.

At polling places where voting machines don't provide this backup record, there's no way for election officials to run an effective recount if the electronics are hacked.

That's why the National Association of Voting Officials is leading a movement to encourage election officials to stop the purchase of insecure systems and begin to use software based on open-source systems that can guard our votes against manipulation.

But there's resistance to this obvious solution. Microsoft and companies that bob along in its wake don't want their proprietary voting systems replaced by open-source software balloting systems, have aggressively lobbied against them.

Open-source software is simply software for which the original source code is made freely available and may be redistributed and modified. In the case of voting, open-source software systems would be overseen by public-private partnerships between counties and vendors.

Open-source systems are tried and tested. A majority of supercomputers use them. The Defense Department, NASA and the United States Air Force all use open-source systems, because they know this provides far more security. Every step in our voting process should use software that follows these examples.

Despite its name, open-source software is less vulnerable to hacking than the secret, black box systems like those being used in polling places now. That's because anyone can see how open-source systems operate. Bugs can be spotted and remedied, deterring those who would attempt attacks. This makes them much more secure than closed-source models like Microsoft's, which only Microsoft employees can get into to fix.

One reason for the software companies' resistance is the belief that it's impossible to make a profit from open-source software. This is a myth. Businesses that use open-source software still need all of the other things that software

companies provide. Many major companies use open-source software in their products.

Open-source systems are already playing a role in some elections. New Hampshire has used them to allow disabled voters to fill out ballots online or on their phones, while Travis County in Texas, San Francisco and Los Angeles have allocated funds to move toward open-source voting systems.

If the community of proprietary vendors, including Microsoft, would support the use of open-source model for elections, we could expedite progress toward secure voting systems.

With an election on the horizon, it's urgent that we ensure that those who seek to make our voting systems more secure have easy access to them, and that Mr. Putin does not.

R. James Woolsey is a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Brian J. Fox, the creator of the Bash open-source software, is the lead technologist of the National Association of Voting Officials and the California Association of Voting Officials, which develop open-source voting systems for use in public elections.

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