
Supervisors speak on economic growth at State of the County address in Victorville

By Charity Lindsey
Staff Writer

Posted Sep 6, 2017 at 4:47 PM

Updated Sep 6, 2017 at 4:47 PM

VICTORVILLE — A packed program featuring a host of San Bernardino County dignitaries brought High Desert businesses and organizations together for the State of the County address Wednesday morning.

Hosted at the Hilton Garden Inn, the Board of Supervisors — led by Chairman Robert Lovingood and with the exception of 3rd District Supervisor James Ramos, who was absent — kicked off the address with noteworthy updates from their respective districts.

Representing the 4th District, Supervisor Curt Hagman focused on the reclaiming of local control, highlighted by the acquisition of the Ontario International Airport last November.

“We are the growth place,” Hagman said of the county, explaining, essentially, that more international movement equals more economic growth for the region.

“The byproducts — as for the High Desert — is that as we put San Bernardino County on the map, (businesses) are looking to buy land, and we’re actually pushing them up in this direction,” he said.

Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said another “major opportunity” the board is seeking to capitalize on is tourism.

“We need to tell our story better,” Rutherford said, noting that since the region offers “year-round recreation,” the county’s looking to funnel transient occupancy tax collected into local chambers of commerce. “We want to attract folks and the dollars they spend on vacation.”

The “cohesiveness” of the board and county agencies was the theme of the comments from Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who, while serving her last term on the board, said her focus is on leaving the county with “the big, huge economic engine that we keep talking about.”

“Making money is what makes the world go round. I would love to say it was love ... but love don’t pay the bills,” Gonzales said. “We must get better at bringing together the working dots, if you will.”

One of those important “dots,” she noted, is having an educated workforce, which county Superintendent of Schools Ted Alejandre later spoke on.

The graduation rate in the county is 82.6 percent, according to Alejandre, while the rate is more than 90 percent in several High Desert districts. He added that the county’s focuses for improvement go beyond academics and include social and emotional wellness, as 70 percent of students come from poverty.

County Assessor-Recorder Bob Dutton provided an update on the High Desert’s secured property values, which, at \$29 billion, have nearly caught up to where they were in 2008.

“What I like about what’s happening here is that we have a gentle climb,” Dutton said.

This year, the county will see close to \$100 million in restitution from welfare fraud busts, according to District Attorney Michael Ramos.

“We have a lot of people in our county on welfare, and a ton of them are cheating,” Ramos said. “And I don’t know about you, but I’m sick of it ... We said enough already.”

More than 100 have been arrested through welfare fraud sweeps, Ramos said, but even an greater effort has gone toward gang sweeps in the county. Since 2005, when the county’s gang unit was increased to fight back against transitory gang activity in the region, more than 11,000 cases have been filed with the District Attorney, Ramos said.

Wednesday’s event was the fifth annual State of the County, Lovingood said in his send-off, asking local leaders to return next year.

“The best opportunities are in front of us,” Lovingood said. “We have the challenges, but we continue together.”

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Follow her on Twitter [@DP_Charity](https://twitter.com/DP_Charity).

OPINION

Unwarranted charges, allegations in Colonies case: Christopher J. Warner



Developer Jeff Burum waits for his verdict to be read in the Colonies corruption case at San Bernardino Superior Court in San Bernardino, Calif. on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017. Defendants Burum and two former county officials — Supervisor Paul Biane and Mark Kirk — were found not guilty of all charges after a marathon trial that has lasted nearly eight months. (Photo by Rachel Luna, The Sun/SCNG)

By **CHRISTOPHER J. WARNER** |

PUBLISHED: September 6, 2017 at 4:58 pm | UPDATED: September 6, 2017 at 5:27 pm



“The largest public corruption case in the state of California” has ended in San Bernardino County. That’s what then-Attorney General Jerry Brown, standing next to District Attorney Michael Ramos, called it way back when they filed it.

By grace, I was able to attend the end, the reading of the verdicts. The trial had started the first week of January. It finished on Aug. 28. It was that “short” only because the defendants, none of them, put on a single witness. Three men were acquitted on all of the few remaining charges, which addressed political contributions alleged to be bribes to public officials via a conspiracy amongst these men.

Such grandiose pronouncements from a prosecutor, especially the state’s chief prosecutor, generate press coverage. So they shamed these men, making arrests in public places (think Ontario International Airport), with a photographer nearby, coincidentally of course. They were later booked into county jail, orange jumpsuit and all. And there’s that pesky photographer, again.

Seven years into retirement, I went because I have been inextricably intertwined with one of the acquitted, a certain Jeff Burum, who, several minutes after the verdicts were read, hugged me. I do not know this man, at least in the traditional sense.

You see, he was the plaintiff in a court trial before me in 2006. Yup, way back then. Didn't know him from Adam. Still don't, except for the 18 days he spent in my courtroom during that long-ago trial. I wrote a decision after that trial. More than 50 pages about easements and such. Can you believe it? I found, based on the testimony and the exhibits, that certain other public officials in the county had committed fraud and had misled Mr. Burum and his company, the Colonies Partners. After my intended decision was published, but before it became final, the case settled for nine figures (yes, before the decimal point!).

Attorneys for San Bernardino County, those on the losing end of the trial, complained about the settlement. And about me. In the newspapers. To the Commission on Judicial Performance. Apparently said I played golf with this man I do not know. At a place I've never been. I didn't know that for sure, because they wouldn't tell me. I had to read it in the newspaper.

The political contributions that became the grist for the charges were made later on, much later. Publicly disclosed, no issues with the FPPC. Years later, the criminal charges were filed against these men, in part based on the testimony of two others who had turned "state's evidence" in plea deals — one a severely addicted drug addict, the other a convicted liar. Before trial, there were trips back and forth to the Court of Appeal, the California Supreme Court and even the federal courts. Charges dismissed and reinstated. And on it went, for years.

And my name kept popping up, before and after the charges. Not in a kindly way, but implying and directly alleging misconduct. I was scrutinized by the FBI.

I write now because it's over. Finally. And I was only on the periphery. What of these men who have been scandalized and called "defendant" for years? The financial costs must be enormous. Bankruptcy. Foreclosure. Career disruption or destruction. The intangible costs are, perhaps, incalculable. Fearing felony incarceration over the years this has pended. The impact on bystanders. Family members, particularly the kids. Marriages. I think about it, and I shudder.

Thank God for our jury system. A whole bunch of responsible people put their own lives on hold, for eight months, to judge the evidence and these men. I think they got fifteen bucks a day. Thank God for our fellow citizens.

That's why this commentary. So, my connection to the man is severed. I hope I see him again someday. So I can say how sad I feel for what the "system," our system, did to him. And so I can say that his standing up to this situation for so many years is one of the most remarkable feats of human endurance that I have known.

The real travesty is that this should never have occurred. The matter could have, and should have, been resolved amicably, and for a whole lot less, before the turn of the century. Yes, friends, way back then.

Christopher J. Warner is a retired judge of San Bernardino County Superior Court.

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Christopher J. Warner

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Making progress in the crime fight

By The Daily Press Editorial Board

Posted Sep 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Updated Sep 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Just when you think the battle to stop criminals can't be won, a story emerges that provides hope.

Such was the case Wednesday at the Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce's State of the County event at the Hilton Garden Inn in Victorville.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos revealed to the several hundred in attendance that his office has orchestrated the arrest of nearly 100 welfare fraud criminals since First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood provided the DA's office with some funding to attack the problem head-on.

Ramos said some of those arrested even were seen going into casinos with their welfare cards! No doubt they were spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars trying to make an even bigger score than they already had made by virtue of cheating the system.

Talk about the good news story of the day. We hope Ramos' prosecutors seek the harshest possible sentences for these criminals.

He also noted that the DA's office will be seeking restitution that could approach \$100 million!

Ramos wasn't the only law enforcement official who announced some good news at the Chamber meeting. San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon said deputies have been working on a Desert Guardian sweep for the past eight weeks and in just the last 16 days have made nearly 500 arrests.

That should make our High Desert communities and streets much safer in the coming weeks and months. And McMahon pledged to keep the pressure on criminals throughout our region.

He said thanks to \$1 million from the Board of Supervisors, he is putting together a team of deputies that will spend the next nine months targeting the “worst of the worst” criminals in our desert.

McMahon’s aim is to get them off the streets and welcome them to a new home — bars included at no extra charge.

It’s been a tough year for violent crime in our region, but neither McMahon nor Ramos — or Lovingood, for that matter — plans to throw in the towel and give up. No, our county leaders have pledged to stay on the offensive and go after gang members and other thugs walking our streets.

They also want to reach out to youngsters in school and provide programs that will help them steer clear of the gangs and bad crowds that would be so happy to pull them into a life of crime.

With the help of our educators — and wouldn’t more like Teacher of the Year Melissa Edwards of the Victor Elementary district be wonderful? — we can provide youngsters with hope and a vision for a better life than they may know now.

If we all work together, we can change our world. We will change our world.

Meet the chief

Posted: Thursday, September 7, 2017 8:24 am

Highland's police chief, Sheriff's Captain Sam Fisk, invites the public to come meet the chief on Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6-8 p.m. at the Highland Police Department training room, 26985 Base Line.

LOCAL NEWS

China Airlines expresses interest in Ontario airport



A delegation from Taiwan visits with members of the Ontario International Airport Authority at the administration building at Ontario International Airport in Ontario, CA., Thursday, July 6, 2017. (Staff photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

By **LISET MARQUEZ** | Press-Enterprise
September 6, 2017 at 5:09 pm



ONTARIO >> Ontario International Airport officials have long envisioned tapping into the San Gabriel Valley's Chinese American population as a means to bolster traffic at the facility.

Two recent developments can help make that a reality.

First, the former president of East West Bank – a bank founded to serve the Chinese American community – has been named the newest member of the Ontario International Airport Authority.



It comes after China Airlines announced last week that it was exploring the launch of a new “Taoyuan-Ontario CA” service due to increasing demand for travel between [Taiwan and Ontario](#).

In a Sept. 1 statement by China Airlines, the service is being planned “in order to provide travelers with more options and greater convenience for Taiwan-US travel, as well as to boost bilateral corporations on business.”

Developing the route has been in the making for some time. Curt Hagman visited the Asian nation in the past year to share information about ONT and to establish initial ties with officials there with the aim of bringing air travel and cargo from Taiwan to Ontario. Hagman serves on the authority and is a San Bernardino County supervisor.

Then in July, members of the authority and San Bernardino County met with a delegation from Taiwan at the airport.

On Wednesday, speaking by phone, Hagman said the interest was a direct result from San Bernardino County and airport officials educating the aviation industry about Ontario airport.

Hagman said he believes ONT could be “the next great international gateway in Southern California,” because it doesn’t face the same passenger growth restrictions as other airports in Southern California.

The airport served 7.2 million passengers in 2007 but traffic began to steeply fall the following years. Traffic still hasn’t recovered, serving only 4.2 million passengers last year.

Since the OIAA took control of ONT from Los Angeles World Airports on Nov. 1, new service has been added and passenger numbers have climbed every month.

A formal agreement must be signed between the two parties to start the new service.

“How do we make it happen,” Hagman stated. “It starts by making some logistical improvements at the airport.”

Unlike other international carriers currently serving ONT, China Airlines uses wide-body aircraft, he said.

At its last meeting, the authority [approved a series of items](#) aimed at addressing the issue. It ordered two boarding ramps that could accommodate wide-body aircraft. Commissioners also agreed to improve its Federal Inspection Station which allow an increase in the airport's customs and immigration services.

Hagman said it is likely that the inspection station would operate out of an unused portion of Terminal 2.

Those moves are only short-term fixes, he said, adding the longterm goal is to build a terminal dedicated to international service.

“China Airlines is very aggressive right now,” he said. “I believe in the first quarter of next year we’ll be able to accommodate their large aircraft.”

Operating an Ontario route, according to the Chinese airline, would reduce travel time as well wait times for customs and picking up baggage.

In its statement, China Airlines said a survey of the proposed Ontario route was received with “an enthusiastic response as the airport is more convenient for travelers living on the east side of Greater Los Angeles.”

The airline currently serves San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hawaii and Guam. It also has a route in New York.

At its council meeting Tuesday, the Ontario City Council unanimously agreed to name Julia Gouw to the five-member governing body of Ontario Airport. As part of the Joint Powers Agreement with San Bernardino County, Ontario has the authority to appoint four of the five members on the commission.

Gouw [replaces Lucy Dunn](#), who is president and CEO of the Orange County Business Council, and resigned June 16 after nearly five years as a commissioner.

Ontario City Councilman and OIAA Commissioner Jim Bowman touted Gouw's experience in financial services and her connection to international markets, such as China, as an asset for the authority.

“San Gabriel Valley is an under-served market for ONT, and she can relay the message of how open and accessible the airport is,” he said.

A Pasadena resident, Gouw was president and chief operating officer of East West Bank until she retired in 2016. She previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for the bank.

Gouw is also a member of the board of directors of Newport Beach-based Pacific Life insurance company.

A native of Indonesia, Gouw moved to the United States to attend the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Tags: [airports](#), [Inland Empire](#)



Liset Marquez

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NEWS

San Bernardino's first marijuana dispensary permit goes to Flesh Showgirls strip club



The Flesh Showgirls strip club in San Bernardino. File photo. Eric Reed/Staff photographer

By **BROOKE STAGGS** | bstaggs@scng.com and **RYAN HAGEN** | rhagen@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: September 6, 2017 at 5:36 pm | UPDATED: September 6, 2017 at 11:38 pm



San Bernardino's first licensed marijuana dispensary may share an address with its only strip club.

More than nine months after [residents voted](#) to allow medical cannabis businesses in town, city officials have approved a dispensary permit for the location now occupied by Flesh Showgirls.

That permit has since been appealed, city spokeswoman Monica Lagos said. And folks at the gentlemen's club aren't talking.

But Roger Jon Diamond, an attorney who represents the aspiring dispensary owner, said he believes they're ready to set up shop on Hospitality Lane despite ongoing legal challenges.

"The city has not asked for an injunction," Diamond said. "We have a clear pathway to open."

San Bernardino voters approved allowing the shops on Nov. 8 under Measure O.

The measure requires the city to allow dispensaries — as well as other types of marijuana businesses — at locations at least 600 feet from residential zones and meeting other requirements. There are four sites that meet those requirements, including Flesh Showgirls, according to a March memo from Community Development Director Mark Persico.

That memo came after months had passed without San Bernardino officials making permit applications available. As a result, Diamond sued the city March 9 on behalf of several clients, including the man who spearheaded Measure O.

"Measure O said the city clerk was supposed to prepare the form to allow someone to apply for the permit," Diamond said. "But the city just kept saying, 'We need more time.'"

The city had at first said it would take time to rewrite the development code to comply with Measure O. Then when two [lawsuits challenged the measure's legality](#) in February, City Attorney Gary Saenz advised holding off implementation until those lawsuits were decided.

But before any of the cases were set to go to trial, San Bernardino's Community Development Department started passing out dispensary applications in June. Lagos said they issued their first permit on Thursday, Aug. 24 to SB License 01 LLC, which is registered to the Flesh Showgirls address at 100 W. Hospitality Lane.

The gentleman's club is owned by Randy Welty, who's been involved in marijuana dispensaries and legalization initiatives throughout Southern California for years.

Welty's name isn't tied to his club's dispensary permit, however. City and state records identify the permit holder as Qiang Ye (alternately listed in legal documents as Quiang Ye and Qiang Yi).

Diamond said Ye is the manager of Flesh Showgirls. He directed all questions about operations – such as when the shop might open and whether it might take over a portion or the entirety of the strip club's space – to Ye at the club.

A man who identified himself both in phone calls and in person as the club's manager declined to comment. He said he wasn't Ye, but wouldn't offer his name.

It's common for dispensary owners, who've often been working to secure permits for months, to open their doors almost immediately after receiving the green light from their local city. But a week after receiving its dispensary permit, 100 W. Hospitality Lane remains a strip club.

The online marijuana directory [Weedmaps](#) lists 18 unlicensed dispensaries and another 16 rogue marijuana delivery services in San Bernardino, despite years of efforts to enforce a ban that some city officials described as “[futile](#).”

Lagos said Redlands-based attorney James DeAguilera filed an appeal of Ye's permit.

DeAguilera represents clients who backed Measure N, a legalization initiative that competed on the ballot and lost out to Measure O. They're among parties suing the city over the winning ballot measure, arguing that the locations identified by Measure O don't mesh with San Bernardino's governing blueprint for land use. And in his appeal of the dispensary permit for Flesh Showgirls, DeAguilera said he simply attached that lawsuit.

“Clearly, the general plan of the city of San Bernardino does not envision marijuana being sold from a strip club on Hospitality Lane,” he said.

The club, represented in court by Diamond and known at the time as the Flesh Club, battled the city for roughly 20 years.

In 2004, the club won a \$1.4 million judgment against the city for profits lost during a four-year closure. Three years later, a judge found sex and lewd conduct routinely occurred at the club and ordered it to close. It reopened in 2009 as Flesh Showgirls.

In the past 12 months, San Bernardino police have recorded 15 calls for service at the address. Six of them resulted in a report being taken, for calls ranging from battery to a man with a gun, according to police records.

If a store opens soon, San Bernardino will be the second city in the Inland Empire to permit marijuana dispensaries.

The [first licensed Inland Empire shop opened Aug. 25 in Perris](#), where voters in November also approved licensing and regulating shops.

The city council for Adelanto, in the High Desert near Victorville, also voted in May to allow up to four medical marijuana shops. Applications are being accepted through Sept. 14, and City Manager Gabriel Elliott said they'd received seven as of Aug. 30. After the deadline passes, Elliott said a city council-appointed committee will vet the applications and choose four using criteria set by the committee and council.

In broader San Bernardino County, the city of Needles, on the border of Arizona, also permits marijuana dispensaries. And Riverside County's Coachella Valley has several cities that allow cannabis stores, including Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City and Palm Springs.

Tags: [Echo Code](#), [Inland Empire](#), [marijuana](#), [marijuana dispensaries](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



Brooke Staggs

Brooke Edwards Staggs is a general assignment reporter with a focus on covering the politics, business, health and culture of cannabis. Journalism has led Staggs to a manhunt in Las Vegas, a zero gravity flight over Queens and a fishing village in Ghana.

The Big Bear native is addicted to education. She earned her bachelors degree in English from California Baptist University, then got her master's in education as she taught high school English in the Inland Empire. After four years in the classroom, she left in 2006 to be a student again herself, earning a masters degree in journalism from New York University while interning and freelancing for a variety of publications. She sees journalism as another form of teaching, helping readers make informed decisions and better understand the world around them. Staggs spent five years as a staff writer then city editor at the Daily Press in Victorville. She won several awards for her work there, including best breaking news story from the California Newspaper Publishers Association for her tale of a teen who shot his father in a hunting accident. She joined the Orange County Register in January 2013, covering several south Orange County communities and the city of Tustin before taking on the marijuana beat in February 2016. On occasion, she also teaches community college and ghostwrites nonfiction books. Staggs loves dancing and new adventures. She hates water slides and injustice. If she doesn't get right back to you, there's a

LOCAL NEWS

Lefty's Track Day at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana promotes love of reading



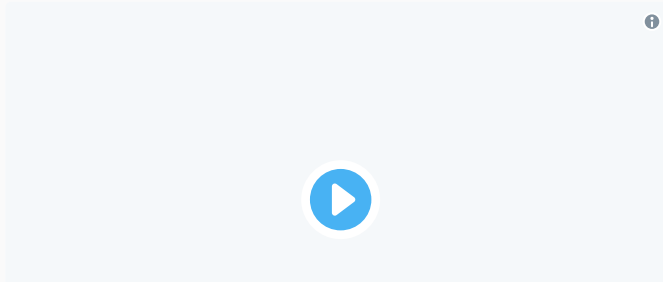
Members of several Inland Empire car clubs participate in the annual Lefty's Track Day. (Courtesy photo Auto Club Speedway)

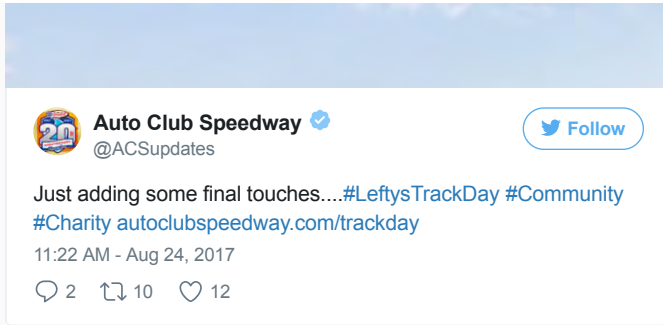
By **SUZANNE SPROUL** | ssproul@scng.com | Daily Bulletin
September 6, 2017 at 10:55 am



Car lovers buckled up and put their pedals to the metal to help children.

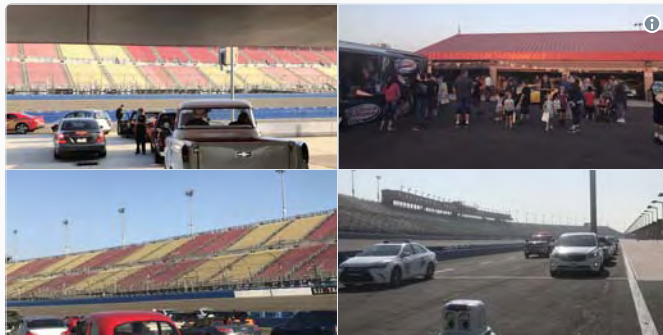
More than 400 vehicles – individual drivers and members of local car clubs – converged on the [Auto Club Speedway](#) track recently to support Lefty's Track Day. Those who made a \$15 donation got to emulate their favorite NASCAR professional drivers by taking a spin around the course. And drivers donating \$20 got to take a pace car ride at speeds up to 100 mph. Together, those efforts raised more than \$4,400.





Lefty's Track Day is an annual event at the Fontana speedway. Participating cars, trucks and motor vehicles get the chance to experience the fun of driving on the two-mile oval. Participants also are encouraged to donate books. All donations, of 200 books and money, benefit local schools through the Auto Club Speedway Foundation, which sponsors Lefty's Reading Challenge in the Inland Empire United Way's School Tools program.

The Lefty's Reading Challenge, named after Auto Club Speedway mascot Lefty, is part of Auto Club Speedway's youth initiative to get youngsters reading. More than 160,000 students from elementary schools in San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties read thousands of books during Lefty's Reading Challenge earlier this year. Their efforts helped their school libraries secure additional funding.



"We had an incredible turnout and are grateful to the community for supporting literacy programs at our local schools," said Dave Allen, president of Auto Club Speedway, in a statement.

Auto Club Speedway partnered with the San Bernardino County Schools District and its Vision2Read Program to promote a competition to see which school district had the highest attendance rate at Lefty's Track Day. The Etiwanda School District won. As a result, district superintendent Shawn Judson will participate in the pre-race ceremonies at the 2018 NASCAR XFINITY Series Race at the track on March 17.



SBCo Supt Ted

@SBCo_Supt_Ted

With students and parents at Lefty's Track Day. So fortunate to have @ACSupdates supporting our literacy efforts!!

m.facebook.com/story.php?stor...

8:15 AM - Aug 25, 2017 · Fontana, CA



Auto Club Speedway had its NASCAR show car, 1948 Woody Hot Rod, and 1927 T-Bucket Roadster displayed during the evening. It also included an interactive pit stop experience. For more information about Lefty's Reading Challenger, visit www.leftyskidsclub.com or call 909-429-5000.

Auto Club Speedway also will be the site of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Orange County Inland Empire Chapter's annual Light The Night Walk. The fundraising event is set for Oct. 28 and registration is open now. The event will feature a community festival along with the charity walk. And since the fundraiser is on Halloween weekend, the Speedway will have a pumpkin decorating area, trick-or-treating along pit road and fireworks.

Participants will walk the 2-mile route carrying white, red and gold illuminated lanterns signifying a survivor, supporter or those walking in memory of loved ones who have been affected by blood cancer. The goal is to raise \$625,000. All registered participants will receive an illuminated lantern. Those who raise at least \$100 are named a "Champion for Cures" and will receive a Light The Night Walk T-shirt and food voucher to be used at anyone of the food trucks.

Community invited to Open Air Market – The Foothill Family Thrift Store is sponsoring a community market from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Sept. 16. The free event will be at the Western Christian High School, 100 W. Ninth St., Upland. There will be antiques, clothes, art, small appliances and more. Money raised benefits the Foothill Family Shelter located in Upland, which serves homeless families. Information: 909-982-1785.

Children's Fund has a new chief executive officer – Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo is the new chief executive officer of the [Children's Fund of San Bernardino County](http://www.childrensfundofsanbernardino.org), which provides care and services to vulnerable children in need.

Pinedo has been an active member of the Inland Empire community for years. He joins the Children's Fund after working for Hope through Housing Foundation, where he served as president. He also served as chief operating officer for National Community Renaissance and was the associate superintendent of business services and economic development for the Chaffey Community College District.

Children's Fund was created 30 years ago by the late Jack Brown, then chairman and chief executive officer of Stater Bros. Markets, and Patrick Morris, then presiding judge of the San Bernardino County Juvenile Court. The goal was to find a way to better deliver services to at-risk children. During the years, Children's Fund has helped more than 1.4 million children.

Pinedo grew up in El Monte, received his bachelor of arts in philosophy at St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo, and his doctor of education in organizational leadership and management from the University of La Verne. He is vice chairman of the board of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, and sits on the boards of the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Southern California Edison's Consumer Advisory Panel, and Bright Prospect. He is a past chairman of the La Verne Planning Commission and past chairman of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Bank of America grants awards – The Bank of America Charitable Foundation recently awarded several grants to local nonprofits. The award funds will contribute to neighborhood revitalization efforts and programs that build thriving communities.

Inland Valley recipients include Hometown Community Development Corporation, Hope Through Housing Foundation, National Latina Business Women Association and the Rancho Cucamonga Community and Arts Foundation.

"Bank of America works to make financial lives better. We do this through lending, investing and services like financial education, but another important way we do this is by working with nonprofit partners by providing grants to help remove barriers to economic mobility," said Al Arguello, Bank of America market president for the Inland Empire, in an email.

The most recent round of grants, totaling \$282,500 to 26 nonprofits throughout the Inland Empire, will support organizations that help stimulate community economic growth, such as Rancho Cucamonga based [Hope Through Housing Foundation](http://www.hopethroughhousing.org), which provides services ranging from preschools to financial education and debt reduction workshops to residents at its properties to lift them out of poverty and help them become economically self-sufficient, he said.

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.

THINGS TO DO > CASINOS

Comedian George Lopez is in the food biz at San Manuel Casino in Highland



Contributed image

Comedian George Lopez is opening a new restaurant, Chingon Kitchen, today at San Manuel Casino in Highland.

By [STEPHANIE SCHULTE](#) | sschulte@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
September 6, 2017 at 2:58 pm



Comedian and actor George Lopez is adding another feather to his funny hat – a new Mexican restaurant at San Manuel Casino.

The fast casual restaurant, George Lopez’s Chingon Kitchen, is opening today at 6 p.m. at the casino, which is located in Highland.

The eatery will feature an open exhibition-style kitchen where folks can watch food being prepared.

“It is no secret that I am true to my Mexican roots, and I love great Mexican food,” Lopez said in a news release. “It has been a dream of mine for many years to open a restaurant, but it had to be a chill kind of place with great food, made to order, in a bitchin environment that celebrates my heritage.

“Chingon Kitchen is all that and I am excited to partner with San Manuel Casino to open my first restaurant. After all, Chingon does mean bad ...!”



Inland Valley Humane Society workers remove cages with birds in them just some of the thousands of animals some alive and dead seized from a Montclair warehouse Friday in Montclair, CA. August 4, 2017. (TERRY PIERSON, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG)

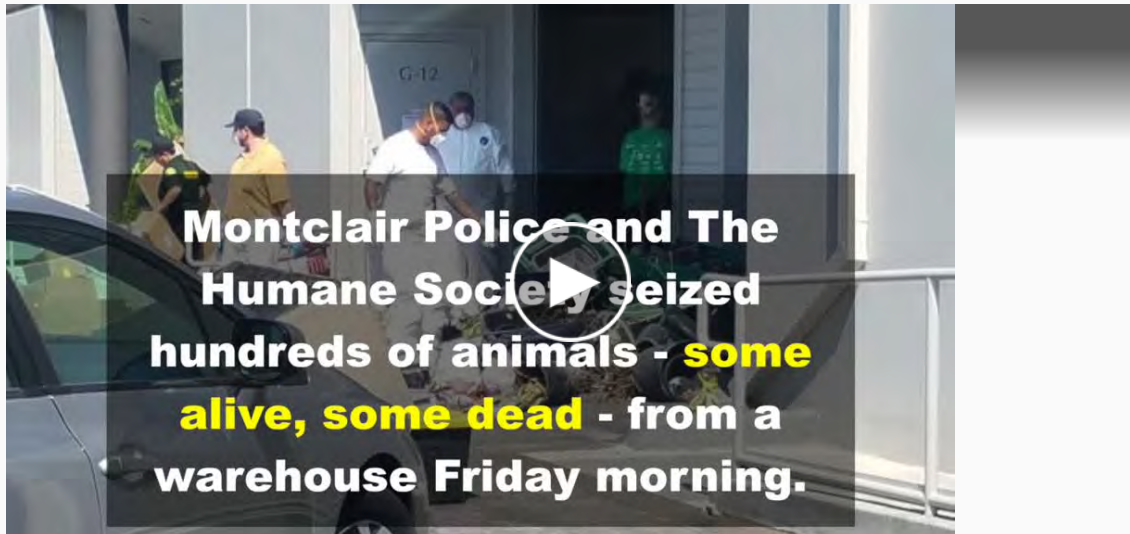
By **DOUG SAUNDERS** | dsaunders@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun
PUBLISHED: September 6, 2017 at 5:22 pm | UPDATED: September 6, 2017 at 5:38 pm



Prosecutors filed more than a dozen animal cruelty charges against a Montclair man in connection with a [warehouse in which thousands of animals](#) — alive and dead — were seized.

Gregory Allen Bowman, 52, was charged Thursday, Aug. 31, with 16 counts of cruelty to an animal and four misdemeanor counts of failure to care for an animal in connection with the Aug. 2 case.

Those animals, ranging from exotic fish to parrots and snakes, were found covered in feces and and living in areas filled with trash.



“The snakes were just left inside their boxes and they were dead,” James Edward, of the Humane Society, said on the day the animals were discovered.

There was very little ventilation in the warehouse and rescue officers could find no food or water for the birds.

Bowman has yet to answer the charges filed against him, according to court records, which also don't say when Bowman is expected in court.

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By Hilton

Hilton

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SAUNDERS, DOUG **Doug Saunders**

Doug has covered crime and public safety in the Inland Empire since first becoming a reporter in 2012. With a long standing military background, Doug naturally heads into volatile situations in order to gather intelligence for those who rely on accurate and up-to-date information. Doug, a former combat Army veteran, attended the Defense Information School. At DINFOS, the United States Military school of journalism at Ft. Meade, MD, Doug learned all aspects of journalism before taking on a role as an Army Public Affairs Specialist for 16 months prior to his employment with the Southern California News Group. Doug is an avid outdoorsman who loves camping on the beach, but he's also a giant "Star Wars" fan.

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Woman charged after baby suffers catastrophic brain injury

By Staff reports

Posted Sep 6, 2017 at 3:37 PM

Updated Sep 6, 2017 at 3:37 PM

Two deputies from the Sheriff's Apple Valley Station — L. Walker and E. Castodio — launched an investigation upon being notified and determined that injuries to the child were “inconsistent with statements provided by the child’s family and likely were caused by child abuse,” authorities said.

APPLE VALLEY — A 45-year-old woman was charged with child abuse Wednesday for allegedly causing a catastrophic brain injury and broken bones to a 15-month-old girl under her care.

Sammie Jenkins, of Apple Valley, was arrested after authorities were called to St. Joseph Health, St. Mary to investigate a case of suspected child abuse Aug. 31.

The incident allegedly occurred in the 18000 block of Symeron Road in Apple Valley, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials said in a statement Wednesday.

“St. Mary’s medical staff determined the victim had a skull fracture and a possible brain bleed,” authorities said. “The victim stopped breathing and medical staff administered life-saving measures and resuscitated her.”

The child was taken to Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital for higher level of care, where authorities said she remained hospitalized in critical condition Wednesday.

Two deputies from the Sheriff's Apple Valley Station — L. Walker and E. Castodio — launched an investigation upon being notified and determined that injuries to the child were “inconsistent with statements provided by the child’s family and likely were caused by child abuse,” authorities said.

The Sheriff's Crimes Against Children Detail reported the incident to the county’s Children and Family Services, while detectives interviewed several involved parties.

Through that investigation, they learned the child was in the care of Jenkins at the time of her injuries. Five other young children lived with Jenkins, as did two of her adult children. Jenkins’ relationship with the child was not disclosed.

Through investigation, detectives obtained probable cause to arrest Jenkins. Court records show she was charged with two felonies — assault on a child causing paralysis and child abuse, including an enhancement charge of causing great bodily injury on a child under 5 years old.

By mid-day Wednesday, court records did not indicate if Jenkins had entered a plea.

LOCAL NEWS

Victor Valley deputies seek help to find missing 21-year-old man

By **GAIL WESSON** | gwesson@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
September 6, 2017 at 11:11 pm



San Bernardino County Sheriff’s officials are seeking the public’s help to find a 21-year-old high desert man, who suffers from medical conditions and may become disoriented and confused, according to a news release.



Dean James Larranga (Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department)

Dean James Larranga was last seen at about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the Wood Grill Buffet on Main Street in Hesperia and has not been heard from since, the news release stated.

There is no indication of foul play.

Larranga is described as a white male, 6-feet, 2-inches tall, about 200 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes and last seen wearing a black shirt and pants and black Brahma work boots.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station at 760-552-6801 or sheriff's dispatch at 760-956-5001.

Anyone who wishes to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at 800-782-4763 or submit information in writing to www.wetip.com


Tags: **Top Stories PE**

Staff mug
of metro
reporter
Gail
Wesson.

Gail Wesson

Gail Wesson has covered news for The Press-Enterprise for decades, mostly in Riverside County, with occasional forays across the county line. Datelines on her stories span the county – from the state agricultural inspection station in Blythe, to the

Circle in Corona, the Stringfellow Acid Pits in Mira Loma, Temecula before there were traffic signals and to the highest point in the county, Mount San Jacinto. Most of her time has been spent covering local governments or how county, state or federal government affects communities. Breaking news, from floods to wild land fires and the consequences of disasters, watchdog reporting, criminal courts coverage and environmental explainers on water rights/supply issues and why bald eagles and San Bernardino kangaroo rats should be saved are icing on her news cake.

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Rep. Cook: DACA solution considered only amid broader immigration reforms

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

Posted at 7:54 AM

Updated at 7:54 AM

“This is going to be one of the biggest challenges we face this Congress,” Cook acknowledged, “but I hope we can find a way forward that makes our borders more secure while taking into account the unique situation facing illegal immigrants brought here as children.”

With Congress officially now on the clock to address the fates of 800,000 young immigrant “dreamers,” Rep. Paul Cook on Wednesday said any talks must center around immigration reforms, particularly border security, suggesting that the protections afforded under former President Barack Obama would be considered only as part of a broader legislative package.

“All discussions on immigration must begin with border security and move outward from there,” Cook, R-Apple Valley, said in a statement to the Daily Press. “Subjects such as expanded use of e-verify, additional border patrol resources, an end to sanctuary cities, and funding for the border wall should be on the table in any discussion over DACA.”

DACA, or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, was an Obama-era executive action that shielded from deportation hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children.

Cook said the program was unconstitutional since “only Congress can make immigration law, not the President,” adding that the courts were going to overturn it anyway, so President Donald Trump’s action to repeal the program Tuesday merely jump-started the debate on how to replace it.

“Yes, the individuals affected by DACA were brought into the United States as children and did not willingly violate our immigration laws,” Cook said, “but it’s also important to remember that these same individuals are no longer children.

“In fact, the average person who has received a work permit under DACA is in his or her mid-20s.”

Trump punted the issue to Congress on Tuesday, which now has six months to pass legislation. While new DACA applications will be rejected, existing two-year work permits will be renewed until the deadline for lawmakers to act arrives.

“This is going to be one of the biggest challenges we face this Congress,” Cook acknowledged, “but I hope we can find a way forward that makes our borders more secure while taking into account the unique situation facing illegal immigrants brought here as children.”

Congress for years has failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform, however, and it seems unlikely that a bill solely focused on protections for the young immigrants would stand a chance.

Trump had been under pressure by state officials who threatened legal action if he did not repeal the program. But on Wednesday, 15 states and the District of Columbia sued the U.S. government to block Trump’s move.

— *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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).

LOCAL NEWS

Moreno Valley's city manager, city attorney get 5 percent raises

By **IMRAN GHORI** | ighori@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
September 7, 2017 at 8:27 am



[Moreno Valley](#) has extended the contract of its city manager and given her and the city attorney five percent salary raises.

With the contract extension — approved Tuesday night, Sept. 5, by the City Council — City Manager Michelle Dawson will stay on until May 2020. Her employment agreement had been set to expire in 2018.

The city manager remains an at-will employee who can be dismissed by a majority vote of the council. Dawson's contract gives her a year's salary and benefits if she were to be fired without cause.

Dawson, who [became city manager in 2013](#), will see her salary rise from \$255,852 a year to \$268,645 a year. She also receives \$15,635 in other pay and \$86,140 in health and retirement benefits, according to the state controller's government compensation website.

City Attorney [Martin Koczanowicz](#), who joined the city last year, received a salary bump that will move his annual pay from \$242,050 to \$254,152. He also receives supplemental pay and benefits similar to Dawson and other management employees, though the total cost was not available on the state controller's website.

Tags: **Top Stories PE**



Imran Ghori

Imran Ghori has been a reporter with The Press-Enterprise since 1999. He covers Moreno Valley and Jurupa Valley.

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By Wired



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LOCAL NEWS

No vote yet on 1.7-million-square-foot Moreno Valley warehouse

By **IMRAN GHORI** | ighori@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
September 7, 2017 at 8:17 am



A decision on a proposed 1.7-million square-foot warehouse center in Moreno Valley has been postponed until Oct. 2.

The Moreno Valley City Council delayed a vote Tuesday night, Sept. 5, after a public hearing on developer Prologis' plans for the [Moreno Valley Logistics Center](#). The complex would be built on 89.4 acres between Indian and Heacock streets, south of Krameria Avenue in the city's industrial area.

Prologis has asked the city to reduce zoning requirements for a 300-foot buffer zone between the project and a residential neighborhood to the east to 50 feet.

Councilwoman Victoria Baca suggested the delay until the council's October meeting because she wanted more time to look into the issue.

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[Watch] Check Out What These 1,300 People Did After the Unrest in Baltimore

By Hilton

Hilton

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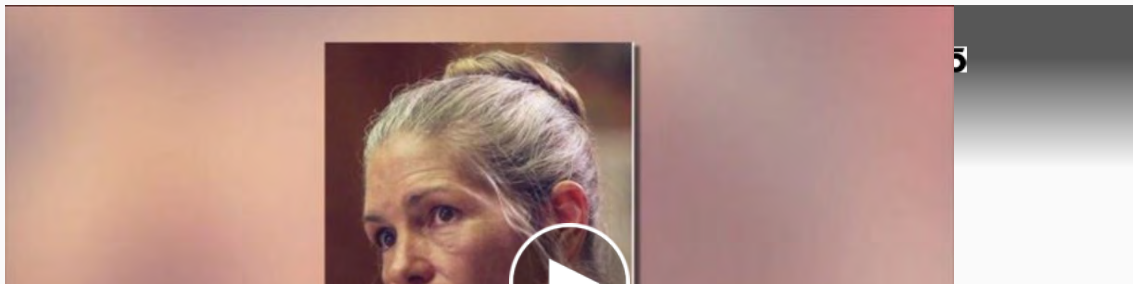
Youngest in 'Manson Family,' now 68, granted parole by a California board



Leslie Van Houten reacts after hearing she is eligible for parole during a hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017 at the California Institution for Women in Corona. Leslie Van Houten was the youngest of Charles Manson's followers to take part in one of the nation's most notorious killings. After a 120-day review process, the governor will have 30 days to approve, reject or do nothing on Wednesday's decision, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (Stan Lim, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** |

PUBLISHED: September 6, 2017 at 9:30 am | UPDATED: September 6, 2017 at 5:20 pm





CHINO – Leslie Van Houten, the youngest of Charles Manson’s murderous followers, was granted parole by a California board Wednesday.

Van Houten, who was 19 when she killed for Manson during a series of murders that terrorized Los Angeles over the summer of 1969, appeared before a parole panel for the 21st time.

The decision now goes through a process of review in which Gov. Jerry Brown may uphold, reverse or modify the decision. He could also send the matter to the full Board of Parole Hearings, or take no action, in which case the parole decision would stand.

A similar panel at the California Institution for Women in Chino, where Van Houten is incarcerated, granted her parole last year but was overruled by the governor.

Van Houten has candidly described how she joined several other members of the “Manson Family” in killing Los Angeles grocer Leno La Bianca and his wife, Rosemary, in their home on Aug. 9, 1969.

She was not with Manson followers the night before when they killed pregnant actress Sharon Tate and four others during a similar bloody rampage.

At her parole hearing last year, Van Houten said she helped hold down Rosemary La Bianca while another Manson follower stabbed her repeatedly. She then took up a knife herself and added more than a dozen stab wounds.

“I don’t let myself off the hook. I don’t find parts in any of this that makes me feel the slightest bit good about myself,” she said.

Since she was incarcerated more than 40 years ago, Van Houten has been a model prisoner and earned college degrees.

Members of the Tate and La Bianca families have argued repeatedly, however, against granting parole to her or any other Manson follower who took part in the killings.

None has been freed, and one, Susan Atkins, died in prison in 2009. Manson, now 82, remains behind bars.

After Van Houten was tentatively granted parole, Tate’s sister, Debra Tate, gathered 140,000 petition signatures opposing her release.

In overruling the panel, Brown said Van Houten had failed to adequately explain how a model teenager from a privileged Southern California family could have turned into a ruthless killer.

Van Houten was both the youngest and also seemingly the most unlikely member of Manson’s so-called family.

She had been a high school homecoming princess, athlete and cheerleader before dropping out of school and joining the ragtag band of ersatz hippies who considered Manson, a career con man and petty criminal, to be a Christ-like figure.

She has testified that the trauma of her parents’ divorce, her teen pregnancy and other problems led her to drop out of school, run away from home, become involved in drugs and eventually join Manson’s cult.

In an attempt to bolster her chances for release, Van Houten’s attorney put another former Manson follower, Catherine Share, on the witness stand at a court hearing in Los Angeles last week at which she testified Van Houten was so young and impressionable that she was afraid to leave the cult.

“Some people could not leave. I was one of them that could not leave,” said Share, who added Manson threatened to have her tortured and killed if she tried.

Share, who didn’t take part in the killings, added she believes Van Houten was also afraid to leave. She said she regretted encouraging her to join the cult.

AP reporter Don Thompson contributed to this report from Sacramento

Tags: [homicide](#), [religion](#), [social issues](#), [Top Stories LADN](#), [Top Stories OCR](#), [Top Stories PE](#)

OPINION

Marijuana dispute upends Prop. 218 provision

Upland City Hall is seen in a March 2013 file photo. (Staff file photo)

By [THE EDITORIAL BOARD](#) | opinion@langnews.com |

PUBLISHED: September 6, 2017 at 5:44 pm | UPDATED: September 6, 2017 at 8:10 pm

When the city of Upland had its day in front of the California Supreme Court, the clear winner was the Law of Unintended Consequences.

The city's dispute with the California Cannabis Collection over when a marijuana initiative should appear on an election ballot wound up blowing a hole in Proposition 218, the measure that requires a two-thirds vote for passage of local special taxes. According to the Supreme Court's ruling, such taxes proposed by citizen initiative – rather than by the local government – will now require just 50 percent plus one vote.

That has the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and various Republican groups scrambling for an initiative fix that would restore the two-thirds requirement.

The city's wending trail toward the state's highest court began in January 2015 when the California Cannabis Coalition got enough signatures on an initiative petition – allowing three marijuana dispensaries in the city – to qualify the measure for a special election. But City Hall balked at the idea of a special election, and decided the measure would have to wait until the next general election. The city's reasoning was that the \$75,000 fee the initiative would have imposed on each of the dispensaries was actually a tax; and under Prop. 218 new taxes must be approved in a general election rather than in a special election.

The coalition sued over that point. The city prevailed at first but the coalition won on appeal. Upland would have given up then, but HJTA, not wanting a precedent from the appellate ruling, offered to cover the costs to appeal to the Supreme Court, and Upland accepted the offer.

The decision might turn out to benefit Upland City Hall, which has been talking for some time about the need to pass a sales tax increase to make the city's troubled finances whole. Usually, taxpayers are likelier to pass a special tax – one that would spend the money on something specific, such as public safety – than a general tax. If, say, a citizen group made up largely of public employees should qualify an initiative for a special tax, it would need just majority passage.

That could happen anywhere in the state, not just in Upland, and that's what has the tax watchdog groups upset.

Los Angeles OKs \$6.5 million to settle lawsuit after cyclist hit a pothole



Los Angeles has paid millions of dollars in settlements or legal judgment payments for bicycle accidents linked to dangerous road conditions. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)



By **Emily Alpert Reyes**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017, 1:25 PM

Los Angeles will pay \$6.5 million to settle a lawsuit from a man who suffered severe injuries after his bicycle hit a pothole in Sherman Oaks, lawmakers agreed Wednesday.

Two years ago, Peter Godefroy lost control of his bicycle when it hit a pothole on Valley Vista Boulevard, throwing him to the ground. The crash left him with broken bones and a severe traumatic brain injury, according to his suit.

He and his wife, Patricia, sued the city, the county and the state, arguing that the street he was bicycling on was so poorly maintained that it had created a “concealed trap for bicyclists.” As a result of government negligence,

the lawsuit claimed, Godefroy had suffered injuries so severe that he expected to have “some permanent disability.”

The Los Angeles City Council voted 11 to 0 on Wednesday to approve the \$6.5-million settlement.

“We are happy that the city has taken responsibility for the safety of the roadway at issue that caused Mr. Godefroy’s life-changing injury,” his attorney, Spencer Lucas, said in a statement following the vote. “We are proud of the bravery that Peter and his family have shown throughout this case and hope that this settlement can improve the quality of his life despite his ongoing injuries.”

Los Angeles has been sued repeatedly over road conditions following gruesome crashes.

In the spring, the city agreed to [spend \\$4.5 million](#) to settle a lawsuit from the family of Edgardo Gabat, a 56-year-old man who was thrown from his bicycle and killed after hitting uneven pavement in Eagle Rock. Los Angeles approved more than \$15 million in settlements or legal judgment payments for bicycle accidents linked to dangerous road conditions during the last budget year, according to a [motion](#) filed recently by City Councilman Paul Krekorian.

Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley, declined to discuss the Godefroy case Wednesday but said the city must ensure that bicyclists can ride safely in Los Angeles. His motion asks officials to investigate the current condition of bicycle lanes across the city and figure out how much time and money it would take to fix them.

“We need to make sure they have pavement that is safe to ride on,” Krekorian said.

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TECHNOLOGY

Amazon Announces Plans for Huge New North America Offices

By PRASHANT S. RAO SEPT. 7, 2017

Amazon said on Thursday that it was searching for a second headquarters in North America, a huge new development that would cost as much as \$5 billion to build and run, and would house as many as 50,000 employees.

The announcement is likely to set off jockeying among several major cities, and is the latest step in the rapid expansion for the online retail giant. It recently completed its biggest acquisition, of the high-end grocery chain Whole Foods, and has embarked on a major hiring drive, adding tens of thousands of new employees.

The company, which is based in Seattle, listed a series of requirements for the new location, including a metropolitan area that has a population greater than one million, “a stable and business-friendly environment,” and a location that was able to attract and retain workers. The company is calling the development HQ2.

“We expect HQ2 to be a full equal to our Seattle headquarters,” Jeff Bezos, Amazon’s chief executive, said in a statement. “Amazon HQ2 will bring billions of dollars in upfront and ongoing investments, and tens of thousands of high-paying jobs. We’re excited to find a second home.”

The company said it was inviting proposals for its new site, which it said could have a similar layout to its Seattle headquarters, including an urban or downtown campus.

It insisted the new offices would be a “complete headquarters for Amazon — not a satellite office,” and that executives would be able to choose to base their teams in either, or both, Seattle and the new location.

Bids for the new offices are due by Oct. 19, and the company said it expected to announce its choice next year.

The news marks the latest step in Amazon’s remarkable evolution, growing from an online bookseller into a company that now offers next-day delivery of millions of products, a raft of hardware from tablets to home assistants, and an increasingly aggressive foray into grocery shopping.

Amazon has been growing rapidly in recent years. The company now has more than 382,000 employees worldwide. In January, it vowed to create 100,000 jobs in the United States over the next 18 months. It increased its domestic work force to more than 180,000 employees at the end of 2016, from 30,000 in 2011.

That figure does not include the thousands of temporary workers who join the company during high-demand periods like Christmas.

The retailer employed 300,000 people globally by its 20th year as a public company, the fastest any American company has reached that mark, according to the Progressive Policy Institute, a left-leaning think tank.

Still, the hiring spree has not protected Amazon from the wrath of critics, including President Trump, who argue that the company is killing retail jobs by pushing shoppers online and away from department stores and malls.

The economic impact of being home to a new Amazon headquarters would be considerable for wherever is chosen. The company says that every dollar it has invested in Seattle has generated an additional \$1.40 for the city’s overall economy.

Amazon's reputation in its home city has tarnished over the years. Local activists complain that it is driving gentrification in Seattle, and the retailer's high-pressure work culture was the subject of a New York Times investigation. It has also been criticized for not being sufficiently involved in the city's civic life, especially compared to other Seattle-based companies like Boeing, Microsoft and Starbucks.

Amazon's requirement for a metropolitan area with a relatively high population for its new site, however, narrows the list of potential sites, and will set off a competition between regions across North America eager to court such a large employer.

Companies that look for major new locations often set off bidding wars between cities and states desperate for new sources of tax revenue and additional jobs.

Foxconn, the Taiwanese electronics supplier, has, for example, announced it will be building a \$10 billion factory in Wisconsin, but the state's \$3 billion in tax credits to the company — lavish even by the standards of regions courting major employers — have raised opposition.

Closer to home for Amazon, the state of Washington approved \$8.7 billion in support for Boeing through 2040 if it built its 777X plane in the state. That deal was the subject of a European Union complaint alleging that the incentives were “illegal subsidies,” though the World Trade Organization recently sided with the company in the latest round in a long-running legal dispute.

Follow Prashant S. Rao on Twitter @prashantrao.

U.S.

An Enormous, Urgent Task: Hauling Away Harvey's Debris

By JOHN SCHWARTZ and ALAN BLINDER SEPT. 6, 2017

HOUSTON — On Labor Day, Pireta Darby sat on the front porch of her house in the Kashmere Gardens neighborhood. The fruits of her labors were before her: the sodden objects lugged out of the home she shares with her mother and granddaughter. Here were two couches piled high with ripped-out carpet. A coffee table. A folding chair. And so much more, removed from the family home of about 60 years.

“I guess they’ll just come with the big truck with the claw thing” to haul it away, she said, gazing at the mess; at least the family has insurance.

The piles up and down this street, and along many other nearby streets — shards of wallboard and mildewing carpet, artificial flowers and computer monitors — stand taller than some people. There are sofas and desk chairs, ironing boards and drum sets — discrete items all destroyed by a storm and the floodwaters that followed. And across this city, there are more than 100,000 such piles, many of them even larger.

Of all the challenges that southeast Texas faces after Hurricane Harvey, few will linger longer or more visibly than the millions of pounds of debris already crowding curbs and edging onto streets. The cleanup, needed from northeast Houston’s

neighborhoods to the wealthy suburbs southwest of the city, will take months and cost billions of dollars.

Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston has identified two priorities for his city's recovery: housing and debris removal.

"We're going to pick it up, and we're going to operate with the highest degree of urgency," Mr. Turner said.

At the same time, Houston officials are asking residents to separate their Harvey-related waste into five piles: appliances; electronics; construction and demolition debris; household hazardous waste; and vegetative debris. A look at these streets suggested that few people seemed to be heeding the city's pleas.

Other cities have been through this battle with a storm's leavings. After floodwaters inundated East Baton Rouge Parish, La., last year, crews collected about two million cubic yards of debris. Superstorm Sandy, in 2012, led to about six million cubic yards of debris in New York State — the equivalent of four Empire State Buildings, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Katrina left behind 38 million cubic yards. Getting the stuff gone is a long process. It was only last month that Baton Rouge finished the debris removal process it organized in the wake of last year's flooding there.

In Houston, where city officials say that some eight million cubic yards of debris will need to be hauled away, collection is farther along in some neighborhoods than in others. In Ms. Darby's neighborhood, only a handful of volunteers were around to help in the disaster zone. In Bellaire, a wealthy city southwest of downtown, dozens of trucks were parked on the streets, their owners helping people bring their belongings outside. Poachers picked through the refuse for items that could potentially be sold, leading residents to spray-paint warning signs telling people to stay away from their debris.

The job of deciding how to move these mountains has been left to county and local officials, who hire debris removal companies to help them dig out. FEMA will reimburse the local governments for 90 percent of the cost.

One major removal company, AshBritt, already has “dozens of operations” going on in Texas from Harvey, said Jared Moskowitz, the general counsel for the company. He said he expects more to come.

Judith Enck, a former regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency whose territory included New York and New Jersey, said that environmental considerations have to be part of the process, even after a disaster.

Ms. Enck, who calls herself a “solid waste geek,” was heavily involved in debris removal after Sandy hit the Northeast. Figuring out what to do with debris is one of the most challenging aspects of any storm, and because decisions are generally made at the local level, she said, “every community has to kind of reinvent the wheel.”

Setting aside appliances like refrigerators for recycling, chipping downed trees for mulch instead of burning them, prevents pollution and extends the life of landfills. Leaking landfills can pollute groundwater. “The victims of these storms are already in environmentally compromised situations,” she said, “and the way debris is handled should not make it worse.”

She said that separating waste by type is anything but fussy, especially in the age of climate change, when scientists have shown that global warming is producing wetter storms and contributing to more destructive storm surges, and could also be making some storms more powerful.

“I fully understand people saying, ‘This is an emergency — let’s suspend the norms,’” Ms. Enck said. “But these hurricanes and floods are becoming the norm.”

Historically, Texas has not shown deep concern over environmental issues, and in the current crisis, its stance on debris removal has been similar. Governor Greg Abbott has temporarily suspended 19 environmental rules that the state said would “prevent, hinder or delay” Harvey disaster response.

After reviewing the changes, Andrew Dobbs, a program director with the Texas Campaign of the Environment, a nonprofit advocacy group, said, “They have suspended more or less every meaningful environmental protection.”

The communities hit by the storm “were already some of the most polluted in our country,” Mr. Dobbs said, “and the regulations in place were already insufficient to protect their health and well-being.” Relaxing the rules now, he said, will “escalate this problem in a dramatic way.”

At Ms. Darby’s house, the process of tossing and salvaging continued. With the help of some family members and their friends, the Darbys were packing some items into plastic containers for safekeeping at self-storage facility while they stay at a hotel. Flooding is not new to them: Tropical Storm Allison caused substantial damage in 2001, and the Darbys lived in a FEMA trailer while they fixed the house up that time.

As Ms. Darby decided what to toss and what to try to save, she reflected on how she had told herself a while back that she really should get rid of some things. “The Lord has a way of making you clean up and clean out,” she said with a laugh.

Her mother, Mary Darby, 84, was less sanguine, even after telling herself that the family had lost only possessions, not loved ones. Standing in her home, mold already visible on the walls, she began to cry.

“It’s material,” she said a few moments later. “But it hurts.”

Annie Correal and Manny Fernandez contributed reporting.

A version of this article appears in print on September 7, 2017, on Page A13 of the New York edition with the headline: Houston Faces Urgent Task: Moving Mountains of Storm Debris.