

## DA To Dismiss Charges Against Lieutenant In Training Fraud Case

A second officer named in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department training scandal indictment last year is on the brink of being exonerated by the prosecuting agency that leveled the charges against him, the *Sentinel* has learned.

An indictment unsealed in March 2011 charged seven current



**Russell Wilke**  
and former sheriff's department employees in

a conspiracy to falsify their own and/or others' training certification. The case against one of those officers was dismissed in July.

Now, sheriff's lieutenant Russell Wilke is slated to join retired sheriff's lieutenant William Maddox as a former defendant who has been cleared in the matter, despite the highly detailed

indictments that were returned against them and five of their department colleagues, individuals knowledgeable about the matter say.

According to informed entities conversant with the case, key portions of the information and material pertaining to Wilke contained in the indictment cannot be substantiated

or has now been determined to be erroneous or non-existent, such that the prosecutor's office has internally acknowledged it does not have sufficient evidence to ensure Wilke's conviction.

Wilke, unlike other unretired defendants in the case, has not been suspended from the department and has remained on ac- See P 2

## Victorville Rejects Bond Firm's Claim



**Tom Barnett**

The Victorville City Council has denied a claim by the firm that marketed its bonds demanding the city cover the company's expenses in responding to questions put to it by a series of investigators looking into the city's financial transactions.

Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios, a Carlsbad, California-based firm which provides investment banking, advisory and underwriting services to municipal entities, handled Victorville's bond transactions throughout the 2000s. When the FBI, Securities & Exchange Commission and the San Bernardino County Grand Jury interested themselves in a number of issues pertaining to city finances, including representations made to investors and how the proceeds from issued and sold bonds were actually spent, employees with Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios were interviewed, indeed interrogated, and subpoenaed to provide backup documentation with regard to those bond sales and expenditures.

Among the issues explored in those inquiries were financing arrangements for four hangars built at Southern California Logistics Airport, two city-sponsored power plant projects – the Victorville 2 and Foxborough See P 7

## Supervisors Pay Reduction Measure Opponents Citing Postmus In Campaign

The opponents of Measure R, an initiative to reduce the compensation of San Bernardino County supervisors by 72.6 percent, are seeking to discredit the measure by associating it with former supervisor and assessor Bill Postmus.

Last year, Wrightwood resident and former grand jury member Kieran "Red" Brennan

launched what seemed a Quixotic effort to gather the 43,250 signatures needed on a petition to put before the voters a countywide initiative that would reduce San Bernardino County supervisors' annual \$151,971 salaries and \$67,500 in benefits to \$50,000 in salary and \$10,000 in benefits annually, a drop in total com-



**Bill Postmus**  
pensation from \$219,471 per year to \$60,000.

Brennan's seemingly impossible undertaking was furthered when he coordinated with Eric Steinmann, a wealthy entrepreneur who bankrolled, and thereby significantly advanced, Brennan's signature gathering effort.

In the same time frame, the board of supervisors raised the ire of the county's two

largest unions – the San Bernardino Public Employees Association and the Safety Employees Benefit Association – by proposing that those unions make salary and benefit concessions with regard to their existing labor contracts or otherwise face layoffs of substantial numbers of their members. When the board followed See P 5

## Consultant Pegs Ontario Airport Value Between \$243 Million And \$605 Million

Los Angeles World Airports, the entity created by the city of Los Angeles to run three airports that city owns, has released a 60-page consultant's report that offers an inexact estimate of the retail value of Ontario International Airport.

The consultant, the firm of Leigh Fisher, pegs the airport as being worth at least \$243 million and as much as \$605 million. The calculations



are based on cash flow expectations over the next half century, the report states.

Los Angeles took over management of Ontario Airport in 1967 as part of a strategy to increase flights out of the

aerodrome. That ploy worked, as Los Angeles was able to use its control of gate positions and other considerations at Los Angeles International Airport to induce airlines to fly into and out of Ontario. Just See P 7

## County Advances School District Over \$5 Million

In a rare but permissible move, the county of San Bernardino is advancing the Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District over \$5 million in property tax that it is calculated the district will be due at a later date.

The Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District straddles portions of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, consisting of six elementary schools, two junior high schools, one high

School, four alternative schools and an adult school.

According to San Bernardino County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector Larry Walker, his office "received a request from Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District for a temporary transfer of funds, in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, Section 6 of the California Constitution and Section 42620 of the Califor- See P 5

## SB County Sheriff Using DEA Money For Cross County Operations

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is contributing a full-time clerical worker and overtime compensation for one officer as its part in a multiagency taskforce targeting illicit narcotic distribution activity spanning the border with Riverside County. According to

documentation provided to the county board of supervisors by sheriff Rod Hoops and captain Steve Higgins, the Sheriff's Department will be reimbursed by the federal government up to \$47,779.25 for salary and overtime costs related to participation in the Riverside Task Force

from September 30, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

The Department has participated in the Riverside Task Force since 1992 as a means of targeting, investigating and prosecuting major drug trafficking organizations in Riverside/San Bernardino Counties.

"The department's participation in the task force results in better coordination with other agencies involved in major drug trafficking investigations and enhances the prospect of disrupting drug traffic in the area," Higgins said.

The individual holding the clerical posi-

tion reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration is provided with a salary of \$30,577.00. Overtime costs for one safety position assigned to the task force total \$17,202.25. That cost is also picked up by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

**Sheriff's Lieutenant On Verge Of Vindication**

*from front page*

tive duty, having been transferred to the West Valley Detention Center.

In September 2009, insinuations of fraud, theft by false pretenses and unjust enrichment cropped up against Hobart Gray, more commonly known as Bart Gray, who was the commander of the Yucaipa sheriff's station, as well as Gray's wife, and approximately 25 other members of the department.

Allegations were that Gray had submitted to the bureau in Sacramento that handles Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification documents that were false in information and content. His wife, Angela Fair Gray, allegedly obtained or prepared the false documentation in question.

Mrs. Gray, who worked at the department's Glen Helen North

Training Facility, in conjunction with Sally Ann Christian, was said to have facilitated a situation in which sheriff's personnel would sign up for POST classes but never attend them. Mrs. Gray would sign them off as having attended a particular class, usually held at San Bernardino Valley College, then submit the paperwork through the required channels and obtain certificates of completion. Those who signed up for class would either get overtime for attending or were allowed to attend classes on workdays, receiving in turn regular or overtime pay. Many of those who signed up attended only a single class, or in other cases, no classes whatsoever, according to the district attorney's office.

The never-completed coursework included instruction on verbal judo, advanced subjects contact, officer survival, child abuse, hate and bias crimes, basic dispatch,

advanced dispatch, supervisory skills, basic traffic collision, gang awareness, driving under the influence, and civil liabilities. Sworn officers with the department were either required to get periodic retraining in law enforcement skills or were eligible to receive pay increases with the completion of further training. The coursework was supposed to be done in compliance with the state's POST criteria, that is, Police Officers Standard and Training guidelines, which are set by the state.

More than a year after word leaked out that some of the department's officers were cutting corners on training and retraining requirements, a special criminal grand jury was impaneled in November 2010 to hear testimony in the case. It was that grand jury, which is separate from the civil grand jury that traditionally monitors the function of San Bernardino County govern-

ment, that heard testimony from witnesses.

None of those who were eventually charged were taken before the criminal grand jury and the indictment was based entirely upon the testimony of witnesses who were not charged.

Those named in the March 2011 indictment were Wilke; retired lieutenant William Maddox; retired assistant sheriff Michael Stodelle; detective David Pichotta; Hobart Gray, who had recently before retired at the rank of captain; Angela Gray, an unsworn custody specialist; and Christian, an unsworn training specialist.

All were accused of falsifying training documents. All but Angela Gray and Christian were accused of having benefited directly from the falsifications. As sworn officers, Pichotta, Maddox, Wilke, Stodelle, and Hobart Gray had received salary enhancements upon certification of the completion of the

**The San Bernardino County**

**Sentinel**

Published in San Bernardino County. The Sentinel maintains an office at 10788 Civic Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service  
Mark Gutglueck, Publisher

**Call (909) 628-8436**

**to learn of locations where the Sentinel is available or to provide news tips**

10808 Foothill Blvd., Suite 160-446  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
SBCSentinel@yahoo.com  
909-628 8436

POST classes.

Nevertheless, in July, deputy district attorney Dan Silverman, who was prosecuting all seven POST scandal defendants, abruptly dismissed all charges against Maddox, acknowledging that information that had been made available to the prosecutor's office created a situation in which he would no longer be able to prove Maddox had engaged in the actions previously alleged and that his office could

not establish criminal intent on Maddox's part. Maddox had been charged with having falsely claimed credit for completing advanced dispatch training. Maddox's attorney, Michael Scaffidi, proffered documentation and information to the district attorney's office demonstrating Maddox completed all of the training certification courses he was credited with completing when Maddox applied for dispatch certification based upon his work opening a dispatch center in the desert. Doing that required him speaking with other agencies throughout the state and researching both technical and procedural issues. Scaffidi established that Maddox was told by the sheriff's academy staff that the research and work he did in setting up the dispatch center qualified him to audit the dispatch class, and that he was instructed by his captain to apply for the advanced certificate ten months later.

Wilke and Maddox are two of four command level officers who were implicated in the training completion falsifications. Though Silverman maintained that the case against both Grays, Stodelle, Christian, Pichotta and Wilke remains active, the *Sentinel* has been provided with information suggesting the district attorney's office has put the case against Wilke on hold and is waiting for an opportune occasion to dismiss the charges against him. A factor in the delay is the

# Inland Empire Bankruptcy Center

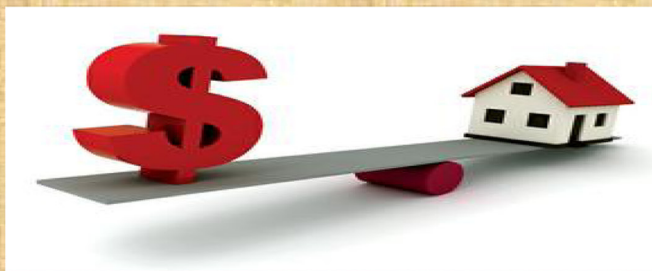
**Have quick questions?**

**Have complicated questions?**

**Need advice on how to prepare before filing?**

**Want to stop harassing phone calls from creditors?**

**Need to stop foreclosure?**



**Call today to get pre-bankruptcy counseling...**

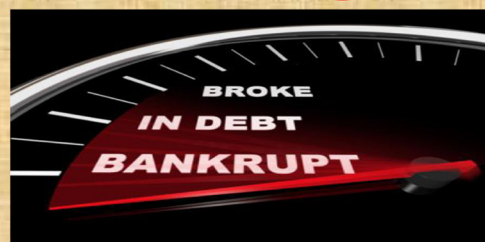


**909.204.5768**

**Work with an experienced professional law firm to wipe all your debt !**

**The longer you wait... the worse it gets!**

**INLAND EMPIRE LAW GROUP... ESTABLISHED SINCE 1967**



*Continued on Page 4*

## Upland Watchdog Bozar Campaigning To Bring Accountability To City

Glenn Bozar is running for city council in Upland, he said, because "I want to use my thirty years of business expertise managing multi-million dollar budgets, staffing and contracts to develop solutions to the problems Upland is facing. I will apply my management experience to perform the independent financial analysis



Glenn Bozar

needed to stabilize the city's financial situation. I have made a difference

over the past 14 years as a taxpayer advocate for residents and businesses. I have worked on my own time at my own expense protecting the citizens' right to demand transparency in holding the city accountable to protect the constitutional right to vote on taxes."

In sizing up the major challenges facing Upland, Bozar said, "The budget is the focal point

of everything. Without financial stability and revenue streams the city will have difficulty maintaining what it already has. The challenge is in maintaining what we have until we can align our revenues with our expenses. Until we have more money coming in, we are going to have difficulty providing anything more than what you see now. We can't

fix potholes and can't expand parks until we stabilize the budget."

Bozar said his formula for overcoming Upland's problems is a simple, basic and plodding one.

"As I have done in the past, working on budget committees in the city, it requires sitting down and working with the city manager and analyzing the city's revenues and

expenses and determining what is needed in the short term and long term to make sure we have a stable budget. The key is business growth. I support building a strong and financially viable city that will host businesses of all sizes. Part of the problem identified by existing businesses in Upland is the difficulty

*Continued on Page 4*

## She Will End Redlands' Downward Slide, Council Hopeful Schneider Claims

Lane Schneider is running for Redlands City Council to reverse the city's downward slide, she said.

"I have lived here for 25 years and have seen changes in Redlands," she said. "It is a terrific city, but I have seen some decline and would like to offer what I can to help the city. I feel it is time to act on my interest. That is why I am running."

"Like all cities," she said, "Redlands faces financial issues. Those challenges are hitting

all cities in California. Redlands is no exception. We are paying too much for employee salaries, benefits and pensions. We need to look at unfunded liabilities and get them under control to meet the demand for services the city provides. The condition of our roads and streets is a major concern. We want to be able to provide services and still be able to manage our house. Those are the major issues facing Redlands."

Schneider said, "I am



Lane Schneider

not privy to everything that goes on in the city, so I can't say what solutions they have discussed. I can only talk about what changes I think can be done. Un-

funded liabilities is something we address by getting everyone at the table and making an effort to come to an understanding and try to preserve everybody's future. I only know what I see and can just guess at what has gone on behind closed doors, but out here that is an issue that everyone is talking about. We need to look at any solution we can. We have to seriously talk about and bring those salaries, benefits, pensions in line with what

is being paid in the private sector. It would be a big accomplishment if we can do that. All cities are facing this. We have to get down to the nitty-gritty of talking about this and changing things."

Schneider continued, "When you look at other things, such as improving our roads, street paving, there has been some movement and the city has come up with some good ideas. They are going to be expensive. Maybe there are other

things they can look at to raise the money for doing that. I am not saying don't do what they are proposing, but I would suggest that maybe we should look at the financial end of it. Are there things we can cut back on to divert money to provide that, rather than raising new fees or raising taxes? We should look at other alternatives for financing. I am not in favor of raising taxes."

Schneider said she stands out from the rest

*Continued on Page 4*

## Victorville Should Return To Basics, City Council Candidate Proano Says

Victorville city council candidate Carlos Proano said he is advocating that the city return to fundamentals.

"I think it's time we get back to basics," Proano said. "I want to focus on children, community and infrastructure. Those are things we have neglected. Everyone talks about crime and the need for more officers. I

would love to get more officers on the street, but we can't afford it at this time. I instead want to focus on deterrence and prevention. I want us to work with nonprofits and church groups for solutions. Right now, I see no leadership to provide that opportunity. I think a different approach that looks at our alternatives is the best we can do for

property owners, residents and businesses."

Proano said the major issue facing the city is "the lack of trust in our local government. The perception out there is our elected leaders are just not working for us. I don't think it is merely perception. We keep hearing of backdoor deals. The city council has lost touch and they



Carlos Proano

don't want to hear the concerns people have

now and they are not concerned about our problems. I want to reach out to the community to hear what their problems are. I want to hear what their concerns are. I want to build that trust up."

Proano said, "The other problem is the budget and finding money so we don't have to make cuts to our services while maintaining a positive

business plan for our community."

His formula for dealing with these challenges, Proano said, consists of "thinking outside the box, coming up with new ways of doing things. I think we should be looking for help from the community. A lot of our problems are social. To

*Continued on Page 4*

## Estrada Calling For Bridging Gap Between Ontario And School District

Ontario native Josie Estrada wants to vault from her position as a trustee on the Chaffey Joint Union High School District Board to the Ontario City Council.

She asserts her lifelong residency in Ontario qualifies her for

one of the two positions now held by incumbents Sheila Mautz and Debra Dorst-Porada, who are seeking reelection.

"I am running because I want to bridge the partnership we do not have between the school district and the

city," she said.

Estrada said major issues facing Ontario at this point are "[generating] jobs, people losing their homes, the airport and crime. There are a lot of issues that are coming up that I want to be a part of in the community."

Estrada said her approach to addressing the city's challenges would be to work with others to find solutions. "We have a Proposition P I am going to be in a committee to work for. We are looking for local contractors to hire local people. We're going to try to

bring business back into Ontario. We will be partnering with local businesses trying to get them to hire different ethnic groups and people."

To stave off foreclosures, she said, she was advocating that the city hold "hometown meetings where we try to get solutions. I will be trying to get workshops for our community and try to inform them of how they can save their homes."

Estrada said she is an advocate of having Ontario reclaim Ontario Airport. In 1985 the city council voted to deed the aerodrome to the city of



Josie Estrada

Los Angeles. "We will get more jobs if we get the airport back in our city. They should have never gotten rid of it." The way to achieve that, Estrada said, is to "put together a plan trying to get community leaders

involved so that everyone can be as one."

The city can lessen crime, she said by "getting more partnerships involved in the city and more sports, trying to get the kids involved in community things. If we get these kids off the streets we won't have as much crime. I am a strong supporter of public safety."

She is a Chaffey High School graduate. Divorced, she raised three children and is currently raising two of her eight grandchildren. She has one great grandchild.

**High Desert Political News  
on the World Wide Web**

[www.PaveRoadsFirst.com](http://www.PaveRoadsFirst.com)

[TheHesperiaFreePress.com](http://TheHesperiaFreePress.com)

Updated Bi-Weekly or Sooner

**Bozar from page 3**

of dealing with the city. We need to go in and look at policy and procedures. Our ordinances need to be streamlined to encourage new businesses to locate in Upland and we need to assure that existing businesses remain here. The city's recent effort to pass a code enforcement ordinance with \$1,000 per day fines was not something well thought out. When large numbers of residents and businesses protested, the city council balked at giving it a second reading and kicked it to a committee to really examine what they were passing. This is not something that is good for us and that approach is not good for

people who want to comply with the city's codes and standards. Well intended ordinances can have unintended negative consequences for businesses."

Bozar said he is qualified to serve on the city council because, "I'm the only one with an extensive depth of business experience in a large organization dealing with a large budget. I am not just dealing with a handful of independent contractors. I have a large payroll and salary and workers compensation and social security issues I deal with on a daily basis. My division, my end of the operation, runs an annual budget of \$12 million to \$14 million. No one else running for city council deals with

budgets on that scale. I deal with real budgets and contracts for goods and services that no one else running deals with. Coupled with my master's degree and undergraduate degree, my background in business operations really differentiates me from the rest. I am an educator, teaching in the business department at Chaffey College, sharing my knowledge with the future leaders of the business community for whatever endeavors they'd like to get into."

In 1998, Bozar challenged an illegal storm drain fee the city had imposed. He took the city to court and forced the city to hold a referendum that repealed the fee. In 2000, Bozar spearhead-

ed the campaign against the city's proposed 4.25 percent utility tax. The tax measure was overwhelmingly defeated. In 2005, Bozar went to court against the city, challenging its imposition of a paramedic fee as an illegal tax. He obtained a judgment against the city in Superior Court, forcing the city to stop assessing the fee. In 2007, the city reduced its trash fees after Bozar demonstrated the fees exceeded the cost of providing the service in violation of the California Constitution

"I am the only candidate who has actually held the city accountable," Bozar said. "The other candidates can talk about transparency and accountability. I actually

did it. The city council was not being truthful with its citizens. They imposed fees and taxes on the city's residents and denied them their right to vote on them. I was the only one who stepped forward on behalf of the residents and businesses. I can honestly say to the voters, 'I have a record of working on your behalf. I have a record of accomplishment.' And the residents of this city can look at their utility bills and see that there are no taxes imposed on them. They can say, 'I'm not paying an added four percent or five percent or six percent because of Glenn Bozar's efforts. He's watching out for me.' I directly participated in our government and did

not just stand on the sidelines."

Bozar graduated from Cinnamison High School in Cinnamison Township, New Jersey. He has a BA degree in commerce from Ryder University and an MBA from the University of La Verne. He is the logistics manager for TE Connectivity, a manufacturer of electronic interconnection devices. He oversees distribution from the company's plants in Ontario, Menlo Park and Tucson, Arizona. Bozar is a board member of the San Antonio Water Company and a member of the city council advisory committee. He has lived in Upland for 21 years. He and his wife have one son.

**Schneider from page 3**

of the field.

"I think there are a couple of things that distinguish me from the other candidates," she said. "Only one of the other candidates running is a new face in the crowd. The others are in office or held office or were candidates before. Several have held office for years. I think people

want a change and people are ready for new faces. One of the reasons I think I am different is I have a history of having respect for other people's money. I was for 12 years a paid staff member with Campus Crusade For Christ International, which is headquartered in San Bernardino. I learned in those 12 years how to be frugal with money, because all the money that came in was

donated by others. That is how the staff members were paid. That gives me a different idea and a different quality of respect for money than the others would have. That respect for donated money is something that is needed in government."

In addition, Schneider said, "I have a real passion for our American liberty, which comes from my [college] major being in Russian Stud-

ies. I lived in Poland during the domination of Eastern Europe by the Soviet Union. I lived in that harsh situation and it gave me an appreciation of what living under a dictatorship is. I have a perspective of government that reflects that. I respect our Constitution and values. I know that many see the job of a legislature as making laws but in our country I think we are drown-

ing in laws. In passing laws we have to respect our Constitution and our rights and be mindful that laws can have unintended consequences. I think we should look at our laws and ordinances and see if they are really necessary. If there are existing laws that are not necessary, I believe we should see if we can rescind them. I am more interested in taking laws away than in creating

new ones."

Schneider graduated from Fletcher High School in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida at Gainesville, where she majored in Russian Studies and Slavic languages. For 25 years she has been self-employed as the proprietor of a graphic design and illustration business. She is married with one daughter.

**Proano from page 3**

solve our problems we need a social response, to reach out to the community and partner with them. We should have programs for kids to keep them from going down the wrong path. We should reach out to Victory Chapel. We should reach out to Albertsons, which has demonstrated it is ready to donate to community programs. There are businesses that

are willing to help. They will get a little publicity out of it and the community gets something. It becomes a win-win. We need leadership that is ready to go out and partner with businesses and other parts of the community in helping with our social problems."

Proano said, "We can improve our economy by getting back to basics. We have to stop thinking we are a business ourselves. The city got too

caught up in big projects and investments instead of maintaining roads and focusing on keeping the city looking good. If we maintain our infrastructure and keep the city looking good, businesses will want to come in here."

Proano said he merits being elected because "I think I offer a unique blend of personal, professional and educational experience. I don't see any others who have

what I have. I grew up in a poor section of Los Angeles. I grew up in a bad light, you might say. My mother had a substance abuse problem that eventually killed her. I came through that. I spent ten years in the military, five years on active duty and five years in the national guard. For eight of those years I was a master sergeant, a non-commissioned officer in charge of troops. I have had eight years of work-

ing in the federal civil service in the field of administration and human resources, working with budgets, staff developing and implementing policy. When you combine my professional experience with my education, I think it makes me a well-rounded candidate who can tackle the problems we are facing."

Proano graduated from high school at the Los Angeles County Educational Center. He

has an associate's degree from Barstow College, a bachelor's degree in social science from Chapman University and has completed about half the coursework for his MBA at La Verne College.

He is married with three children. He works as a civilian employee of the Army at Ft. Irwin. He has lived in the High Desert for eight years, the last three in Victorville.

**Wilke from page 2**

consideration that ending the prosecution of Wilke would bring to a total of two the number of cases dismissed in the high-profile matter and erode the prosecution's credibility in proceeding against the other five defendants.

Though sheriff Rod Hoops publicly appeared with district at-

torney Mike Ramos in announcing the indictments in March 2011 in an effort to display a united front with regard to the case, there were sharp divisions between the sheriff's department and the prosecutor's office with regard to the case from the outset, as was evidenced in the decisions to allow Wilke, Pichotta and Christian

to remain in their work assignments with the department. Pichotta and Christian are currently on leave from the department. The case against Wilke was never considered to be overwhelming. A follow-up examination of Wilke's actions by the sheriff's department concluded there was neither probable cause to arrest him

nor grounds to criminally charge him. By demanding that the internal sheriff's department report be entered into evidence, Chuck Nacsin, Wilke's attorney, can virtually assure that the district attorney's office will not proceed with the case, sources indicate.

Nacsin said, "The oddity about this case is the sheriff's department

brought the case against all seven, including my client, to the grand jury. Internal affairs brought him in and they cleared him to go back to work. But at this point the criminal case is still going forward. It is true internal affairs cleared him. Charges are still pending. We haven't gotten there [vindication] yet."

This morning, September 21, a discovery hearing for Wilke is to be held in Judge Michael A. Smith's courtroom. Both sheriff's department and prosecutor's office employees and former employees have indicated the case against Wilke will soon be dropped.

Silverman did not return a call seeking clarification.

**County Advancing Millions Of Dollars To School District**  
*from front page*

nia Education Code. These provisions require the board of supervisors to order the county treasurer to make a temporary transfer of funds to a school district from any funds of the county not immediately needed to pay claims of the county

if the school district has established a need for the funds. The temporary transfer of funds must not exceed 85% of the anticipated property tax revenue that will accrue to the school district, and shall be re-transferred by the auditor controller tax collector to the fund of the county from property tax collections before any other obliga-

tion of the school district is paid.”  
“The district has requested a temporary transfer of funds for \$5,060,000. The auditor/tax collector/controller’s office considered several factors, including the district’s deepest projected cash deficit and the anticipated tax revenue that will accrue to the district in arriv-

ing at its recommendation,” Walker continued. “In addition to demonstrating a cash need, the district has established inter-fund borrowing authority for the auditor/tax collector controller’s office to consider in its recommendation to the board of supervisors that a temporary transfer of funds be approved.”

Walker added, “Upon

review of the district’s cash needs, the auditor treasurer controller’s office finds that the district has satisfactorily demonstrated a reasonable need for a temporary transfer of funds and recommends a temporary transfer of funds of \$5,060,000. This amount represents the lesser of the district’s request; 85% of its anticipated tax revenue, and 125% of its deepest projected cash deficit for 2012-13.”

mount of county funds available for county use until repayment is completed, such that county interest earnings will be reduced while the school district utilizes the temporary transfer.

The board’s action establishes a “line-of-credit” in the amount of \$5,060,000 for Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District to draw on, as needed, to be repaid by April 29, 2013.

**Measure R Opponents Cite Postmus As Initiative Backer**  
*from front page*

that request up with an open discussion of a ballot initiative putting future pension increases for county employees up to a public vote, the unions joined in with Steinmann and Brennan in their petition effort. By March, their collective efforts resulted in the gathering of 73,672 signatures, qualifying the supervisors’ pay reduction measure for the November ballot. The county registrar of voters later designated that initiative “Measure R.”

Alarmed at this development, a majority of the board of supervisors in July invoked their privilege as elected officials and placed a measure on the November ballot designed to counteract the Brennan/Steinmann/public employee union-sponsored measure, one that would reduce the supervisors’ salaries by a more moderate amount - a \$5,269 trimming to \$146,702.per year, while

allowing their \$67,500 annual benefits to remain in place. That initiative has since been designated “Measure Q.”

The proponents of Measure R insist that Measure Q is a cynical attempt at sleight-of-hand to fool the voters and have them accept a bogus version of reform. Four of the current supervisors and the other proponents of Measure Q insist that the impetus behind the qualification of Measure R for the ballot was the unions’ animus at the board for seeking to reduce spending in a context of dwindling revenue availability for local governments.

Recently, Measure R opponents have seized upon information they have come across to indicate that Bill Postmus played what they consider to be a crucial role in drafting Measure R’s language and then qualifying it for the ballot.

Postmus less than a decade ago was the most powerful political entity in San Bernardino County. In 2000, at the age of 29, he was elected First District supervisor, having launched himself into that position from the post of president of the High Desert Young Republicans. In 2004, he was reelected supervisor and acceded to the position of chairman of the board of supervisors. Moreover, he was elected chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee. He was widely viewed as a likely future candidate for California Assembly, state Senate or Congress. In 2006, he was elected county assessor. By 2008, however, Postmus’ political career began to unravel, as he was beset

with widening reports of drug use and in January 2009 he was arrested for drug possession when investigators looking into reports of abuses of authority at the assessor’s office serving a search warrant at his condominium found methamphetamine, the drug extacy and drug paraphernalia. He resigned a year later. In 2010 he was indicted on political corruption, bribery, extortion, perjury and conspiracy charges. In 2011, he pleaded guilty to a total of 14 counts contained in that indictment.

According to information provided to the *Sentinel*, those campaigning against Measure R are now resolved to utilize Postmus’s fall from grace and the disrepute he suffered in that fall in making a case against the initiative to radically curtail supervisors’ pay and benefits.

Postmus, opponents of Measure R are set to allege, was the go-between who put Brennan in contact with Steinmann at that crucial moment last year when the flickering flame of the signature-gathering effort for the supervisor compensation reduction initiative was about to blow out. By tying Postmus to the Measure R effort, opponents believe voters can be convinced to reject the initiative as one of questionable pedigree or dishonorable provenance.

Brennan, however, told the *Sentinel* “That’s not the case. I know them both [Steinmann and Postmus]. I don’t know Bill Postmus as well as Eric. Eric’s a neighbor.”

Brennan said he did not believe Postmus had any involvement in the

effort to gather petitions to qualify the measure for the ballot or to promote the measure now that it is headed to a vote.

“I can only speak from what I have experienced, but I have not seen Bill at all,” Brennan said.

He said his motive in creating the initiative and pushing to get it before the county’s voters was simply that “I believe the county supervisors are overpaid for what they do. It may be a full time job, but from what little I’ve seen, they are not working full time. Even if it were a full time job, that is a lot of money to get paid. They are paid more than some CEOs get in the private sector.”

Measure Q, which was put forth by the supervisors, was requested by supervisor Gary Ovitt, a onetime Postmus ally, who asked the county counsel’s office to draft it. Measure Q makes no provision for a reduction in the supervisors’ staffs. Steinmann and Brennan’s measure calls for their combined staff budgets to be reduced from \$6 million to \$1.5 million a year.

In putting their measure on the November ballot, the supervisors referenced this year’s grand jury report, which was critical of Steinmann and Brennan’s proposed reduction in supervisor pay.

The San Bernardino Public Employees Association and San Bernardino Safety Employees Benefit Association spent roughly \$100,000 in the effort to qualify Steinmann and Brennan’s measure for the ballot.



**Timothy B. Liebaert, Attorney at Law**

“Put the Law on your side.”

Graduate of Loyola University and Western State University College of Law

Tim@Liebaertlaw.com  
(909) 889-4200



362 W 6th St San Bernardino, CA 92401

**INTEGRITY COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**

effective - efficient - ethical

We specialize in:

- Hardware and software upgrades
- Operating system upgrades or downgrades
- Virus and spyware removal
- Repairs of laptops and desktops of all models (including Apple!)
- Wireless network set-up
- Ethernet cable runs
- Computer and network support for your home or office at the Inland Empire’s most affordable rate!

**\*WE DO CUSTOM-BUILT DESKTOP COMPUTERS!\***

**\$59 IN-SHOP COMPUTER REPAIRS!**

300 N. EUCLID AVENUE #A2 (BEHIND ARGO OPTOMETRY)  
UPLAND, CA 91786  
909-320-1334 www.ICRSHOP.COM



*Prudential California Realty*

**Richard S. Morda**

Realtor/DRE License # 01734177

California Realty  
1063 W. Sixth Street  
Suite 101 Ontario CA 91762  
Business 909 983 9933 Fax 909 984 5664  
Cell 213 713 8849

E-mail: richardmorda@pruCArealty.com

# San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case # 701206519 – On Sunday, 09/16/12, at approximately 7:04 p.m., deputies from the Yucaipa Sheriff’s Station responded to the area of Newport Avenue, east of Emerald Avenue, in Mentone following a report of a deceased person located in the area. Upon arrival, deputies identified the decedent as Nicholas Acosta, a 27 year-old resident of Yucaipa. The San Bernardino Sheriff’s Homicide Detail responded to the location and are investigating this incident. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to call the Sheriff’s Homicide Detail at (909) 387-3589 or the We-Tip Hotline at (800)-78-CRIME (27463). [09182012 0737 SY]

Coroner case #701206531 – On 09/17/12, at 4:29 AM, Allan Paul Fajardo, a 40 year-old resident of Azusa, was struck by a westbound Metrolink train in the city of Rancho Cucamonga east of Grove Avenue. It is unknown what the male was doing prior to being struck. The San Bernardino Sheriff Department, Los Angeles Sheriff Department as well as Metrolink are investigating the incident. [091712 1330 TC]

Coroner case #701206488 – Deborah Crouch, 53 of Big Bear City, was found deceased on 09/15/12 at 6:15 am when her car was pulled from Big Bear Lake in the 14000 block of Park Avenue, Big Bear Lake. This event is under investigation by San Bernardino Sheriff Department – Homicide detail, Dive team, and Coroners Division. An autopsy will be conducted this week to determine the cause of death and any contributing factors. Anyone with information is urged to call the Sheriff’s Department (909) 387-3589. [091712 1330 TC]

Coroner Case #701206502 –On 09/16/2012 at 12:37 AM, a 48 year old Hispanic male resident of San Bernardino fell from the Valencia Ave overpass, onto the westbound State Route 210, in San Bernardino, where he was struck by several vehicles. The man was confirmed dead of his injuries at 12:39 AM. The decedent’s name will be released pending notification of the next of kin. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. (09162012 CN 0555) Name Released: Anthony Lpez, a 48 year old resident of San Bernardino[09182012 0714 SY]

Coroner case # 701206483—On Saturday 09/15/2012, sometime between midnight and 2:44 AM, Dion Levar, age 49 from Adelanto was walking north on Mojave Drive north of West Trail in Victorville when she was hit by a vehicle. The driver of the vehicle did not stop. An ambulance driving by saw her body on the side of the road and stopped to render aid. She was pronounced dead at 2:44 AM on scene. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, Victor Valley Station is investigating the incident. [09152012 1745 GB]

Coroner case #701206482 – On Saturday 09/15/12, at 12:50 A.M., Jorge Luis Salazar Jr., a 19 year old resident of Hesperia, was traveling southbound on Eleventh Ave. in Hesperia in a blue 1998 Mitsubishi. Salazar was struck by a blue 2007 Peterbilt semi tractor trailer that was traveling eastbound on Bear Valley Rd. The semi tractor trailer struck the Mitsubishi in the intersection of Bear Valley Rd. and Eleventh Ave. Salazar was pronounced dead at the scene. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department is investigating the collision. [09152012 1335 GB]

Coroner case #701206466 –On 09/14/12, at 1:04 PM, Officers of the California Highway Patrol responded to the area of Rancho Road and Buttonwood Street, Phelan, due to the report of a motorcycle accident. When officers arrived they found Ray Mark, an 82 year-old resident of Phelan and sole rider of a 2007 Suzuki motorcycle, the lying unresponsive on Rancho Road. Mark was transported to Desert Valley Hospital where he was declared dead at 2:26 PM. An autopsy will be performed

to determine cause of death. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the accident. (09142012 CN 1932)

Coroner case #701206446 – On 09/13/12, at about 4:30 PM, a traffic accident occurred on Chino Hills Parkway, just east of Peyton Dr., in Chino Hills. Alicia Rose Pirrone, age 21 year of Chino Hills, was transported by ambulance to Chino Valley Medical Center where she was pronounced dead in the emergency room at 5:15 PM. The collision is under investigation by the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Major Accident Investigation Team. (091412 CN 0009)

## SAVE YOUR CHILDREN FROM PROBATE

**CALL**  
**Marjorie Musser Mikels**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**909•981•2030**  
**Discipline Integrity Experience**

**Don't let this happen to your children**

**Let us prepare your living trust.**



**Victorville Rejects Bond Firm's Claim**

*from page 6*

electricity generating stations – which ate up well over \$150 million in development costs but ultimately were never completed, and the re-routing of bond money from projects that money was originally intended for to other undertakings.

In a letter to the city on behalf of Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios, attorney Kenneth Lounsbury states “Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios’s costs have steadily mounted as it continues to defend its own and the city’s interests” and that the firm had saved city officials’ bacon by stopping hard charging

officials and prosecutors dead in their tracks. “After many months of document production and communication with regulatory agencies, Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios believes all issues have been addressed and adequate proof provided to such agencies that all rules, regulations and requirements were satisfied,” Lounsbury wrote.

Moreover, Lounsbury asserted that Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios’s work on behalf of the city had been crucial to the city’s efforts to develop four hangars at the airport, having “undertaken an extraordinary set of responsibilities” in doing so. “These are assets for which the city has Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios to thank,”

Lounsbury said. “The city’s legal interests have been defended and protected against challenges launched by the original developer who brought the hangar construction project to a calamitous halt. Despite the recession, the downturn in the city’s fortunes and the associated stress, Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios has previously held a good professional relationship with the city.”

In his letter, which was dated August 23, Lounsbury did not delineate a specific amount owed by the city to Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios for responding to the investigative inquiry, but he did reference a request for indemnification previously provided to the city. He implied

that Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios had been treated shabbily by the city’s attorney, Andre DeBortnowski. He further suggested that De Bortnowski’s action, or lack thereof, with regard to the bond sales had created problems for the city.

“The heart of Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios’s response to the [Securities & Exchange Commission] inquiry is its ‘due diligence’ that all material information was disclosed – which due diligence is curative of any perceived flaw in the bond proceedings,” Lounsbury wrote. “Your city attorney served as co-disclosure counsel with respect to the issuance of the bonds rel-

*Continued on Page 8*

**Esitmate Of Ontario Airport's Value from front**

*page*

under 200,000 passengers enplaned at Ontario Airport in 1966. Under Los Angeles’s management, over \$550 million in improvements were made to the facility. In 1985, Ontario deeded the airport to Los Angeles for no consideration. In 2007, usage of the airport peaked, with 7.2 million passengers moving through the airport’s gates.

Since that time, passenger traffic through Ontario International has dropped dramatically, with 4.2 million passengers using the airport in 2011, and further declines registering this year.

Ontario city officials

have repeatedly asserted that Los Angeles World Airports is purposefully mismanaging Ontario Airport’s operations to increase passenger traffic at Los Angeles International Airport, which has undergone significant renovations in recent years.

Los Angeles World Airport officials reject those claims, maintaining that the drop in passenger traffic through Ontario is a function of the sputtering economy and the doldrums in the airline industry generally.

Ontario officials have pushed ever more strenuously – including seeking legislation in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. and conducting an intense public relations campaign - to have Los Angeles return ownership and management of

the airport to Ontario.


At one point, Ontario city officials, led by councilman Alan Wapner, were suggesting that Los Angeles should simply deed the airport back to Ontario as a public benefit transfer, propounding that the airport had no value as marketable real estate. Quietly, however, the city of Ontario made a confidential offer to purchase the airport for \$50 million and an assumption of all debt related to financing for improvements that had been made to the airport.

Los Angeles officials have indicated they are not prepared to simply surrender their autonomy over the airport and they believe the aerodrome and its assets to be worth in excess of \$450 million. Last year they floated the idea of privatizing the airport

and selling it and its assets to an investor or firm specializing in airport operations. They sought parties interested in just such an arrangement, eliciting responses from ten domestic and international entities, including American Airports Corporation, a California-based airport operator; Airport Property Ventures, a California-based airport operator; AMP Capital Investors, an Australian infrastructure fund manager; Aviation Facilities Company, a Virginia-based airport manager and developer; Carlyle Group, a Washington DC-based private equity firm; Fraport, a German airport investor, owner and manager; GMR Airports, an Indian airport operator; Goldman Sachs Infrastructure Partners, a New York-based infrastructure fund; Incheon International Airport Corporation, a Korea-based airport operator; and Munich Airport Consulting, a German airport operator.

Los Angeles World Airport’s hiring of Leigh Fisher and the contents of the report drove home the very real possibility that Los Angeles could simply sell the airport to the highest bidder, leaving Ontario in the position of having to accommodate a private company’s primacy with regard to the airport’s

**STOP**  
**DESERT WATER SWINDLE**  
 Join us October 1, 2012 9:00 a.m.



County of San Bernardino Chambers  
 385 N. Arrowhead, San Bernardino, CA

**CADIZWATER.COM**

operation. The Leigh Fisher report provides Los Angeles with a sufficient basis to reject Ontario’s assertion that the airport has no monetary value. That monetary value potentially exceeds the roughly \$50 million in cash and assumption of roughly \$75 million in debt Ontario has referenced.

The Leigh Fisher document points out that there have been varying valuations for mid-size hub airports such as Ontario over the last several years, at ranges below and well above the price Ontario officials envision for Ontario Airport. According to the report, “The Port Authority of New York bought Stewart Airport for \$78.5 million in 2000.” The report further notes, “In Chicago, the city conducted a competitive bid process for a 99-year lease of Midway Airport. A consortium offered \$2.52 billion. The timing of the bid coincided with 2008 financial crisis and the transaction was not completed, with the investors forfeiting a \$126 deposit in the process.” The report also referenced “Luis Munoz Airport serving San Juan, Puerto Rico, [which is] classified as a medium hub airport by the FAA. In July 2012, the government announced the award of a 40-year lease to a consortium consist-

ing of a Mexican airport operator and an investment firm for \$615 million, annual lease payments and agreements to make specified improvements.” That deal is currently undergoing FAA review.

Nevertheless, Leigh Fisher indicated there were factors that inhibited Ontario Airport’s value. “Compared to other medium hub airports with comparable numbers of enplaned passengers, Ontario has high airline charges as reflected in its per enplaned passenger charges, somewhat lower non-airline revenue in comparison to its peers, considerably higher maintenance and operating expenses due to high staffing levels and particularly high costs for security, law enforcement, airport rescue and firefighting,” the Leigh Fisher report states. “Based on Ontario Airport’s role as an airport in the Los Angeles basin and industry trends, it is likely that in the near term the increased focus of mainline airlines and low cost carriers such as Southwest on service development at large hubs and international gateways such as Los Angeles International Airport may continue to limit Ontario Airport’s airline service development.”



1038 W 4th St (4th and Mountain) Ontario, CA 91762 (909) 984-9067

For 103 years the Bumsteads have been selling and servicing bicycles in the Pomona Valley under the shadow of Mt. Baldy. Now serving the communities of Ontario, Upland, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, Claremont, Montclair, and Pomona with Trek Bicycles.

Our product line includes:  
 Trek Bicycles Nirve Cruisers Fit Freestyle Volume Mirraco Pake Hold Fast  
 3G Cruisers American Flyer Burro Phil Wood Velocity All City Leader Bikes  
 Soma Eastern BMX Sun Cruisers Cinelli

Mention this ad for a free gift.



# California Style Meet Retro Joe!

Each week I enjoy picking a fashion related subject. I've been following and observing a certain kind of Joe. He's a bit on the retro end – inside out. This kid is like someone you see on the streets of New York. I'm very glad I found him here in our very own Inland Empire. His style encompasses the past, present and future alto-



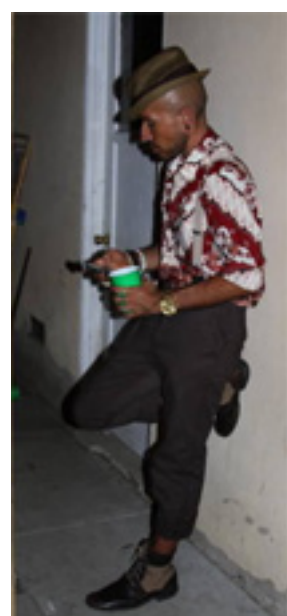
Mr. Retro loves to go sockless by wearing decorative shoes. He experiments with shorts, shirts, hats, and jackets like no other. JR can mix and match Dolce

By Grace Bernal

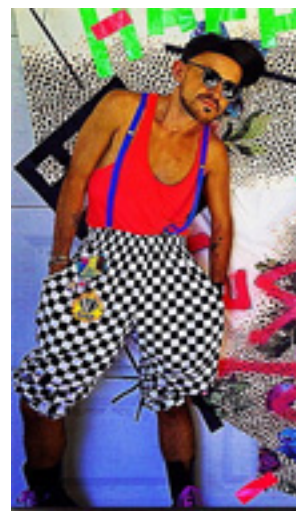


"Refuse to be average. Let your heart soar as high as it will."

-Aidan Wilson Tozer



gether. Joe isn't afraid to express his taste in fashion. Jack Taylor might critique his less classic untailed style, while Bill Cunningham will snap a shot of him and scream fabulous once the photo is developed. He's definitely a man who knows how to dress for any occasion and isn't afraid to express it. Always ready to wear something eye-catching to a Dodger game, Disneyland, a night out, or just fun!



and Gabana with H&M, then incorporate some Diesel and look sharper than sharp. He's a classic dresser in a spunky kind of way. He knows his fabrics and can detail up just about any outfit. Many men don't like change, but with Joe, Retro is key for his wardrobe. There is definitely something happening with men's style when Joe Retro hits the scene. Here's to guys like Joe Retro who everyday pave the way for men's style and take it to a new height.



As always, if there's anything you need, I'd love to hear from you: Greygris@aol.com or visit my page I Love Your Style on Facebook Copyright Grace Bernal all rights reserved

## Victorville Rejects Bond Firm's Claim from page 7

evant to this inquiry. Thus, it was the attorney's duty to formally document those facts disclosed by Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios. The extent to which such facts may not have been disclosed, or incompletely disclosed by counsel at the time will become a factor in the analysis of the propriety of all events related to the completion of the

hangar projects. As the city analyzes this claim, it must consider the potential for a conflict between the duty owed to the city by the disclosure counsel, and the role the same counsel could or should play in the claims process."

"The preliminary claim previously filed by Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios was forwarded to your city attorney, who responded with a rationale for recommending denial. Communication has been made to the

city attorney concerning this indemnity. We and Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios have been frustrated by the delays and lack of response from that office," Lounsbury wrote. Calling for the city to respond with what he termed "appropriate dispatch," Lounsbury said he would initiate a lawsuit on Kinsell, Newcomb and De Dios' behalf if the city did not indemnify the city within 45 days of the date of the letter.

Despite the prospect

of that lawsuit, the city council denied the claim.

The city council's decision to make that denial, the *Sentinel* has learned, was influenced by the suggestion that Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios in some measure invited the Securities & Exchange Commission's scrutiny of Victorville through its own action.

One issue investigators latched onto was alleged efforts by Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios's executive vice-president, J. Jeffery Kinsell, to fil-

ter, i.e., launder, campaign contributions to Victorville city officials.

Another area of concern for the Securities & Exchange Commission was that Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios had a potential conflict of interest with regard to some of the work it did on the city's behalf. An element of the Securities & Exchange Commission's investigation pertains to the existence of a relationship between Tom Barnett, one of the principals in Inland Energy Group, and J. Jeffery

Kinsell. Inland Energy Group was centrally involved in the Victorville 2 Power Plant project and provided consulting services with regard to the Foxborough power plant project. Regulators are seeking to determine if the city's contractual relationship with either Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios or Inland Energy and Barnett resulted in kickbacks between those parties, the misdirection or redirection of any investment capital, the loss thereof or incomplete disclosure to investors.

## REACH OUT TO OVER 34,000 SENTINEL READERS & AREA VOTERS/CONSUMERS -- ADVERTISE

### Weekly Advertising Rates

Full page ad	14 inches by 6 columns	\$500
Half page ad	7 inches by 6 columns	\$300
Half page ad	14 inches by 3 columns	\$300
Quarter page ad	7 inches by 3 columns	\$200
Eighth page ad	3.5 inches by 3 columns	\$100
Calling Cards 2 wks*	for price of 1	SEPTEMBER SPECIAL \$ 50
Smaller ads	per column inch	\$ 12

- ✓ Your ad will appear in both versions: B&W printed/Color emailed PDF.
- ✓ Candidates for public office--don't miss our pre-election promotion special.
- ✓ Multi-week discount rates. \*limited, call this week--ad runs 9/28, 10/5.

ADS@SBCoSentinel.com or 760/885-9374

## Read the *Sentinel* On The World Wide Web!

To visit our blog, simply type <http://sbsentinel.com/> into your URL box and hit enter. You can view the *Sentinel*, read individual articles, offer comments and search our archives from the convenience of your pc, laptop, Blackberry or iPhone.