

Council contest a pricey endeavor

Ward 1 race an expensive battle to serve poor area

BY THEO DOUGLAS
The Bakersfield Californian
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The Ward 1 Bakersfield City Council race continues to be the city's most expensive contest to represent its poorest area, with incumbent Councilman Willie Rivera raising more than \$100,000 this year.

As he predicted, the councilman for the southeast raised slightly



Rivera

more than \$35,000 from July 1 through Oct. 8 — enough to bump his total to nearly \$103,000 for the year, according to the latest round of campaign finance statements.

City Council races in Wards 1, 3, 4, and 7 are nonpartisan, but contributions reveal Rivera's race to be the most strategic politically. He's the only Democrat on the council, and in July the Kern County Demo-



Ramirez

cratic Central Committee gave him \$19,500. "It means some of our issues are brought up to the City Council, like immigration reform, and it's nice to have a moderate viewpoint rather than going down the right-wing wacko path," said Candi Easter, the Central Committee's former chair. "He's a great fundraiser. He's going to be a bright and shining star in our party, I'm sure."

It's been 16 months since Rivera beat five competitors to finish Democratic Assemblyman Rudy Salas's term on the council.

This time, he has one challenger — 21-year-old candidate Manuel Ramirez, an oil field roustabout and safety captain who's a former employee of Republican political consultant Mark Abernathy's Western Pacific Research.

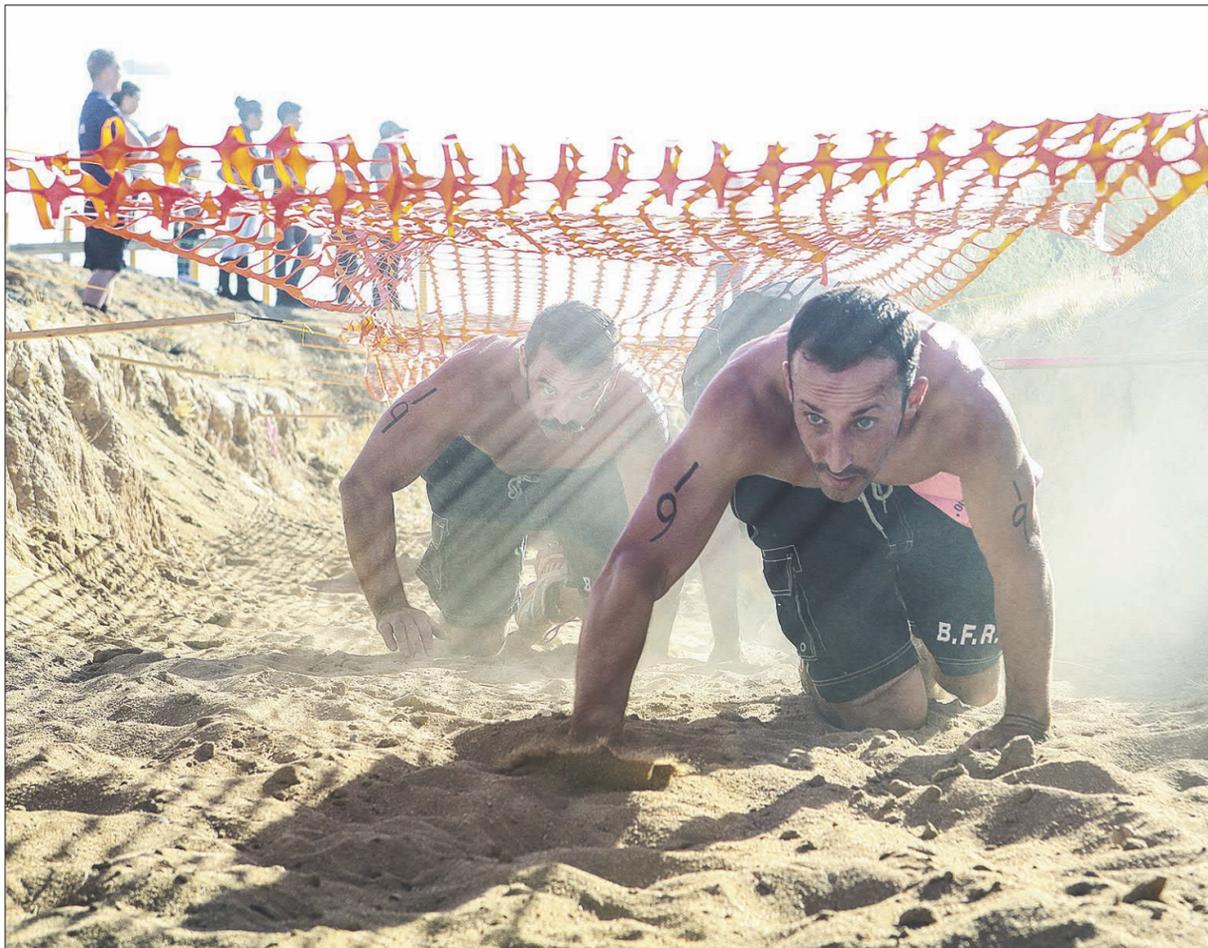
Ramirez missed a recent filing deadline and hasn't raised any funds so far.

He hasn't submitted campaign finance documents to either the

city of Bakersfield or the state, but said he will on Monday, after a round of contributions expected this weekend.

Rivera's contributions included more than \$10,000 from unions and their political action committees, \$2,000 from Mayor Harvey Hall and his ambulance company, and \$1,500 from the California Independent Petroleum Association. His committee spent nearly \$46,000 this period, including nearly \$18,000 on credit card expenses, nearly \$500 at Imbibe

Please see **COUNCIL / B3**



ROD THORNBERG / SPECIAL TO THE CALIFORNIAN

Participants hit Devil Dog Ditch, the first obstacle course after the run of this year's Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge. See more photos from the event at bakersfield.com.

Mud run brings a messy challenge

BY RUTH BROWN
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About 1,800 people spent Saturday morning scaling 9-foot walls, jumping over trenches, maneuvering their way up ropes and climbing dirt hills.

All of this was done, of course, after they ran a 10K.

The Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge was held near the Meadows Field Airport and the race started with the contestant's choice of either a 5K or 10K run. The challenge can be done in teams or run as individuals.

The run is followed by a series of obstacle courses that include climbing, swinging from ropes

Please see **VOLKSLAUF / B4**



The start of the first stage gets underway at this year's Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge.

Seeking a worthwhile project? Here's one

Lois Henry

I learned a very sad term the other day — "the unbefriended elderly." These are mostly old folks in nursing homes or residential care facilities who have no one.

No family, no friends. No one to help them through the difficult final phase of life. No one to ask questions about their medical care. No one to speak up for them if they're suffering. They are utterly alone.

Unbefriended elderly was a new term for me, but it's not for anyone who works in the world of elder care. And the number of unbefriended elderly is large, and growing, according to Nona Tolentino, director of Long Term Care Services in Kern County.

This is where you come in. (Yes, I've got a project for you!)

Every county, including Kern, has a very effective program to help the unbefriended elderly. It's called the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. It's so effective, the program has been copied in other venues. But it can't survive without volunteers.

Kern's Ombudsman program has the lowest number of volunteers ever, Tolentino said. It has seven volunteers to cover

Please see **HENRY / B3**



HOLIDAY HOURS

Columbus Day is Monday, Oct. 13

Bakersfield College: **Open** • Banks: **Open** • Cal State Bakersfield: **Open** • City offices: **Open** • County offices: **Open** • Courts: **Closed** • DMV: **Open** • Federal offices: **Closed** • Garbage pick-up: **Regular schedule** • GET buses: **Regular schedule** • Postal Service: **Closed** • Schools: **Open** • State offices: **Open**

Via Arte artists color for cause

BY THEO DOUGLAS
The Bakersfield Californian
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Liberty High School senior Isabel Luthi started Saturday at the Via Arte Italian Street Painting Festival, took a few hours off to score three goals in a soccer game, then returned to help classmates finish their crisp late-Victorian-era portrait.

In chalk. It was not, she said, her laziest day ever.

"I'll probably be late to church," Luthi said, as she and

fellow LHS seniors Jade Gephart and Chelsea Dalton finished their 4-by-6 foot rendition of a work by Lord Frederic Leighton. "Art's always big for me."

At Via Arte, the two-day extravaganza at The Marketplace, chalk art is big for everyone from 5-year-olds laboring mightily over 24-inch \$15 squares to first-time contributors essaying Salvador Dali.

The 16th annual event, which continues today in the

parking lot, is free to spectators and is the Bakersfield Museum of Art's biggest fundraiser.

Last year's edition raised \$43,000 and BMOA curator Vikki Cruz said this year it could close in on the \$50,000 mark.

Artists are encouraged to create work inspired by the masters.

"Everyone has a little different technique," Cruz said. "Some will blend the colors

Please see **VIA ARTE / B7**



Julie Kirk-Parcell of Chino works on her drawing at the Via Arte Italian Street Painting Festival on Saturday at The Marketplace. See more photos from the event at bakersfield.com.

NICK ELLIS / SPECIAL TO THE CALIFORNIAN



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OBITUARY NOTICES

Doris Bernice Foley

July 6, 1924 - October 3, 2014



A Celebration of Life will be held for Doris B. Foley on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at Greenlawn Southwest Chapel, 2739 Panama Lane, at 10:00 a.m. A graveside service will immediately follow. Pastor Robert Proctor will officiate the celebration. The family invites you to come and celebrate Doris's life with them.

Doris was born to Clara Mae and Rufus Beacon Phillips in Ripley, OK, on July 6, 1924. She was raised in Oklahoma with 11 other siblings and many other relatives, including aunts, uncles, and cousins. Doris always wanted to go to school, but in the post-Depression era, she and her brothers and sisters worked in the cotton fields and any other job to support the family. She traveled throughout much of the western United States and settled in California in the late 1950s. She was married to Roy Maier until his death in November 1968. They had three children, Darlene Lynch, Roland Maier, and Clara (Sissy) Maier. She later married Lyman Coffel (Bim) Foley in 1969, until his death on September 19, 1986, in Bakersfield, CA. Doris has resided in Bakersfield for the past 48 years. Doris was a waitress for almost 40 years and would always say to her family and friends that she worked hard all her life so family could get ahead. She was proud of the fact that during really hard times, she never received a penny of welfare. She was in love with her family and really enjoyed the holidays when family from all over would meet for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and fellowship.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents and 9 of her 11 siblings: brothers, Raymond, Herman, Donald, Walter, Charlie, James, Elmer, and Johnny; and sister, Edna Mae. She was also preceded in death by Bud and Alene Brown; and her beloved granddaughter, Shawna Courson, who was the light of her life.

Doris is survived by her two remaining siblings, Betty Tuttle (John) and Lorraine, who both live in Oklahoma. She is also survived by her three children, Darlene (Tommy), Roland (Carol), and Sissy; grandchildren, J.R. Lynch (Christy), Tammy Lynch, Brandi Torres (Bill), Ty Maier (Kacey), and Sawyer Maier; great-grandchildren, Tessa Lynch, and Charlie and Harrison Maier. Her grandkids and great-grandkids were a huge part of her fondest moments in the latter few years of her life. She was blessed to have many friends over the years. She touched anyone she met throughout her lifetime.

The family would like to thank the many caregivers, nurses, doctors, and others who cared for her over the past twenty years of her life. A special thanks to Maxine, Pam, Libby, Margaret, and Audrey for all you did to help Mom out in the last few years of her life. She will truly be missed by all who knew her over her 90 years of life!! For condolences please visit www.greenlawnmortuaryandcemetery.com. Greenlawn Funeral Home Southwest www.bakersfield.com/obits

Margaret Herbst

October 24, 1930 - October 6, 2014



Services: Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Margaret (Eastman) Herbst, 83, a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend to so many, passed away on October 6, 2014. Blessed with a large loving family and friends, she had tremendous support through her battle with cancer. In heaven, she is re-united with her husband, parents, brothers and sisters. She is survived by her sister, Veronica Evans, her eight children and the countless lives, young and old, that she influenced by her love.

Margaret was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on October 24, 1930, the daughter of Anna and John Eastman. She was one of nine children, seven sisters and two brothers. In the 1950's, Margaret served in the United States Army in Germany and Washington, DC. She enjoyed her travels through Europe with her friends, whom she has remained in touch with. While in the Army, she met and married the love of her life, Harry P. Herbst. Together they raised their eight children: Richard Herbst, Judy Decker, Kathy Hafler, Vicky Spock, Leonard Herbst, Nancy Alvarado, Harry Herbst Jr., and Christopher Herbst. During Margaret and Harry's 44 years of marriage, they followed Harry's Army and IRS assignments to Taiwan, Germany, Virginia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and California. In each of these places, and during Harry's one-year assignment in Vietnam, Margaret lovingly cared for her children.

After moving to Bakersfield in 1979, Margaret & Harry finished raising their children and watched their family grow to include four son-in-laws (John Decker, Clark Hafler, Stephen Spock, and Emil Alvarado), four daughter-in-laws (Becky, Bonnie, Monique, and Tonya), 17 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

After working 23 years as an aide for the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District, Margaret retired in 2009. She enjoyed being a member of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters of America, and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). She volunteered at St. Philip for many years. She tirelessly cared for her husband Harry through his battle with cancer. She remained by his side until his death in 2011.

Memorial Mass will be held at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 7100 Stockdale Highway on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 9:30 am. Final interment of ashes will occur at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, where she will be buried with Military Honors next to her husband, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Margaret's name to Optimal Hospice, St. Vincent De Paul, Honor Flight, or the charity of your choice.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, thru the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

www.bakersfield.com/obits

Nancy Joyce Garrett

06/14/1942 - 09/28/2014



Nancy was born June 14, 1942 in Mesa, Az. as the family migrated to California from Texas, and was taken up to be with her Savior September 28, 2014 in Bakersfield, Ca. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Albert and Thelma Mae Anderson, and her brother, Charles Clay. When the family left Mesa, she made the trip in a small box they used for a crib. Upon the family's arrival in Bakersfield in late 1942, they lived in a labor camp on Edison Highway until a few years later when they built a small home in Fruitvale. Nancy attended Fruitvale school and was a graduate of Bakersfield High. She had many occupations over the years as well as being a businesswoman, having owned a small grocery store, a bar and grill, and was the last owner of the famed Tex's Barrel House. She was a waitress and bartender at The Junction for many years becoming friends with many in law enforcement and the railroad. At the age of fifty seven, she decided to go to college and become a chemical dependency counselor as well as getting her license as a realtor. She worked at Wal Mart until she received her CD certificate and worked in that field for Kern County Behavioral Services in Wasco until retiring there, then in the same field for TASK until her final retirement. Instead of taking it easy, she assumed child care duties for two of her great grand children, which she did until her passing. Her youngest was autistic which led her into another passion, researching and getting the message out about autism. It was impossible not to love her and it seemed it was impossible for her not to love everyone. She was the matriarch, centerpiece and glue of the family and would not allow differences to become grudges and interfere with family ties. She had many passions, but the most important was her family.

From the time of her children's births to the day she was taken, she never stopped tending to them whether blood, step, adopted or assumed. She tended to everything from broken bones to broken hearts and never missed a birthday or graduation as well as attending most extra curricular events in which the kids were involved. Another of her passions was local history. She spent many hours researching and discussing the rich history of Bakersfield and Kern County. She loved to read and was involved with Friends of the Library. She loved debating politics, trading on e-bay and interacting with her Facebook family, which was a big part of her life, and she loved her ice cream. She loved roadtrips with family no matter where they went and her sense of adventure was limitless unless it involved heights! Her impact on the lives of her family and friends, even if they were only online friends, cannot be overstated. There is no way to know how many lives she touched, but it is certain that all she touched will miss her.

Nancy to her friends, Mom to her children, Nana to everyone else, she is survived by her son, Mark McGowan, his wife Jennifer, her daughter, Deborah Alford and husband Donald, her sister, Doris Roberts and husband, Al, her grandson, Blaine Hawkins and his wife, Kaley, granddaughters Cassandra McGowan and her husband, Jamen, Katie Jo Martinez, and Camilla and Ariel McGowan, five step grandchildren, three great grandchildren, five step great grandchildren and a multitude of extended family and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly. In lieu of cards or flowers, anyone wishing to, may make a donation to Autism Speaks.

A celebration of her life will be held at Fruitvale Norris Park at 1:00pm, October 19. All who knew her off or online are welcome to attend. www.bakersfield.com/obits

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM B1

Wine and Spirits on beverages for a fundraiser, \$250 to pay for a resident's funeral, and has more than \$37,000 remaining.

Ward 4 Councilman Bob Smith in the northwest raised \$6,340 in monetary contributions,



Smith

including \$1,500 from S.C. Anderson, a builder, \$1,000 from Kern Refuse Disposal, \$1,000 from Hall and Hall Ambulance, and \$300 from Russell Johnson for City Council for 2010.

Under loans, Smith listed \$17,800, the remaining balance he still owes of a \$20,000 loan to himself from July 2012.

In early October, he raised another \$4,500, \$2,000 of it from Eagle Land Development, and loaned himself another \$40,000, the largest loan of any candidate during this period.

Smith had more than \$9,000 left after paying bills of more than \$12,000 for campaign expenses, and with his most recent contributions, could have nearly \$54,000 in cash on hand.

Two of Smith's challengers, loan officer Joey Titus and a previous opponent Daniel Mbagwu, aren't fundraising and will spend \$999 or less on their campaigns.



Titus

Smith's third challenger is Planning Commissioner Richard Schwartz, who loaned himself \$22,556 Sept. 30 to pay campaign expenses.

That left Schwartz with a \$350 cash balance from contributions, including \$200 from Jon Lifquist, the Kern County Assessor's chief appraiser, who is running for assessor Nov. 4 against Johnson.

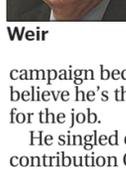
Ward 3 Councilman Ken Weir in the northeast raised more than \$50,000 this year, nearly \$44,000 of it from July 1 through Oct. 8, and had more than \$50,000 in cash on hand at the end of September. Weir's contributors included Shannon Grove for Assembly 2014, which gave him \$2,500 and Jean Fuller for Senate 2014, which gave him \$2,200.

He also received \$1,000 each from Anderson and Bolthouse Properties.

His challengers Heidi Carter Escudero and Mark McCallum have wondered if developer donations come with strings.

"There's a reason why they give him money," McCallum said. "What are they asking him in return, and I would imagine it's favorable votes."

Weir denied this in an email, saying business and community leaders contribute to his



Weir

campaign because they believe he's the best person for the job.

He singled out a \$5,000 contribution Carter Escudero received from the Bakersfield Police Officers Association Political Action Committee, and wrote, "I have sat through public employee union interviews in the past and left convinced that their support would be attached to very specific expectations."

Carter Escudero disagreed.

"It doesn't go contrary at all to what my No. 1 priority is, which is being that we have enough officers on the ground to meet the needs of our community," she said. "I consider their standing behind me as a clear demonstration that they believe what I have to say as far as making public safety my top priority."

Carter Escudero, raised nearly \$6,600 in contributions, including \$1,200 from her husband

Jaime Escudero and \$1,000 from her campaign manager, Cal State Bakersfield professor Linda

Fiddler. She spent more than \$4,500, but said she has just less than \$10,000 in cash on hand.

McCallum raised more than \$2,100, including \$560 from himself and \$100 from Norma Dias, owner of La Rosa Fruit Bars.

McCallum spent nearly \$1,800 on his campaign, including about \$1,000 to file his candidate's statement, leaving him with less than \$1 in cash on hand.

In Ward 7 to the south, incumbent Councilman Russell Johnson is not seeking re-election because he

qualified for the Kern County assessor-recorder runoff.

Candidate Harmeet Dhindsa, one of the three men who hope to replace him, raised nearly \$30,000 from July 1 through Sept. 30, including \$13,500 from his father and uncle.

Dhindsa spent more than \$9,000 and had more than \$20,000 in cash on hand on Sept. 30 — but has since raised \$26,500, more than anyone else, including another \$10,000 contribution from his father, a farmer.

This could leave him with a current cash balance of nearly \$47,000.

Dhindsa, who spent more than \$9,500 — much of it on yard signs — said his uncle helped him organize a fundraiser to generate roughly



Dhindsa

\$15,000, but he's had to spend money to put his name before voters.

"Let's be honest, my name is not the most common name so we definitely wanted to put my name out there as much as possible," Dhindsa said. "A lot of that is for literature and handouts, because we had a very strong walking campaign going on."

Ward 7 candidate Chris Parlier has raised nearly \$32,000 since July 1 including a \$6,000 loan from himself, and \$5,000 each from BPOA and the Bakersfield Professional Firefighters Local 246



Parlier

PAC.

He spent nearly \$6,000, has about \$17,000 in unpaid debt, and an ending cash balance of more than \$26,000.

Matthew Braman, who's also seeking the Ward 7 seat, received \$11,420 in contributions since July, including \$5,000 from Diane Lake, \$2,000 from Sal Giumarra, co-owner of Giumarra Vineyards, and his wife; and \$100 from Schwartz.

Both men said it's unrelated to Schwartz's recent endorsement by the Kern County Young Republicans, which has Braman as its chairman.

Braman recused himself as chair during the meeting to consider endorsements.

Braman spent more than \$6,400 and has nearly \$5,000 in cash on hand.

HENRY

CONTINUED FROM B1

the entire county. That's seven people overseeing more than 4,000 patient beds.

So, Tolentino put the call out to me and now I'm putting the call out to the community to get involved.

Like most truly effective things, the Ombudsman program is simple. But it does require boots on the ground, so to speak, people going into nursing homes, talking to patients, shaking their hands and looking them in the eye.

Ombudsman volunteers aren't cops. They're not about being confrontational.

"Our volunteers play a preventative role," Tolentino said. "They are an invisible shield protecting the elderly."

John Caminiti, a retired teacher who's been an Ombudsman for three years, recalled visiting one patient and noticing her door would stick shut.

What might seem like a minor inconvenience could become a tragedy in the event of fire, he pointed out to administrators of the home.

"I told them, 'Hey, it's better you hear it from me so you can fix it now than the fire department, which I'm gonna call,'" Caminiti recalled. "Next time I came in, they had that door planed so it swung nice and smooth."

Another patient had waited three weeks to get a new set of dentures, able to eat only soft foods that whole time. The new dentures came in but were so ill-fitting he couldn't eat.

"I went to the dentist and let her know the situation and that it would be in

To volunteer

The Kern County Long-Term Care Ombudsman program needs volunteers.

Contact: (661) 323-7884 or email gbla@lightspeed.net.

Location: 615 California Ave., Bakersfield, 93304

Orientation class: 1:30p.m. Oct. 28

everyone's best interest to expedite the new dentures. He got 'em the next week."

An Ombudsman's work can involve such simple fixes, or be much more involved.

Catherine Malahowski, a retired nurse, even attends care planning meetings with nursing home staff for one woman with dementia who has no family. The elderly woman is known for her love of beautiful hats but also for "whacking" anyone who gets into her hallway "territory" with a doll she carries.

The lady may be troublesome at times but "she's also a lot of fun," Malahowski said.

"We understand the need to medicate people who become overly agitated," Tolentino said. "But we're there to make sure they don't drug the life out of people."

When nursing home staffers are too busy or unconcerned to notice a broken wheelchair or that a patient needs new hearing aids or glasses, an Ombudsman can quickly have that rectified, Tolentino said.

"We don't cite homes or issue penalties," Tolentino said. "Our mission is to advocate for the patient."

That's not to say Ombudsman volunteers don't step into

that do result in serious fines or even homes being closed down.

It was the Ombudsman's office that blew the whistle on a Kern River Valley nursing home that was drugging patients "to keep them quiet" back in 2007. Three people died because of the overmedication. Several health care workers were prosecuted with one woman going to prison for three years.

Obviously, Ombudsman reports are hugely important and not just for law enforcement. They are also the public's eyes, ears (and noses) into local nursing homes. Ombudsman reports are public, so if you have a loved one you need to find a home for, you can ferret out which ones are clean, with professional staff, and which ones have repeated problems.

"It's certainly not a job for wimps," Tolentino acknowledged.

If any of this seems intimidating, don't worry. Remember, the crux of this program is very, very simple

"Most of what I do is this," Caminiti said, as he reached out to grasp Malahowski's hand with both of his. "It's the human touch. That's what they need."

Opinions expressed in this column are those of Lois Henry. Her column runs Wednesdays and Sundays. Comment at <http://www.bakersfield.com>, call her at 395-7373 or email lhenry@bakersfield.com

On the air

Lois Henry appears on "First Look with Scott Cox" every Wednesday on KERN 1180 AM from 9 to 10 a.m. The show is also broadcast live on www.bakersfield.com. You can get your 2 cents in by calling 842-KERN.

For information on placing an obituary or In Memory contact our Obit Advisor at 395-7302

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Placement information is accepted until 3pm, Monday through Friday, for the following day.

Prime plan to buy 6 hospitals being opposed by labor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONTARIO — Prime Healthcare Services Inc. agreed to buy six nonprofit Catholic hospitals in California in an escalating battle with organized labor.

Prime said it would keep all six hospitals open and maintain existing services for at least five years, the Los Angeles Times reported. The for-profit company also said it would spend \$150 million on capital improvements over three years and preserve most of the hospitals' 7,600 jobs.

Prime said it would take on nearly \$300 million in pension liabilities for current and retired employees at the six hospitals, which have been struggling financially.

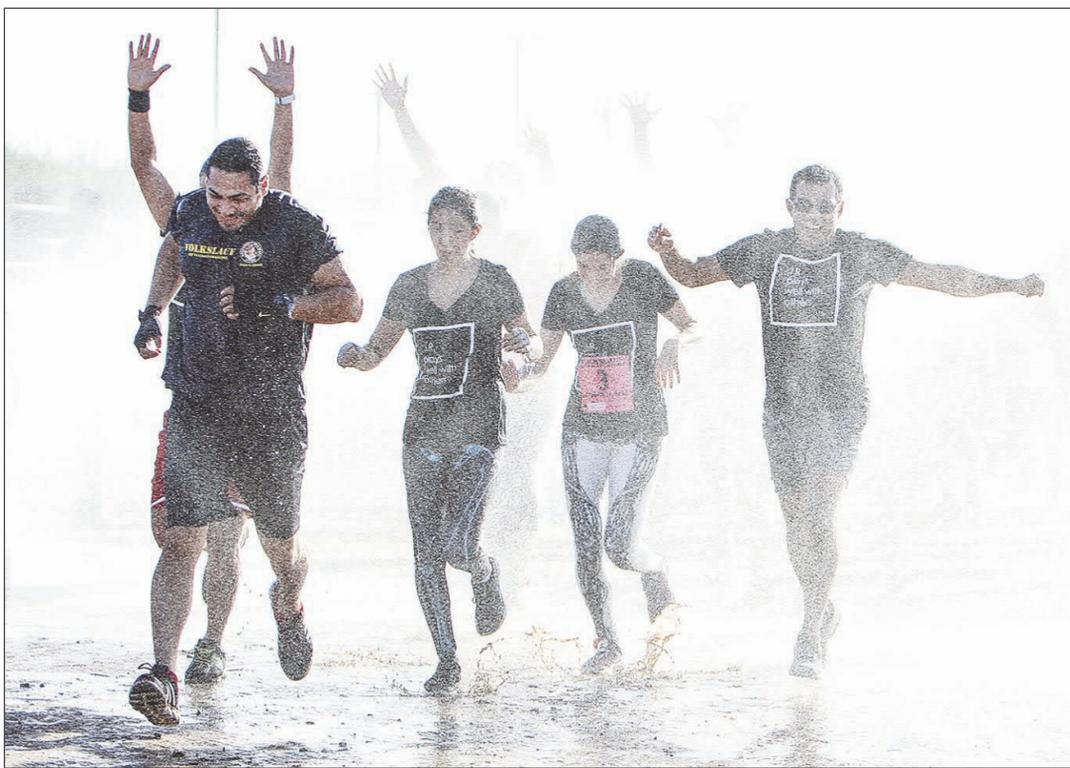
Opponents are vowing to fight the sale, which is subject to approval by California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

The Service Employees

International Union has been attacking the rumored deal for weeks, saying Prime puts profits ahead of patient care. The union has recruited state lawmakers and community groups to oppose the takeover and it plans to air television ads urging Harris to reject the sale.

"We are not going to roll over and risk watching Prime Healthcare cut services, raise prices and lay off caregivers like they've done in so many other communities in California and other states," said Dave Regan, president of SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West.

A spokesman for the California attorney general's office declined to comment to the Times, pending its review. The attorney general's office has approved two past purchases by Prime and rejected two others.



ROD THORNBURG / SPECIAL TO THE CALIFORNIAN

At the start of this year's Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge the runners get doused by a water truck hose.

VOLKSLAUF

CONTINUED FROM B1

above mud pits, crawling through tunnels and dashing over balance beams. The course's challenges are based off of obstacle courses used by the U.S. Marines in training.

Proceeds of the participants' entrance fees and sponsorships are given to local charities.

Desiree Rogers, 33, of Bakersfield, participated Saturday with her three teammates. This year was her second time participating. Her team, named the Apple Bottoms, wore white T-shirts with breast cancer awareness ribbons on them.

"I'm doing (the challenge) because after you have once, it gets addictive," Rogers said. "With your adrenaline pumping it's fun."

Apple Bottom team member Brynna Ramirez, 34, of Bakersfield, said she was excited about trying the challenge.

"You don't know your limits until you try," Ramirez said.

Event organizers urged participants to only enter the challenge if they could run the full course and had the strength to lift their own body weight multiple times.

Leigh Pozas owns Total Woman Fitness Center and trained several people for the Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge.

She has completed the challenge 13 times and this year brought about 30 people from the Total Woman team with her.

The group wore orange and black Halloween-patterned shirts and tiger striped bandanas.

"It's so much fun to train people for this and it's a great goal for people," said Pozas. "It's not just running; you need strength and agility and it's about teamwork."

Throughout the course, runners were seen offering fellow competitors boosts up walls and offering hands when others slipped in the



Participants cross over the water upside down on one of the obstacle courses.

mud. Many were of different teams, but still supported each other.

Robert Mazzetti, 49, came from Austin, Texas, to compete.

He lived in Bakersfield from 1993 to 2005 and once competed in the Volkslauf Ultimate Challenge while in the city. He returned to compete again.

"You look at some of these obstacles and wonder if you can do it," Mazzetti said. "It's a challenge."

Mazzetti laughed as he said he didn't really prepare for the race.

"Absolutely not," he said. "But this is the best mud run ever."



Participants run alongside Merle Haggard Drive before they hit the obstacle course.

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Public safety

Speed a factor in Pine Mountain accident

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Speed reportedly played a role in a major injury accident on Mil Potrero Highway in Pine Mountain Club, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Downey motorcyclist Gregory Yotsov, 20, was traveling east on the highway when he struck a 2013 Toyota Tacoma pickup going the opposite direction and making a left turn onto Pine Circle Road. Yotsov was thrown off his 2008 Yamaha and sustained major injuries but was conscious when he was airlifted to Kern Medical Center around 5:15 p.m.

"The speed limit at that location is 35 miles per hour and he was traveling at a high rate of speed," said CHP Officer Matt Barnachina.

Chino Hills resident Aaron Pettifer, 25, was driving the Toyota west in the 16000 block of Mil

Potrero Highway and turning south when the accident happened. He was not cited.

Kern County sheriff's deputies spent Friday chasing a wanted juvenile through Lamont.

The incident began when deputies went to a residence at 2:11 p.m. in the 8000 block of Middleton Lane to serve an outstanding felony juvenile warrant. The juvenile ran, jumping fences in the surrounding neighborhood, according to the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

The California Highway Patrol K-9 Unit and deputies later located the juvenile after he barricaded himself inside a residence in the 7700 block of Florence Street. His name has not been disclosed because he is a minor.

The suspect was booked into Juvenile Hall for his outstanding felony warrant

and on suspicion of resisting arrest and burglary.

Bakersfield police responding to a report of a traffic accident discovered a man had been hit by a vehicle.

The man had been pushing a shopping cart south in the northbound lanes of Stine Road near White Lane around 7 p.m., according to Matson. He was struck by a vehicle traveling north on Stine, injuring his leg, and was taken to a local hospital.

After conducting a sobriety test, police officers arrested the motorist on suspicion of driving under the influence and child endangerment because a child was in the vehicle when the accident occurred. The identity of the driver is not available.

The latest in a series of creepy clown sightings came shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday when Bak-

ersfield police officers near Valhalla Drive and Belle Terrace responded to a report of a person in a clown suit holding a firearm. Officers checked the area but were unable to find the person.

The incident came after a week of numerous calls to police from residents reporting seeing scary or mischievous clowns.

On Thursday, Bakersfield police officers arrested a minor whom investigators said admitted to dressing as a clown and scaring younger juveniles.

About a half-acre of brush and trees caught fire Saturday, leading firefighters to the riverbed on the west side of the Chester Avenue bridge. The 6:28 a.m. fire was extinguished in only a few minutes, according to the Kern County Fire Department. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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NICK ELLIS / SPECIAL TO THE CALIFORNIAN

Kathrine Ramos, left, and Tessa Dudley work on their drawings at the Via Arte Italian Street Festival at The Marketplace.

VIA ARTE

CONTINUED FROM B1

together and have a soft smooth finish. Others will just put chalk on the chalk."

LHS crews did both — one working from a copy of the Leighton portrait, likely an 1859 oil titled "Pavonia."

Another team went off-the-cuff, a third took on the Day of the Dead, and a fourth blended the background from Van Gogh's "The Starry Night" with an image from Monet's "Woman With a Parasol."

"We just did it from the tops of our heads," said LHS student Celeste Ablin, who partnered with Noyenum Stansberry and Alex Bradley to create "Fear Your Soul," an extemporaneous portrait the trio created on an unexpected blank square.

Having worked together before, they had no trouble finishing in just a few hours. "She inspires them."

Celeste has grown so much in the past three years. I'm amazed," said her mother, Louise Ablin.

The event is so popular among the school's art students that their teacher Linda Brown makes sure more experienced artists help choose themes and work with first-timers.

"It's like freshman, sophomore, junior, varsity. There's so many kids who want to do it that I have to do it that

Via Arte festival continues today

The Via Arte Italian Street Painting Festival continues today at The Marketplace, 9000 Ming Ave. Admission is free for spectators; a 2-by-2 foot square in Via Bambino is \$15.

way," Brown said.

High schoolers weren't the only budding amateurs.

"I drew an ocean. Because I like to play around and you get balloons and you get to draw chalk," said 5-year-old Cooper Werdel, who created an undersea scene in his 24-inch square.

His aunt said Via Arte is a tradition for her family, as it is for many others.

"My children, who are grown, we always went here to do this. It's fun and very unique," said Cheri Ezell. "A fun way to appreciate art is to teach your children to appreciate it."

On the professional side, sponsored squares were as large as 12 feet and 15 feet, but featured artist Julie Kirk-Purcell said her biggest challenge in creating an African-themed square would probably be "just getting it down."

Kirk-Purcell said she usually works in oil, but appreciates chalk, too.

"I like the fact that it's



Five-year-old Lucy Oesch takes a look at her drawing.

temporary, and the way it blends," Kirk-Purcell said. "It'll be here for a couple days and then it'll be all gone."

Until next year. Bakersfield High School art teacher Vicki Smart said she and daughter Alexa have created works of art in 15 of 16 Via Arte festivals, missing only once.

It's "just something to look forward to, and we feel

like we're giving back and we love art and we love the museum. This keeps it going," Smart said.

"It's a lot of color," said her daughter as the pair worked with BHS art student Ethan Petty on a piece mirroring Australian artist Ken Wong's take on Little Red Riding Hood. "The use of different colors gives it dimension and draws your eye to it."

Sikhs ride for heroes

Sikh Riders of America gathered Saturday at Wilderness Park to raise funds for the Wounded Heroes Fund and Kern County 999 Foundation. The ride ended with more festivities at Hart Park. See more photos from the event at bakersfield.com.

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Man charged in devastating wildfire

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEED — Police have arrested a Northern California man on suspicion of starting a wildfire that devastated the lumber town of Weed. Sgt. Justin Mayberry says 24-year-old Ronald Beau Marshall was arrested Saturday on felony counts of arson to inhabited structures, property and forest land.

The Siskiyou County District Attorney's office filed a criminal complaint against Marshall on Friday. A judge

issued a warrant for Marshall's arrest. He was booked into jail on \$250,000 bail. A phone number listed for Marshall's home in Weed was disconnected.

Mayberry said he couldn't discuss the details of the case because the investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing.

The wind-driven blaze devastated Weed, quickly burning through a hillside neighborhood and destroying 150 structures — most of them houses.

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