

Daily Bulletin

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BUSINESS A7

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LOCAL A3

DEDICATION

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PUC halts Edison plan

Utility ordered to offer five alternative paths

By Canan Tasci Staff Writer

CHINO HILLS — The California Public Utilities Commission has ordered Southern California Edison to stop construction on its power line project and ordered it to present “feasibility, cost and timing” for five alternative routes in two months.

Edison is expected to “serve testimony, with supporting data” on the alternative routes by Jan. 10, according to the PUC.

Edison is in the process of installing larger power towers along its right-of-way through Chino Hills to carry wind-generated electricity from

Kern County into the region. The \$2.1 billion Tehachapi project is part of a state mandate to generate more sustainable energy. It is slated for completion in 2015.

The PUC’s ruling Thursday orders Edison to halt construction until the January hearing.

“Once the Commission reviews the responses to the Petition for Modifications and the served information, the assigned Administrative Law Judge and I will determine the next procedural steps and schedule and inform the parties,” said PUC President Michael Peevey in the ruling order.

Construction of the new towers began in October 2010. More than a

POWER LINES A4

State faces hefty tab

‘No Child’ waiver may cost \$3.1B

By Will Bigham Staff Writer

If state education officials decide to seek a waiver from some provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind law, it’s not an effort that’s going to come cheap, according to the state’s schools chief.

The cost of implementing reforms necessary to obtain the waiver could be up to \$3.1 billion, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson reported this week to the state Board of Education, the governing body that must decide whether to seek the waiver.

The first application deadline for the waiver is Monday. The state will miss Monday’s deadline

because the board did not make a decision this week about whether to seek a waiver. The next waiver deadline is in mid-February.

“As a state, we are being asked to make wholesale changes that would affect the operation of every school — with very little time and no new resources — all to receive temporary respite from a law that, thankfully, Congress is in the process of rewriting,” Torlakson said.

“I continue to believe that the best answer for addressing a bad law is to replace it with a good one. However, recognizing the immediate need for relief among so many schools, the state board will continue to examine the option of applying for a waiver in a manner that reflects the state’s priorities, timetables, and budget constraints.”

The No Child Left Behind Act, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, directs federal funds to K-12 schools.

It has been criticized by educators for over-reliance on

WAIVER A4

99 RANCH CONTROVERSY

Grocer’s hot deli returns

Neighbors doubt odor concern fixed

By Wendy Leung Staff Writer

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — The Asian grocer 99 Ranch, which has been in this city for one year, will mark the resumption of its full-service hot deli department this weekend.

It has been a tough year for the supermarket.

In June, following numerous complaints of odor by nearby neighbors, a hearing board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District declared 99 Ranch’s cooking operations had created a public nuisance. The store agreed to install odor control equipment and did so in September.

After five months of limited cooking operations, the embattled grocer last month brought back its popular barbecue pork, roast duck, chow mein and other Chinese dishes. The market had primarily used steaming and boiling methods in the hot deli department when the AQMD hearing board considered the order of abatement.

Today, 99 Ranch will have a re-grand opening of the hot deli at 11 a.m. and celebrate its one-year anniversary with sales throughout the weekend.

Unfortunately, 99 Ranch’s troubles may not be over.

“We noticed a strong odor. It’s not quite as strong but it’s still pretty bad,” said Jack Childs, who lives east of the market. “I guess the equipment isn’t working that well.”

Since the market began phas-



Thomas R. Cordova Staff Photographer

Emmie Lim works the dim sum as the 99 Ranch market begins its frying, stir-frying and barbecue operations again in Rancho Cucamonga on Friday. The market halted cooking operations due to neighborhood complaints of smell, but has since installed a filtration system.

ing in its fried, stir-fried and barbecued items, some residents say the cooking odors have returned on sporadic days.

“The problem is not really fixed,” said Jill Wirtz, another neighbor. “Like I said, we just want our backyards back.”

Wirtz was among the neighbors who spoke before a five-person hearing board, telling them her backyard activities had been curtailed due to

the market’s cooking odors.

According to AQMD spokesman Sam Atwood, complaints of cooking odors have increased since the market resumed its regular hot deli services last month but the complaints have not warranted the issuance of a notice of violation.

A notice of violation is typically the first enforcement step for AQMD. The air quality

99 RANCH A4

“We’re going to monitor the situation. If the situation were to worsen, or even if we do not reach that threshold of complaints, there’s the potential of going back to the hearing board to propose additional conditions. That’s just hypothetical at this point.”

AQMD spokesman SAM ATWOOD

Recent hikes in water rates raise hackles of Claremont officials

By Wes Woods II Staff Writer

CLAREMONT — Residents upset with Golden State Water Co.’s double-digit rate increases are being asked to attend a meeting with an administrative law judge.

Meanwhile, some locals will gather Monday to discuss the rate increases at the offices of a Pomona imaging contractor.

San Dimas-based Golden State Water has certainly provoked the ire

of its customers.

The water company approved an increase of about 30 percent in late 2010, Claremont City Manager Jeff Parker said. The latest proposed increase is about 10 percent or 15 percent with lesser increases in subsequent years.

“We all started getting that one month bill in August,” resident Hal Hargrave said. “And then (in) September, you realize, ‘Oh God, it is the one

month bill.’ That started the ball rolling and the public outcry started in October.”

Hargrave said he cut his water consumption in half from August 2010 to August 2011, yet his water bill from the utility doubled.

An administrative law judge will solicit comments from the public about the rates at 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 6 at Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indian Hill Blvd.

The state’s Public Utilities Commission will hold the hearing, and others, before rendering a decision on the fairness of the rates.

Councilmen raised their concerns at their Tuesday meeting with a water company representative.

One issue raised was that some residents no longer water their trees despite Claremont being known as the “City of Trees.”

“What we’re mostly frustrated

about, and I speak for all Claremont people, is the Public Utilities Commission process works against us,” Mayor Sam Pedroza said. “The process is in favor of the utility. They can easily take advantage of that and take advantage of the process. That’s what we’re trying to fix.”

Ben Lewis, a district manager for Golden State Water Company, said the company’s expenses for supplies,

CLAREMONT A4

CHINO

Musical dedication

The Claremont Concert Choir and Chamber Choir will hold a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday to dedicate the new organ and piano at Chino United Methodist Church, 5201 Riverside Drive.

The choir includes 70 singers from Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, and Scripps colleges as well as the surrounding community.

CLAREMONT

Social media’s role

The Pomona College Student Union on Wednesday will present a panel discussion about the use of social media to create real-world revolutions and movements, such as the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street protests.

The free discussion will be at 7 p.m. at Pomona College’s Rose Hills Theater, in the Smith Campus Center, 170 E. Sixth St.

REGION

More train time



Starting Sunday, Los Angeles’s busiest rail lines — the Metro subway and the Blue Line route to Long Beach — will run trains every 10 minutes between 6 p.m. and midnight. This will mean nearly twice as many trains as usual.

The more frequent and later trains will assist those dining in downtown during the evening or attending night events.

For more information, visit www.metro.net.

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VETERANS DAY

USO raises flag at L.A./ONT

By Liset Márquez Staff Writer

ONTARIO — Military veteran James Speer watched as an American flag, for the first time, was raised at the USO Ontario.

Speer, who served during the Korean War, along with Gordon Browning lobbied for five years to see this day.

The duo personally donated the money to have a flagpole installed on the west side of Terminal 1 of L.A./Ontario International Airport.

On Veterans Day, more than 50 people, including veterans, active military personnel, elected officials and USO volunteers, watched as members of the American Legion Post 262 raised the flag.

"My contribution here is in appreciation for what they've done for me," Speer said.

The Glendora resident said he still remembers an occasion, while serving in Germany, getting the opportunity to get some rest at a USO in Paris.

"It was a tremendous benefit as a GI to have a place to stay," he said. "I didn't have any money then."

"It's a home away from home for the more than 16,000 to 20,000 men and women who stop by each year," said Gayle Oyler, center manager at the Ontario USO.

The center is manned by more than 140 volunteers. Local businesses, individuals and service organizations keep the center stocked with food. There is a library, computer access via laptops, a big-screen TV, a nursery for visiting military families and games.

The USO does not receive any government funding, and with a limited budget could not have proceeded without help from Speer and Browning, she said.

"It meant a lot to them and it means a great deal to us. We



Greg Vojtko Correspondent

American Legion Post 262 Honor Guard Capt. John Madaloni clutches a flag flown in Iraq during a Veterans Day flagpole dedication ceremony at the USO at L.A./Ontario International Airport on Friday.

have this flag, and we will forever be grateful to you for what you've done," Oyler said.

With the financial assistance from the pair, the USO was able to obtain the help of a local construction company, which also donated its services to install the 25-foot flagpole.

Speer, who served in the Army during the Korean War, first learned about the fundraising efforts from Browning, a fellow Covina Rotary Club member. The Glendora resident said he personally donated \$1,000 to the efforts.

A World War II veteran, Browning not only donated \$1,800 toward the effort, he also provided the USO with the first flag.

Browning received the flag from Army's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 140th Assault Helicopter Battalion, which flew the flag in Iraq on May 10.

For more information about the USO or to donate, call 909-390-4274 or visit www.ontario.uso.org

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CVUSD board sets interviews for candidates

18 are vying for vacant seat on board

By Canan Tasci Staff Writer

CHINO — Chino Valley Unified School District board members will interview 18 candidates next week to fill a vacant seat.

At Thursday's special board meeting, board members decided to interview candidates over a two-day period at the district office, 5130 Riverside Drive.

Interviews will be conducted from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

Board members are filling the seat of Brandon Blanchard, who resigned in October so his wife could accept a full-time position with the district's virtual school.

The appointed member will serve until the next board election in November 2012. This is a four-year seat.

During the interview, candidates will have 15 minutes to answer six questions that have been available to them at the district's website www.chino.k12.ca.us.

There will be a five-minute break between interviews.

The interviews will be held in open session, where the public can observe. There will also be a public comment portion at the end of the interviews.

At Thursday's meeting, a drawing was conducted to determine the day and time each candidate would be interviewed.

Board member Fred Youngblood asked what the board should do if a candidate doesn't show up.

"Is there a makeup?" he asked.

After brief discussion, board members concluded if the person is not there, they are eliminated as a candidate.

The only exception is if a candidate has notified the board ahead of time that they cannot attend the meeting, then a written statement to the board's six questions will be read into the record.

A provisional appointment will be made at the district's regular board meeting on Thursday. The appointee will be sworn in at that time.

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Meet the candidates

Below is a schedule of applicants who will be interviewed by the Chino Valley Unified School District board to fill a vacant seat:

- Tuesday**
5 p.m. — Peter Attwood
5:20 p.m. — Kelly McClister
5:40 p.m. — Christopher Ramos
6 p.m. — Lily Valdivia-Rodriguez
6:20 p.m. — Maren Dickson
6:40 p.m. — Catalina Olvera
7 p.m. — Waimin Liu
7:20 p.m. — David Black
7:40 p.m. — Irene Hernandez-Blair
- Wednesday**
5 p.m. — Alan Billingsley
5:20 p.m. — Silverio Aguilar Jr.
5:40 p.m. — Lisa Keltner
6 p.m. — Julie Allen
6:20 p.m. — Mark Hargrove
6:40 p.m. — Robert Kiel
7 p.m. — Eva McDaniel
7:20 p.m. — Roman Nava
7:40 p.m. — Robert Basile

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