

INLAND VALLEY DAILY BULLETIN

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

\$2.50 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | DAILYBULLETIN.COM

MONTCLAIR

Official owes \$176K more in suit

Judge adds to \$1.35M damages against council member over sexual harassment

By Beau Yarbrough
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Montclair City Council member Ben Lopez insists that someone else was responsible for the sexual harassment of two city employees, disputing a San Bernardino Superior Court judge's findings otherwise.

On the stand Friday in a Rancho Cucamonga courtroom, Lopez said an "unauthorized Grindr account" was created in his name without his knowledge, and his bank account was used to make a "fraudulent charge for an OnlyFans account," referring to an LGBTQ+ dating app and a subscription video-sharing app

popular with adult-film actors. But Superior Court Judge Kory Mathewson appeared unconvinced, imposing an additional \$176,000 in punitive damages on top of the \$1.35 million Lopez in compensatory damages was ordered to pay a week before.

The \$176,000 is essentially all of the money Lopez is set to receive as a Montclair City

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Edmund Garcia, left, a senior information technology specialist with the city of Montclair, and Michael Fuentes, the city's director of economic development, are seen outside the San Bernardino Superior Court in Rancho Cucamonga on Friday. **BEAU YARBROUGH — STAFF**

YORBA LINDA

Nixon Library puts 250 years on display



A couple tours the "America 250: A More Perfect Union" exhibit at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda on Monday. The original portrait of George Washington is by artist Gilbert Stuart, painted around 1796. The exhibit will be open through 2026. **PHOTOS BY PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Hands-on activities at exhibit lets visitors experience changes that shaped U.S.

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn
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To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, take a walk down memory lane at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda.

Travel back to 1773 and dump a chest of tea off the stern of a boat into a makeshift Boston Harbor.

Take a close look at an 1820 engraving of the Declaration of Independence, commissioned by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams when the original document was becoming faded and difficult

to read. Read, in his own handwriting, a letter President Abraham Lincoln sent to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, detailing what needed to be done to end the Civil War. Watch the pilot episode of "I Love

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The Kitchen Debate is part of the exhibit, "America 250: A More Perfect Union," at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda. The mock-up of a typical American kitchen was part of the American National Exhibition in Moscow in 1959. The exhibition promoted cultural exchange and understanding between the two countries.

HEMET

Murder cited in church arrests

3 of group's 'private' leaders held in probe of 2 congregants reported missing in 2019, 2023

By Ruby Gonzales and Brian Rokos
STAFF WRITERS

The leaders of a mysterious Inland religious group with ties to two missing men, along with a third person, were arrested on suspicion of murder in Hemet on Thursday.

Authorities, beyond acknowledging the arrests, have been tight-lipped about the case. Carl Baker, a Redlands police spokesman, cited the ongoing investigation in declining to say who police believe are the victims. Two former congregants of the His Way Spirit Led Assemblies, Emilio Ghanem, 40, of Nashville; and Ruben Moreno, last seen in Claremont, remain missing.

Darryl Muzic Martin, 58; his 62-year-old wife,

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ECONOMY

Chapman's Doti says tariffs, taxes will slow growth

By Pat Maio
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Next year will be "no gangbuster year," for the economy, according to one of Southern California's leading economists, James Doti.

Last year, the president emeritus at Chapman University and its team of economists predicted the nation's gross domestic product, used to measure economic health, would slow to 1.8% in 2025, down from 2.7% the previous year. Their latest prediction says 2026's growth will edge upward to a modest 2%.

Without digging into the weeds of political commentary, Doti candidly said the economy would have expanded more had President Donald Trump's

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WASHINGTON

19 Epstein estate photos released

Redacted images show Trump, Clinton and former Prince Andrew

By Stephen Groves
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House Democrats released a selection of photos from the estate of Jeffrey Epstein on Friday, including some of Donald Trump, Bill Clinton and the former Prince Andrew.

The 19 photos initially

released by Democratic lawmakers on the House Oversight Committee were a small part of more than 95,000 they received from the estate of Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. They released roughly 70 more photos later Friday, including images of his home, Epstein taking a bath,

a photo of him with a swollen lip, and a photo of him posing with a book about the scandal.

The photos released Friday were separate from the case files that the Department of Justice is now under compulsion to release, but anticipation is growing as the Trump administration

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This undated, redacted photo released by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee shows Donald Trump standing with a group of women. **HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VIA AP**

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