

Putin: Russia will respond to missile test

SECOND FRONT ■ B1



Dodgers earn stressful win over Yankees

SPORTS ■ C1



LAST CHANCE
AV FAIR
 4PM-11PM
TONIGHT

COME SPIN TO WIN!
 ENTER FOR UP
 TO A \$6K SCHOLARSHIP
 GIVE AWAY

REGIONALLY ACCREDITED PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
UAV.EDU | (661) 726-1911
 4455 NORTH SIERRA HWY. LANCASTER, CA 93534

Sunday
August 25, 2019
 72 pages, 8 sections
 \$2.00
 104th year, No. 147

Antelope Valley Press

More Antelope Valley People Read the Valley Press Than Any Other Newspaper
Established 1915. © 2019 AVPress, Inc. All rights reserved.

City supporting high-speed rail bond

Las Vegas-to-Victorville line would reach Palmdale



Valley Press files

Palmdale officials were among the backers to provide testimony earlier this month in Sacramento in support of a private activity bond issue for the proposed Virgin Trains USA/Brightline high-speed rail between Las Vegas and Victorville, with a continuation of the line into Palmdale.

VALLEY PRESS STAFF REPORT

PALMDALE — Palmdale officials joined with a broad coalition of backers at a hearing in Sacramento on Aug. 12 in support of a private activity bond issue for a proposed high-speed train between Las Vegas and Victorville and eventually Palmdale.

Mayor Steve Hofbauer and City Manager James Purtee provided testimony in the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act hearing at the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, also known as iBank.

They were joined at the hearing by representatives from Victorville, Apple Valley, LA Metro,

the San Bernardino Association of Governments, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office, San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood's office, rail manufacturer Siemens, Morgan Stanley and Virgin Trains (formerly Brightline), the rail operator.

"Both the executive director of the bank and the bond manager hearing officer commented that they couldn't remember a hearing with such a large show of support," Hofbauer said. "Everyone realizes the magnitude and importance of this project to the long term economic and quality of life future of our region."

A long-proposed rail line

linking Las Vegas to Southern California saw new life last year when Brightline, a Florida-based private passenger rail company, acquired XpressWest. XpressWest has a federally-approved rail corridor between Las Vegas and Victorville, with plans to continue the line to Palmdale where it will connect with other transportation services.

Brightline took over development, construction and operation of the proposed high-speed line, which would travel on a 185-mile right-of-way along Interstate 15 in its first phase, with no at-grade or

See BOND on A5

Bond sale may happen in 2020

From A1

pedestrian crossings. In November, the Virgin Group announced a minority investment in the company, which will include new branding as Brightline becomes Virgin Trains USA.

The company has used similar private activity bonds to finance expansion of its existing rail system in Florida.

According to news reports, should Virgin Trains USA get the go-ahead for the bonds in September, a bond sale could take place in the first quarter of 2020 and trains could be running in 2023.

After the hearings, Hofbauer and Purtee were invited to tour the Siemens rail car plant in Sacramento. Siemens currently employs 1,500 people at their light and heavy rail manufacturing plant.

"It was fascinating to follow the light rail and heavy rail equipment through the various fabrication and assembly processes," Hofbauer said.