

The San Bernardino County

News of Note
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Sentinel

Late
Final
Edition

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Friday, June 13, 2025 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (951) 567-1936

Former Teacher Reports Irregularities In Etiwanda School District Preschool Programs

By Carlos Avalos

A former teacher is alleging that the Etiwanda School District's administration in recent years compromised its educational mission in favor of maximizing funding it receives from the state, destroying the district's once cutting-edge preschool program in the process, and is now disadvantaging the district's youngest and most vulnerable students.

Antoinette Jensen taught for seven years in the Creating Learning Opportunities Utilizing Diverse Strategies (CLOUDS) program within the Etiwanda School District. Initially, as a permitted early child education preschool teacher at Grapeland Elementary, then at Golden Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year, followed by a position at Terra Vista Elementary

for the 2023-2024 school year.

After more than a decade of building the CLOUDS program into what many considered to be a model program for integrating preschool students into a learning environment and bring them up to speed with regard to basic academic skills so they take full advantage of the educational opportunities awaiting them in first

grade, second grade and beyond, the district's administrators became thoroughly familiarized with and took full stock of how the State of California funds its public school system. Having learned how to tap into that generosity to be able to run legitimate programs aimed at targeting students of varying socioeconomic means and across the entire cognitive spectrum, those run-

ning the district eventually fell to manipulating the funding protocols to prioritize not furthering the education of the students the district was entrusted with but to bring substantial amounts of money into the district by enrolling more and more students into programs for which the state would provide augmentation funding whether or not the amalgam of students placed **See P 2**

Full Culture War On As Trump Administration Initiates Operation Alta California

By Richard Hernandez

The diametric polarity of current American politics went manifest late last week and all of this week as the Donald Trump Administration's promised policy of immigration enforcement began in earnest in Southern California, following a three-month abeyance.

As first reported previously in the Sentinel, the Trump Administra-

tion's intention had been to initiate strict immigration enforcement in California as early as March by massive round-ups of undocumented aliens in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties with the cooperation of local authorities before having the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Homeland Security turn their attention to the far denser concentration

of illegal aliens in Los Angeles County. The administration, however, at the last minute abandoned that plan when both San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus and Riverside Sheriff Chad Bianco signaled they would not countenance having their respective departments assist federal officers in any action that would leave local residents distrustful of or

uncooperative with law enforcement.

Accordingly, federal authorities instead re-gearred, making preparations, which were massive in scope, to undertake the removal, within the next two years, of an estimated 2.2 million illegal aliens from California. As a matter of practicality and simple math, that effort most logically would be centered in Los Angeles

County, immediately adjacent to San Bernardino County.

The final brick in the edifice of "Operation Alta California," scheduled to begin June 2, was put in place with the installation of Bill Essayli, temporarily pending confirmation by the Senate, as U.S. Attorney for Central California.

That schedule was met, with more than a dozen U.S. Im-**See P 3**

Democrats Nixed Essayli In His Legislative Role & Are Now Flailing In Try To Block Him As U.S. Attorney

A cross section of Southern California's leading Democrats are spearheading an effort to prevent the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Bill Essayli as the U.S. attorney for Central California.

Essayli, a former California Assemblyman and the one-time chief of staff to former San Bernardino Mayor John

Valdivia, while establishing himself as a rock solid conservative Republican committed to tough ideological struggles in the face of overwhelming liberal opposition, is vehemently at odds with California's predominant Democrats.

He was twice, in 2022 and 2024, chosen by the voters in the 63rd As-

sembly District to represent them, but was thwarted throughout his more than 25 months in office by the Democrats, who hold supermajorities in both of California's legislative houses, from getting any of the bills he authored out of committee. In April, when President Donald Trump nomi- **See P 3**

The death of three people killed on Tuesday morning, June 10, when a motorcycle being pursued by sheriff's deputies slammed into a vehicle in Redlands has reinitiated discussion on what limits should be imposed on law enforcement officers seeking to chase down fleeing suspects.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies attempted a traffic stop on a motorcycle being driven by a man later identified as Justin Sutton. The 26-year-old Sutton was, according to the department, operating the motorcycle in a reckless manner.

Sutton failed **See P 3**

Board of Supervisors Adopts County's \$10.5 Billion Budget For Fiscal Year 2025-26

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the county's 2025-26 fiscal year budget during its June 10 public hearing, concluding a months-long public budget process. The approximately \$10.5 billion budget includes a \$205.2 million investment in new initiatives while maintaining the county's long-standing focus on

financial stability and maintaining essential services.

"Nearly a quarter of our fiscal year is spent engaging with departments and the public to craft the budget, and the results show in our stability and response to local needs," said Board of Supervisors Chairman and Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe. "We're not just balanc-

ing the books – we're strengthening our ability to serve residents now and into the future."

County Chief Executive Officer Luther Snone and Chief Financial Officer Matthew Erickson led the presentation, highlighting the county's conservative approach to budgeting.

Snone emphasized the county's long-term fiscal strategy: reduce volatil-

ity, sustain core services and safeguard the workforce.

"This budget reflects our values by investing in people, protecting public services, and ensuring every community has the support it needs to succeed," said Vice Chair and Fifth District Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. "Our strategy has built a stable environment that supports employee reten-

tion and reliable service delivery to residents."

The county's prudent and transparent budgeting led the county to earn the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2025 Adopted Budget and was cited by S&P Global Ratings in awarding San Bernardino County with an AA+ rating. **See P 5**

Bunton Out As County Counsel?

Those manning crucial posts within San Bernardino County government have been thrown into a tizzy over reports, none of which could be confirmed at press time, that County Counsel Tom Bunton is on his way out as the county's top in-house lawyer.

The office of county counsel is the county's stable of staff attorneys. Bunton, who was formerly assistant county counsel with the County of San Diego, assumed the role of county counsel in San Bernardino county in January 2022. In recent days and weeks there have been mixed signals emanating out of floors four and five of the county administrative building located at 385 North Arrowhead Avenue in downtown San Bernardino.

One indication was that Laura Feingold, who was elevated by Bunton to the position of chief assistant county counsel 16 months ago, will be sliding into the post which is yet officially held by Bunton.

Undergirding that were a series of developments this week relating to the board of supervisors and the office of county counsel.

The board this week, on Tuesday June 10, held its regularly scheduled meeting. It was next scheduled to meet on June 24. The board customarily holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month or, more rarely, the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Abruptly, however, after the close of normal business hours today, Friday, June 13, the June 24 meeting was canceled. **See P 3**