

# The San Bernardino County

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## AESD Left Rudderless As Superintendent & Top Assistant Inexplicably Go Missing

In the midst of the confusion over Adelanto Elementary School District Superintendent Terry Walker's continuing tenure with the district, the matter grew even more turbulent as Walker and her top-ranked assistant precipitously went out on leave last week. They have not returned.

Simultaneously, Walker's executive secretary had departed the district, leaving the dis-

trict essentially rudderless, as there was seemingly no one in place in the district's executive suite over a period during which preparations for this week's board meeting needed to be tended to, resulting in the meeting being canceled.

While Walker's executive secretary, Xenia Lovett, has now returned to her post, the district appears to be running on autopilot, as both Walker

and the assistant superintendent of academic services Walker hired in September, Saida Valdez, remain absent.

Among Adelanto residents, in particular parents of students in the district, there has been speculation at the reason for the interruption in normal district operations. The most recurrent and obvious theory to emerge from that speculation is the 3-to-2 divide on the school board that

has manifested in recent months in which the majority has become disenchanted with Walker's oversight of district operations created an atmosphere which has made her day-to-day function uncomfortable. Based on Walker's contract, which was ratified by the school board in November 2024 and which runs through June 2028, she cannot be terminated on anything less than a 4-to-1 vote of the school board.

Though the board majority does not have sufficient votes to force the superintendent's departure at this time, the two members of the board who are yet standing behind her, La Shawn Love-French and Christina Steward, are due to stand for reelection later this year. With the prospect that Love-French or Steward might opt out of seeking reelection or could be displaced in the voting if they See P 2

## Summary Of A Few Of January 13 And January 27 Board Of Supervisors Actions

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors took several actions at its January 13 and January 27 regularly scheduled meetings.

The board approved at its January 13 meeting a \$3.1 million revenue agreement with the California Department of Public Health for the continued provision of mandated newborn screening specimen col-

lection and courier services through June 30, 2029.

The San Bernardino County Public Health Department will perform these screenings at local birthing hospitals and clinics, ensuring early detection of more than 80 congenital disorders. The agreement allows the county to receive reimbursement for coordination and collec-

tion services and supports efforts to improve early treatment and outcomes for infants born in San Bernardino County.

At the January 13 meeting, the board also signed off on accepting federal reimbursement for joint fugitive task force participation.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is receiving a reimbursement from

the U.S. Marshals Service for participation in the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force through September 30, 2029. The reimbursement provides up to \$31,900 annually for overtime and vehicle fuel costs associated with apprehending federal fugitives.

By participating in the task force, the Sheriff's Department enhances

collaboration between federal and local law enforcement, increases regional safety and supports the Sheriff's priority of locating and arresting violent offenders, which aligns with the county's declared goals.

At the same meeting, the board approved providing mental health support for drug court participants.

The board ap-See P 3

## Ex-Victorville Councilwoman Valles Defies Newsom's Gerrymander With 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Run

Angela Valles, who cut her political teeth in the Victor Valley two decades ago, shocking and rearranging the political establishment while doing so, is seeking to represent a Congressional District in the northern part of the state.

As before, Valles is approaching her candidacy in ways that are not in keeping with the pow-

ers that be on either side of the political spectrum.

Valles was elected to the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees in 2007, which was essentially a baby-step that made few, if any waves. In 2010, she vied for a position on the Victorville City Council, which again rang no major alarm bells until she won. At that point, she

stepped into a whirlpool of controversy. Victorville, the third of San Bernardino County's desert city's to incorporate in 1962, had grown into the county's fifth largest city population-wise and its largest geographically. Once host to an Air Force Base that was being transitioned into an international airport for which See P 3

## Redlands Unified Contemplating Laying Off 138 Employees

The Redlands Unified School District Board of Trustees on Tuesday night signaled the readiness of its ruling majority to provide 6.8 percent of its employees with pink slips in March that will become effective in June if the district's financial picture does not improve. The vote by three of the board's members was

preliminary and precautionary rather than de facto. California law requires that teachers and support personnel, referred to as classified employees be provided with warning by March 15 if their employment is to be terminated in the following school year.

According to those three board See P 2

## Dogs Turned Away As Yucca Valley Animal Shelter's Kennel Runs

The Yucca Valley Animal Shelter, at least temporarily, will not be welcoming dogs being given up their owners.

The facility's kennels are beyond their maximum capacity. Designed to hold 57 dogs, as of 2 p.m. today, they are packed with 97.

"Yucca Valley Animal Shelter is currently operating at 170.1 percent capacity," the shel-

ter's website states.

The shelter has animals that are cataloged in three categories, those being ones on its urgent need list, its adoptable pets list, its rescue release only list and its stray & found list.

Currently, there are 71 dogs on the shelter's adoptable pets list, all of which can be adopted by qualified owners willing to give the dogs a good

home. There are now two dogs on the rescue only list, which is not a euthanasia list. Those animals are not currently available for public adoption but are eligible for placement with approved rescue partners who can give the dogs specialized treatment. Animals are continuously evaluated for health and behavior, and may be moved to the adoptable list as appro-

priate. Pets under eight weeks of age or under two pounds will remain rescue release only until they meet adoptable criteria.

There is a single dog on the stray and found list. There are also 14 stray and lost cats at the shelter.

There is currently a single dog on the in-urgent need of assistance from a 501(c)(3) rescue

partner list, as the dog is at risk of humane euthanasia due to medical, behavioral, and/or capacity limits. This dog and others who in the future are placed on the in-urgent need of assistance list may also be available for adoption by the general public.

According to the Town of Yucca Valley, dogs brought in by their owners ac- See P 3

## Fontana Razing Building Worth \$30 Million At Today's Price To Construct Another For \$58 Million

The City of Fontana will tear out its existing 27,000-square foot City Hall which has existed since 1964 and replace it with a structure of roughly 45,000 square feet.

Going with the old building is some history city officials and residents would like to remember, some history city officials and residents would like to forget and some lessons taxpayers might lose sight of at their own peril.

City officials intend to have the new edifice ready for occupancy two years from now – in January 2028 – a reasonable target but one that might not be met.

The city is spending \$58 million to construct the new municipal accommodations, which is intended to house virtually all of the city's departments other than its police department. It will provide quarters for the fire department, with offices for the fire chief, battalion chiefs and fire administration, within its expanse.

Though some are hailing the construction of a new City Hall as one that is welcome and past due, there are others who consider the undertaking to be self-indulgent and overblown. They consider the existing civic facility to be adequate if somewhat undersized and far from having eclipsed its useful life. They question why the city is going to knock it down and build a new one when it could instead keep it in place and augment it with an See P 3