Businesses Invited to Join County on South Korea Trade Mission

By Press Release- March 19, 2019

TAGS: COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDA, SAN BERNARDINO, TRADE

San Bernardino, CA – San Bernardino County companies looking to build export and import opportunities are encouraged to participate in a San Bernardino County-led mission to South Korea to expand trade and investment opportunities. The South Korea mission is scheduled for April 20-27, 2019, with Seoul being the primary destination.

Why is South Korea the focus of this trade mission?

South Korea is California’s sixth largest export destination. In 2017, California exported more than $9.6 billion to South Korea, making California the top U.S. exporting state to South Korea. This mission will also complement trends observed in regard to businesses reshoring their manufacturing operations back to the US. It is a tremendous opportunity
for businesses in San Bernardino County to grow their exports and foster international trade.

How will this mission benefit my business?

Highlights for this mission include targeted one-on-one business meetings for participating County businesses, exploring foreign direct investment and reshoring opportunities, meetings with government and industry association officials, along with briefings on the market. Participating San Bernardino County companies will hold pre-arranged meetings specific to their market entry or expansion needs. The County will help interested companies target their objectives, whether that is developing or expanding direct export sales, locating distributors or agents, or conducting market research, among other goals.

Why is foreign trade important to the County?

This mission will enhance relationships between San Bernardino County and South Korea in order to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the County. South Korean FDI into San Bernardino County offers many compelling advantages to companies with offshore operations that are seeking to simplify their supply chains, reduce labor costs and bring jobs back into the US. This Mission will enhance awareness of the County as a destination for manufacturers interested in strategic reshoring. Over 10,000 total US jobs were restored from Korea between 2010 and 2016. With this mission, the County is strategically positioning itself to be a part of this job creation opportunity.

Interested in attending? Contact Soua Vang, Economic Development Manager, (O): 909-387-4385 or svang@ed.sbccounty.gov.

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- [San Bernardino County Leads Trade Mission to South Korea](#)
- [Report: San Bernardino County has the labor pool to meet business needs](#)
LOCAND NEWS

Hear ‘Motel California’ author at San Bernardino County Museum

By STAFF REPORT | The Press-Enterprise
PUBLISHED: March 19, 2019 at 2:19 pm | UPDATED: March 19, 2019 at 2:19 pm

Heather M. David, author of “Motel California,” is the featured Dome Talks speaker 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at the San Bernardino County Museum.

David, a California-based cultural historian and freelance writer, will focus on California's mid-century modern motels.

David is also the author of “Mid-Century by the Bay” and many articles on American popular culture and historic preservation. She is an advocate for the preservation of mid-century modern architecture, art and signage – with a focus on California Modernism.

“Motel California,” published in 2017, is the story of the rapid rise and subsequent decline of the individually owned mom-and-pop motel in the Golden State. It is a celebration of sparkling blue pools, flashing neon signs, automatic ice machines and bleached white towels, according to a press release. It is also an exploration of theme-based marketing and a documentation of American culture at what was perhaps the most prosperous time in United States history.
“For several generations, California’s brand was associated with deep azure swimming pools, space-age rocketships and funky exoticism so prevalent in neon signage along our interstate highways, advertising the wondrous experience of a motel stay to vacationing families,” said Melissa Russo, director of the San Bernardino County Museum, in the press release. “Heather David’s compelling story about the rise of motels in the state is a fascinating cultural journey and a peek at the motels that still exist today.”

The event opens at 6:30 p.m. for a light reception sponsored by the San Bernardino County Museum Association and Lorenzi Estate Wines. David’s talk starts at 7 p.m. and will include sales of her book and signing.

Tickets are $18 for Museum Association members and $25 for nonmembers, available at [www.sbcounty.gov/museum](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum) and at the museum’s guest services desk.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. Parking is free, and the museum is accessible to people with disabilities.
BREAKING

Highland crime alert for Tuesday, March 19

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/highland-a-rare-city-that-doesn-t-televise-meetings/article_8b2ecfcd-45e0-11e9-975c-fb2b61c9af09.html

FEATURED

Highland: A rare city that doesn’t televise meetings

By JAMES FOLMER and ben purper Highland Community News  Mar 13, 2019 Updated Mar 13, 2019
Mayor Penny Lilburn and Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon both say televising of live streaming meetings isn’t worth the cost, although neither could say how much it would cost.

“There are some people who just like seeing themselves on television,” McCallon said.
Both pointed out that meetings are held in the evening so that most working people can attend in person. And audiotapes of city meetings are on the city website.

Councilman Jesse Chavez proposed televising or streaming meetings in January when the council ranked its priorities for the next two years.

Councilwoman Anaeli Solano supported the idea.

“It's important to increase our transparency,” Chavez said on Monday.

He said the cost is minimal and some services would stream it for free. Another advantage is that viewers can post comments on the issues being discussed, increasing feedback from the public, he said.

In a Jan. 10 workshop, Chavez made it an urgent priority, Solano called it a priority, Lilburn and Councilman John Timmer rated it a low priority and McCallon voted to delete the proposal.

The council prioritized 35 work plans, but televising meetings didn't make the list.
Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda Redlands, Rialto and San Bernardino all televise their meetings for free on a cable channel as part of their franchise agreement, but they pay a staff member to operate the camera and transmit it.

ADVANCE FOR USE SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019 AND THEREAFTER-This image provided by Jack Ohman in March 2019 shows his editorial cartoon made for 2019's Sunshine Week. In 2005, the American Society of Newspaper Editors launched the first national Sunshine Week, a celebration of access to public information that has been held every year since to coincide with the March 16 birthday of James Madison, father of the U.S. Constitution and a key advocate of the Bill of Rights. (Jack Ohman/The Sacramento Bee via AP)

Jack Ohman
Increasing transparency and boosting public access

Helping the public know what government does
ACLU challenges Adelanto’s crime-free rental law

By Garrett Bergthold
Staff Writer

Posted Mar 19, 2019 at 5:49 PM
Updated Mar 19, 2019 at 6:35 PM

ADELANTO — The City Council is considering repealing a local housing ordinance due to pressure by a coalition of nonprofits including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

The coalition says the mandatory program places unfair burdens on landlords and renters, which may be unconstitutional. But supporters say the controversial aspects of the program are legal, and that similar programs have successfully reduced crime nationwide.

Adopted in 2017, the Crime Free Rental Housing Program created a mandatory relationship between many of the city’s landlords and law enforcement. Landlords can be fined up to $1,000 a day for not participating and thrown in jail for up to six months.

The law — which targets renters living in apartments, condos or any other multi-unit development within the city — forces landlords to include a crime-free addendum to rental leases that stipulates “illegal activity” is an evictable offense.

The law also requires landlords to begin eviction proceedings against a tenant within 30 days of being requested by law enforcement. The law requires evidence of a crime, but not a conviction.

The coalition argues such leverage over tenants who have not been convicted of a crime infringes on their right to due process as spelled out in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments in the U.S. Constitution. They say such policies increase homelessness and deter the program’s aim of supporting public safety, while discriminating against the poor, women and people of color.
Others disagree.

Timothy Zehring, executive director of the International Crime Free Association Inc., who spearheaded the program in Arizona in 1992, after which Adelanto’s program is modeled, says even people who get evicted after breaking lease amendments barring criminal activity receive due process.

“People being evicted before being convicted, that sounds bad,” Zehring said. “But let’s get real, every person has the right to due process, nobody ever gets evicted until they have their day in court.”

Zehring argues the crime-free lease addendum is no different than lease provisions barring tenants from smoking or housing pets. If eviction proceedings begin, tenants have the ability to present their case to an eviction judge, he said.

He added his association is a training agency that has no oversight or official stance on how individual municipalities execute their versions of the program.

The crime-free lease addendum required by the city does not require landlords to evict tenants for such activity, but only allows for it, according to the Adelanto website.

Zehring spoke to the Daily Press on the program in general. He would not comment on Adelanto’s specific interpretation, although he said his association recommends cities implement voluntary programs, not mandatory ones.

“Anytime you make something mandatory, you face a lot of resistance,” he said.

Adelanto’s Crime Free Rental Housing Program also requires landlords collect extensive information on their tenants to share with law enforcement, including up-to-date pictures and tenant contact information.

“It works,” said Judy Hink, a resident, at a recent Council meeting. “And you don’t get rid of something that works.”

Hink said her mobile home park in north Adelanto has seen less crime since the program was implemented in 2017.
But opponents such as the ACLU and the Victor Valley Family Resource Center in Hesperia say the program flies in the face of anti-discrimination laws at the state and federal level, plus the U.S. Constitution.

During a Feb. 27 presentation to the City Council, ACLU staff attorney Adrienna Wong said laws similar to Adelanto’s that have been through the legal process have been shown by the judicial system to disproportionately affect women, particularly survivors of domestic violence, people of color, and people with disabilities.

“Why?” Wong asked the Council. “Because those are people who are more likely to be in situations where they are calling for help, and calls for service are often what trigger evictions under programs like this.”

Wong said the law infringes on legal protections guaranteed by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, passed in 1959. The act seeks to combat sexual harassment and other forms of unlawful discrimination in employment and housing.

Adelanto’s website claims a person’s behavior is not a protected class under the law’s federal version, the Federal Fair Housing Act, therefore negating this law’s alleged promotion of discrimination or profiling.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevevonna Evans sees it’s a different way.

“I don’t see a need for us to have this ordinance at all,” she said. “It’s discriminatory against lower income people.”

But Councilwoman Joy Jeannette disagrees.

“I cannot see changing something that works so well,” she said.

Wong also cited recent state legislation as a possible legal hurdle to Adelanto’s crime-free law. The Right to a Safe Home Act, passed in 2018, guarantees tenants reprieve from nuisance ordinance-related evictions if they call for help from police.
Since Adelanto’s program discourages people from calling police out of fear of eviction, according to Wong, it interferes with protections under the Right to a Safe Home Act.

The debate marks the second time VVFRC has joined with ACLU to challenge a local municipality’s version of this law.

In 2017, Hesperia was pressured into amending its crime-free program to become voluntary thanks to litigation brought on by VVFRC and the ACLU. In 2018, Hesperia paid $485,000, mostly toward ACLU’s legal fees, once the lawsuit settlement was finalized.

Adelanto staff recommended to the Council on March 13 that the city amend the ordinance due to the high costs of litigation.

“Crime-free housing ordinances like those the City adopted have been the target of litigation in Southern California for the past decade,” the March 13 staff report reads. “The plaintiffs in these suits have been largely successful in persuading both state and federal courts that laws like the City has are unconstitutional.”

Following the March 13 discussion of the ordinance, the Council appeared ready to follow the staff recommendation.

A workshop is to be scheduled in the future while city staff draft a replacement ordinance.

Garrett Bergthold can be reached at 760-955-5368 or G Bergthold@VV Daily Press.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Garrett.
Homebuying slump: Sales drop 6% in Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Upland, Fontana

Home sales in Western San Bernardino County last year totaled 5,729 vs. 6,075 a year earlier, a decline of 5.7 percent.

By JONATHAN LANSNER | jlansner@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: March 19, 2019 at 2:47 pm | UPDATED: March 19, 2019 at 2:48 pm
Homebuying in and around Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Upland, and Fontana fell 6 percent in a year with the fewest countywide sales since 2014.

Key culprits in the slowdown include higher mortgage rates and economic uncertainty — not to mention homeowners seeking new residences who couldn’t unload their current home. Here’s what my trusty spreadsheet told me when looking at house-hunting patterns at the neighborhood level.

ICYMI: I.E. homes: More affordable than you think?

ATTOM Data Solutions found these homebuying trends in Western San Bernardino County communities around the 10, 15 and 60 freeways — fourth-quarter median selling prices and 2018 total sales …

**Purchases:** Home sales last year totaled 5,729 vs. 6,075 a year earlier, a decline of 5.7 percent.

**Who’s up:** Prices increased in 13 of this region’s 15 ZIP codes as sales rose in three ZIPs.

**Countywide:** $311,000 median selling price, up 3.7 percent. Prices rose in 53 of 65 San Bernardino County ZIP codes tracked. Sales of 24,592 vs. a year earlier, a decline of 7.6 percent. Sales rose in 13 of 65 ZIPs countywide.

*How homebuying fared at the neighborhood level …*

**Alta Loma 91739:** $657,500 median, up 5.2
percent. Price rank? No. 1 of 65 ZIPs. Sales of 465 vs. 524 a year earlier, a decline of 11.3 percent.

**Chino Hills 91761**: $459,500 median, up 9.5 percent. Price rank? No. 9 of 65. Sales of 387 vs. 348 a year earlier, a gain of 11.2 percent.

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**Chino 91762**: $415,000 median, up 9.2 percent. Price rank? No. 13 of 65. Sales of 445 vs. 507 a year earlier, a decline of 12.2 percent.

**Rancho Cucamonga 91763**: $435,000 median, up 13.3 percent. Price rank? No. 11 of 65. Sales of 220 vs. 233 a year earlier, a decline of 5.6 percent.

**Rancho Cucamonga 91764**: $399,000 median, up 8.4 percent. Price rank? No. 15 of 65. Sales of 347 vs. 406 a year earlier, a decline of 14.5 percent.

**Etiwanda 91784**: $650,000 median, up 0.6 percent. Price rank? No. 2 of 65. Sales of 343 vs. 369 a year earlier, a decline of 7.1 percent.
Ontario 91786: $475,000 median, up 11.8 percent. Price rank? No. 7 of 65. Sales of 418 vs. 458 a year earlier, a decline of 8.7 percent.

Ontario 92252: $172,500 median, up 7.8 percent. Price rank? No. 58 of 65. Sales of 285 vs. 291 a year earlier, a decline of 2.1 percent.

Montclair 92256: $225,000 median, up 95.7 percent. Price rank? No. 48 of 65. Sales of 84 vs. 73 a year earlier, a gain of 15.1 percent.

Ontario 92277: $112,000 median, down 3.7 percent. Price rank? No. 62 of 65. Sales of 480 vs. 440 a year earlier, a gain of 9.1 percent.

Upland 92284: $210,000 median, up 23.5 percent. Price rank? No. 53 of 65. Sales of 615 vs. 644 a year earlier, a decline of 4.5 percent.

Upland 92285: $130,000 median, up 61.5 percent. Price rank? No. 61 of 65. Sales of 92 vs. 94 a year earlier, a decline of 2.1 percent.

Fontana 92335: $340,000 median, up 6.3 percent. Price rank? No. 25 of 65. Sales of 487 vs. 575 a year earlier, a decline of 15.3 percent.

Fontana 92336: $440,000 median, up 1.6 percent. Price rank? No. 10 of 65. Sales of 1,061 vs. 1,113 a year earlier, a decline of 4.7 percent.

Fontana 92337: $373,500 median, up 4.8 percent. Price rank? No. 19 of 65. Sales of 353 vs. 405 a year earlier, a decline of 12.8 percent.

RELATED ARTICLES

Home sales in Southern California have
San Bernardino police captain, a 27-year department veteran, placed on leave

Department would not disclose the reasons for the move, calling it a confidential personnel issue.
San Bernardino police Capt. Rich Lawhead, a department veteran of 27 years, has been placed on paid leave pending an administrative investigation, the agency confirmed Tuesday, March 19.

Department spokeswoman Sadie Albers would not comment on the investigation, saying it was a confidential personnel matter. Reached by telephone Tuesday, Lawhead declined to comment.

Lawhead’s leave comes as the department proposes dramatic changes in the absence of its police chief, Jarrod Burguan, who has been out on medical leave since January following knee replacement surgery.

On Tuesday evening, Mayor John Valdivia and acting police Chief Eric McBride were scheduled to share with the community on Facebook Live plans to open as many as five police substations around town to increase officer availability and reduce response times. That matter also will be addressed at Wednesday’s City Council meeting, along with a
San Bernardino police captain, a 27-year department veteran, placed on leave – San Bernardino Sun

proposal to reopen the Police Department jail and contract out prisoner transportation services to private companies.

Reached by telephone Tuesday, Burguan declined to comment.

Albers said the plan is for Burguan to return as chief once he has been cleared for full duty.

“I think he’s clear for light duty right now, but they’re waiting until he’s fully cleared,” Albers said. “He’s just in the tail end of his recovery right now.”

A former Marine, Lawhead began his career with the department in February 1992 after working as a deputy for the San Diego County and Tulare County sheriffs’ departments. During his tenure in San Bernardino, Lawhead has worked as a patrolman, a motor officer, a bicycle officer, a cargo theft investigator, and in Problem-Oriented Policing.

He also served as the lead investigator in the department’s Traffic Division and, over time, ascended the ranks. He was promoted to captain in January 2018, according to the city’s website. He now heads the Quality of Life Team and Community Affairs Division.

Staff writer Brian Whitehead contributed to this report
4 hurt when truck crashes into San Bernardino bar

A pick-up truck crashed through the wall of a San Bernardino bar at 25461 E Baseline Street just after midnight Wednesday, March 20. Four people were hurt in the incident. (Courtesy Cal Fire)
Four people were hurt when a large pickup truck crashed into a San Bernardino bar early Wednesday morning.

The driver of the truck hit several vehicles before slamming into Party Doll bar at 25461 E. Baseline St., according to Cal Fire officials.

Firefighters were called to the area around 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, for a motorist in distress, officials said. When they arrived, the driver sped away hitting other vehicles and objects before crashing through the bar’s sidewall and nearly breaking through a second wall.

There were about 15 people inside the bar at the time. One person suffered moderate injuries. Three others complained of minor injuries, Cal Fire officials said. Three people in total were taken to the hospital.

It's unclear if the driver was one of the people hurt in the crash or if the person was arrested.

San Bernardino County sheriff's authorities were also called to the scene.
3 arrested on suspicion of stealing $10,000 bicycle and running over Chino bicycle shop employee

Two men and a woman from Kern County were arrested Monday on suspicion of stealing an expensive bicycle from a shop in Chino in February and running over a store employee with a truck as she tried to stop them.

Ronald Wolfe, 20, of Frazier Park; and Kyle and Nichole Stewart, 27 and 23, both of Taft, were arrested in their towns of residence, according to the Chino Police Department.

The department said in a press release that the three were allegedly involved in a burglary on Feb. 12, when Wolfe and Kyle Stewart walked into Incycle Bicycles in Chino, grabbed a bicycle valued at $10,000 and left the store. Police said they got into a GMC Sierra, which police said Nichole Stewart was driving, and left the area.
“A female employee attempted to stop the suspects and was run over, suffering critical injuries to her head and torso,” police said. “The female victim was hospitalized with significant injuries but has since been released.”

Police said Wolfe and both Stewarts are suspected of committing similar thefts across Los Angeles and Orange counties.

All three were booked into the West Valley Detention Center on suspicion of robbery, conspiracy and attempted murder.
A person was hit and killed by a vehicle on Tuesday night while on foot on the 215 Freeway in San Bernardino.

California Highway Patrol logs said the person was running across the southbound lanes of the 215 Freeway before he was hit. The collision happened near the Auto Center Road onramp.
Man arrested on suspicion of exposing himself to people in Victorville and Rancho Cucamonga

By ROBERT GUNDREN | rgundren@scng.com |
PUBLISHED: March 19, 2019 at 11:13 pm | UPDATED: March 19, 2019 at 11:29 pm

A Victorville man has been arrested on suspicion of exposing himself to multiple people in Victorville and Rancho Cucamonga.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department arrested Tyrone Carlis Reid Jr., 36, Monday afternoon on suspicion of indecent exposure.

Officials said deputies started an investigation after a report of a man who parked his car next to a woman, who was also parked and in her car, opened his car door and started touching himself in front of her.
“He then exited his vehicle with his genitals fully exposed and continued to touch himself,” the sheriff’s department said. “Another vehicle pulled into the parking lot near them and the suspect left the location.”

The Sheriff’s Department said multiple incidents with similar circumstances were reported throughout Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville, and that all victims reported the suspect as a man matching Reid’s description who was driving either a blue or gray Chrysler sedan or dark gray Mazda sedan.
“Through investigation the suspect was identified as Reid,” the sheriff’s department said. “An arrested warrant was issued for Reid. Deputies located him near Amargosa Road and Topango Lane in Victorville.”

Reid was booked into the High Desert Detention Center on suspicion of indecent exposure and released later that night.

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Chino Hills repair work could take 3 weeks following water line break

“Detectives believe there may be other victims and incidents involving this suspect, throughout the High Desert and Inland Empire,” the Sheriff’s Department said, adding anyone with information about the investigation was asked to contact Detective C. Gomez at (760) 241-2911 or Sheriff’s Dispatch at (760) 956-5001.

Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-

Work shuts down D Street ramps

By Scott Nordhues

Posted at 9:52 AM
Updated at 9:52 AM

VICTORVILLE — Crews continued work this week on the rebuilding of Interstate 15 interchanges at D Street.

The on- and off-ramps, closed last week by the California Department of Transportation, will remain shut down until 6 a.m. March 25.

D Street, however, remains open to west and eastbound traffic while the ramps are closed. For the safety of road workers, Caltrans is asking motorists to reduce driving speeds in the area in which construction is being done.

To access D Street from southbound I-15, motorists may take the E Street off ramp, head east toward Sixth Street or take the Stoddard Wells Road off-ramp east to Highway 18.

To access I-15 from D Street, motorists may take Sixth Street north over the railroad tracks and head west on E Street to the I-15 on ramp, or take Highway 18 east to Stoddard Wells Road, then west to the I-15 on-ramp.

The freeway project involves widening the Mojave River Bridge, rebuilding interchanges at Stoddard Wells Road and D and E streets, and replacing the Stoddard Wells Road overcrossing.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be $76 million, according to Caltrans.
Immigrant detainees stage hunger strike at Adelanto facility

About 100 people aren't eating, to raise awareness of mistreatment

The Adelanto Detention Facility, a privately run center that holds immigrant detainees, is the largest in California and one of the largest in the country. (Micah Escamilla, Press Enterprise/SCNG)
Immigrant detainees at the Adelanto Detention Facility, a privately run center that has been criticized for providing inadequate care, are staging a hunger strike to bring attention to conditions there.

Their demands: adequate medical care, an end to what they describe as abusive treatment, and access to edible, nutritious food.

The hunger strike began in the facility’s west wing on Thursday, March 14, when some 150 men refused to go to the cafeteria, said Lizbeth Abeln, immigrant detention coordinator for the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice. That led to a brief lockdown, with detainees kept in their immediate areas and visits with attorneys and families cancelled. She said some some detainees still were not being allowed visitors as of March 19.

It was unclear how many are still participating in the hunger strike, but the number is believed to be at least 100, Abeln said.

“They’re trying to highlight the abuses… The guards at GEO are not respecting their basic human rights,” Abeln said, referring to GEO Group, Inc., the company that owns and runs the facility.

The immigrant detainees were particularly upset this week because a young detainee was beaten up by at least one guard and he did not receive immediate medical treatment, according to Abeln.

A spokeswoman for GEO referred questions to ICE, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. Lori Haley, a spokeswoman for ICE, said she could not reply to the allegation.
that a teen detainee was injured by a guard without knowing the names of the people involved.

The strike comes on the heels of reports that blasted the facility for its care – or lack of care – of people who are in detention while they await for their cases to be processed in immigration court. (Detention centers like Adelanto’s house people who crossed into the United States illegally, and others who arrived legally, many of them seeking asylum.)

The Adelanto center, which can house up to 2,000 detainees, has long faced criticism for how it treats its detainees. Last year, federal investigators found nooses fashioned from bedsheets in some 20 cells. There was at least one suicide, by hanging, in 2017, and five other deaths, some due to medical neglect, according to the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

A report released earlier this month by Disability Rights California, a non-profit legal watchdog group, found that people running Adelanto under report the number of suicide attempts at the center, and that detainees are subject to “punitive,
Immigrant detainees stage hunger strike at Adelanto facility – Daily Bulletin

prison-like conditions that harm people with disabilities.” The report also found that Adelanto detainees get inadequate medical and mental health care, and that guards have used pepper spray on some mentally ill detainees.

Last month, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra issued a separate report that also described detainees getting inadequate access to medical care, legal counsel and family visits at Adelanto and other centers in California that house immigrant detainees. Adelanto is the largest such privately run facility in the state.

A former detainee, Carlos Hidalgo, 51, of North Hollywood, said he was being held at Adelanto when he led a hunger strike there in 2016. The goal at the time, he said, was to raise awareness about complaints echoed this week – better medical care, better treatment, decent food.

Immigrant detainees in Adelanto were treated like criminals, even though they are not criminal detainees, and often didn’t receive prompt medical treatment, he said. The food, he added, was sometimes beyond gross: “They gave us ground turkey but we found it infected with maggots.”

The outcome of that three-day hunger strike? Officials locked down the facility and he was transferred to the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange County, he said. Hidalgo doesn’t expect much will come out of the current hunger strike either, except raising awareness.

“It ain’t going to get very far. But it’s a good way to call attention to the situation that everyone turns a blind eye to.”
Storm could bring light rain, snow, thunderstorms to Inland Empire

RIVERSIDE — A storm system moving in from the northwest could drop
Storm could bring light rain, snow, thunderstorms to Inland Empire – San Bernardino Sun

light rain in Riverside and San Bernardino counties Wednesday, snow in the mountains and will bring a chance of thunderstorms, according to the National Weather Service.

The low-pressure system will begin dropping rain after sunrise Wednesday morning, and periods of showers will continue through Thursday night, NWS Meteorologist Miguel Miller said.

“The storm is bringing plenty of moisture with it, but not a great deal of energy,” Miller said.

Around one-tenth of an inch of rain is expected in the Riverside and San Bernardino metropolitan areas Wednesday, while up to two-tenths of an inch could fall in the San Gorgonio Pass near Banning and around three-tenths of an inch is forecast for the mountains, according to the NWS.

Less than one-tenth of an inch is expected in Lake Elsinore, Temecula and the Coachella Valley.

The chance of measurable precipitation Wednesday has been set at 70 percent for the mountains and valleys, 50 percent in the San Gorgonio Pass near Banning and 20 percent in the Coachella Valley, forecasters said.

Snow levels were at 6,000 feet Wednesday morning and will drop to
around 4,500 feet by Thursday morning before rising to 5,000 feet in the afternoon, Miller said.

Mt. San Jacinto could get between 4 to 6 inches of snow through Thursday night, the meteorologist said.

The NWS issued a winter weather advisory which will be in effect from 5 p.m. Wednesday to 8 p.m. Thursday in the county mountains above 5,500 feet.

Periods of snow could create travel difficulties to those areas, NWS officials warned.

The storm will also bring a slight chance of thunderstorms Wednesday afternoon through early evening.

It is unlikely that flooding, mud and debris flows will develop around the Cleveland National Forest and the Temescal Valley, according to the Riverside County Emergency Management Department.

More information is available at www.rivcoready.org.

A wide area skirting the eastern boundary of the Cleveland National Forest was left exposed to potential flood and mud damage because of the 23,000-acre Holy Fire in August. The arson blaze denuded steep terrain below Santiago Peak, permitting water to flow unchecked onto lower slopes where subdivisions are situated.

Heavy rainfall on Valentine’s Day resulted in significant flooding,
prompts street closures and evacuations. A homeless woman died Feb. 14 when she was swept away by a heavy water flow in a concrete stormwater channel in Riverside, and several homes in Lake Elsinore were damaged by the downpour.

After the storm moves southeast out of the region by Thursday night, dry weather is expected Friday before another low-pressure system brings a slight chance of showers on Saturday, Miller said.

High temperatures Wednesday include 38 in Running Springs; 42 in Big Bear; 44 in Wrightwood; 55 in Yucaipa; 56 in Hesperia; 59 in Victorville; 60 in Redlands and Temecula; 61 in Hemet, Menifee and Perris; 62 in Lake Elsinore, Murrieta and Rancho Cucamonga; 63 in Ontario, Riverside and San Bernardino; 68 in Desert Hot Springs; 72 in Palm Springs; 73 in Palm Desert; 77 in Blythe and Indio;

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Mild storm to bring showers to much of Southern California Wednesday through Thursday

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Southern California’s rain and chilly temperatures predicted to break by Thursday

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More deputies for Riverside County Sheriff Department could lower fees for contract cities

Years of rate hikes have led some cities to consider other options for police protection

Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG).
Hiring more deputies will ease the financial strain on cities that rely on the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement, Sheriff Chad Bianco said in a recent interview.

Not everybody agrees with Bianco on this, but if it proves to be true the county’s current push to bring on more deputies could stave off a potential financial problem in a county already facing several.

The background isn’t controversial. Deputies are the local cops in 17 of the Riverside County’s 28 cities. Those cities pay for sheriff’s services through one- to five-year contracts. Historically, this arrangement has worked out for fledgling and medium-sized cities that avoid the overhead and liability that comes with running a police department.

But since mid-2013, hourly rates for patrol deputies have gone up almost 30 percent – according to county figures – to the point that they’re straining contract city budgets. The former sheriff, Stan Sniff, blamed rising rates on increased labor costs from union contracts approved by the Board of Supervisors.
Bianco took office in January after unseating Sniff following an acrimonious campaign. He believes the rising rates for contract cities is partly a result of the Sheriff’s Department not hiring when it could.

“Because we were so short on deputies, the cost per deputy goes up,” Bianco said in late February.

“So if we had the correct amount of staffing, we’re able to spread that cost over a wider margin.”

Sniff doesn’t agree with Bianco’s rationale. He says more hiring, at best, will only slow the rate of inflation for contract cities. Fees, he says, won’t go down.

“The question becomes ‘how do you slow the rate of advance’? It’s always going to go up. People are going to end up making more money,” Sniff said.

“The problem is you can’t go up at a rate of 5 percent per year perpetually. That is just not sustainable,” Sniff added. “Not even in the private sector do you see that.”

Bianco has said he’s launched a “massive, massive hiring campaign for every classification of employee we have” and that he can hire 650 personnel without the need for additional county funds.

“We will do everything we can to lower the (contract) rates that cities
pay,” Bianco said.

He added: “I will work with (the cities) very openly on the contract rate so they (show) where it’s coming from, how we’re getting it, what they’re paying for. And we will move on with a good relationship in the future because, really, all I see is (the rate) going down.”

Money losers?

Bianco’s comments come as the county executive office, which is separate from the Sheriff’s Department, seeks to change the contract rate. County officials said the current rate doesn’t fully reimburse the county for the cost of services to contract cities.

“The Executive Office have been working Sheriff Bianco and his team in their review of the contract patrol rate-setting process of the prior administration,” said Jeff Van Wagenen, an assistant county executive officer who oversees public safety spending.

“Once that review has been completed, the Executive Office will bring an action item to the Board of Supervisors later this year. The board remains committed to collaboration with the Sheriff’s Department in developing a rate that is fair to both our partner cities and the county.”

Some contract cities are looking at a possible life beyond the Sheriff’s Department.

The Menifee City Council voted last November to proceed with forming its own police department, and a group of cities led by Moreno Valley has explored the prospect of forming a police force through a multi-city alliance.

City managers of contract cities welcomed Bianco’s comments about trying to work with contract cities.

“It’s extremely encouraging to hear the sheriff’s ideas and his advocacy for the contract cities,” said Moreno Valley City Manager Tom DeSantis. “We’ve appreciated the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with Sheriff Bianco, and we’re grateful for his leadership in seeking
reductions to contract service costs.

“We’ll also look forward to support from the Board of Supervisors as we learn more about law enforcement contract rates proposed for the coming fiscal year.”

Temecula City Manager Aaron Adams said that after meeting with Bianco and his staff, “I can unequivocally share there is a different perspective about the sheriff operations as a whole.”

“Temecula was able to share our legitimate concerns as a contract city, while also acknowledging the many upsides we enjoy,” Adams said. “Sheriff Bianco took the time to listen, offer his opinion and share the direction he intends to lead the department, acknowledging the relationships with contract city partners.”

Adams said: “Like all contract cities, or any large business for that matter, it is important to understand your business options, study alternatives and be prepared.

“Having said that, Temecula has also acknowledged the great work of our deputies, the safety and security that has been provided to our community for three decades, the appreciation our residents have of the job law enforcement does each and every day.”

Contract cities

These cities have contracts with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department for police services.

Calimesa

Canyon Lake

Coachella

Eastvale

Indian Wells
Jurupa Valley
La Quinta
Lake Elsinore
Menifee
Moreno Valley
Norco
Palm Desert
Perris
Rancho Mirage
San Jacinto
Temecula
Wildomar

Tags: politics, public safety, Top Stories PE

Jeff Horseman
Jeff Horseman got into journalism because he liked to write and stunk at math. He grew up in Vermont and he honed his interviewing skills as a supermarket cashier by asking Bernie Sanders “Paper or plastic?” After graduating from Syracuse University in 1999, Jeff began his journalistic odyssey at The Watertown Daily Times in upstate New York, where he impressed then-U.S. Senate candidate Hillary Clinton so much she called him “John” at the end of an interview. From there, he went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he covered city, county and state government at The Capital newspaper before love and the quest for snowless winters took him in 2007 to Southern California, where he started out covering Temecula for The Press-Enterprise. Today, Jeff writes about Riverside County government and regional politics. Along the way, Jeff has covered wildfires, a tropical storm, 9/11 and the Dec. 2 terror attack in San Bernardino. If you have a question or story idea about politics or the inner workings of government, please let Jeff know. He'll do his best to answer, even if it involves a little math.
The Board of Supervisors signed off Tuesday on a report by Riverside County Auditor-Controller Paul Angulo showing the county’s liability payouts over a five-year period ran the highest per capita compared to five other counties, though the Executive Office objected to how Angulo arrived at his conclusions.

“When I see these numbers, it’s very unsettling,” Supervisor Jeff Hewitt said after reviewing the Legal Settlement Cost Report. “If they’re at all accurate, we’ve got some real issues, and we need to address them.”

County Chief Executive Officer George Johnson and his staff questioned the methods used by Angulo and his team, noting that the auditor-controller incorporated both settlements and judgments — with legal fees — against the county between Jan. 1, 2013, and Dec. 31, 2017.

However, in calculating the same five-year liability expenses for Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Clara counties, the auditor-controller only factored in “settlement costs,” not judgments and legal fees,
Johnson said.

“This creates a distortion when comparing Riverside County and other counties,” the CEO wrote in a response to Angulo’s report.

Angulo, who did not appear before the board, stands by his findings, according to Chief Assistant Auditor Rene Casillas.

“The data points were documented and confirmed,” he told the board.

The county’s total liability costs over the five-year period amounted to $136.59 million, according to the report. Only Los Angeles County’s liability outgo was higher at $321 million during the same period.
Data indicated that Riverside County's expenses were larger than Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Clara's payouts combined during the five-year time frame. However, both Angulo and board Chairman Kevin Jeffries acknowledged that San Bernardino County's $36 million in disclosed settlements was probably well below the actual number, which the auditor-controller said was not released.

Among the data tables provided by the Office of the Auditor-Controller, the one exhibiting the starkest example of the county's liability challenges was the per capita graph. It indicated that of all the counties used for comparative purposes, Riverside County had the highest disbursal rate per resident — $56.37. The county has roughly 2.2 million people.

Los Angeles County, with just over 10 million residents, was ranked second, with a per capita disbursal rate of $31.59 per resident, figures showed.
By way of contrast, Santa Clara County, which is in Northern California but was utilized as a benchmark because it has nearly the same size population as Riverside County, had a per capita disbursal rate of $15.44.

By far, the public safety segment of the county budget had the most significant liability troubles, with $84.78 million of the $136 million in settlements and negative judgments over the five-year period emanating from public safety, according to the report.

The Executive Office's response to the findings emphasized that the county receives, on average, 1,100 liability risk claims annually, and "85 percent are resolved with no financial payout."

Johnson said his staff, including attorneys from the Office of County Counsel, were working on a comprehensive analysis requested last month by Jeffries regarding what changes in county policies might be necessary to reduce liability exposure.

The analysis is due back shortly after the start of the 2019-20 fiscal year.

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New voting system in SF for November election allows 10 ranked choices

Dominic Fracassa
March 19, 2019 | Updated: March 19, 2019 4:23 p.m.

A Department of Elections worker moves a full ballot box during early voting at City Hall in San Francisco, Calif. on Monday, Nov. 5, 2018.

Photo: Stephen Lam / Special to The Chronicle
San Francisco’s Department of Elections is planning to embark on a marketing blitz starting this summer to get the word out about big changes to the city’s voting system.

Last week, the Board of Supervisors approved an $8.46 million contract through March 2023 for new voting equipment that city officials said would be more secure, easier to use and more accessible to people with disabilities. The contract, with Dominion Voting Systems, has two one-year extension options, which would cost $2.1 million per year.

“The most important thing we want people to realize is that San Francisco will still use paper ballots for voting,” said John Arntz, director of the elections department.

“The system provides security for the integrity of the entire system,” he said. “There’s no access to the Internet, through Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. ... This system has the security to prevent bad things from happening.”

Related Stories

The new machines will be used in the Nov. 5 election in San Francisco, so elections officials are looking to get the word out about what’s changing.
For starters, the machines also expand the number of candidates that voters can select in contests that use ranked-choice voting. On the older machines, voters could only rank their top three choices for offices like the mayor, the Board of Supervisors and district attorney.

With the new machines, however, voters will be able to rank up to 10 candidates. City law requires that ranked-choice ballots reflect the number of candidates running in a given election, to the extent that technology permits.

Perhaps the biggest difference voters will see, however, is the redesigned ballot. Instead of the familiar broken arrows, voters will instead fill in ovals, similar to those found on standardized tests. Ranked-choice contests will feature candidates listed on a vertical column and voters will rank their preferences, one through 10, horizontally in sequence.

To get the public ready by November, the elections department plans to roll out a “robust voter education program,” according to its voter education and outreach plan.

Beginning in April, the department will distribute advertisements, public service announcements, radio broadcasts, transit ads, social media campaigns and demonstrations, with an emphasis on limited-English-speaking populations, first-time voters and communities with historically low voter turnout.

Information about the new voting system will be sent to about 500,000 voters in October, along with general information about the November election. Another 290,000 notices will be sent with vote-by-mail ballots in October, with illustrations on how to properly mark ballots.

— Dominic Fracassa

Email: cityinsider@sfchronicle.com, dfracassa@sfchronicle.com Twitter: @sfcityinsider @dominicfracassa
MEDIA RELATIONS

Report: Journalists are ditching the press release

A recent survey of reporters revealed that many are ignoring press releases. How can you capture their attention? Turn to social media, consider data and build relationships.

By Beki Winchel
@bekiweki
May 29, 2018
The press release isn’t dead, but its traditional format is on life support.

Muck Rack and Zeno Group surveyed more than 500 journalists around the world and found that roughly half of journalists around the world (53 percent in the United States and 41 percent outside the U.S.) don’t use press releases to find new story ideas.

The survey also revealed that only 3 percent of journalists globally said that they heavily rely on them.

Sending press releases isn’t entirely a fruitless activity: Twenty-nine percent of U.S.-based reporters and 36 percent of non-U.S. based reporters said they “somewhat” rely on press releases, and 16 percent of journalists globally use press releases but would prefer a different format.

So, how can you pivot from the traditional press release?

Nearly half of reporters (49 percent) said they’d more likely pay attention to a press release if it contained an infographic, and 13 percent said they’d pay attention if a video was featured in a release.

Thirty-five percent said nothing PR pros do will make them interested in releases—so you might want to flex your social media muscles and get your storytelling juices flowing. Short, snappy pitches with an enticing narrative sent through email or Twitter will probably gain more attention.
**PR pros and reporters work together—but aren’t partners**

Along with altering (or abandoning) your press release, don’t forget the importance of relationships with reporters.

Roughly half of journalists (52 percent in the U.S. and 45 percent outside the U.S.) said they consider relationships with PR pros and agencies “mutually beneficial, but not quite a partnership.” Though only 22 percent of reporters globally think of PR pros as “a necessary evil,” far less (4 percent) overall consider them partners.

![Bar chart showing the relationship between PR pros and people at PR agencies](image)

**Social media is important, but not perfect**

When it comes to boosting your media relations efforts—and endearing journalists—look no further than social media. Along with using digital platforms to source news, many reporters consider how well their stories are going to be received online.

Sixty-three percent of journalists in the U.S.—and 68 percent outside the U.S.—track the number of times their stories are shared through social media platforms, and more than 41 percent said they consider a story’s potential for social media sharing when considering if they should write about it.

For reporters, social media is also a powerful way to source breaking news stories. More than one-third of journalists (34 percent) turn to social media platforms as their first news source, and 37 percent of journalists said they expect to spend more time on Twitter and Instagram this year. Twenty-seven percent of reporters said that Twitter is their primary news source.

However, not all platforms are golden.

Though a quarter of journalists said they aim to spend more time looking at news on LinkedIn (26 percent) and YouTube (25 percent), 16 percent said they will probably spend less time looking at LinkedIn compared to last year. Fifteen percent of reporters said they aim to spend less time on Twitter, and 44 percent said they will spend less time on Facebook.

Part of the reason for journalists turning away from social media channels is changing algorithms: The
majority (70 percent) said that the way Facebook and Twitter rank news sources isn’t helpful to their work.

**Data rules—mostly**

Measurement is an increasing focus for publications—and the journalists they employ. Though many communicators are embracing metrics, the role of data and analytics isn’t something that reporters have completely figured out yet.

More than half of the U.S. reporters surveyed (52 percent) said they use analytics to track how well their stories perform online. Forty-three percent of journalists outside the U.S. agreed. The majority (72 percent) said that measurement has affected their jobs.

However, only 35 percent of reporters said that data and analytics help them to improve the work they do, and only 30 percent of reporters in the U.S. (and 35 percent outside of the U.S.) said that metrics “increasingly influence” the stories that they cover.

Struggling with data’s role is a communications trial to which many PR pros can relate.

Use it to your advantage and include new or interesting statistics and data in your pitches. Don’t use old data or analytics that have already been widely used. Instead, sprinkle your pitch with numbers that grab journalists’ attention and clearly show why a story is important to cover.

(Image via)

**TOPICS: FEATURED, MEDIA RELATIONS**

**COMMENT**

7 Responses to “Report: Journalists are ditching the press release”

**Shel Holtz** says: December 28, 2018 at 2:13 pm

Press releases serve a host of purposes beyond getting a reporter to cover a story. While I would not rely on them for that, I would be careful about abandoning them altogether. Posting press releases to your media center or news page makes them discoverable in searches of your site as well as web searches. They get placed in trade publications, edited for style, to fill space. They serve as a single source of truth (you can point to it as your statement of record when someone inaccurately reports on your company’s activities). They still fulfill some regulatory requirements. And more.

Reply

**Ted Kitterman** says: January 3, 2019 at 9:31 am