

Fontana Herald News

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Fontana, California

January 14, 2022

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FUSD educators are honored. See Page 3

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Fohi water polo ladies triumph. See Page 9



FUSD changes its election format

District transitions to by-trustee area voting

The Fontana Unified School District is changing its approach to the voting process, transitioning from at-large to by-trustee area elections for the five members of the Board of Education.

Previously, the board members have always been elected by voters throughout the entire school district, but in future elections, each board member must reside within the designated trustee area boundary and will be elected only

by the voters in that trustee area. Voters would only vote for one seat on the board.

Back in November, the board adopted a resolution approving the district's intent to make this change and comply with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) of 2001.

The resolution passed by a margin of 4-1, with Trustee Joe Armendarez casting the No vote. (Continued on Page 7)

New COVID-19 infections continue to rise; Fontana students get testing kits

The number of new COVID-19 cases continued to rise as students returned to school in the Fontana Unified School District following their winter break.

All of the students in the district were scheduled to receive a free "Rapid Result COVID Test Kit" as part of a statewide effort to combat the ongoing Omicron threat, which has been more easily transmissible than other variants.

Health officials are urging all eligible residents to get vaccinated for the virus. In addition, the state has mandated that everyone must wear a mask in indoor public spaces and workplaces. This order, which was originally set to expire on Jan. 15, will remain in effect through Feb. 15.

In Fontana, a total of 52,196 residents have been infected with COVID-19 since the pandemic began nearly two years ago, according to a report by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health on Jan. 11. There have been 646 COVID-19 deaths in Fontana.

Within the boundaries of the FUSD, there have been 5,831 cases of coronavirus reported among children (ages 5-19).

Overall in San Bernardino County, a total of 409,871 cases have been confirmed as of Jan. 11, a sharp increase from the 400,972 that had been reported one week before.

The number of deaths in the county is 6,113. Because of the vaccines, far fewer people are dying from COVID-19 now than during the height of the huge surge in January of 2021. Since Feb. 1 of last year, the number of fatal cases with known vaccination status has been 106 for fully vaccinated persons but 930 for people who are not fully vaccinated.

Hospitalizations are increasing rapidly in the county and have now reached their highest level since last winter.

TESTING sites are continuing to see long lines.

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HERALD NEWS PHOTOS BY RUSSELL INGOLD

A Selena tribute band performs at the Fontana Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Miller Park in 2021. Despite this event and many others organized by the Community Services Department, Fontana is not considered a "fun" city, according to a report by WalletHub.

Report says Fontana isn't a 'fun' city

BY RUSSELL INGOLD

Is there are lot of "fun" in Fontana? Many residents say yes, but a new national report says: Not really.

WalletHub, a personal finance website, put together a list of the "Most Fun Cities in America," and Fontana ranked near the very bottom, alongside some other Inland Empire communities.

WalletHub compared 182 cities — including the 150 most populated U.S. cities, plus at least two of the most populated cities in each state — across three key dimensions: 1) Entertainment and Recreation, 2) Nightlife and Parties and 3) Costs.

Fontana was rated No. 177, meaning it was supposedly one of the least "fun" large cities in the nation, ahead of only Moreno Valley (No. 178), Ontario (179), Oxnard (180), Brownsville, TX (181), and Pearl City, HI (182). Rancho Cucamonga was a little bit ahead of Fontana at No. 173.

Not surprisingly, Las Vegas, NV was No. 1, followed by other major entertainment hot spots such as Orlando, FL, Atlanta, GA, Miami, FL, New Orleans, LA, and San Francisco.

The list was designed to help Americans find the cities with the "greatest number and variety of fun yet cost-effective options," based on 65 key metrics that range from fitness centers per capita to movie costs to average open hours of breweries, WalletHub said in a news release.

Fontana was described as one of the cities with the fewest restaurants per capita (No. 178). This is an apparent reference to the relatively small number of sit-down restaurants (a situation which many residents have complained about for years), as opposed to fast-food eateries, which have never been in short supply.

Jill Gonzalez, an analyst with WalletHub, said that some of the main reasons for Fontana's poor rating were "the small number of attractions, restaurants, fitness centers, movie theaters and performing arts



A local resident has fun sliding down a hill of snow at Fontana's Festival of Winter in 2021.

theaters, the lack of diversity in restaurants and the lack of shopping centers. Other areas where Fontana ranked low include bar accessibility and the number of arts and crafts supplies establishments per capita."

Still, defenders of Fontana would point to the presence of the city's modern performing arts venue (Center Stage Theater) and its numerous city-operated community centers, which offer "fun" activities for residents of all ages on a regular basis. The city also has numerous sports facilities, including the new Central City Park.

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