The San Bernardino County Sentinel

News of Note from Around the Largest County in the Lower 48 States

Late Final Edition

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Flights In And Out Of Ontario International Airport & Elsewhere Grounded

At shortly before 1 p.m. today, the Federal Aviation Authority grounded an untold number of airliners, including all of those scheduled to come into and leave Ontario International Airport.

An initial report received by the Sentinel was that the ground stop was uniform nationwide and that planes in the air had been ordered to land at the nearest airport to await further instructions and clearance to fly to their original destinations.

According to a statement from Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy shortly after the announcement of flight cancelations and delays, what was termed a "ground stop," was taking place because of "a communication issue impacting all Air Route Traffic Control Centers."

A report later in the after was that flights that were already in the air to foreign destinations were being permitted to continue to their destinations.

An unverifed media report was that more than 10,000 flights within the United States alone were delayed and more than 5,000 were canceled as of 1:50 p.m. F International flights were being handled on a case-by-case basis, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

No estimated time for resuming domestic flights had been provided by the FAA as of 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said the telecommunications outage was caused by a foreign enemy.

Nevertheless, two days prior to the wholesale flight cancellations in the United States, on November 11, the U.S. Air Force began relocating its aircraft from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and were evacuating its personnel from the facility in response to a threat from Iran.

U.S. officials, in cooperation with the Qatari government were instructing personnel at Al Udeid — the largest U.S. base in the Middle East and headquarters for U.S. Central Command to leave by the Wednesday **See P 2**

3 Most Prolific Fundraising Politicians In SBC History Defeated In This Year's Election

Something out of the ordinary was afoot during this year's election cycle in San Bernardino County, demonstrated with the vote tallying by the registrar of voters office that began prior to the close of the polls on the evening of election day, November 3, 2026 and continuing to manifest and in some cases intensify as the counting had continued in the ten days since.

At no point within the realm of institutional memory and quite possibly all of San Bernardino County history did incumbent local politicians fare more poorly than they did in the polling that ended on November 3.

Statistically across the United States, in 2024, in local, state and national races, incumbents prevailed nearly 94 percent of the time. Local incumbent candidates in isolation did slightly less well, winning around 89 percent of their races. In 2026 in San Bernardino County 42 contested local races for the city council or mayor in which an incumbent competed, incumbents won 26 of those matchups, for a 61.9 percent success rate. That meant non-incumbent challengers in San Bernardino County, astonishingly, won in more than 38 percent of the races, outperforming what was expected of them by a ratio of nearly 3.5 to one.

There are multiple factors that go some of the distance toward explicating the unexpected outcomes in many of the specific races or the races generally.

2026 across the board proved something of a challenge nationally for Republicans vying for reelection to Congress or the U.S. Senate, based on the reaction against the Trump Administration and some of its policies. Local races are officially deemed nonpartisan, but in San Bernardino County, virtually all of politics is tainted by partisanship, **See P 4**

In One Fell Swoop, County To Nix The Existence of Four Service Area Zones

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors next week ion Tuesday November 17 is scheduled to consider the dissolution of County Service Area 70, Zone R-15 in Landers; County Service Area 70, Zone R-20 in Flamingo Heights; c. County Service Area 70, Zone R-26 in Yucca Mesa West; and County Service Area 70, Zone R-29 in Yucca Mesa East.

The county will cut off its delivery of services to those four specified areas pursuant to a public hearing before the board of supervisors, which will be acting as the governing body, i.e., board of directors for ed County Service Area 70 and Zones R-15, R-20, R-26, and R-29:

In holding the and conductiong the hearing, the board will hear and determine if a written majority protest from registered voters residing within each zone exists to the proposed dissolution for zones R-15, R-20, R-26, and R-29 within County Service Area 70.

If it is determined that no unty Service Area 70, Zone R-29 Yucca Mesa East.

3. If determined that no written **See P 3**

Fontana Paid Out $3.2M To Survivors Of Man Shot By Police Officer

The City of Fontana failed to keep a $3.2 million settlement paid out earlier this year to the family of a man killed by one of its police officers in November 2023.

Based on the official reports emanating from the police department, statements of the officers involved in the incident and documentary evidence that was provided to the California Attorney General's Office, Jaime Valdez was a doper with mental health issues who engaged in erratic and increasingly aggressive and violent action when he was confronted by the single officer who confronted him while he was lying in the driveway of his aunt's home. Those statements and reports, taken together with what the California Attorney General's Office maintains was incomplete or inadequate documentation and evidentiary materials relating to the use-of-lethal-force incident, led to California Attorney General's Office's conclusion that it could not controvert the department's contention that the officer who shot Valdez, Alex Yanez, acted reasonably **See P 5**

County Board Of Supervisors Gives Lovemore Ranch Its 3rd Approval This Year

More than nine months after the San Bernardino County Planning Commission gave Axel Cramer, Dane Hollar and their company, Green Collar Builders original approval to move ahead with their proposal to build 64 homes on 18.49 acres in Joshua Tree which was interrupted by a court order nixing that go-ahead, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors have once again given Cramer, Holler and Green Collar clearance to proceed with the project.

The action by the board of supervisors on November 4 was actually the second time the supervisors granted Cramer, Holler & company go-ahead.

On January 23, 2025, the San Bernardino County Planning Commission approved the 64-unit Lovemore Ranch residential subdivision on the 18.4 acres.

More than 60 local residents, contending that neither the project proponents nor the county gave proper notice to the owners of land that falls within a distance of 300 feet of the project site such that those residents who are to be impacted by the project did not have an opportunity to weigh in with regard to it before its approval, appealed the planning commission's decision to the board of supervisors.

The board of supervisors, citing California's Housing Affordability Act, rejected the appeal, giving thumbs up to the project on April 8, 2025.

Those officials said state mandates calling on local juris- **See P 5**

Inexplicable Payment By County To Cover "Crisis Communications And Issues Management Services" On Tap Next Week

Buried in San Bernardino County's $10.9 billion ongoing 2026-27 budget are a number of expenditures about which at least some members of the public have questions, in some cases abiding ones.

One such expenditure is the $200,000 already being provided to an entity known as Idea Hall. This week, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is due to up the $200,000 being paid to Idea Hall by $150,000, making the value of the contract $350,000.

The description of the services rendered is "crisis communications and issues management services."

No further description of the service or the action is given, and the item on the agenda for the board to approve the increase does not, as has traditionally been the case, contain a staff report to provide an explanation of the services provided, to which county department the services are to be provided and an explanation of why the contract amount is being increased.

The agenda language does state that amendment to the contract includes "non-standard terms," which normally signifies that there was no competitive bidding for either the original contract of the contract increase.

There are two attachments to the agenda, one of which is the resolution to adopt the **See P 3**