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INLAND EMPIRE

ICE crackdown brings national issue to cities



Fontana mayoral candidate Joz Sida stands outside Fontana City Hall on Sept. 23. Sida, outraged by the recent federal immigration raids, says she feels the need to step up for her community. ANJALI SHARIF-PAUL — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Heated topic spills over into council agendas and local campaigns

By Jeff Horseman JHORSEMAN@SCNG.COM

In simpler times, potholes and parks might be the talk of city hall.

But with the Trump administration's crackdown on undocumented immigrants rattling their residents, Inland Empire city councils find themselves joining courtrooms and Home Depot parking lots as flash points in a fight normally reserved for Congress and the White House.

Since President Donald Trump took office in January, "the topic of immigration significantly moved to the forefront of the policy conversation" in Moreno Valley, said Ulises Cabrera, the city's mayor.

While U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in Los Angeles and the protests against them make national news, masked ICE agents in unmarked vehicles hunting for those in the country illegally also visited Inland cities this summer.

In July, Perris Mayor



Moreno Valley Mayor Ulises Cabrera, pictured June 12, 2024, said he believes people are avoiding public gatherings in his city. WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ing reports of ICE activity in olics from attending Sunday his city. Also that month, San Mass if they're afraid of being Michael Vargas urged resi- Bernardino Diocese Bishop picked up by ICE.

dents to stay inside follow- Alberto Rojas excused Cath-

Local Republicans argue the activity is long overdue

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MIDDLE EAST

Israel eyeing hostage release

Netanyahu hopes to make announcement in 'coming days' as Hamas talks near

By Sam Mednick and Samy Magdy THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, Israel – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hopes to announce the release of all hostages from Gaza "in the coming days," as Israel and Hamas prepare for indirect talks in Egypt on Monday on a new U.S. plan to end

In a brief statement late Saturday, Netanyahu said he has sent a delegation to Egypt "to finalize technical details," adding that "our goal is to contain these negotiations to a time frame of a few days.'

But Netanyahu signaled there would not be a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, something Hamas has long demanded. He said Israel's military will continue to hold territories it controls in Gaza and that Hamas will be disarmed in the plan's second phase, diplomatically "or through a military path

The prime minister spoke after Hamas said it has accepted some elements of the U.S. plan. President Donald Trump welcomed the militant group's

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BUSINESS

Amazon Fresh closing 4 grocery stores in SoCal

Bv Pat Maio PMAIO@SCNG.COM

Amazon plans to close four of its Amazon Fresh supermarkets in Southern California by mid-November as it reevaluates store performance.

After the closures, the company will operate 19 Fresh stores in the region, accounting for nearly a third of the 62 stores in a nine-state footprint. California has the most locations, with 26 stores.

"Certain locations work better than others, and after an assessment, we've decided to close the Amazon Fresh stores in La Habra, La Verne, Mission Viejo and Whittier," Amazon spokesman Griffin

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STATE SENATE

Lawmaker adjusts amid cancer fight

Reyes balanced chemo with Zoom meetings, phone calls before return

By Jeff Horseman

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It wasn't how Eloise Gómez Reyes envisioned her swearing-in.

room in December, wrapped in her mother's shawl to cloak her medical gown as she took the oath of office to officially become a state senator.

the Inland Empire as an Assem-

Reyes, 69, was diagnosed with cancer — she declined to say what kind – around the time she won a four-year Senate term last November.

 $Her \, swearing\hbox{-}in \, kicked \, off \, not$ Yet there she was in a hospital only her first term in a new role but months of balancing medical treatments with her body's need to recover and her work on behalf of roughly 1 million people in Rialto, San Bernardino and A Democrat who represented parts of Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Rancho Cucamonga, bly member for eight years, Redlands and Upland.

"I felt a lot of pressure," Reyes said in a Tuesday interview. "I wanted to get better. I wanted to get better sooner. ... I pushed myself until the doctor said 'Stop pushing yourself.'"

The daughter of immigrants, Reyes, who later became an attorney, grew up near train tracks in Colton and picked onions and grapes in the fields as a 12-year-old to buy new school clothes. In the Assembly, Reyes

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State Sen. Eloise Gómez Reyes, D-San Bernardino, raises her arm triumphantly during an August ribbon-cutting ceremony to reopen the reconstructed Mt. Vernon Avenue Bridge in San Bernardino. Reyes, who started her first term as a state senator in late 2024, balanced her job with cancer treatments this past legislative session. PHOTO COURTESY OF REYES' OFFICE





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