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the SCOOP

Hassled passengers



The Federal Aviation Administration blamed a communication breakdown at one of its facilities for the delay of flights at about three dozen major airports across the country on Tuesday. A spokeswoman said there were no safety issues and officials were still able to speak to pilots on planes on the ground and in the air.

Read more on Page A11

Southwest cuts flights

ONTARIO — Southwest Airlines is slashing two nonstop daily flights out of L.A./Ontario International Airport in January, adding to almost 30 other daily and peak-day flights being cut by multiple carriers over the next few months at the airport.

Higher fuel prices and stiff competition are eroding profits for several airlines, but a Southwest Airlines spokeswoman said the changes at the Ontario airport aren't related to those factors.

"These are more seasonal changes," she said. "Demand dips in January and February."

The two flights being cut, to Las Vegas and Sacramento, could come back, but only time will tell. The company previously announced it was discontinuing one flight to Phoenix.

The cuts are on top of Express Jet's announcement in July that it will pull the plug on 22 flights Sept. 1, and Jet Blue's announcement of ending its only flight out of Ontario International on Sept. 2. Express Jet brought the airport about \$5.2 million in landing fees, lease, concession and parking revenues between

April 2007 and last April.

The recent announcements by carriers are no doubt hard for airport officials to deal with.

Still, "we're very optimistic," said Maria Tesoro-Fermin, airport spokeswoman. "We consider this an unprecedented experience, but we're optimistic this is a cycle and we'll bounce back just like we did after 9/11."

— matthew.wrye@inlandnewspapers.com



INSIDE

DEMAND DOWN

Read more about Southwest Airlines' decision to cut back, including two flights out of L.A./Ontario International Airport.

PAGE D1

Hearing continues

Jurors in the sentencing hearing of convicted child killer Joseph Edward Duncan III heard testimony about how he worked near where two girls' bodies were discovered, a day after an FBI agent testified that Duncan confessed to those slayings and to the 1997 slaying of Anthony Martinez in Riverside County.

Read more on Page A11



'Yucaipa Now'

Mobile journalist Bob Otto keeps a watchful eye over the city of Yucaipa with his blog, "Yucaipa Now." We've cobbled some items from that blog and put them in the paper.

Read more on Page A8

Nothing to hide

Columnist John Weeks says all I.E. newspaper columnists should submit to voluntary random drug testing. Including himself.

"I don't have anything too horribly awful to hide," he says.

Read more on Page B1

'Battlestar' survives

"Battlestar Galactica" fans, rejoice! The cult-favorite TV series franchise will power forward into the future, despite dismal ratings.

Read more on Page B4

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FROM THE CONVENTION

United front



The Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton had a simple message Tuesday for her still-loyal supporters: This election isn't about her anymore.

The former first lady, declaring herself "a proud supporter of Barack Obama," ceded the nomination that was almost hers in a prime-time speech to Democratic delegates in Denver.

She also had some words about Obama's Republican opponent: "No way. No how. No McCain."

Read more about the convention on Page A14.

INSIDE | A14

FROM DENVER

Anti-war protesters give a glimpse of Iraq outside the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday.



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LIVE UPDATES

Visit our Web site for live updates from the convention.

Board OKs new supe's chief of staff



Erwin

By Lauren McSherry
Staff Writer

Known within San Bernardino County as a political power broker and a man who has survived a number of government scandals, Jim Erwin became incoming 3rd District Supervisor Neil Derry's chief of staff Tuesday morning.

Erwin will earn an annual salary of \$146,390.40 and will start

work on Monday, county officials said.

The Board of Supervisors approved his appointment with a 4-0 vote. Outgoing 3rd District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger abstained.

Erwin has worked as a sheriff's deputy, union leader and top official in the Assessor's Office. He will oversee staff and work on

programs and policies for the county's second largest district, which stretches from the San Bernardino Mountains to Yucca Valley.

During the meeting, 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales questioned whether paying for Erwin to begin working for Derry three months before Derry takes

See ERWIN | Page A4

Haze covers police clash

One year later, probe continues

By Robert Rogers
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Sitting in her garage just a few feet from where police and residents clashed on Aug. 19, 2007, Yvonne Forbush is still disturbed.

"It was scary," said Forbush, 57. "It was like nothing I'd ever seen."

And what actually happened on her small street in the West Side apartment complex known as The Dorjils is still fuzzy more than one year later.

An internal Police Department investigation of the altercation between police and mourners at a curbside vigil is still unfinished, police officials said.

Whatever happened at the reports that were made today by your neighbors and friends," Morris said that day, before promising her "a thorough investigation."

Later, 6th Ward Councilman Rikke Van Johnson demanded to review the 9-1-1 tapes that prompted police to show up at the vigil.

City Attorney James F. Penman said at the time that a state Supreme Court ruling granted police chiefs the right to provide or withhold tapes.

Police Chief Michael Biltdt did not release the tapes.

See DORJILS | Page A4

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