Firefighters rescue 2 people, 3 pets after storm waters trap them under overpass in San Bernardino

By **Emily Mcginn** | emcginn@scng.com

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San Bernardino County fire crews rescued two people, two cats and a dog trapped in a wash in San Bernardino on Thursday, Nov. 19 as storms swept across the area.

A man and a woman who were experiencing homelessness became trapped beneath an overpass in the 900 block of South E St. as rain pushed water levels higher. Fire crews began a swift water rescue just before 1:30 p.m, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Crews lowered life jackets and helmets to the man and woman and then lowered a ladder down from the overpass so that a rescuer could climb down into the wash to help the man and woman to safety. Each of them was carrying a pet.

Firefighters then learned that another dog was still trapped beneath the overpass, and a firefighter climbed back down to rescue the remaining dog, according to fire department officials.

Throughout the rescue, firefighters deployed a drone to offer additional aerial views of the situation.

Paramedics evaluated the man and the woman who were rescued at the scene but both declined hospitalization.

Two tons of trash removed from Adelanto homeless encampment

Brian Day

Victorville Daily Press

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County officials removed 2 tons of garbage this month from a vacant 1-acre lot in Adelanto that was being used as a homeless encampment, officials said.

The massive cleanup effort in the 10000 block of Cactus Street was spearheaded by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Community Service & Reentry Division, alongside Bernardino County Code Enforcement.

Officials converged on the site, "an approximately one-acre property that had become an established homeless encampment," according to a sheriff's department statement. "The property was located approximately one mile from a high school and half a mile from a residential community."

The 2 tons of trash and debris hauled off the property included 10 disassembled motorcycles, along with mattresses, tents and a wide assortment of garbage.

"This coordinated effort addressed significant property maintenance and quality-of-life concerns while restoring the property to a cleaner and safer condition," the statement said.

Outreach efforts preceded cleanup

For more than a month leading up to the cleanup, from Sept. 23 to Nov. 1, sheriff's officials partnered with the High Desert InnROADS Multi-Disciplinary Homeless Outreach Team and made repeated efforts to contact people living at the site, the agency said.

"During these contacts, they offered various resources and supportive services intended to address individual needs and provide opportunities for stabilization," the statement said.

Sheriff's officials said the individuals declined offered services and left the property, leaving belongings and debris behind.

The Fresno Bee

‘We clearly failed.’ State audits Fresno County social services amid allegations

By Thaddeus Miller Updated November 17, 2026 2:45 PM

An audit from state officials found Fresno County’s system for foster care failed its response times and needed clear methods and assessments for determining if a child could be returned to a potentially unsafe home, among other findings released Monday.

The audit from the state Department of Social Services came after a request from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. The state investigators conducted a two-day audit during an on-site visit in Fresno County on June 23 and 24. They reviewed 50 referrals and 40 foster care cases, according to the audit report.

“The results are extremely troubling, and identify serious deficiencies in Fresno County’s child welfare services operations and reflect systemic problems within the department,” Supervisor Garry Bredefeld said on Monday in a news conference.

Asked if the assessment was “pass or fail,” Bredefeld said, “It wasn’t a pass or fail, but we clearly failed.”

Here are some of the failings listed in the report:

- About 23.5% of 10-day referrals received timely in-person contact after child abuse allegations. The average was 17.1 days, with one case that took two months.
- Only 10 of 23 required child safety assessments were completed according to policy. The others were missing or inadequate.
- About 60% of investigator referrals had risk assessments that were missing, incomplete or late.
- About 83% of reviewed cases to reunite children with family had no safety or risk assessment of the home.
- About 32% of the referrals reviewed under the Indian Child Welfare Act did not include required inquiries.

A whistleblower reported issues in March to the board before they made the request for the audit, but it wasn’t the first red flag. The same whistleblower, Lorraine Ramirez, who retired from social work, previously spoke to The Fresno Bee in 2021 to shine a light on the poor conditions in which foster children were housed.

The department has a checkered past and had made headlines for foster children left to sleep in county buildings without beds and having dozens of foster children on runaway status in recent years.

Many employees in the social services department have been sounding the alarm for years but have not been able to get the management to listen, according to Mike Garcia, a county employee and union representative with SEIU 521.

He said the county's problems are "systemic" and administrators are often too set on following a plan they dole out to employees without listening to the employees actually in the field who see the problems.

"It's been the same problem for a long time, and it's the policies and procedures that management have in place," Garcia said. "We bring up issues and concerns. They're brushed off. They're ignored, and then they pretend like they're actually not issues."

Fresno County officials at the news conference on Monday said county employees will be held accountable though they did not name any specific administrators.

CAO Paul Nerland said the county will work to respond to the state report's deadline of Nov. 30 for its initial response. There is also a 12-month review and follow-up process around the systems that care for less than 2,000 children.

"We've been in contact and working with leadership of the department as they work on an aggressive action plan," Nerland said. "The county is working on a multistep process that will include reorganization of leadership in child welfare."

The state report listed 12 recommendations, including some immediate fixes and others for longer term solutions. Among those were for the county to immediately implement safety assessments in every investigation into alleged child abuse, use an "Emergency Response Protocol" to determine priorities for response times, require in-person meetings with families in abuse allegation cases, and add policies about required documentation, among other recommendations.

Supervisor Luis Chavez said county officials continue to seek input from the employees working in the field in areas like child welfare and foster care.

"Let me just say this very bluntly and plainly, we welcome all of our staff that are watching, that are hearing this to please give us your input, your feedback," he said. "There will be no retribution, and anybody that attempts to do that will be held accountable for that."

4.2 Magnitude Earthquake Centered in the City of Commerce Shakes LA County

A 4.2 magnitude earthquake centered near the city of Commerce struck early Friday with the shaking waking people up all over Los Angeles County.

The earthquake struck at 3:25 a.m. Friday less than a mile northwest of Commerce and registered at a depth of 10.6 miles beneath its epicenter, and registered in Orange and San Bernardino counties, according to data from the United States Geological Survey.

Seismographs registered the earthquake from as far away as Anaheim and San Bernardino, said the USGS.

The Los Angeles Fire Department immediately began a strategic survey across all 106 LAFD fire stations to assess structural damage across Los Angeles. The LAFD completed their strategic survey around 4:30 and was no longer in earthquake mode.

The LAFD concluded at 5:28 a.m. that no significant structure damage or injuries were found in the city of Los Angeles.

“A 4.4-magnitude earthquake centered in Commerce impacted the L.A. region just before 3:30 AM Friday morning that likely woke up many Angelenos, ” said Mayor Karen Bass before the USGS downgraded the temblor to a magnitude 4.2. “While unsettling, there are no immediate reports of damage or operational impacts, including at LAX.”

The LAFD asked people to prepare for aftershocks and to protect your head and neck while taking cover under sturdy furniture or near a sturdy interior wall away from windows and doorways until the shaking stops. The LAFD urged residents to check on pets and at-risk neighbors after surveying their home for damage.

13 accused of stealing $22.5 million in Nikes, other products from freight trains



Thirteen people accused of stealing property by disabling freight trains in Southern California from 2024 to 2026 took photos and videos themselves committing the crimes, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. (Courtesy of U.S. Department of Justice)

By **Brian Rokos** | brokos@scng.com

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Thirteen Los Angeles County residents have been accused in a federal indictment with burglarizing three dozen freight trains in Southern California and stealing more than $22.5 million in Nike sneakers, Milwaukee tools and other property, the U.S. Attorney's Office said, often shooting photos of themselves holding stacks of cash and even committing the burglaries.

The thefts took place in Pico Rivera, Fullerton and other locations in Southern California from February 2024 to August 2026, the indictment says.

"This historic indictment, following a 14-month investigation ... demonstrates the importance of dismantling entire criminal enterprises — from those stealing the cargo to those profiting from its resale," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said in a news release. His department was among those assisting the U.S. Department of Justice in the investigation.

The crew coordinated the thefts via Instagram, according to the indictment, which identified a 21-year-old East Los Angeles man as its leader.

The property would be aboard Union Pacific or BNSF trains leaving the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, headed for Indiana, Kansas, Texas or Pennsylvania.

The leader would tell his crew precisely where along the route to disable the trains by cutting their air hoses. The hoses controlled the train's brakes, and cutting the hose would cause a sudden loss of air pressure, prompting the brakes to engage, the indictment says.

Officials did not say if the suspects hopped aboard the freighters to cut the hoses, or could do it without doing so.

Others would then swoop in with vans and burglarize the trains. Millions of dollars of property were stolen and resold, according to the indictment.

Top Videos These Governors-Elect Campaigned On Expanding Medicaid. It Won't Be Easy

A sneaker and streetwear retailer identified in the indictment as "Company 1" that is headquartered in Los Angeles bought and resold some of the sneakers, the indictment says.

It was unclear Thursday how the defendants were identified by law enforcement.

However, it appears that tracking devices were placed inside some boxes that were stolen.

Claremont Courier
A LOCAL NONPROFIT NEWSROOM

Cannon gets one month in jail, could be out next week



San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies fire non-lethal rounds at Elton John Cannon's front door in the 300 block of Utah Court on Nov. 10. Courier photo/Andrew Alonzo

Elton John Cannon, the 54-year-old Claremont man who engaged in a sometimes dramatic, eight-hour, standoff with police on Nov. 10, has been sentenced to 30 days in jail. However, with credit for time served he could be free as soon as Nov. 24.

Cannon was sentenced Tuesday in Rancho Cucamonga Superior Court. He is being held at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's West Valley Jail in Rancho Cucamonga.

The Nov. 10 standoff with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officers was connected to an Oct. 3 vehicle burglary at Mount Baldy, for which deputies attempted to serve Cannon with an arrest warrant at 11:30 a.m. at his residence in the 300 block of Utah

Court in Claremont. After he barricaded himself inside the home, the sheriff's department deployed a SWAT team, their bomb squad, a police tank, drones, helicopters, flash-bangs, tear gas, and snipers. Cannon surrendered without incident at 7:30 p.m. and was arrested on felony second degree burglary and grand theft charges and five additional outstanding warrants in San Bernardino County.

Cannon pleaded no contest on May 13 to one felony charge of receiving stolen property worth over $950, and was sentenced to supervised probation through May 13, 2028. In a Nov. 12 hearing of a petition to revoke his previously set probation, Cannon denied violating its terms. At Tuesday's appearance, Cannon admitted to violating his probation terms, resulting in a one month extension through June 17, 2028.

A Nov. 17 minute order showed Cannon was credited for 16 days served, eight days in county custody and eight days of "conduct credit" per California Penal Code 4019, which allows inmates to accrue "custody credits" for time served or good conduct.

Moreno Valley, Riverside take steps to restrict data center development, as opposition swells

As public concerns over data centers continues, more Riverside County cities are weighing restrictions on their development

KVCR | By Anthony Victoria

Cities across Riverside County continue to weigh moratoriums and bans on data centers due to opposition from residents and environmental justice groups.

On Tuesday, Moreno Valley became the latest city to adopt a data center moratorium, temporarily stopping any approvals for projects as the city council considers a permanent ban on massive facilities used for Artificial Intelligence. Last week, Riverside took their own approach by codifying existing land use laws that prohibit their approval.

Moreno Valley city officials say the initial 45-day moratorium is intended to give the city more time to determine whether existing land-use and development regulations adequately address the potential impacts of data centers like energy and water consumption. According to City Attorney Steven Quintanilla, the city will likely have to extend the pause.

"[The council] will be presented with an ordinance that's going to prohibit them altogether, and then you take action on that separately," Quintanilla explained to the council. "But that has to go through the planning commission."

Similar to the city's Sep. 8 study session on data centers, where dozens of people urged council members to move toward a ban. Some even demanded the council try to enact a ban immediately.

But Quintanilla and Councilwoman Cheylynda Barnard, who proposed the moratorium, both said state law requires cities to follow a formal zoning process before adopting a permanent ban. Under California law, an urgency ordinance only pauses development for 45 days while city officials draft permanent laws, hold public hearings and extend the pause or prohibit the land use.

"This is us trying to be preemptive and making sure that we are solidifying and enshrining that we don't want it here at all," said Barnard. "Because the time to address it is not when a developer shows up and asks to have one. You have to proactively do it."

Meanwhile, Riverside officials are taking a different approach by reaffirming existing zoning regulations, which do not list data centers as an approved use, including in industrial zoned areas.

Councilman Philip Falcone, who has pushed to stop data center development in the city, told KVCR last week that this approach allows city officials to take a more strategic path to how they regulate data centers and AI use through an ad-hoc committee.

"I've been very outspoken and opposed to data centers. I am not shy about that," said Falcone. "Other people on the council don't feel the same way and that's fine. The city council needs to have discussions on what we want to see in our city, what is welcome and what is not."

Stock Market Continues to Slide Despite Anthropic's Banner I.P.O.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq were on course for their worst weekly performances in over a year. Anthropic's shares tumbled on their second day of trading.

By Joe Rennison

Nov. 20, 2026Updated 12:32 p.m. ET

Stocks careened toward their worst week in more than a year, after the blockbuster market debut for Anthropic, one of the biggest players in artificial intelligence, failed to turn around a deepening, weekslong sell-off.

The S&P 500 fell about 1.5 percent on Friday. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid more than 2.5 percent. Both indexes were dragged down by technology stocks as traders question the durability of the A.I. boom.

The S&P 500 has fallen more than 6 percent this week, its worst week since April 2025, when the market convulsed in response to the announcement of President Trump's sweeping global tariffs.

The Nasdaq Composite is on course for a weekly loss of more than 7 percent, leaving the index flat for the year.

Anthropic's stock, after surging in its trading debut on Thursday, slipped roughly 10 percent, largely reversing the previous day's gains.

The declines have persisted despite generally favorable reactions from analysts and investors to a week of major events, billed ahead of time as pivotal to the A.I. trade that has powered the market for months but has faltered more recently.

Nvidia's earnings report on Tuesday helped to calm fears of a slowdown in growth of the A.I. build-out, with the giant chip maker raising its profit forecast. It was a brief respite for the company, which is reeling after the resignation of its larger-than-life chief executive, Jensen Huang, following revelations that he had two affairs, including one with a Chinese businesswoman who U.S. intelligence officials determined was feeding information to Beijing.

Then on Thursday, Anthropic jumped on its first day of trading, achieving a trillion-dollar valuation after setting a record for the largest public offering in history. Robust demand for the shares of the maker of the Claude chatbot suggested that investors were still optimistic about aspects of the A.I. industry.

But the rest of the market has continued to slide. The S&P 500 has fallen for seven straight trading days, its longest losing streak in years. Every sector of the index is lower for the week, led by tech shares.

“Unfortunately, there isn’t an obvious catalyst or event to improve sentiment as we head into year-end,” said Stuart Kaiser, an analyst at Citi, adding that “there are no clear signposts to swing the pendulum.”

Traders tend to book profits in the run-up to Thanksgiving, mindful that markets slow into the end of the year, which can make it harder to move in and out of positions. There is also typically trepidation around this time about holding large positions through year’s end.

Nvidia has fallen nearly 40 percent since the S&P 500 peaked in early October, accounting for roughly half of the 8 percent drop in the index over that period, said Adam Turnquist, chief technical strategist for LPL Financial. Nvidia has been “the big factor” weighing on the market, he said, emblematic of “the broader fear over an A.I. slowdown.” The chip maker’s stock was down again in trading on Friday.

Chip makers and related stocks were also weighed down by a report released on Thursday by Hunterbrook, a short-selling firm that profits from bets against companies, that claimed Advanced Micro Devices had supplied U.S.-blacklisted Chinese companies with updates to keep its chips running. (AMD said that the claims “misrepresent AMD’s business practices and relationships.”)

Anthropic’s newly listed stock soared as much as 38 percent in early trading on Thursday, but as the day progressed, the air came out of the company’s ballooning price. Its shares ended the day up 17 percent, at $97 a share.

That’s still a healthy rise from its I.P.O. price of $83 per share, but suggested a more restrained optimism for the company’s prospects than the initial flurry of trades.

Still, analyst recommendations for the Anthropic, collated by the market data firm FactSet, show bullish expectations for the future. Ben Reitzes at Melius Research represents the high-water mark, with an initial price target of $155 per share. At the other end of the spectrum is Patrick Walravens at Citizens, with a target of $125.

But the CBOE Vix Volatility index, a measure known as the market’s “fear gauge,” which measure investors’ expectations of volatility over the next 30 days, recently rose above its peak in the whipsaw aftermath of the midterm elections, a sign of market jitters.

“There’s been a lot of talk about whether the A.I. trade had gotten ahead of itself,” said Jake Behan, head of capital markets at Direxion, who pointed to Nvidia’s strong earnings and the initial rise in Anthropic’s shares as “notable” signs for investors. “That doesn’t settle every

valuation debate," he added, "but it's pretty strong affirmation that the market is not ready to walk away from the trade just yet."