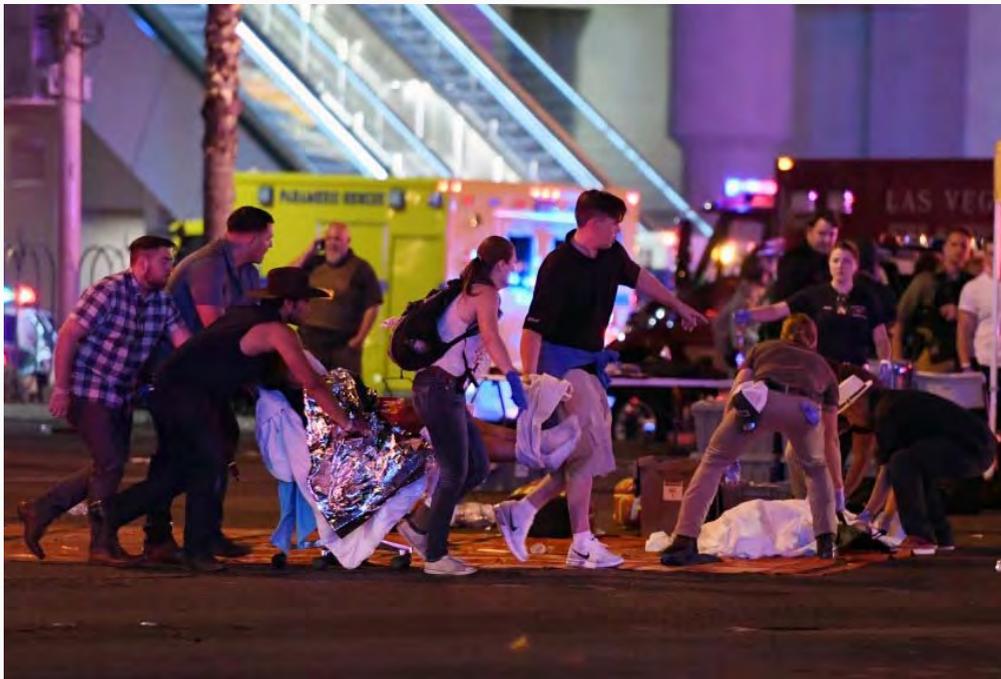


LOCAL NEWS

Off-duty San Bernardino County Fire personnel provide aid, evacuate injured during Las Vegas shooting



An injured person is tended to in the intersection of Tropicana Ave. and Las Vegas Boulevard after a mass shooting at a country music festival nearby on October 2, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada. A gunman has opened fire on a music festival in Las Vegas, killing over 20 people. Police have confirmed that one suspect has been shot dead. The investigation is ongoing. (Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

By **BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA** |

PUBLISHED: October 2, 2017 at 6:30 am | UPDATED: October 2, 2017 at 6:36 am



Several off-duty San Bernardino County Fire personnel at a three-day country music festival rendered aid and helped evacuate the injured immediately following the deadly [Las Vegas shooting that killed 50 people and wounded more than 100](#) late Sunday night.

“We couldn’t be be more proud of their efforts!” posted Deputy Chief John Chamberlin on Facebook soon after reports of the shooting began to surface. His post was then shared by the union, San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935.



John Chamberlin
12 mins · Beaumont · 

I'm still all over the phone calls and texts... we are looking pretty good for department personnel, with only 1 injury reported to a suppression person...

We are with at least one our members in thoughts and prayers as one of his family members was struck multiple times.

Several of our personnel took immediate actions to evacuate and treat the injured! We couldn't be be more proud of their efforts!

Thoughts and prayers for EVERYONE as this tragedy is sorted through.

Please update me as you can, from Vegas.



IAFF Local 935
@SBCoFFLocal935



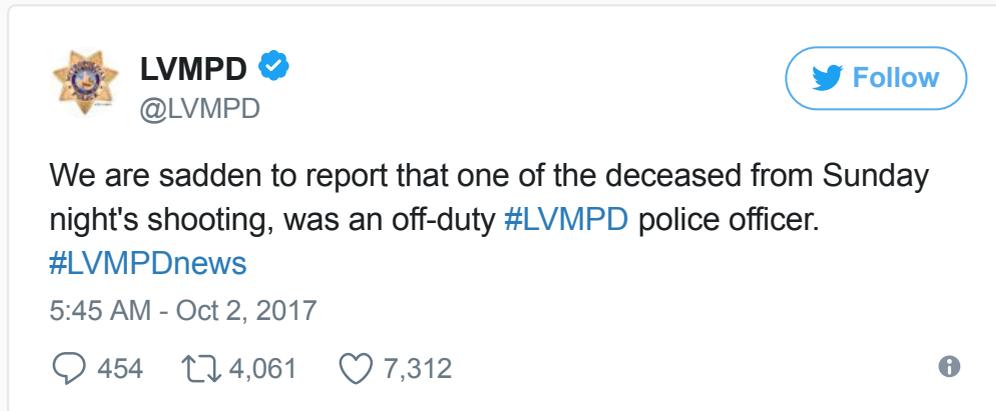
Message from [#SBCoFD](#) Deputy Chief Chamberlin. Tragic event tonight. Our thoughts are with all who are involved or dealing with this incident

1:53 AM - Oct 2, 2017

  2  5

The post also indicated that a family member of a county fire worker had been struck “multiple times.”

“Among the dead is an LVMPD officer who was off-duty at the time,” according to a statement from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.



That officer's name was not released Monday morning. There were also two on-duty officers injured, one of whom was upgraded recently from critical to stable condition. The other sustained non-life threatening wounds.

Country music star Jason Aldean was performing as part of the three-day country music event, the Route 91 Harvest Festival, when LVMPD say a lone shooter identified as 64-year-old, Stephen Craig Paddock, of Mesquite, Nevada, opened fire on the crowd.

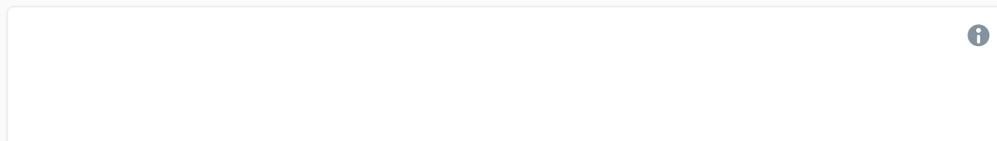
Paddock fired on more than 22,000 concert-goers from his hotel room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel about 10:08 p.m. Sunday, according to a news release from the LVMPD.

The LVMPD SWAT responded to the call, entered the hotel room and found the 64-year-old dead. Authorities say they believe Paddock killed himself prior to officers getting inside the room.

Metropolitan Police Department Sheriff Joe Lombardo said during a televised press conference that investigators were serving a search warrant at Paddock's home Monday morning, but didn't have any information on evidence found at his home.

“The Clark County Fire Department estimated that approximately 406 people were transported to area hospitals, and 50 are dead following Sunday evening's shooting,” the statement said.

Concert-goers and other witnesses began posting horrific videos from open-air concert at the Madalay Bay resort.



This evening there was a tragic active shooter situation at the south end of the Las Vegas Strip. Law enforcement and emergency personnel responded quickly to the incident and secured the scene. Law enforcement requested that we put hotels in the vicinity on lockdown to ensure guest safety. We will provide more information as it becomes available.



MGM Resorts 
@MGMResortsIntl

 Follow

Our thoughts & prayers are with the victims of last night's tragic events. We're grateful for the immediate actions of our first responders.

2:34 AM - Oct 2, 2017

 29  1,155  2,424

The Las Vegas shooting is considered the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, with the death toll exceeding that of the [Pulse nightclub shooting](#) in 2016 that left 49 people dead.

A motive for the shooting was not released, and officials say this is still an active investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigations is asking for anyone with videos or photos concerning the shooting to call 1-800-CALL-FBI or (800) 225-5324.

Tags: [Breaking news](#), [mass shooting](#), [Top Stories Breeze](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories LADN](#), [Top Stories LBPT](#), [Top Stories OCR](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories PSN](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories SGVT](#), [Top Stories Sun](#), [Top Stories WDN](#)



Beatriz E. Valenzuela

High Desert residents among those sent fleeing as gunman opens fire at Las Vegas concert, killing at least 50

By Sally Ho and Regina Garcia Cano / Associated Press

Posted at 7:02 AM

Updated at 7:02 AM

LAS VEGAS — A gunman perched on the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas casino unleashed a hail of bullets on an outdoor country music festival below, killing at least 50 people as tens of thousands of concertgoers screamed and ran for their lives, officials said Monday. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

More than 400 other victims were taken to the hospital, authorities said.

SWAT teams using explosives stormed the gunman's hotel room and found he had killed himself, authorities said. He had as many as 10 guns with him, including rifles, they said.

There was no immediate word on the motive for the bloodshed.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said authorities believe this was a "lone wolf" attack. And the U.S. Homeland Security Department said there was no "specific credible threat" involving other public venues in the U.S.

Country music star Jason Aldean was performing Sunday night at the end of the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival in front of a crowd of more than 22,000 when the gunman opened fire from inside the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino across the street.

The gunman was identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada. He had checked into the hotel room on Thursday, authorities said.

“What we are going to try to do as best we can is to get our first responders back on their feet and responding and conducting a proper investigation to ensure that we have the safety of this community at heart,” the sheriff said.

Aldean was in the middle of a song when the shots came rapidly: pop-pop-pop-pop. Video then showed Aldean stopping and the crowd getting quiet as if it were unsure of what had just happened.

The gunman paused and then fired another volley, the muzzle flashes visible from the casino, as more victims fell to the ground while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands, while others crawled under parked cars.

Julie Norton of Apple Valley told the Daily Press her granddaughter, Kymberley Suchomel, was “hysterical” when she called to say she witnessed someone “being shot” at the concert and a mass of people running from the scene.

“Kymberley and her friend Cassie were at the concert,” said Norton, founder of the High Desert Phoenix Foundation. “She said Jason Aldean was performing when all of a sudden she thought they were shooting firecrackers. Then she heard some people yelling. That’s when she saw a person shot.”

Norton said Suchomel was running from the scene as she pleaded with her grandmother on the phone to take care of her own young daughter who was at home in Apple Valley. She also asked her to pray for the safety of everyone at the scene.

“They were getting a taxi back to their hotel, packing and coming straight home,” said Norton, who contacted the Daily Press moments after the reported shooting.

Several other High Desert residents were also at the concert, including El Dorado Broadcasters radio deejay Myke Fabela who assured everyone via Facebook that he was fine.

Kodiak Yazzie, 36, said the music stopped temporarily when the first shots began and then started up again before the second round of pops sent the performers ducking for cover and fleeing the stage.

“It was the craziest stuff I’ve ever seen in my entire life,” Yazzie said. “You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash, flash, flash, flash.”

Monique Dumas, of British Columbia, Canada, said she was at the concert, six rows from the stage, when she thought she heard a bottle breaking, then a burst of pops that sounded liked fireworks.

Couples held hands as they ran through the dirt lot. Faces were etched with shock and confusion, and people wept and screamed. Some were bloodied, and some were carried out by fellow concertgoers. Dozens of ambulances took away the wounded, while some people loaded victims into their cars and drove them to the hospital.

Police shut down busy Las Vegas Boulevard, and federal and state authorities converged on the scene. Interstate 15 was briefly closed and flights at McCarran International Airport were suspended.

Hospital emergency rooms were jammed with victims.

“It’s a devastating time,” the sheriff said.

Jose Baggett, 31, of Las Vegas, said he and a friend were in the lobby of the Luxor hotel-casino — directly north of the festival — when people began to run, almost in a stampede.

He said people were crying, and as he and his friend started walking away minutes later, they encountered police checkpoints, armored personnel vehicles and a multitude of police cars.

The dead included at least three off-duty police officers from various departments who were attending the concert, authorities said. Two on-duty officers were wounded, one critically, police said.

Hours after the shooting, Aldean posted on Instagram that he and his crew were safe and that the shooting was “beyond horrific.”

“It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night,” Aldean said.

President Donald Trump tweeted: “My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!”

Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when a gunman opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people

Sunday’s shooting came more than four months after a suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people. Almost 90 people were killed by gunmen inspired by Islamic State at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris during a performance by Eagles of Death Metal in November 2015.

— *Rene Ray De La Cruz contributed to this article*



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LOCAL NEWS

Las Vegas mass shooting: 2 LA County sheriff's employees, 1 LAPD officer, Orange County deputy among wounded



Police run to cover at the scene of a mass shooting near the Mandalay Bay resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Las Vegas that killed at least 50 and wounded about 200. (AP Photo/John Locher)

By **CITY NEWS SERVICE** |

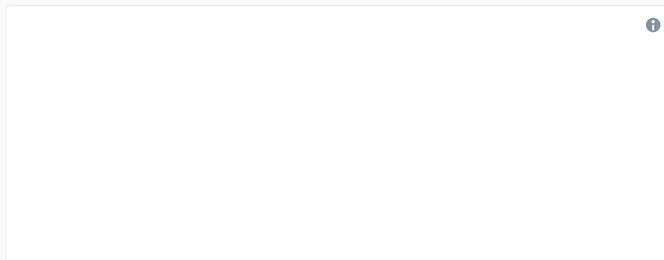
PUBLISHED: October 2, 2017 at 6:21 am | UPDATED: October 2, 2017 at 8:46 am



LOS ANGELES — At least two LA County Sheriff's Department employees, a Los Angeles police officer and an Orange County Sheriff's deputy and two spouses of Orange County deputies were wounded in the Las Vegas mass shooting.

A gunman unleashed hails of bullets on fans watching the Route 91 Harvest Country Music Festival on the Las Vegas Strip, Southland authorities said today.

One sheriff's employee is in critical condition and a second is displaying stable vital signs, as is an LAPD officer, they said.





Jim McDonnell

@LACoSheriff

Follow

Our thoughts & prayers are w/ the 2 @LASDHQ off-duty personnel that were struck by gunfire & all those affected nixle.us/9M5KF

7:45 AM - Oct 2, 2017

2 46 87

A Los Angeles Police Department officer assigned to the Foothill Division is hospitalized after she was shot in the leg in the mass-shooting, said Officer Rosario Herrera of the LAPD's Media Relations Section, adding that the officer was the only LAPD officer wounded in the massacre.

Las Vegas Mass Shooting Statement

Los Angeles: The Los Angeles Police Department continues to monitor the events in Las Vegas closely and the thoughts and prayers of the men and women of the LAPD go out to everyone affected by this horrific incident. Several off-duty LAPD employees traveled to Las Vegas to enjoy the festival and we have confirmed that one officer was struck by gunfire during the shooting.

While that officer is expected to make a full recovery, it is still unclear who else may have been injured trying to get to safety.

We are still in the process of attempting to contact any additional LAPD employees who may have been at the concert and have a team in Las Vegas to help coordinate that effort.

While this appears to be an isolated incident with no apparent threat to Los Angeles, we ask the public to stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings.



LAPD HQ

@LAPDHQ

Follow

Our thought/prayers are with those affected by the Las Vegas mass shooting. One #LAPD off duty ofcr shot & expected to recover #PrayForVegas

7:18 AM - Oct 2, 2017

1 64 86

The Orange County Sheriff's Department confirmed one of its deputies was wounded at the concert and that a couple of family members had been wounded.

The Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs said in an email, "At this time, we are aware of one AOCDS member who was wounded, sustaining gunshot wounds to the abdomen and thigh. The injuries are severe but non-life-threatening at this time. Two AOCDS member's wives also sustained non-life-threatening gunshot wounds in the attack."



OC Sheriff, CA

@OCSD

Follow

#OCSDPIO:1 Deputy and multiple family members of other dept. personnel injured by gunfire in LV shooting. All non-life threatening injuries

7:49 AM - Oct 2, 2017

  37  53

“Many (Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs) members and their families attended the concert and were present when the attack occurred,” according to an email.

With initial reports of multiple shooters in numerous locations in Las Vegas, Sheriff Jim McDonnell activated the Department Operations Center shortly after the shooting was reported and readied a response team that included SWAT teams and a bomb squad, the Sheriff's Information Bureau reported.

Additionally, a Super Puma helicopter was prepared for deployment but was stood down after the Las Vegas Metro SWAT team determined that a single shooter was involved, located him and killed him.

As is usually the case, Las Vegas was teeming with Southland residents Sunday night. A Long Beach resident who attended the festival described how he helped carry an unconscious woman to out of the line of fire.

Al Quackenbush told City News Service that singer Jason Aldean was performing at the open-air festival when the gunfire rang out, causing a massive scramble for survival.

“(We) carried a girl who was shot,” said Quackenbush, describing the victim as a woman in her 20s. “We carried her behind a concrete pillar with her friends, then we got out of there. We are safe.

“We heard many shots,” Quackenbush said. “Like 300-plus shots. I figure it was an automatic rifle. We were right there.”

Orange County resident David Wolfe said on a televised broadcast that his wife and daughter were at the concert.

Wolfe said he was “in absolute panic; scared to death until my wife called and said they were OK.”

Brianna Taylor of Orange County told NBC4 that she and her fiance were near the front of the stage near Aldean when the bullets began to rain.

The shaken Taylor said she first thought it was fireworks, but “seconds later, we found it was a lot more serious that,” as she saw two people within 10 feet of her get shot.

“We just stayed as low as we could for a while,” Taylor said. “(But) as soon as they said they needed medics, we knew we were sitting ducks.

“I said ‘Babe, this can’t be how we die, this can’t be how we go.’ So we just got up and ran behind the stage and got out,” eventually hiding with about 200 other people in a helicopter rental company.

“Instinctively, when you get a chance to run for your life, you run for your life,” Taylor said.

More than 50 people were killed and more than 200 injured by a lone gunman shooting from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino before he was shot to death, authorities said. He was identified as Stephen Paddock, 64. Police were seeking a companion of the alleged gunman named Marilou Danley, an Asian woman who’s 4 feet 11.

Orange County staff writer Alma Fausto contributed to this report.

Tags: [Breaking news](#), [crime](#), [mass shooting](#), [shootings](#), [Top Stories Breeze](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories LADN](#), [Top Stories LBPT](#), [Top Stories OCR](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories PSN](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories SGVT](#), [Top Stories Sun](#), [Top Stories WDN](#)



City News Service

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NEWS

Las Vegas mass shooting leaves at least 58 dead, hundreds injured at Route 91 Harvest Festival

By **ASSOCIATED PRESS** | |

PUBLISHED: October 2, 2017 at 5:15 am | UPDATED: October 2, 2017 at 9:07 am

What we know right now:

- At least **58 people** are dead following a shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas.
- More than **500 people** were injured.
- The suspected gunman has been identified as 64-year-old **Stephen Craig Paddock** who was found dead.
- He is believed to have been on the 32nd floor of a casino hotel when he shot into the crowd.
- A motive for the attack has not been released yet.

By SALLY HO and REGINA GARCIA CANO

A gunman perched on the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas casino unleashed a shower of bullets on an outdoor country music festival below, killing at least 58 people as tens of thousands of concertgoers screamed and ran for their lives, officials said Monday. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

At least 515 others were injured in the Sunday night attack, authorities said.

SWAT officers using explosives stormed the gunman's hotel room and found he had killed himself, authorities said.

The FBI says the shooter had no connection to an international terrorist group.

The announcement from Special Agent in Charge Aaron Rouse at a news conference Monday comes after the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack without providing evidence.

Country music star Jason Aldean was performing Sunday night at the end of the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival in front of a crowd of 22,000 when the gunman opened fire from inside the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino.

The gunman was identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada.

SWAT teams quickly descended on the concert and the casino, and officers used explosives to get into the hotel room where the suspect was inside, authorities said.



“What we are going to try to do as best we can is to get our first responders back on their feet and responding and conducting a proper investigation to ensure that we have the safety of this community at heart,” Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said.

Aldean was in the middle of a song when the shots came rapidly: Pop-pop-pop-pop. Video of the shooting then showed Aldean stopping and the crowd getting quiet as if it were unsure of what had just happened.

The gunman paused and then fired another volley, the muzzle flashes visible from the casino, as more victims fell to the ground while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands, while others crawled under parked cars.

Kodiak Yazzie, 36, said the music stopped temporarily when the first shots began and the tune even started up again before the second round of pops sent the performers ducking for cover and fleeing the stage.

“It was the craziest stuff I’ve ever seen in my entire life,” Yazzie said. “You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash- flash- flash- flash.”

As the bullets ran rampant, thousands in the crowd fled in every direction. Couples held hands running through the dirt lot. Faces were brushed with shock and confusion, tears and screams. Some were bloodied and others were carried out by fellow concert-goers.



Monique Dumas from British Columbia, Canada, said she was at the concert, six rows from the stage, when she thought she heard a bottle breaking, and then a burst of popping sounds that may have been fireworks.

She said as she made her way out, it was “organized chaos” as everyone fled. “It took four to five minutes and all that time there was gunfire.”

In addition to Paddock, police said they located a woman who may have been his roommate — Marilou Danley, 62. Lombardo said they believe this was a “lone wolf” attack.

“It’s a devastating time,” Lombardo said.

Police shut down the usually busy Las Vegas Boulevard and authorities across the state and federal ranks converged on the scene as dozens of ambulances ferried those struck by gunfire. Nearby Interstate 15 and flights at McCarran International Airport were briefly closed.



Hospital emergency rooms were jammed with victims delivered by ambulance. Others loaded the wounded into their cars and drove them to hospitals.

Jose Baggett, 31, of Las Vegas, said he and a friend were in the lobby of the Luxor hotel-casino — directly north of the festival — when people began to run, almost in a stampede.

He said people were crying and as he and his friend started walking away minutes later, they encountered police checkpoints where officers were carrying shotguns and assault rifles.

“There were armored personnel vehicles, SWAT vehicles, ambulances, and at least a half-mile of police cars,” Baggett said.

Among those killed were two off-duty police officers who were attending the concert. Two on-duty officers were wounded, including one who underwent surgery and was upgraded to stable condition, police said.

Hours after the shooting, Aldean posted on Instagram that he and his crew were safe and that the shooting was “beyond horrific.”



 **jasonaldean** [Follow](#)



259.3k likes **8,047 comments**

Tonight has been beyond horrific. I still dont know what to say but wanted to let everyone know that Me and my Crew are safe. My Thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved tonight. It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night. [#heartbroken](#) [#stopthehate](#)

7 HOURS AGO

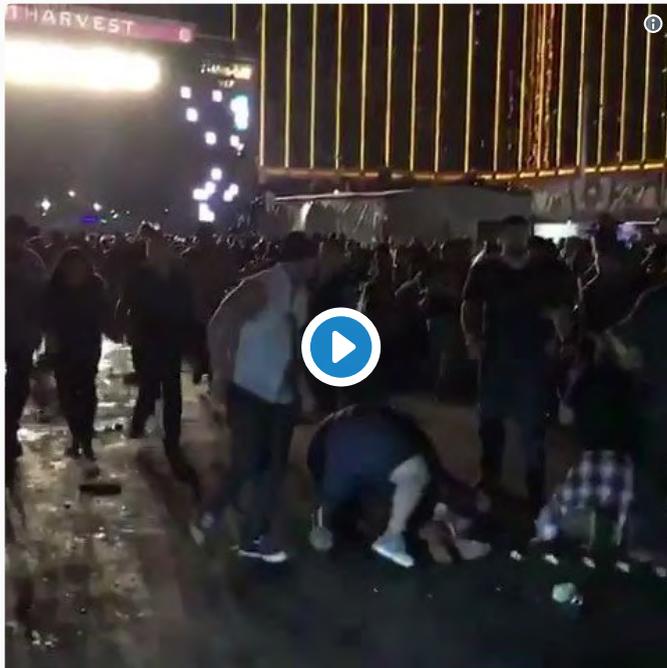
“It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night,” Aldean said.

President Donald Trump tweeted: “My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!”

Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when [a gunman opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida](#), killing 49 people

Sunday’s shooting came more than four months after a suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people. Almost 90 people were killed by gunmen inspired by Islamic State at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris during a performance by Eagles of Death Metal in November 2015.

Warning: These videos may be disturbing



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@SoCoolAI

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Can't Believe This Bs Is Happening In Las Vegas #MandalayBay #Vegas

11:46 PM - Oct 1, 2017

🗨️ 11 ↻️ 244 ❤️ 239





NV Resistance
@justmeinlv



More footage of a mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada near the Mandalay Bay. No number on casualties as of yet.

11:45 PM - Oct 1, 2017

12 replies 212 retweets 244 likes

This story is developing. Check back for updates.

Tags: [crime](#), [mass shooting](#), [shootings](#), [Top Stories Breeze](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories LADN](#), [Top Stories LBPT](#), [Top Stories OCR](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories PSN](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories SGVT](#), [Top Stories Sun](#), [Top Stories WDN](#)



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NEWS > CRIME

Las Vegas shooting: Here's where to call if you're searching for a loved one



A woman sits on a curb at the scene of a shooting outside of a music festival along the Las Vegas Strip, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, in Las Vegas. Multiple victims were being transported to hospitals after a shooting late Sunday at a music festival on the Las Vegas Strip. (AP Photo/John Locher)

By **ALMA FAUSTO** | afausto@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: October 2, 2017 at 7:55 am | UPDATED: October 2, 2017 at 8:37 am



So far 50 people are dead and more than 400 were hurt in a [deadly shooting in Las Vegas Sunday night](#). Many families and friends are awaiting word from their loved ones who were attending the country music concert.

Many fled or were taken to safe areas by law enforcement. For those looking to locate missing loved ones, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department asks people to call **1-866-535-5654**.

The city of Las Vegas also gave details about what concerned people can do in the aftermath.



City of Las Vegas 
@CityOfLasVegas

 Follow

How to help and find loved ones. Please share [#PrayforLasVegas](#)

6:47 AM - Oct 2, 2017

 74  8,950  5,977

Others have also been using the Checking In Safe feature on Facebook to let their loved ones know they're safe. A [Facebook Safety Check](#) was launched after the shooting.

The Las Vegas division of the FBI is also asking anyone with videos or photos from the shooting to call 1-800-CALLFBI (255-5324).

Tags: [Breaking news](#), [mass shooting](#), [Top Stories Breeze](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories LADN](#), [Top Stories LBPT](#), [Top Stories OCR](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories PSN](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories SGVT](#), [Top Stories Sun](#), [Top Stories WDN](#)



Alma Fausto

Alma Fausto is a crime, breaking news and public safety reporter for the Register. She has worked for the Register since 2013. Previously, she lived in New York City while studying at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism where she covered the growing Mexican immigrant population in the city. Alma has also lived and studied in California's rural and agricultural Central Valley. She's an Orange County native from Costa Mesa, and in her spare time likes to read, visit libraries and drink good gin.

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The Islamic State extremist group Monday claimed responsibility for the attack in Las Vegas, the deadliest shooting massacre in U.S. history.

At least 50 people were killed and more than 400 were taken to hospitals, authorities said.

Amaq, a news agency affiliated with Islamic State, quoted an unnamed security source who said that 64-year-old Stephen Paddock was a “soldier of Islamic State” who had “executed the attack in response to the calls to target the nations of the Coalition.”

The statement was released on Islamic State-linked channels on the messaging service Telegram.

The U.S. leads a coalition of Western and Middle Eastern countries battling the extremist group in Iraq and Syria. Islamic State has long exhorted its followers to conduct attacks in Western countries, saying they are the best way for would-be jihadis residing in the West to help the group.

Islamic State publications provide instructions on how to plow vehicles into crowds and cause the maximum amount of carnage.

Yet it remained unclear what connection Paddock, a resident of Mesquite, Nev., about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, had to Islamic State.

A follow-up statement from Amaq said the attacker "had embraced Islam a few months ago."

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OCT. 2, 2017, 9:34 A.M.

Editorial: The slaughter in Las Vegas is all too familiar, yet Americans refuse to stop it

The Times Editorial Board



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BREAKING: [At Least 58 Dead In Vegas Shooting](#) | [Watch Live](#) | [Listen Live To KNX 1070](#)

California Officers, Firefighters Wounded In Las Vegas Mass Shooting

October 2, 2017 5:33 AM

Filed Under: [Las Vegas](#), [Mass Shooting](#)



LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — Several off-duty police officers from Southern California were wounded in a mass shooting at a country music festival along the Las Vegas strip, officials are confirming Monday.

At least 50 people were killed and more than 400 injured when a gunman on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino began showering bullets on the festival below. Country music star Jason Aldean was in the middle of performing when the gunfire began.

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The gunman was identified as 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, who lives in a retirement community in Mesquite, about an hour and a half away. He was found dead by SWAT officers who stormed Mandalay's 32nd floor and used explosives to get into his hotel room. Paddock is believed to have killed himself before SWAT officers arrived.

Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said two of his officers who were also attending the concert have died. Both were off-duty.

PHOTOS: [Mass Shooting In Las Vegas](#)

Ontario police Officer Michael Gracia, 24, and a 4-year veteran of the department was critically injured in the shooting, but is now listed in stable condition, officials said. His wife was also shot, but her injuries were non-life-threatening.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said two of their off-duty personnel were also attending the music festival and were hit by gunfire. Both were taken to a local hospital, and one remains in critical condition. The second is in stable condition.

LASD officials said they would not release their names at this time.

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, a 33-year-old off-duty officer assigned to patrol in the Foothill Division was shot just above the left knee. Her injury was not life-threatening, and the LAPD said they would not release her name.

LAPD Sgt. Fred Cueto said three other off-duty officers were also at the concert, but none of them were injured.

Cueto said off-duty officers are generally allowed to carry weapons in most states, but certain venues do not allow it. He said his officers told him they were not allowed to carry their weapons into the music festival.

The Bakersfield Police Department said "several" of their off-duty police officers were also attending the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival at the time of the shooting. One officer was hit by gunfire and is being treated for a non-life-threatening injury.

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"Some of our officers witnessed the gunfire but were not in a position to return fire," the department said in a statement.

The department said they would release the injured officer's name after the situation in Las Vegas had stabilized.

Two Los Angeles firefighters were also wounded in the shooting. A group of seven Los Angeles firefighters were at the concert, according to Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas.



Los Angeles FD 2 hours ago

Statement from LAFD Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas regarding Off Duty LAFD Firefighters at Las Vegas Incident:

"The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) has learned that at least seven of our off-duty members were attending the concert event on Sunday night in Las Vegas when a gunman opened fire on the crowd. At least two LAFD members enjoying the concert were struck by gunfire. Thankfully, their wounds do not appear to be life-threatening.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families and all of the people affected by this horrific and senseless tragedy."

214 43 133

One Orange County sheriff's deputy was also reported to have been seriously injured by gunfire. The wives of two department employees were also injured, but their wounds were not life-threatening.



OC Sheriff, CA @OCSD

#OCSDPIO:1 Deputy and multiple family members of other dept. personnel injured by gunfire in LV shooting. All non-life threatening injuries

7:49 AM - Oct 2, 2017

37 54

A few off-duty firefighters from San Bernardino County were also at the concert and assisted people who were injured, San Bernardino County Fire spokeswoman Tracy Martinez said. None of the firefighters were injured themselves.

COMMENTS

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OPINION

How did Colonies case go so wrong?



From left, attorney Jennifer Keller, former Assistant Assessor Jim Erwin and developer Jeff Burum applaud the jury for their service after Burum, Supervisor Paul Biane and Mark Kirk were found not guilty of all charges in the Colonies corruption case verdict hearing at San Bernardino Superior Court on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017. (Photo by Rachel Luna, The Sun/SCNG)

By **THE EDITORIAL BOARD** | opinion@langnews.com |

PUBLISHED: September 29, 2017 at 11:00 am | UPDATED: September 29, 2017 at 11:03 am



Now that the long-running Colonies case has finally ended with all defendants acquitted, county taxpayers wouldn't be wrong to wonder just what the heck actually happened.

The criminal case dates back eight years, but the legal dispute between Colonies Partners LP and San Bernardino County goes back 18 years, to the initial disagreement between the county and Colonies over how much the county should pay for improvements to a flood-control basin on the Colonies' Upland property.

That disagreement touched off an acrimonious legal battle that ended in 2006, when the Board of Supervisors approved a controversial \$102 million settlement with Colonies after a judge tentatively found the county was on the wrong side of the argument.

Three years later, the District Attorney's Office officially announced it was investigating the settlement, and in 2010, prosecutors filed charges against former county Supervisor Bill Postmus and Jim Erwin, who had served as chief of staff to Postmus when Postmus was assessor but who also helped developer Jeff Burum lobby the supervisors for their approval of the settlement. In 2011, prosecutors indicted Burum, former Supervisor Paul Biane and Mark Kirk, who had been chief of staff to supervisor Gary Ovitt.

Prosecutors argued that \$400,000 in post-settlement campaign contributions to political action committees secretly controlled by Postmus, Erwin, Biane and Kirk were actually bribes. The defendants and their lawyers said that was nonsense; the contributions were perfectly legal.

Except Postmus, that is.

Already in hot water for scandalous behavior in the Assessor's Office and facing drug charges, Postmus had agreed to plead guilty and cooperate with the investigators, which presumably is what led them to charge Burum, Biane and Kirk in the first place.

If it sounds confusing and complicated, it's because it was.

In fact, when it went to trial earlier this year, it took prosecutors eight months to present their case, and when they were done, angry jurors acquitted the defendants and blasted prosecutors for bringing the case in the first place.

Perhaps that's because all of prosecutors' "star" witnesses turned out to be somewhat less than stellar.

- On the witness stand, Postmus said his "mind is kind of messed up" and there was a lot he couldn't remember, including committing the crimes to which he pled guilty in March 2011.
- Adam Aleman, Postmus' former assistant assessor, admitted to lying to authorities and to the grand jury that delivered the Colonies indictments. So much for his credibility.

- Matt Brown, former chief of staff to Biane who actually wore a wire for Colonies investigators, testified at trial that he could not remember much of what he had testified to the grand jury in April 2011. He was testy with Deputy Attorney General Melissa Mandell during her examination of him, and refused to review transcripts of his grand jury testimony to refresh his memory. The judge declared him a hostile witness.

- Supervisor Josie Gonzales' testimony about an encounter she claimed to have had with Burum in China, in which presumably he wanted to pressure her to vote for a settlement, was a wreck. First she said it happened in 2005, but when Burum's attorney's produced evidence she was stateside in 2005, she said it was 2006. (She had told the grand jury six years ago that the encounter was in 2006, but after that was challenged three years ago in a court motion that argued Burum was not in China in 2006, she changed her story and said it was 2005.)

When prosecutors finally finished their case, handing over a box of documents for jurors to review on their own, defense lawyers didn't even bother to call witnesses of their own. Obviously, they didn't need to.

Of course, whether there was actually a conspiracy to influence supervisors was never really a question jurors had to ponder as that charge was dismissed in 2011, when the court ruled the statute of limitations had lapsed and prosecutors therefore couldn't pursue it.

The county appealed that decision, but the state Supreme Court in January 2016 upheld the trial judge's dismissal of the conspiracy charges.

Perhaps prosecutors should have given up then.

At the end of the day, there are no winners here.

Prosecutors, despite what initially seemed to be a solid case, including a guilty plea at the outset, obviously did not win.

The defendants didn't really win, either. While their acquittals may be some solace and perhaps a little vindicating, their careers, reputations and families have suffered immensely over the past decade.

And finally, taxpayers also lost here, because they not only paid out the \$102 million to settle the civil case but also for the thousands of hours state and county attorneys put in on the criminal case as it crawled through courts both near and far.

To sum it all up: Boondoggle.

Big time.

LOCAL NEWS

Those accused – and acquitted – in Colonies corruption must now pick up the pieces



Pictured L-R: Jeff Burum, Mark Kirk, Jim Erwin, and Paul Biane. (File photo)

By **JOE NELSON** | jnelson@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: September 30, 2017 at 11:51 am | UPDATED: September 30, 2017 at 9:45 pm

Eight years, six months, and seven days. That's how long Jim Erwin said he endured allegations by state and local prosecutors of taking part in a bribery scheme that bilked San Bernardino County taxpayers out of \$102 million.

In that time, Erwin, once a mover and shaker in San Bernardino County politics, declared bankruptcy, his Highland home was foreclosed on, and he started drawing unemployment. He now drives a 13-year-old Mercury Mountaineer with 280,000 miles on it. He was able to draw his pension but took a loss of \$20,000 a year.

"The ongoing criminal case pretty much barred any kind of gainful employment, and combine that with a foreclosure, bankruptcy and the stigma the case created, it's hard to rationalize everything that's happened," said Erwin, 55, in a telephone interview Thursday. He said that since his first arrest in March 2009 he began suffering anxiety and high blood pressure, and as a result was diagnosed last year with Stage 2 kidney disease.

The epic Colonies public corruption case, which District Attorney Mike Ramos and then-California Attorney General Jerry Brown called the "biggest corruption case in county history" during a February 2010 press conference, ended Sept. 22 with prosecutors dismissing all charges against Erwin, the last remaining defendant in the case. His jury deliberated nearly two weeks before declaring on Sept. 13 it was "hopelessly deadlocked."

About a month prior, a separate jury, after only a day of deliberating, acquitted the other three defendants – Rancho Cucamonga developer Jeff Burum, former county Supervisor Paul Biane, and Mark Kirk, the former chief of staff of former county Supervisor Gary Ovitt, following eight months of testimony in the marathon trial, one of the longest and most expensive in county history.

All four defendants maintained from the onset of the case they were innocent, that the prosecution was politically motivated (criminal charges were first announced during an election year), and that the county's controversial \$102 million settlement with Rancho Cucamonga investor group Colonies Partners LP in November 2006, of which Burum is a co-managing partner, actually saved taxpayers upwards of nearly \$200 million. The settlement ended a near 5-year-old legal battle over flood control improvements at Colonies' 434-acre residential and commercial development in Upland, adjacent to the 210 Freeway.

"It's still hard to grasp that I am no longer a criminal defendant. It just went on for so long," Erwin said. "Being a criminal defendant almost became a way of life, and battling the court case, you're living it full time."

Now, the four vindicated defendants begin the process of rebuilding their lives and are demanding accountability from the District Attorney's and state Attorney General's offices on why they spent nearly nine years and possibly tens of millions of dollars on a case that ultimately crashed and burned and irreversibly damaged their lives and reputations.

"We're going to investigate every single avenue of what's been done to all the defendants in this case, and how the prosecutors did it. And if there is a way we could hold them accountable, we're going to," Burum said in a recent interview at his Rancho Cucamonga office. "There should be an independent investigation in this case, right now, by the (San Bernardino County) Board of Supervisors."

District Attorney Mike Ramos declined to comment for this story, but has previously denied the case was politically motivated. His spokesman, Christopher Lee, said it would be inappropriate to comment given that criminal cases are still pending against two of the trial's key witnesses – former county Supervisor and county Assessor Bill Postmus and former Assistant Assessor Adam Aleman.

Both Postmus and Aleman were implicated in a separate corruption scandal at the Assessor's Office in 2008, and Postmus was later implicated in the Colonies corruption case as well. Both struck plea agreements in exchange for turning state's evidence and testifying at trial.

Postmus is set to appear in San Bernardino Superior Court on Oct. 27 for sentencing, and Aleman's sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 1. Burum said he plans on testifying on behalf of Postmus at his sentencing and against Aleman at his.

Officials at the California Attorney General's Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Burum's attorney, Stephen G. Larson, said, "The Attorney General's Office shares responsibility with the District Attorney and other government officials for this ill-conceived and unjustly pursued prosecution."

IMPACT

Erwin was no exception when it came to the impact the criminal case had on his personal and professional life.

Burum is a prominent developer and nationally recognized affordable housing advocate with strong political connections at the local and national level. He is a co-founder of Diversified Pacific Development Group in Rancho Cucamonga and co-founder of the affordable housing nonprofit National Community Renaissance Development Corporation.

"People seem to have no comprehension of what Mr. Burum, his family, and his partners at Colonies Partners, his investors at Diversified Pacific, his employees here at Diversified Pacific, all that the people in this community have gone through," Larson said during Thursday's interview at Burum's office. "There seems to be a lack of understanding of just what this physical, mental, emotional, frankly spiritual toll has been on Jeff and all of these folks."

John Thomas, a veteran San Bernardino County prosecutor who is challenging District Attorney Ramos in next year's election, said taxpayers could, unfortunately, be on the hook for even more money than the millions of dollars the Colonies case has already cost them should the former defendants decide to sue the District Attorney.

While Ramos may have immunity from a civil action involving the prosecution, there is a possibility he could be held liable for how the investigation was handled, said Thomas, the former president of the county Public Attorneys' Association, the union representing county prosecutors and deputy public defenders.

"If the county does lose a lawsuit, it would be a direct result of District Attorney Mike Ramos pursuing his own personal political agenda and personally steering the prosecution of the Colonies case without regard to the evidence that actually existed or didn't exist," Thomas said in an email. "The case was never there, as some of the jurors stated, and was simply a political witchhunt by a career politician to gain notoriety."

WHAT WENT WRONG

In a Sept. 22 press release following the dismissal of Erwin's case, Ramos said witness problems had arisen in the case that precluded prosecutors from retrying Erwin. One such issue was Postmus, whose testimony at trial conflicted with his grand jury testimony in 2011, his statements to the FBI, and multiple interviews with the District Attorney's Office, Ramos stated in his press release.

Postmus, an admitted methamphetamine addict at the time of the settlement who now claims to have been sober since 2012, testified during trial he was "100 percent certain" he was not receiving a bribe when he, Biane, Kirk and Erwin each received \$100,000 from Colonies Partners LP in 2007, following the settlement. The money came in the form of contributions to political action committees the recipients were affiliated with and which prosecutors allege were used to conceal the bribes.

Prosecutors faced another problem with Aleman's testimony, whom defense attorneys claimed lied on the witness stand after, among other things, his testimony about attending a dozen meetings with Postmus and Burum in 2006 was discredited. Aleman even admitted on the witness stand he lied to the grand jury and didn't know what perjury was at that time.

The acquitting jury determined Aleman was not a credible witness.

"We just couldn't trust him as a worthy person giving his testimony, and that was huge. I don't think he should have ever been on the (witness) stand," said Kirk Frazer, of East Highland, one of the jurors on the panel for Burum, Biane and Kirk. "It was just a poor choice and bad judgment on the prosecution's part."

Other prosecution witnesses who proved problematic were Matt Brown, Biane's former chief of staff and now the county's Assistant Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector, whose lack of cooperation and testiness on the witness stand led Judge Michael A. Smith to declare him a hostile witness.

County Supervisor Josie Gonzales' inconsistent testimony about seeing Burum in China in 2006, where she believed he was trying to influence her vote for the Colonies settlement, also proved crippling to the prosecution. Defense attorneys provided evidence, including credit card statements, showing Burum was stateside during that time. Gonzales was impeached multiple times.

Donald Platten, another juror on the panel for Burum, Biane and Kirk, said prosecutors "lacked any type of grounds to prosecute."

"I never found anything that the prosecution brought up that these guys did illegally," said Platten, 54, of Cedarpines Park. "I think it was the D.A. trying to put a feather in his cap, I really do. It was the biggest waste of taxpayer dollars I have ever seen."

Like other jurors, Platten, a maintenance man at San Bernardino International Airport, befriended the vindicated defendants on Facebook, and actually posted messages on Facebook saying he was "praying for Erwin" while his jury was still deliberating.

"After eight months of being in trial with these guys and seeing how they were railroaded like they were, I had a lot of sympathy for them," Platten said in a telephone interview. "All the crap they were put through, I felt kind of bad for them. Coming up with that not guilty verdict was one of the proudest things I've ever done."

SEEKING REFORMS

Burum and Larson said they were embarking on a campaign to reform state laws they said enabled a weak case to proceed to trial, and are also considering whether the failed Colonies prosecution might be actionable in court.

"This has been an incredible education for all of us. There are a number of significant reforms that our justice system (needs) — many of them designed to keep in check and hold in check and hold accountable the district attorney's office," Larson said. "We are going to use different forums. We're in communication with law schools. We are in communication with different organizations that will assist in lobbying the Legislature. We intend to bring about change in the state of California to make sure that what happened to Mr. Burum and the Colonies Partners does not happen to anybody else."

Larson and Burum hope that such reforms would deter prosecutors from delaying criminal cases, noting the prosecution's pretrial appeals.

Prosecutors filed roughly 142 written filings in the Colonies case including 58 motions, 33 of which were before the trial court and four pursuant to grand jury proceedings. The other 21 motions were related to appeals, including seven before the California Supreme Court and 14 before the Fourth District Court of Appeal in Riverside, said prosecutor Mark Vos of the District Attorney's Appellate Services Unit in a written response to a public records request dated Sept. 22.

The defense also filed numerous motions, from the time of the May 2011 indictment all the way through trial, leading to 18 of 29 counts being dropped against the defendants.

TAXPAYER COST

What the epic Colonies corruption case cost taxpayers, from the beginning of the investigation on Nov. 1, 2008 until the dismissal of the case against final defendant Erwin on Sept. 22, will likely never be known.

That's because the District Attorney's Office does not track expenses for individual investigations and prosecutions, and to do so in the Colonies' case would be "overly burdensome under the law," Vos said in another written response to a public records request dated Sept. 14.

He said it would take a staff analyst six months to dig up nine years' worth of documents submitted by approximately 30 prosecutors, investigators and other staff.

"Although the public interest in disclosure is manifest, the labor intensiveness required here weighs against it," Vos said.

Vos' rationalization did not sit well with Larson.

"Accountability requires transparency, and this county deserves to know the cost of this reckless prosecution," Larson said in a statement. "An independent investigator should determine what this cost (is) and what went wrong."

MOVING ON

For the vindicated defendants, no monetary value could be placed on what the Colonies case cost them.

“What I saw happen in this case was appalling, and it was tragic,” Erwin said. “I never thought, in all my years, law enforcement – the justice system – would do something like this.

A former sheriff’s deputy of 15 years, Erwin said he will never forget his multiple arrests, his being paraded down a court hallway with the other three defendants – clad in a green jail jumpsuit, hands and feet shackled, before flashing news cameras – nor his night spent in an isolation cell at the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino.

But bailing out of jail was only the beginning, as Erwin and the other defendants could not shake the possibility that things could go the other way for them.

“You worry about if something goes sideways and you get convicted. You always get that feeling something bad could happen,” said Erwin, also the former president of the Sheriffs Employees’ Benefit Association, or SEBA, the union representing sheriff’s deputies and district attorney investigators. “We went through all these years of motions and appeals. It whittled the case down, but there were so many times we thought it was over and it wasn’t. So you have that disappointment. None of us were going to stop until we fought it to the end. It was an epic battle.”

Staff writer Richard K. De Atley contributed to this report.

Tags: [Colonies corruption trial](#), [Echo Code](#), [Inland Empire](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



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By Ulta Beauty



There's a right shampoo and conditioner for every hair type. Find yours.

NELSON_JOE **Joe Nelson**

Joe Nelson is an award-winning investigative reporter who has worked for The Sun since November 1999. He started as a crime reporter and went on to cover a variety of beats including courts and the cities of Colton, Highland and Grand Terrace. He has covered San Bernardino County since 2009. Nelson is a graduate of California State University Fullerton. In 2014, he completed a fellowship at Loyola Law School's Journalist Law School program.

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FBI won't have to reveal details on iPhone hacking tool used in San Bernardino case

The vendor and the price paid will remain secret

by Nick Statt | @nickstatt | Oct 1, 2017, 3:00pm EDT



A federal court ruled yesterday that the FBI does not have to disclose either the name of the vendor used or price the government paid to hack into the iPhone 5C of mass shooter Syed Farook, [according to ZDNet](#). The device became [embroiled in a heated national controversy and legal standoff last year](#) when Apple refused to help the FBI develop a backdoor into it for the purpose of obtaining sensitive information on Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik, both of whom participated in the terrorist attack that left 14 dead in San Bernardino, California in December 2015.

The Justice Department originally filed a lawsuit against Apple to compel it to participate by creating a special version of its mobile operating system, something Apple was vehemently against because of the risk such a tool posed to users. But very soon after, the government withdrew from the case when a third-party vendor secretly demonstrated to the FBI a [workable method to bypass the iPhone's security system](#). Three news organizations — the *Associated Press*, *Vice News*, and *USA Today* — [filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in September 2016](#) to reveal details of the hacking method used. Because it was not clear how many phones the workaround could be used on, and whether the FBI could use it surreptitiously in the future, the lawsuit was seeking information that would be pertinent to the public and security researchers around the globe.

THE FBI WON'T HAVE TO REVEAL THE NAME OF THE VENDOR OR THE PRICE PAID

Federal judge Tanya Chutkan, [in her ruling issued Saturday](#), cited the risk revealing such information could pose to the vendor, which does not have the same cyberattack protections as the FBI and might become subject to a number of high-profile attacks from independent or state-sponsored organizations. “It is logical and plausible that the vendor may be less capable than the FBI of protecting its proprietary information in the face of a cyberattack,” the court said. “The FBI's conclusion that releasing the name of the vendor to the general public could put the vendor's systems, and thereby crucial information about the technology, at risk of incursion is a reasonable one.”

The court also denied the request for the price paid by the US government for the tool, despite former FBI director James Comey and Senator Dianne Feinstein's [public disclosures that the cost was around \\$1 million](#). “Releasing the purchase price would

designate a finite value for the technology and help adversaries determine whether the FBI can broadly utilize the technology to access their encrypted devices," the court ruled.

Correction: An earlier version of this article misidentified the phone at the center of the San Bernardino case. It was an iPhone 5C, not an iPhone SE.

IN THIS STORYSTREAM

Apple vs. the FBI: all the news on the battle for encryption's future

- [FBI won't have to reveal details on iPhone hacking tool used in San Bernardino case](#)
- [FBI sued by news organizations for information on San Bernardino iPhone hack](#)

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THE LATEST

GM will release at least 20 all-electric cars by 2023

by [Andrew J. Hawkins](#)

Daily Press Facebook Live forum on crime set for 10 a.m. Monday

By Staff Reports

Posted Oct 1, 2017 at 12:01 AM

Updated at 7:10 AM

Many of the region's top leaders will come together at the Daily Press office on Monday morning to participate in a forum about the rising crime problem.

The forum will be broadcast live via Facebook at 10 a.m. and the public is invited to tune in. The 90-minute forum will feature San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos, Sheriff John McMahon, 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood and several High Desert city officials.

The forum, first proposed by Victor Valley College Trustee Joseph W. Brady in an op-ed column earlier this year, also will feature Brady, Daily Press Interim Publisher Steve Hunt, Apple Valley Mayor Scott Nassif, Adelanto Mayor Richard Kerr, Hesperia Mayor Paul Russ and Barstow City Councilman Rich Harpole.

McMahon told the Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce earlier this year that violent crime has risen 20 percent this year in the Victor Valley. However, he also told the Daily Press that several categories of nonviolent crime also are high, though changes in reporting criteria make some of their rates look like they have fallen.

The issue has been one of the most debated recently by readers of the Daily Press, who have written dozens of letters to the editor about it. The Daily Press published a front-page story by Staff Writer Paola Baker last Sunday showing that murders in the High Desert have increased 35 percent already this year compared to 2015 and 2016 — and there are still three more months left in 2017.

"As DA Mike Ramos told me earlier this year, even his family members in the High Desert have noticed the surge in crime and it is time to come up with solutions," Hunt said. "I am hopeful that this forum will produce some ideas that will pay immediate dividends.

"Every resident of the High Desert — of any city, really — deserves to be able to live in peace without fear of becoming a victim of crime. I'm excited that so many of our regional leaders have agreed to come together for this discussion and am anxious to see what solutions are proposed."

To watch the broadcast, visit the Daily Press' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vvdailypressnews. You can watch in the comfort of your own home on your personal computer, laptop or mobile device or may watch with others at Trinity Lutheran Church, 16138 Molina Drive, Victorville. The High Desert Community Coalition made arrangements with Trinity Lutheran Church to provide this opportunity for community members to come together to watch the broadcast.



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Oscar Valdez Announces Property Tax Postponement Program

Posted: Saturday, September 30, 2017 8:07 am

San Bernardino, CA — San Bernardino County Tax Collector Oscar Valdez announced today that the State Controller's Property Tax Postponement Program is again available to qualifying taxpayers. The program allows low-income seniors and disabled individuals to defer their residential property tax payments for current-year taxes.

“This program will help some of San Bernardino County's most vulnerable citizens, and provide them with a sense of security that they will be able to remain in their family home,” stated Valdez. “I encourage taxpayers to apply as soon as possible if they think they meet the eligibility requirements. For more information, please contact my office at (909) 387-8308.”

Applications will be accepted from October 1 to February 10 each year, and will be processed in the order they are received. To qualify, a homeowner must meet all of the following criteria: 1) be at least 62 years of age, or blind, or disabled; 2) own and occupy their property as their principal place of residence; 3) have a total household income of \$35,500 or less; 4) have at least 40% equity in their property; and 5) does not have a reverse mortgage on their property. Program participants must reapply each year and demonstrate they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

The interest rate for taxes postponed under the Property Tax Postponement Program is 7% per year. Postponed taxes and interest become due and payable when the homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, defaults on a senior lien, refinances, obtains a reverse mortgage, or passes away.

Funding for the program is limited. Applications are immediately available at our office located at 268 West Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino, online at www.sco.ca.gov under the Public Services tab, or by calling (800) 952-5661.

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[Big Bear Alpine Zoo Celebrates Wolf Awareness Week October 15-21](#)

in [Community News](#), [For Your Information](#), [Informational](#), [Mountain Region](#), [Ticker](#) / by [Michael P. Neufeld](#) / on September 29, 2017 at 5:00 am /

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The wolf's sense of smell is more than 100 times greater than a human. Learn more about wolves during the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's Wolf Awareness Week starting October 9. (Contributed Photo)

By Susan A. Neufeld

Big Bear Lake, CA – During the week of October 15-21, keepers at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo will emphasize the importance of wolves to their ecosystem with daily dedicated keeper talks. On Sunday, October 21, we will place specific attention on the roles that wolves play in maintaining this delicate balance through keeper talks and enrichment presentations.



The Big Bear Alpine Zoo, is dedicated to educating the public about the roles that all animals play in perpetuating a healthy environment, emphasizing the greater role that humans play in protecting both species and habitat. Like a large mosaic, a healthy environment is comprised of many integral sections. In parts of the United States, wolves play a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of their habitat.

Come and celebrate the final day of Wolf Awareness Week at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo on October 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m..

The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is located at 43285 Goldmine Drive in Big Bear Lake. The zoo is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Zoo is San Bernardino County's only zoo and also serves as a wildlife animal sanctuary, rehabilitation and education center. The zoo was founded in 1959 and is operated and owned by Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park district.

For more information on the Wolf Awareness Day activities, call (909) 584-1299.

(36)



Comments are closed.

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Mountain area nonprofits and donors prepare for Give BIG San Bernardino 2017

Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

By S. E. Williams

The Community Foundation is preparing for its annual "Give BIG San Bernardino" fundraiser. This year, the agency will once again host a series of workshops and seminars to help nonprofit agencies build greater capacity for an even stronger fundraising effort than experienced last year.

According to program coordinator Andrea Mitchell, "When we started this campaign, we had organizations participating that didn't use Facebook and didn't know how to upload a video to YouTube. Our participating nonprofits are now using these tools. So, we decided to introduce bigger tools that go above and beyond the campaign."

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and other supporters are funding this year's outreach effort by Give BIG San Bernardino County. The organization is providing two half-day panel training sessions and a full day "boot camp" on grant writing for organizations that choose to participate.

The first panel was held September 25. It included information on fundraising and donor relations. The second panel, scheduled for October 13, will focus on media and marketing advice. Each panel will consist of successful professionals and nonprofits who will share their experience.

On November 6, the agency will hold its "Grant Writing Bootcamp." The event will be held at the SAC Health System in downtown San Bernardino at 1455 E 3rd Street. During the workshop, attendees will receive tips offer tips and tricks on corporation, foundation and government proposals. The day will also include presentations from funders.

Mitchell suggested the Bootcamp will provide a great opportunity for nonprofits to learn from experts and to ask questions they have always wanted to ask. "They won't want to miss this opportunity."

To participate in these training opportunities, nonprofits must be registered to participate in the Give BIG San Bernardino campaign before the training begins. Registration is available now at www.givebigsbcounty.org. To learn more about the campaign and upcoming trainings, visit Give BIG San Bernardino County at [Facebook/givebigsbcounty](https://www.facebook.com/givebigsbcounty) and [Twitter@givebigsbcounty](https://twitter.com/givebigsbcounty). For assistance, call The Community Foundation at (951) 241-7777.

Community members are encouraged to go online and support their favorite local nonprofits when the Give BIG San Bernardino County 2017 campaign launches on November 28. The fundraising event lasts a full twenty-four (24) hours online at www.givebigsbcounty.org. Donors are also encouraged to share information about the organizations they support on social media using #GiveBIGSBCounty.

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Park district playing ball with the county over park in Crestline



Rim of the World Recreation and Park District Chair Lawrence Mainez responding to questions from Corona resident Layne Pinkernell at the September 18 regular meeting (Photo by Gail Fry)

Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

By Gail Fry

After over a year and a half of community meetings to discuss and plan a park for the Community of Crestline, the submission of two applications to the United States Forest Service for land as well as discussions with the school district about purchasing land, proponents were surprised by two closed session items on the park district's August 28 agenda indicating the park district was negotiating price and terms of payment with the County on two properties.

According to records obtained by *The Alpenhorn News*, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, at its August 22 regular meeting, held a closed session revealing the county was conducting a "conference with real property negotiator" regarding properties located at 24171 Lake Avenue and 24640 San Moritz Avenue, Crestline with negotiating party Karen Reams, general manager of the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District (ROWRPD) and indicating under negotiation was "Price, Terms of Payment."

After the board of supervisors held their closed session, ROWRPD held a closed session discussion on the same properties at its August 28 regular meeting with "no reportable action."

Records from the San Bernardino County Treasury Tax Collector's Office indicate 24171 Lake Avenue is owned by San Bernardino County and leased to the Lake Gregory Recreation Company. A search of the tax collector's records for 24640 San Moritz Avenue found "no properties" while Internet sources show the property as San Moritz Lodge.

The closed session items appear to have developed after ROWRPD approved its Planning and Facility Committee recommendations at a July 24, 2017, regular meeting, including "Draft a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors to the County Regional Park Requesting a meaningful discussion on the future plans for the ball fields at Lake Gregory."

It appears the letter resulted in the county and ROWRPD playing ball over two properties in the vicinity of Lake Gregory and discussing "Price, Terms of Payment."

At ROWRPD's September 18 regular meeting, ROWRPD Chair Lawrence Mainez announced the public comment time of the meeting, asking, "Layne do you want to hop into this topic?"

Corona resident Layne Pinkernell observed the August 28 agenda didn't include anything on the park and asked about the applications to the United States Forest Service (USFS) for special use permits. Karen Reams responded that they were submitted.

"Is there anyway the public can get a copy of that, I mean with all the attachments to it?" Pinkernell requested. Reams promised copies of the applications would be available at the next meeting.

"I know you guys had a closed session here, looks like on the San Moritz Lodge and Boathouse?" Pinkernell questioned, explaining, "I guess my concern is how does that figure in with the ball fields or the park. Is that going to be pushed back out of the way?"

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"We had a closed session item, and there's no reportable action of a closed session item," Reams responded.

"Right now it doesn't interfere with the process for the other two ball fields, or the process at all," ROWRPD Director Jason Bill claimed.

"No, it's part of the whole bigger picture and all the sites that were selected so we're just going through the process," ROWRPD Chair Lawrence Mainez voiced, explaining, "Because its not on the agenda, we can't really talk too much about it, plus it was a closed session item."

"I understand it was a closed session item," Pinkernell acknowledged, asking, "I just wondered how that is going to affect the park. Is it going to affect the process of that?"

"Hopefully, some day it will be agendized and we will be able to disclose," Mainez voiced, explaining, "And that goes for all the sites, thanks for asking though."

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Crest Forest and Lake Arrowhead Joint MAC Meeting Thursday October 5

in [Community News](#), [Entertainment](#), [Environment](#), [For Your Information](#), [Informational](#), [Mountain Region](#), [News](#), [Safety](#), [Subject](#), [Ticker](#) / by [Michael P. Neufeld](#) / on October 1, 2017 at 5:01 am /

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By Susan A. Neufeld

Lake Arrowhead, CA – The Crest Forest and Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Councils (MAC) will hold a joint meeting on Thursday, October 5, at the Burnt Mill Beach Club (308 Villa Rd. Lake Arrowhead, adjacent to the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa) at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a special presentation by Jaime Stiansen, Resident of Running Springs, regarding community cleanup of snow play impacts in Running Springs.

Teri Kasinga, Cal Trans will discuss Snow Play Trash Program, coordinated by Cal Trans, USFS, Mountain Disposal, and Supervisor Rutherford's Office.

The Lake Arrowhead MAC will discuss the Air traffic problem, over Lake Arrowhead and neighboring communities.

Lake Gregory Improvement Committee will discuss the status of the dam repairs at Lake Gregory.

The next joint MAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the San Moritz Lodge in Crestline.

(49)

NEWS > CRIME

5 arrested Saturday at concert featuring Snoop Dogg in Devore

By **STEPHEN RAMIREZ** | stramirez@scng.com | San Gabriel Valley Tribune

PUBLISHED: October 1, 2017 at 11:11 am | UPDATED: October 1, 2017 at 11:14 am



Five people were arrested during Saturday's How the West Was Won concert, featuring Snoop Dogg, at Glen Helen Amphitheater in Devore, sheriff's officials said.

The causes for the arrests were battery, delaying or resisting a peace officer and public intoxication, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

One person was taken to a hospital, the release said. It didn't say why or how serious the person's condition was.

There were also two reports of vehicle burglary, the release said.

The concert attracted 11,411 fans.

Tags: [concerts](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)

Stephen Ramirez

A pot-filled autumn: More cannabis-themed festivals coming to County Fairgrounds in October

By Rene Ray De La Cruz

Staff Writer

Posted at 10:22 AM

Updated at 10:22 AM

VICTORVILLE — Move over pumpkin spice, it'll be a pot-filled autumn when multiple cannabis-themed festivals roll into the High Desert.

The San Bernardino County Fairgrounds will host three marijuana-themed events in October, starting with the two-day Shatter Cup California music festival on Oct. 6.

Dubbed the “largest music concentrate cup event festival,” Shatter Cup organizers said the event will offer “tons of your favorite brands’ products,” dabs, vendors, food and drinks.

They also listed several musical performers who will appear, such as Rick Ross, Juicy J, The Game, Nipsey Hussle, Madeintyo, OT Genasis, Famous Dex, Lil Pump, AD, Problem, Rj, Flip Major, Compton Av, Radio Base, Finnatics, Jooba Loc, Pomona Dre and Dj Carisma.

The Shatter Cup was originally scheduled for August, but a fire that damaged the Choice Medical Group community building in July forced the event to be rescheduled.

Geoff Hinds, the CEO/general manager of the fairgrounds in Victorville, told the Daily Press the community building has been deemed “a total loss,” with state officials not yet releasing the results of their investigation.

Shatter Cup visitors must be 18 or over to attend and those entering the Prop. 215 area must have a valid California doctor’s recommendation or be 21 or over with a valid California ID.

The Shatter Cup is scheduled to run from noon to midnight on Oct. 7 and 8. Ticket prices start at \$30. For more information and for tickets, visit Shatter Cup California on Facebook or visit [**www.shattercupcalifornia.com**](http://www.shattercupcalifornia.com).

Hinds said the lines have become “blurred” when it comes to categorizing events at the fairgrounds as “cannabis-themed.”

“We live in an evolving Prop. 215 world, where state-owned fairgrounds can allow cannabis sales during different events,” Hinds said. “It’s an ever-changing world and we’re currently adapting our fair policies for different events, including the fair.”

Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 94 in June, which combined both medical and recreational cannabis laws. The bill also includes designated enclosed areas at fairgrounds for cannabis use and other activities.

“We also have a concert by Ruthless Records, which is not considered a cannabis event, but there is a cannabis element to it,” Hinds said. “We’re going to see more of these events as cannabis use becomes more mainstream and becomes part of the lifestyle.”

Ruthless Records Inc. will host the End of Summer Sesh Hip Hop Festival, which will include nearly a dozen musical artists, including Lazie of Bone Thugs N Harmony, Dogg Pound, Lady of Rage, Eastsidaz, Tha Alkaholics, WC of Westside Connection, HC of Ei4T and a tribute to Eazy E by Lil Easy-E and E-3.

Ruthless Records is a record label founded by Eazy-E and Jerry Heller in Compton. The label’s albums include releases by N.W.A, Eazy-E, MC Ren, The D.O.C., Michel’le, J.J.Fad and Bone-Thugs-n-Harmony.

The Summer Sesh is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the fairgrounds, with tickets prices ranging from \$49 to \$85.

For tickets and more information on the Summer Sesh, visit www.ruthlessrecordsinc.com or search “End of Summer Sesh Hip Hop Festival” at www.eventbrite.com.

Hotbox Productions is also bringing its High Desert Hotbox Harvest Festival to the fairgrounds for an evening of live music, art, glass blowing, food trucks, full bar, games and plenty of cannabis in the Prop. 215 building.

Some musical artists at Hotbox include Roots of Mine, Special Blind, Inner Waves and Skunk Dub Music. The main stage and Prop. 215 building hosts include Mr. Hollyweed, The Official Robbie Rosin and MVS The MC.

The Hotbox Harvest Festival is scheduled from 3 to 11 p.m. on Oct. 26. Tickets are \$10 and festival visitors must be 18 or over to attend. Those entering the Prop. 215 area must have a valid California doctor’s recommendation to enter. For tickets and information, visit.

www.Hdhotbox.com.

Hinds said fair staff is not “reaching out” to cannabis-themed event partners, nor are they “judging them,” adding that, “We welcome all partners that want to host an event with us.”

Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLa Cruz@VVDailyPress.com or on Twitter [@DP_ReneDeLaCruz](https://twitter.com/DP_ReneDeLaCruz).



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LOCAL NEWS

Apple Valley Unified denies towing wrongdoing, but will change its practices anyway



Apple Valley Unified. File photo.

By **BEAU YARBROUGH** | byarbrough@scng.com | Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
September 29, 2017 at 4:20 pm



Apple Valley Unified disagrees with almost everything in a [San Bernardino County Grand Jury report](#) questioning its towing practices, but the school district still has changed its procedures.

“The district respectfully disagrees with the grand jury’s conclusion that the AVUSD-PD did not have authority to stop, cite or tow vehicles,” the 21-page letter, signed by Superintendent Thomas Hoegerman, reads in part.

The district’s response to the grand jury, released Monday, cites the California Penal Code, which states peace officers have authority throughout the state.

“Notwithstanding this objection, the district has made significant improvements to its towing procedures in an effort to limit the number of tows and potential financial impact on cited drivers whose vehicles are towed,” Hoegerman wrote.

In an Aug. 8 directive to staff, provided as an attachment to the district's response to the jury, Hoegerman wrote that the district police department's mission was to "provide a safe environment for students, staff and parents, while on campus; to provide a safe route to and from school; to protect district assets and to build a positive relationship with students, parents and the community."

Hoegerman writes that traffic control will occur only "briefly" before and after school, as well as during the school day, including during after-school and weekend school-related activities.

And contrary to grand jury concerns about how far afield stops had been made in previous years, he directed officers to patrol "within the school zone" or immediately adjacent to the school, a school bus stop or along a route to school.

Traffic stops are also only to be made for reasons that will be "clearly and concisely" explained in a police report, and include a fairly standard list of traffic violations or concerns.

"There must be a clear nexus for the reasonable person to see the relationship of safety and the citation," Hoegerman wrote in the directive. And those citations all will be reviewed by the district's chief of police.

And vehicles being towed have to be cleared through the chief of police via the dispatch office. The tow companies used will be rotated, and the registered driver, any lien holder and the registered driver will be notified by mail that the car has been towed and why.

This new, more precise definition of the school police department's "geographical and substantive area of responsibilities" was developed with the help of law enforcement professionals, former Fontana Unified police chief Robert Radcliff, and legal counsel, according to Hoegerman's response to the grand jury.

The grand jury's report said that, from 2014 through 2016, district police officers had more than 700 vehicles towed — two-and-a-half times the number towed by San Bernardino City Unified, an agency four times larger than Apple Valley.

Of the 727 vehicles towed, Big Apple Automotive, [owned by former Apple Valley Town Councilman Jack Collingsworth](#), could account for only about 30 percent, or 217, of the vehicles, the grand jury said in its report.

During that period, the grand jury report concluded that officers issued citations and had vehicles towed well outside their jurisdiction, including one citation issued at the intersection of Milpas Drive and Highway 18, nearly 6 miles east of the nearest district school, Granite Hills High School.

Only about two dozen of California's more than 900 public school districts have their own police departments.

In nearby Victor Valley, the Hesperia Unified School District Police Department did not have any vehicles towed over the same three-year period, and the Snowline Unified School District in nearby Phelan had only one abandoned vehicle towed, according to the grand jury. Elsewhere in San Bernardino County, police at San Bernardino City Unified had 272 vehicles towed, while Fontana Unified police had only 169 vehicles towed, according to the grand jury report.

The grand jury report also alleged that more than 500 cars towed by Big Apple on behalf of Apple Valley Unified couldn't be accounted for.

"The district respectfully disagrees with the grand jury's sweeping, inaccurate conclusion," the district said in its grand jury response. "In a joint effort with the towing company, the district reviewed and confirmed tow records for all 500 of the allegedly unaccounted for vehicles."

Sometime in the next two months, Apple Valley Unified will seek proposals from towing companies. It will require those companies to keep computerized records of all vehicles towed on the district's behalf and make those records available to the district upon request.

Tags: [education](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



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YARBROUGH BEAU **Beau Yarbrough**

Beau Yarbrough wrote his first newspaper article taking on an authority figure (his middle school principal) when he was in 7th grade. He's been a professional journalist since 1992, working in Virginia, Egypt and California. In that time, he's covered community news,



THREE YUCCA VALLEY STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR STEALING FROM LOCKER ROOM »

HUNDREDS HONOR MARA CANTELO AT A FRIDAY SERVICE IN YUCCA VALLEY

By Z107.7 News, on October 2nd, 2017

It was standing room only at the Yucca Valley Community Center Friday, as hundreds of residents came together to celebrate the life of Mara Cantelo, the founder of Tender Loving Christmas. Friends and colleagues shared memories of how they met Cantelo; her years with the American Red Cross; how she was the champion of the under-served and the homeless; her efforts to decorate Highway 62 with 42 miles of yellow ribbons to welcome home the Marines after the Iraq war; and her impact on the community through Tender Loving Christmas. Managing editor Tami Roleff was at the memorial, and says Christmas just won't be the same without Mara Cantelo...



Speaker after speaker all spoke of the big heart of Mara Cantelo, who for 33 years, organized Tender Loving Christmas in Yucca Valley, where thousands of people were able to eat a free Christmas buffet and wouldn't have to be alone on Christmas.



Rick Hayes reminded the crowd why they were there.

"I will not mourn her passing but celebrate her existence."

Gary Daigneault said she never thought about herself, but always others.

"I can't think of anybody that I've ever known in my life who more embodies service above self than Mara Cantelo. She always put her personal needs behind what she can do for other people. Every year she pulled off our own little Christmas miracle."

Gigi Connell said Cantelo will be missed.

"Christmas Day, it just won't be the same without seeing her colorful hair, but despite the chaos, she always had a smile on her face."

And Cindy Melland said with the help of hundreds of volunteers, Cantelo always managed to pull it off, when others doubted it could be done.

"Together we can do things. But Mara, she showed us in epic proportions how that works. She never ever lost faith."

Cantelo's sister Lisa Beatty asked that Tender Loving Christmas continue.

"Please carry on her legacy."

It's unclear who will try to fill Cantelo's shoes in organizing Tender Loving Christmas this year.



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LOCAL NEWS

When construction will begin on Fontana's new Central City Park



When construction will begin on Fontana's new Central City Park

By **JIM STEINBERG** | Press-Enterprise

September 30, 2017 at 10:00 am



FONTANA >>The city has enough money to start construction of the new \$13 million Central City Park, officials announced recently.

Earlier this year, the state awarded the city a \$1 million dollar grant to help build Central City Park located behind the Cypress Center.

Construction of the park is expected to begin in the summer of 2018 and be completed in 2019.

“We are very excited to be moving forward with this project that will provide more opportunities for our children to participate in outdoor activities and also enhance the quality of life for residents in the community,” Director of Public Works Chuck Hays said in a statement.

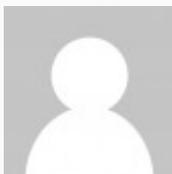
The California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services award of \$1 million will be used to build the planned 12.7-acre sports facility. The park design will include three sports fields, two football fields with soccer overlay and one field dedicated

The park will be located between Cypress and Oleander avenues and adjacent to the Cypress Community Center located at 8280 Cypress Ave.

The project will also include the construction of a new community garden and new horseshoe pits.

Central City Park will connect to the Pacific Electric Trail and incorporate walking paths, picnic shelters and leisure and social activities for residents in the adjacent areas.

Tags: **community**



Jim Steinberg

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LOCAL NEWS

Redlands seeing pension costs rise, braces for continued increases



Redlands city officials are preparing for an increase in pension costs.

By **SANDRA EMERSON** | semerson@scng.com | Redlands Daily Facts
September 30, 2017 at 10:00 am



While officials express confidence about the city's ability to pay nearly \$2 million more in pension costs in 2018, they are bracing for more challenging increases expected in the near future.

Redlands will be on the hook for about \$12.2 million in pension costs in the 2018-19 fiscal year, according to the latest figures from the California Public Employees Retirement System.

That is up from about \$10.48 million due this year.

"I think we're going to be fine covering those pensions obligations in 2018 without any problems," Mayor Paul Foster said. "We're really looking beyond that and what our strategy will be to deal with 2019 and beyond."

The latest figures, released in August by CalPERS, reflect the first of a three-year reduction in CalPERS' rate of investment return, meaning public agencies like Redlands will be paying more.

In December, the CalPERS Board of Administration voted to lower its assumed rate of return from 7.5 percent to 7 percent over the next three years. For public agencies and schools, this begins July 1, 2018.

Most of the \$2 million increase is from the rate change, which in 2017-18 was 7.37 percent, said Tara Gallegos, information officer with CalPERS.

The rate will be 7.25 percent in 2018-19 and 7 percent in 2019-20, when public agencies would see the biggest jump.

The number of new employees hired by a public agency and salary increases could also add to the contributions in future years, Gallegos said.

While the change may be challenging for public agencies who are part of the statewide pension system, it was necessary for the long-term sustainability of the fund, Gallegos said.

"I think it's important to note that CalPERS is aware this decision really puts pressure on our employer partners and we know they're contributions are going to go up," Gallegos said.

On the bright side, public agencies are expected to see savings as they hire more employees eligible under the Public Employees Pension Reform Act, which raised the retirement age and the amount employees contribute toward their pensions.

As a result, CalPERS anticipates saving \$29 billion to \$38 billion over the next 30 years, Gallegos said.

Meeting obligations

City officials are developing a variety of options to address the rising pension contributions for the council to consider, Foster said.

“As we go into the budget season for 2018-19 in the spring and going into June,” Foster said, “I certainly think by that time we will need to have some strong feelings about the direction we’re going to take for the future.”

While the \$2 million increase next year will be covered, Foster said, it still takes money away from the city’s General Fund, which is where most of the pension payment comes from.

The General Fund, which is about \$68.5 million this fiscal year, also covers most of the city’s salaries.

“It’s still money we wish we would be using for a whole wide range of things, but we have an obligation under state law to pay the pensions,” Foster said.

The city’s contribution

Redlands’ pension contribution is comprised of the normal cost, the annual cost of benefits for active employees, and the unfunded accrued liability.

For 2017-18, the city’s normal cost is \$5.1 million and the unfunded accrued liability is nearly \$5.4 million – a total of about \$10.5 million.

For 2018-19, the city’s normal cost increases to about \$5.5 million and the unfunded accrued liability goes up to \$6.7 million, according to CalPERS, resulting in a total contribution of about \$12.2 million.

Tags: [pensions](#), [Top Stories RDF](#)

EMERSON_SANDRA **Sandra Emerson**

Sandra Emerson covers the cities of Redlands, Highland and Yucaipa for the Redlands Daily Facts and The Sun.

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LOCAL NEWS

How a piece of Redlands history was saved: Paul Morris installs decorative ball from demolished church on his 1891 house

By **CONTRIBUTED CONTENT** |

September 30, 2017 at 1:23 pm



By **Nelda Stuck**

An object of Redlands history has been saved from demolition and is now part of the historic Elon J. Waite house on the northwest corner of Center Street and Cypress Avenue in Redlands.

Paul Morris, an antiques collector specializing in Redlands memorabilia, has realized a 13-year dream. In June 2004 he rescued the decorative ball from the top of the demolished Protestant Reformed Church at the corner of Clay Street and Lugonia Avenue to place it on the turret of his Queen Anne-style house.

The transfer, however, took 13 years, the purchase of a boom lift and then placing and climbing a precarious ladder on the turret roof.

Morris and his wife, Pam, purchased the 1891 Waite house at 556 S. Center St., opposite Gerrards Market, in 1996. In early photos of the property, they noticed a ball on the turret, and for years were looking for one to replace it.

“When you have an old house, you get what you can (for repairs and restoring history) and you get it when you see it,” Morris said.

Morris understands patience. He could have constructed his own sphere, but 13 years ago he saw the old Protestant Reformed Church being demolished to make room for the new Boys & Girls Club of Redlands clubhouse. He spotted the 14-inch white sphere and cone-shaped spire atop the church belfry, and realized, “This ball had history.”

The day of the demolition, he spoke to the project manager, who wasn’t sure they could save the ball, but said, “I’ll do my best.”

Four hours later, with Morris watching the whole process, the ball finally came down — hitting the ground and breaking into several pieces. The tin cone spire was not damaged.

The problem was not putting the wooden ball back together but mounting it on the turret roof of the house.

Morris purchased a boom lift — not just for this job, but also to finish painting the house.

“I painted it 17 years ago and it needs it again, and I’ve got the bottom half done and now plan to work on the south side, then the north and then the front,” he said.

Taking a breather from painting, he decided it was time to tackle the ball. However, reaching the turret top was another matter, with the boom reaching only 41 feet. So Morris, operating the boom from controls at the top, hauled up his eight-foot aluminum ladder, hefted it off the boom platform, propped it against the boom and tied the ladder to either side of the platform.

“I wasn’t taking chances,” Morris said about what might appear to be a Rube Goldberg set-up.

“The ladder couldn’t slide because I had the boom lift underneath it and tied it off to the bars on the lift so it couldn’t slide down or right or left. If it had been dangerous at all, I would not have done it,” he said.

As for his wife, Pam, documenting the project with her camera for the continuing history of the house, Morris said, “She doesn’t like me to do that, but I have a full harness that fits around my arms. I step into it with my legs. If you fall, it catches like a seat belt. I can walk away slowly but if you fall, it catches.”

Morris said he remembers being on the roof no more than a half hour.

To fit the ball and spire to the roof cone, he drilled a hole through metal on the top and put the long metal pole down inside, sealing with Bondo glue.

“They use Bondo for dents on cars,”he said. “It’s very, very strong. It can’t move and is waterproof.”

Before retirement, Morris worked 46 years for Ralphs grocery company, including driving for 40 years up to San Jose, San Francisco and Las Vegas, and managing stores for six years.

He has been collecting antiques for more than 40 years and Redlands antiques since moving here 20 years ago.

Nelda Stuck was community and arts editor for the Redlands Daily Facts for 22 years before retiring in 2002.

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School district claims it didn't violate The Brown Act



Rim of the World Unified School District Superintendent Michelle Murphy who responded to The Alpenhorn News' questions on the settlement of a federal lawsuit and its lack of disclosure to the public (Photo by Gail Fry)

Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

By Gail Fry

In response to *The Alpenhorn News* story entitled, "School district secretly settles federal lawsuit," on September 21, 2017, Rim of the World Unified School District claims it followed The Brown Act, which governs open meeting laws, in its agendas and reporting and/or not reporting of the settlement and terms of the settlement of a federal lawsuit involving a student with special needs.

Questions arose when *The Alpenhorn News* obtained a court document entitled "Stipulation for Dismissal of Action" in the case Meares versus Rim of the World Unified School District (ROWUSD) filed in the United States District Court (USDC) revealing "as of March 10, 2017, the parties had reached a settlement agreement in principal" and "finalized the terms of the agreement on April 13, 2017" and "as of June 1, 2017, payment of the settlement had been completed."

ROWUSD meeting agendas over the same period of time, from March 13 through May 18, 2017, obtained from the Rim of the World Unified School District did not show any closed session items to discuss pending litigation or announcement of a settlement.

In response to questions by *The Alpenhorn News*, ROWUSD Superintendent Michelle Murphy explained its January 6, 2017, special board meeting agenda reflected a closed session item "Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, case name unspecified: disclosure would jeopardize existing settlement negotiations" followed by announcement of reportable actions taken during closed session. "The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to give settlement authority to the District's attorneys to negotiate in the settlement conference on January 9, 2017."

"In this case, the Board properly met in a properly agenzized closed session and gave authority to settle," Murphy affirmed, explaining it was not reported out because "the other party or parties still

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had to reach agreement" and "an Agreement was eventually reached."

However, California 1st Amendment Coalition Executive Director David Snyder disagreed, "If they are just authorizing the attorney to negotiate, that by definition they don't know what the final settlement terms will be."

"They would have to sign off on the final amount," Snyder confirmed, explaining, "It would be hard to imagine a scenario where they would say you have authority within a certain range, but the school district doesn't know what the actual amount is, I think they would have to sign off on the final amount."

As to the fact ROWUSD did not announce the settlement of the lawsuit or the terms of the settlement during a public meeting, Murphy claimed, "The Board was not required to further agendaize or report the matter," citing Government Code Section 54957.1. (a)(3)(B), "If final approval rests with some other party to the litigation or with the court, then as soon as the settlement becomes final, **and upon inquiry by any person**, the local agency shall disclose the fact of that approval, and identify the substance of the agreement."

"Under the above provision, the only requirement is that the approval be disclosed and the substance of the agreement be identified upon inquiry by any person," Murphy concluded.

Snyder confirmed, "Yes, and its true that in that scenario they have to disclose it upon inquiry" and although he disagrees with the law as written, "It's true, The Brown Act doesn't require them to affirmatively step forward unless they're asked."

Snyder explained two scenarios, one where the agency approves a settlement agreement that is already signed by the opposing party and in that case "they have an affirmative obligation to announce it."

The other where the agency approves a settlement agreement not yet signed by the other party where "they have to wait for the other party to sign off on it" and in that case by law they are not required to formally announce the settlement at an open meeting and only upon "inquiry by any person" the agency "shall disclose the fact of that approval, and identify the substance of the agreement."

In response to *The Alpenhorn News'* request for a copy of the settlement agreement, Murphy voiced, "I can inform you that (1) that the settlement has been approved, (2) that the Board proceeded within the provisions of the Brown Act, and (3) what the substance of the agreement is."

Murphy provided the substance of its settlement agreement as, "Plaintiffs agreed to dismiss the federal lawsuit; The District agreed to pay \$450,000 over a period of 12 years to the plaintiff; The District agreed to pay \$550,000 to the plaintiffs attorneys; The total direct cost to the District was \$250,000, with the remainder paid by insurance [this does not appear in the agreement but is public information and significant to your inquiry]; The District agreed to form a Superintendent/Parent Advisory Board beginning in the 2017/2018 school year to focus on Special Education; Other, nonmonetary provisions related to the individual minor plaintiff are confidential."

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Chino Hills lieutenant new second in command

By Marianne Napoles | Posted: Saturday, September 30, 2017 8:00 am

Lt. Chris Ilizaliturri, also known as “Izzy,” was introduced as second-in-command of the Chino Hills Police Station during Tuesday’s city council meeting.

He is no stranger to Chino Hills, having worked at the station as a sergeant from 2007 to 2012.

He replaced Lt. Dave Phelps, who is now working at the scientific investigations division of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.



Lt. Ilizaliturri was born to a U.S. Army military family in Tokyo, Japan, and was raised there until the age of 7.

Lt. Chris “Izzy” Ilizaliturri

His career in law enforcement began with the Los Angeles Police Department in 1983.

He left as a detective and began working for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department in January 1991 as a deputy sheriff.

His 26-year career with the sheriff’s department includes assignments in corrections, training, Rancho Cucamonga patrol, major narcotics, criminal intelligence, and the arson-bomb unit.

His chief, Capt. Darren Goodman, said Izzy’s extensive experience will make him an excellent lieutenant at the Chino Hills Police Department.

The lieutenant has a bachelor’s of science degree in criminal justice from Cal State University Long Beach and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Denver.

He is working on his doctoral dissertation in public administration at the University of La Verne.

He lives in Rancho Cucamonga.

His son Michael served two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq in the U.S. Air Force as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC).

Michael will graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder this year.

Congressional inquiry made into Victorville prison complex

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

Posted Sep 30, 2017 at 1:30 PM

Updated Sep 30, 2017 at 1:30 PM

The Republican Congressman met with association leaders representing correctional officers at FCC Victorville, who expressed concern over inadequate staffing levels.

VICTORVILLE — Congressman Paul Cook has inquired to the Federal Bureau of Prisons about the Federal Correctional Complex here, seeking a slew of financial details about the facilities amid concerns raised by employees over safety and inadequate staffing levels.

Employees said higher-ups have blamed highlighted issues on a restricted budget.

Cook, the Republican Congressman representing the High Desert, sent a letter to the bureau's chief of Office of Legislative Affairs on Sept. 6, the Daily Press has learned.

The inquiry came after he had met with association leaders representing correctional officers at FCC Victorville, who expressed concern over inadequate staffing levels, according to Matt Knox, the lawmaker's district director.

"Congressman Cook believes the safety of staff at federal prisons is paramount," Knox said in an email. "Subsequently, Congressman Cook sought information on the FCC Victorville budget in order to shed light on the situation."

Specifically, the lawmaker requested a range of fiscal information including allocated funding during the past two fiscal years, actual spending, and the construction, annual maintenance and staffing budget for seven guard towers at the the penitentiary, which is the high-security facility at the complex housing more than 1,100 male inmates.

The complex also has two medium-security institutions and a minimum-security satellite camp: one housing more than 1,200 male inmates and another housing nearly 1,500 male and female inmates including the camp.

But the seven towers are of particular concern for John Kostelnik, the FCC Victorville union president since January, who says they're basically, at this point, no more than architecture.

"There are no staff in those towers," Kostelnik said, adding that administrators have suggested an electric fence on the perimeter was sufficient. "It comes down to budgetary."

While one tower is manned full-time, he acknowledged, a second is only staffed during certain hours. The other five, he said, are empty, a significant shift from two years ago when each was occupied at all times.

"We had an almost successful escape a few years ago," he said, drawing comparisons between the make-up of FCC Victorville and the penitentiary in Atwater, where an inmate broke free and was later caught earlier this year.

The resulting limited overwatch, he said, was just one of the several concerns he has sought to amplify to administrators for months. He noted that guard-to-inmate ratios were "terrible" and in the 1-to-120 range; staffing shortages have hit medical and food service departments too; and drug culture was rampant.

The response, he claimed, has been to simply point to budget issues.

An email sent this week to FCC Victorville's public affairs seeking responses to reported concerns and the Congressional inquiry was not responded to by Friday.

On Sept. 17, an inmate physically assaulted a correctional officer at the medium-security prison FCI-2, sending the officer to the hospital for “non-life-threatening injuries,” according to a spokeswoman.

Less than a month earlier, at the same facility, two correctional officers were assaulted by three inmates and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

“I’m most fearful that one of my staff are going to get killed, knock on wood,” Kostelnik said. “It’s damn near inevitable at this point.”

In both instances, the complex was placed on lockdown and officials underlined that at no time was the public in danger, although Kostelnik said he was also worried for the outlying community. He said he has considered passing out flyers to neighborhoods in the vicinity to inform residents they’re unsafe.

Knox said Thursday the Congressman’s office had not yet received the information it requested from the Bureau of Prisons.

Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or

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