

NEWS

After Las Vegas shooting, tighter security expected in Devore for Cal Jam 2017 music festival



Glen Helen Amphitheater in Devore. File photo.

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

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 9:38 pm | UPDATED: October 3, 2017 at 10:02 pm

The Las Vegas mass shooting Sunday underscores the security vulnerabilities of open-air attractions like the Glen Helen Amphitheater in Devore, where security will be tighter for this weekend's Cal Jam 2017 rock music festival.

Brian Jenkins, an authority on terrorism and security at the Santa Monica-based RAND Corp., told the Southern California News Group on Monday that security vulnerabilities "are virtually infinite" in Southern California, given there are so many public places and open-air venues.

Glen Helen, for example, is nestled among rolling hills in a relatively secluded area and is in close proximity to two freeways. It is the largest outdoor amphitheater in the U.S., with a capacity of 65,000 people, and could be considered an ideal locale for a potential critical incident.

In Las Vegas, 59 people died and 527 were injured in a shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival outside the Mandalay Bay hotel.

Security will be ramped up at Glen Helen during this weekend's two-day Cal Jam 2017 rock music festival, expected to draw 30,000, said Glen Helen Amphitheater General Manager John Piehuta. He said concertgoer safety is his top priority, and he works closely with local law enforcement officials to ensure sufficient security measures are in place.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller said Tuesday a contingency plan was in place to address the issues of venue terrain and other vulnerabilities.

"We have resources that will ensure those areas are patrolled and secure," Miller said.

As routine protocol, sheriff's Lt. Sarkis Ohannessian said a sheriff's helicopter does aerial perimeter patrols of the amphitheater when it hosts events. But in the wake of the Las Vegas shooting, the department will be even more vigilant and paying closer attention to vulnerable areas. Deputies will be assigned to the venue around the clock, in the park and on the amphitheater grounds, the lieutenant said.

"Our mission is to keep people safe by detecting/deterring an incident before it happens. With that said, we are also ready for any type of incident countywide," Ohannessian said in an email Tuesday. "I encourage the public to be our eyes and report anything they think is suspicious, but at the same time, for them to have a great time at the concert!"

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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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NEWS

Brandin' Iron in San Bernardino is one of many places holding candlelight vigils, fundraisers for Las Vegas victims



Sean Bolger is comforted by a friend during a vigil at City Hall in Las Vegas, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017. The vigil was held in honor of the over 50 people killed and hundreds injured in a mass shooting at an outdoor music concert late Sunday. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

By **BRIAN WHITEHEAD** | bwhitehead@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 6:38 pm | UPDATED: October 3, 2017 at 8:10 pm



SAN BERNARDINO – The country music fans Bill Thomas welcomes into the Brandin' Iron five nights a week are some of the most loyal people he knows.

And so, to remember victims of the Las Vegas mass shooting at last weekend's Route 91 Harvest Festival, the Brandin' Iron will hold a candlelight vigil and a moment of silence at 11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

"We serve our community," said Thomas, the nightclub's longtime owner. "The country western group is very loyal. They go to country events, rodeos, country concerts. It's only natural for us to be mindful of our customers and the people in the country western community."

Four Brandin' Iron staff members and several regulars attended the three-day music festival, Thomas said. The staffers returned home safe.

"It's an evil situation over there," Thomas added. "But good will prevail in the long run, and our customers will rally around one another and take care of one another.

"It's a really tight-knit group of country fans."

The Brandin' Iron, at 320 S. E St. in San Bernardino, is one of a handful of local places honoring Las Vegas victims. Others include:

- A candlelight vigil will be held for Riverside City College [nursing student Angela Gomez](#), 20, of Riverside, at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the campus' Landis Auditorium, 4800 Magnolia Ave., college officials said.
- On Saturday, Oct. 7, a car wash will be held for Gomez beginning at 8 a.m. at the Riverside Elks Lodge, 6166 Brockton Ave.
- A vigil is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5, at Cal State San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, for [fourth-year student Jordyn Rivera](#), said Dimitri Tamalis, chairman of the Health Science and Human Ecology department. A time has not yet been set.
- The city of Eastvale will hold a candlelight vigil at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, in the Eleanor Roosevelt High front parking lot, 7447 Scholar Way. Resident Rocio Guillen is reported to have been one of the victims.



Jordyn Rivera, 21, was a Cal State San Bernardino student.

By **RYAN HAGEN** | rhagen@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 11:33 am | UPDATED: October 4, 2017 at 1:28 am



Cal State San Bernardino is grieving this week over the loss of Jordyn Rivera, who was killed in Sunday's [mass shooting in Las Vegas](#).

“Everyone in the department is affected, and those who knew her well are extremely distraught,” said Dimitri Tamalis, chairman of the Health Science and Human Ecology department. “She was very well liked by both faculty and students alike. She was very well known because of her personality and her activities outside the curriculum.”

Although he didn't teach her, Tamalis knew Rivera from the honor society Eta Sigma Gamma, and he remembered her as personable and adventurous.

This was the second major tragedy to hit the department since 2015, Tamalis noted.

“It's just a couple of years after we lost students in the department from the [San Bernardino terrorist attack](#),” he said. “It feels like we've been targeted again.”

Rivera, a native of La Verne, was a fourth-year student in the Health Care Management program and a warm, energetic person, Cal State San Bernardino President Tomás Morales said Tuesday in an email to employees and students.

“I personally got a chance to know her when we spent time together last summer in London during the summer abroad program,” Morales wrote. “As one of her faculty members noted, we will remember and treasure her for her warmth, optimism, energy, and kindness.”

A Bonita High School graduate, Rivera was a member of CSUSB's chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, the national health education honor society, according to Morales.

“This is a devastating loss for the entire CSUSB family,” he said. “In this time of grief, our thoughts and prayers are with Jordyn's family, friends and all who knew her. More information will be shared as it becomes available.”

Two different GoFundMe accounts had collectively raised more than \$20,000 by Tuesday morning to help the family.

One set up by Eta Sigma Gamma and Rivera's friends focused on providing a fitting memorial.

“This beautiful soul served as an engaged member of the local community, personally leaving her mark on all those around her,” [the page says](#). “Leaving nothing to chance, Jordyn made sure that her passionate heart guided and led all of the people that she cared about in her life.”

[The other](#) focused on helping Rivera's family.

"I'm lost for words right now and I cannot imagine or even begin to think how Albert and Mary Rivera feel right now," wrote the page creator, Mike Schrader. "Their daughter Jordyn just turned 21 years old a couple months ago and was at the Vegas concert when the shooting happened. She passed away so young and she had everything going for her."

Tags: [Cal State San Bernardino](#), [Echo Code](#), [Las Vegas mass shooting](#), [mass shooting](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



Ryan Hagen

Ryan Hagen covers the city of San Bernardino for The Sun and the Southern California News Group.

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NEWS

Can trauma-care centers truly address mass tragedies such as Las Vegas shooting?



An ambulance leaves the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana Ave. after the mass shooting at a country music festival. (Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

By **KAISER HEALTH NEWS** |

October 4, 2017 at 8:48 am



By Julie Appleby and Phil Galewitz, Kaiser Health News

Las Vegas is not only a glittering strip of casinos and hotels but a fast-growing region with more than 2 million residents – and one hospital designated as a highest-level trauma center.

The deadly shooting Sunday that killed at least 59 and sent more than 500 people to area hospitals raised questions about whether that's enough.

Las Vegas is not the only big city with just one such trauma center. Seattle and Nashville, among others, also are in this category, according to the American Trauma Society, a professional and advocacy organization focused on improving trauma care.

Casey Nolan, a hospital consultant and managing director of Navigant Consulting in Washington, D.C., said what matters most is not the number of high-level centers, but the degrees of coordination across the area's medical network, including the first responders.

“It's how well integrated the care is and whether there is a triage system to get patients to the right place in the right time,” he said.

What Makes Up The Network

The highest-level trauma centers are equipped and staffed around-the-clock to provide care for patients who suffer from traumatic injuries such as gunshot wounds, falls and car accidents.

The designation “trauma center” is the result of a validation process at the state or local level. Centers are categorized by Level I, II or III, for instance, in keeping with nationally accepted standards. Centers can also seek additional approval from the American College of Surgeons.

Across the country, there are 217 Level I trauma centers, up from 198 in 2012, according to the trauma society. These centers must see at least 1,200 trauma patients a year and have general surgeons and other specialists immediately available at the facility.

There are another 310 Level II centers that face similar staffing rules, but with fewer education and training requirements. Level III centers have emergency medical staff, but will stabilize severely injured patients and often transport them to higher-level trauma centers.

For decades, the hospital industry viewed trauma care as a money-losing proposition because of the high costs of keeping doctors and nurses on standby 24 hours a day. Trauma centers, particularly those in inner cities, tended to attract more patients without health insurance.

But in recent years, hospitals have been competing to get the designation as a way to increase profits, in part because trauma centers enhance demand for surgery and ancillary services like CT scans. In addition, a trauma designation can boost a facility's overall reputation, Nolan added.

"Trauma had gotten a bad rap," explained Nolan. "But in suburban locations, where more people have insurance, you can do pretty well on trauma."

Some hospitals also began charging a fee — known as a "trauma activation" fee — to help pay for the extra staffing and equipment trauma units require.

Those fees could range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars on patients' bills, Nolan said.

Trauma Care In Las Vegas

Despite the burgeoning population of Las Vegas and surrounding Clark County, which more than doubled to 2.2 million in the past 25 years, University Medical Center has been Las Vegas' only Level I trauma center since 1992.

The metro area includes two other lower-level trauma centers. Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas is a Level II facility and St. Rose Dominican Hospital in nearby Henderson, Nev., is a Level III.

Even the idea of expanding Las Vegas' trauma network has stirred controversy.

Last year, a state agency rejected applications by three hospitals in the Las Vegas area to be designated as Level III trauma centers.

HCA, the national, for-profit chain that owned two of these facilities, said adding trauma centers would help ensure quicker care to patients in the growing region. The company has made adding trauma centers a strategy across the country and has met resistance from existing centers.

But opponents argued HCA was motivated by the opportunity to boost profits. The Tampa Bay Times reported last year that the hospital chain charged significantly higher "activation fees" than other hospitals.

Opponents also countered that adding trauma centers would affect University Medical Center’s ability to provide quality care and train doctors. Some experts say it could diminish the number of patients seen at each center.

That’s because the more trauma patients a center deals with annually, the better the results, studies show.

“If you can bring all the patients to one place, then those surgeons become really good at dealing with trauma, instead of spreading it out [around a number of facilities],” said Bill Bullard, senior vice president with the Abaris Group, a California-based consulting firm that advises hospitals on emergency care.

Ian Weston, executive director of the American Trauma Society, said the trauma system worked well in Las Vegas, which is a credit to ambulances and other first responders and their ability to triage patients to hospitals across the city.

Seriously ill patients have the best outcomes when treated at a Level I trauma center, said David Callaway, a professor of emergency medicine at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C. But “when you have 500-plus casualties and 58 dead ... if all the patients went to a Level I, mortality would not be improved, because they would be completely overwhelmed,” Callaway added.

Bullard agreed.

“In theory, the more centers you have the more people you have to deal with injuries. However, no trauma system is able to handle a tragedy of this magnitude.”

Tags: [hospitals](#), [Las Vegas mass shooting](#)



**Kaiser Health
News**

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Desert residents line up to give blood after Vegas shooting

By Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Monday, October 2, 2017 3:30 pm

SAN BERNARDINO — People from the desert areas are lining up to give blood in the wake of the mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, Sunday.

LifeStream is the blood bank that serves the Morongo Basin and Coachella Valley, and spokesman Don Escalante said people have been lining up at donor centers since news broke of the deadly shooting.

“We’ve heard reports from all our centers, including La Quinta, which is the closest (to the Hi-Desert) that the response has been very strong. People have come out in great numbers,” Escalante said Monday.

“They’ve had to endure fairly long waits, an hour or more, just to get into the screening room.

“They’re showing a great deal of heart, a great deal of dedication, and we’re very appreciative of that response.”

As of 3 p.m. Monday, the hospitals in the Las Vegas region have not asked LifeStream to provide blood, but that could change at any minute.

“As many people who are injured, as much blood that is needed, at this point, the hospitals in Las Vegas are able to provide enough blood to everyone who needs it,” Escalante said. “So at this point LifeStream has not been asked to provide any blood. We are preparing for it.”

For example, after Hurricane Harvey, LifeStream was not asked for blood supplies immediately, but ultimately ended up flying blood to survivors when Texas hospitals needed support.

“We’re preparing as if we’re going to help, but we’re not sure that will be the case,” Escalante said.

In the meantime, blood donations are still urgently needed in Southern California. LifeStream supports more than 80 hospitals, including Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree and the Robert E. Bush Naval hospital aboard the Twentynine Palms Marine base.

“There’s always need for blood — the surgeries, the cancer treatments, the burns, the traumas, the newborn babies, the mothers giving birth, they all need blood,” Escalante said.

“It will go to help save lives, one way or the other.”

Due to the response LifeStream has had Monday, the nonprofit asks that people who want to give blood consider making appointments for later in the week or the weekend. To schedule a donation, visit <https://www.lstream.org> or call a donor center. The La Quinta donor center is at (760) 777-8844 and the Victorville center is at (760) 843-9700.

LifeStream will hold several mobile blood drives in the Hi-Desert this month:

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Wal-Mart in Yucca Valley.
- 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 at Black Rock High School in Yucca Valley.
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree.

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Marine Corps Communications Electronics School.
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 14 at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms.

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LifeStream asks Community to Give

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Local Resident Diane Hill Injured in Las Vegas Attack

in [Community News](#), [For Your Information](#), [Informational](#), [Mountain Region](#), [News](#), [Subject](#), [Ticker](#) / by [Michael P. Neufeld](#) / on October 4, 2017 at 5:00 am /

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By Susan A. Neufeld

Lake Arrowhead, CA – A local restaurant owner was one of the 500 plus that were injured Sunday night in Las Vegas during the Route 91 Harvest Festival.

Diane Hill, the owner of Diane’s Grill at the Saddleback Inn, was injured and remains in the hospital. No information on her condition was available, but she will be undergoing surgery for her injury.

Diane’s daughter, Taylor Hill, is asking all mountain residents to send cards and well wishes for Diane to the Saddleback Inn, P O Box 1890, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352.

Please keep her in our thoughts and prayers and have her come home to a restaurant full of cards, well wishes and Love!

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-san-bernardino-shooting-at-las-vegas-brings-more-tragedy-1507122000>

U.S.

For San Bernardino, Shooting at Las Vegas Brings More Tragedy

After 13 of its employees were killed in the 2015 terrorist attack, county confronts loss of one employee and injuries to four others in Vegas attack



Law-enforcement officers search for the suspects who carried out a mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., on Dec. 2, 2015, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others. PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

By *Jennifer Levitz*

Oct. 4, 2017 9:00 a.m. ET

The morning after the Las Vegas massacre, San Bernardino County Assessor Bob Dutton delivered devastating news to his staff: Once again, a mass shooting had killed and wounded some of their colleagues.

He saw a familiar pained expression fall across their faces. In the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack, 13 of the 14 killed worked for the county.

The list of those killed or wounded in the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas included at least five San Bernardino county employees: Deputy recorder county clerk Dana Gardner, 52 years old, died from a gunshot, and four other county workers were wounded. Among them were a mechanic with the fleet-management department, a firefighting aide from the county fire department, a personnel technician from the Department of Human Services, and a 19-year-veteran of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. All were off duty, said county spokesman David Wert.

County employees said they still have raw feelings from the 2015 attack.

"We're still not 100% over that," said Mr. Dutton, who is also the county's clerk and recorder. "Both are just as shocking to some degree."

On Monday, he said, a few employees were so shaken up that they couldn't stay at work. Others scheduled time off or met with grief counselors. Many wanted to work, he said, because they "didn't want to think about it" and believed keeping the department's offices running smoothly was the best way to honor Ms. Gardner.

San Bernardino isn't the only community where workers at town halls, schools, police and fire departments are grieving colleagues who died. But the county's tragedy in 2015 has made employees particularly empathetic and eager to do everything possible to help people in Las Vegas, said Mark Hartwig, the fire chief for the San Bernardino County Fire District.

Remembering the Victims



IN MEMORIAM



Mr. Hartwig estimates about 20 of his firefighters and deputies went to the show in Las Vegas, which is only a few hour's drive. Their presence proved invaluable during the shooting because "they just sprung into action," saving lives and using combat-medicine techniques they learned in active-shooter training to try to manage the bleeding of the wounded concertgoers, he said.

Mike Kordich, an office-duty firefighting assistant, was performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on someone when he himself was shot in the arm, Mr. Hartwig said. The injured employee was recovering Tuesday, the chief said.

But the shooting rampage caused guarded memories to resurface. While his office is a typically chatty and lively place in the mornings, workers there greeted each other with silence and nods on Monday, Mr. Hartwig said. In his own office, a secretary lost a son-in-law in the 2015 shooting.

"We all don't want to ever forget in San Bernardino, but we survive by not talking about it," he said.

When San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon learned that one of his own officers, Sgt. Brad Powers, had been shot, the sheriff immediately went to Las Vegas, said Cindy Bachman, the public information officer for the San Bernardino County sheriff's department. Mr. Powers was in critical but stable condition on Tuesday, she said.

Ms. Bachman said she suspects that many employees were troubled by seeing another horrific shooting killing or wounding those from their community. "It had to go through their minds that this can't be happening again so close to us and involving so many of our county employees," she said.

Mr. Dutton said his office would proceed as it did after the 2015 shootings, when his staff carried out its public duties and processed than 11,000 documents—from name changes to property-title transfers to marriages—in the 48 hours after that tragedy.

But he said he knows recovering from the latest tragedy won't be as easy.

"Even today myself and others are a little numb and we know it," he said. "It's just still unbelievable."

Write to Jennifer Levitz at jennifer.levitz@wsj.com

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U.S.

How the Las Vegas Shooting Could Change Police Tactics

By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. OCT. 4, 2017

Read the latest on the Las Vegas shooting with Wednesday's live updates.

A trained sharpshooter firing from atop the University of Texas Tower in 1966 introduced many Americans to mass casualty attacks, but almost all of the large-scale shootings since then — including Sandy Hook and Orlando — have taken place at ground level with the gunman killing from relatively close range.

One result: Even as mass shootings became more frequent and police departments expanded training on how to confront a gunman, officers were typically coached on close-quarters assaults taking place on the first couple of floors of schools, shopping malls and office buildings.

Then came Sunday night, when a gunman, identified as Stephen Paddock, opened fire from the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas hotel, targeting a crowd at a concert some 500 yards away. At least 58 people were killed and 527 others injured.

Former and current law enforcement chiefs and other experts predicted that Sunday's shooting would alter the training at many police forces to include more of a focus on the threat posed by high-rise snipers or others who kill from long distances.

“This is a paradigm shift,” said John Urquhart, the sheriff of King County, Wash., which includes Seattle.

While police departments will continue to train for mass shootings that follow the more common pattern where the gunman is fairly close to his victims, Sheriff Urquhart said that the Las Vegas attack might have an impact similar to the 1999 Columbine massacre.

That shooting led departments to retrain patrol officers to be prepared to confront a gunman if the killing was still occurring instead of waiting for a SWAT team.

But the options for taking down high-rise snipers armed with assault-style weapons are limited, said Sheriff Urquhart, who added that his department has not focused on such threats to date because mass shootings have followed a different pattern.

Instead, he said his department has largely concentrated its mass-shooting training on schools and smaller structures. There are no easy solutions for stopping someone firing from a high elevation, like the Las Vegas gunman, he added

“How are we going to evolve our tactics to take out that shooter? I’m not sure there is a way to do that, quite frankly,” Sheriff Urquhart said. “My guess is that the best and quickest way to get him is to go up the stairs and take him out like he was on the first floor.”

Some larger, urban departments already train for an elevated gunman, said Mark Lomax, who handled training for the Pennsylvania State Police and later was executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association.

After the Las Vegas massacre, “there is going to be a lot more emphasis on out-of-reach situations, whether from a high-rise tower or a bridge,” said Mr. Lomax, who is now chief executive of Lancer Cobbs, a consulting firm near Philadelphia.

The University of Texas shooting, in which Charles Whitman killed 15 people and wounded at least 31 more using a stockpile of rifles, handguns and a shotgun

before the police reached the top of the tower and killed him, was not the only previous high-rise shooting of significance.

In 1976, Michael Soles killed three people and wounded eight others from the 26th floor of a Holiday Inn in Wichita, Kan.; he could have shot more had it not been for a quick response that ended the carnage after 11 minutes. Police officers wounded Mr. Soles, who was later found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

When many of today's police and SWAT commanders were in academy training decades ago, the Texas shooting was part of the curriculum.

"Studying that incident shows you how devastating someone who has the high ground can be with weapons like that," said Ed Davis, the Boston police commissioner from 2006 to 2013, who was taught details of the Whitman shooting as a recruit.

As mass shootings became bloodier and more frequent, departments trained for the threats as they evolved, whether they were shootings in schools, like Columbine, where 13 people were killed, and Virginia Tech, where 32 were killed in 2007, or in restaurants like Luby's cafeteria in Killeen, Tex., where 23 died in 1991, and the McDonald's in San Ysidro, Calif., where 21 were killed in 1984.

"The process we learn is iterative; you learn things more and more as they happen," said Mr. Davis, who now runs a Boston security consultancy.

Like Sheriff Urquhart, Mr. Davis said that there were no simple options for eliminating a heavily armed, high-rise sniper. One issue is simply locating the gunman. Officers entering the Mandalay Bay hotel on Sunday in Las Vegas, where Mr. Paddock was holed up, initially struggled to figure out what floor he was on.

Nor will it be easy for some hotels to look for potential red flags among their guests, Mr. Lomax said. "In a place like Las Vegas, which is one giant hotel, with the volume of traffic that goes in and out, forget about it," he said.

Defeating a gunman firing from an elevated position is always harder. "When you have the high ground, the people trying to get to you are disadvantaged," said

Ronal Serpas, the former police chief in New Orleans and Nashville who is a professor at Loyola University in New Orleans.

Ordering sharpshooters to fire on a high-rise from a distance could also mean shooting into a room that might include hostages, a concern that would have to be weighed against the risk of continuing carnage from the sniper. “You can’t have a bunch of cops on the ground shooting up with their patrol rifles,” Sheriff Urquhart said.

Said Mr. Davis: “Firing rounds from one building into another is extremely dangerous. It’s not a decision I’d want to make.”

Some experts already fear that other potential gunman, having seen the devastation in Las Vegas, will try similar tactics.

“Almost every school shooter since Columbine has made reference to Columbine. We know they study one another,” said Sgt. A.J. DeAndrea of the Arvada Police Department in Colorado, who was on a SWAT team for 16 years, part of that time as the team leader, and was part of the law enforcement response to Columbine and two other school shootings.

“This could lead to a copycat syndrome, and we’d be remiss if we don’t find ways to address it,” he said.

Like the Columbine attack, the Las Vegas shooting could also lead to tactical changes for patrol officers, who could be called on to take longer-range shots at gunman in a high-rise or otherwise a long distance away, Sergeant DeAndrea said.

This could mean greater marksmanship training for some patrolmen, as well as equipping patrol cars with longer-range rifles that have powerful scopes and which fire higher-caliber bullets, like the .308, that are less likely to miss a faraway target because of the wind, he said.

“I do think it’s a watershed moment,” Sergeant DeAndrea added. “We all have to sit down and realize what’s next. There are a lot of guys sitting up at night thinking, ‘This could happen in my city; how are we are going to address it?’”

Indigenous Peoples Day to replace Columbus Day in L.A. County



L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, seen in 2015, co-authored a motion approved Tuesday to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. The motion "is not about erasing history," Solis said. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)



By **Nina Agrawal**

OCTOBER 3, 2017, 7:05 PM

Starting in 2019, the second Monday in October will be observed as Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day, according to a motion passed by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The motion, which makes Indigenous Peoples Day an official county holiday, also designates Oct. 12 as Italian American Heritage Day.

"The motion, let me be clear, is not about erasing history," said Supervisor Hilda Solis, who introduced it with Supervisor [Sheila Kuehl](#). "This is about understanding that for centuries, America's ancestors oppressed certain groups of people. And while we can't change the past, we can acknowledge and make that history right today."

The county joins several cities across the U.S., including Seattle, Albuquerque, N.M., and Denver, which have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Its motion also resembles one [passed by the Los Angeles City Council](#) in August. That proposal, which was approved 14-1, [pitted Councilman Mitch O'Farrell](#), a member of the Wyandotte Nation, against Councilman [Joe Buscaino](#), who is publicly passionate about his Italian heritage.

There was no such stark personal divide among the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, although Kathryn Barger of District 5 voted against the proposal.

Supervisor Janice Hahn, whose district includes San Pedro, where many Italian Americans live, voted in favor but emphasized that the motion also celebrates Italian Americans. "We know that the Italian American community has felt a little hurt about this as well," she said.

Supporters of Columbus Day, established as a national holiday in 1937, say the Italian explorer should not be held responsible for the smallpox epidemic and the decimation of the indigenous population.

10/4/2017

Indigenous Peoples Day to replace Columbus Day in L.A. County - LA Times

But indigenous activists say the change is long overdue and provides at least a symbolic correction to the historical narrative.

“Native Americans are descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of this continent,” Solis and Kuehl wrote in the motion, calling it “fitting” that the county honor their historic contributions through an official holiday.

nina.agrawal@latimes.com

Twitter: [@AgrawalNina](https://twitter.com/AgrawalNina)

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This article is related to: [Sheila Kuehl](#), [Joe Buscaino](#), [Los Angeles City Council](#)

L.A. sues federal government over threats to withhold funds



The lawsuit is the latest action by L.A. City Atty. Mike Feuer, shown, against the Trump administration over the targeting of so-called sanctuary cities. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)



By **Dakota Smith**

OCTOBER 3, 2017, 2:25 PM

Marking the latest legal challenge to the [Trump](#) administration’s crackdown on “sanctuary cities,” Los Angeles is suing the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) over its policy of conditioning federal funds on cooperation with immigration agents.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in U.S. District Court, City Atty. [Mike Feuer](#) alleges that the Justice Department decision to tie federal grants to immigration enforcement is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit cites the Community Oriented Policing Services program, which is administered by the federal government and designed to bolster community policing.

L.A. routinely applies for funds through the program and received \$3.125 million last year, which helped hire 25 officers, according to Feuer’s office.

Now, the Justice Department has changed the terms for cities seeking the funds, the lawsuit alleges. For example, jurisdictions that agree to “focus” the use of grant funds on “illegal immigration” are given bonus points during the application process, according to the lawsuit. That amounts to preferential treatment to those cities, the lawsuit suggests.

A central argument in L.A.’s lawsuit is that the Department of Justice’s new policy violates the separation of powers laid out in the country’s Constitution, which gives Congress, not the executive branch, control of government purse strings.

L.A.’s lawsuit states that the Justice Department “puts the city of Los Angeles — and other state and local government entities — to an untenable choice: Commit to participating in federal civil immigration investigation and enforcement efforts, or sacrifice funds for public safety and community policing.”

Department of Justice spokesman Devin O’Malley cited a recent trend of rising violent crime in Los Angeles and said it was “baffling” that the city would challenge policies he said are designed to keep residents safe.

“Reversing sanctuary city policies is about more than enforcing federal immigration law by detaining criminals here illegally — it’s about reestablishing a culture of law and order, where crimes are punished and people are deterred from committing them,” O’Malley said in a statement.

Feuer’s lawsuit comes after repeated efforts by the Department of Justice to punish sanctuary cities over their immigration enforcement policies.

In January, President Trump issued an executive order stating that sanctuary cities will not be eligible to receive funds from the U.S. attorney general and Homeland Security secretary.

A federal judge in April blocked that order, siding with San Francisco and Santa Clara County, which had filed lawsuits over the policy.

In July, U.S. Atty. Gen. [Jeff Sessions](#) launched another attempt to target sanctuary jurisdictions by announcing new rules for cities that receive funds for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants program.

Sessions’ announcement directly affected Los Angeles, which has received more than \$1 million in Justice Assistance Grants each year, including \$1.8 million for the 2016 fiscal year, according to the city.

Specifically, Sessions said police would be required to allow immigration enforcement officers access to local jails and provide 48 hours’ notice before releasing from their jail someone tagged by federal authorities as possibly being in the country illegally.

Los Angeles police officers object to such requirements. It would extend the time inmates would otherwise remain behind bars, a policy that several courts have ruled unconstitutional.

A federal judge in Chicago last month [found that Sessions exceeded his authority](#) in imposing those new standards and issued a preliminary injunction.

Feuer’s suit also challenges the “unconstitutional conditions” placed by the Department of Justice on the allocation of the Justice Assistance Grants program used by the city.

Feuer originally sought to join a San Francisco lawsuit filed in August over Sessions’ new rules for the Justice Assistance Grants program.

However, a San Francisco court asked L.A. to refile its lawsuit in Los Angeles. That action now is part of the city’s broader suit filed Friday.

dakota.smith@latimes.com

Twitter: [@dakotacsmith](#)

UPDATES:

Oct. 3, 2:25 p.m.: The article was updated with a response from the Department of Justice to the city’s lawsuit.

Oct. 2, 6:50 p.m.: The article was updated with more details about the lawsuit.

This article was originally published at 1:05 p.m.

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This article is related to: [Immigration](#), [Jeff Sessions](#), [Donald Trump](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Mike Feuer](#)

LOCAL NEWS

No decision made on proposed Cherry Valley warehouse project



CRAIG SHULTZ / STAFF

Members of the audience raise their hands in support of a speaker who is against a proposed Cherry Valley warehouse project during a Riverside County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, Oct. 3.

By **CRAIG SHULTZ** | cshultz@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
October 3, 2017 at 7:28 pm



After four hours of discussion and 54 public speakers, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday, Oct. 3, to put off a decision that could lead to a warehouse project in rural Cherry Valley.

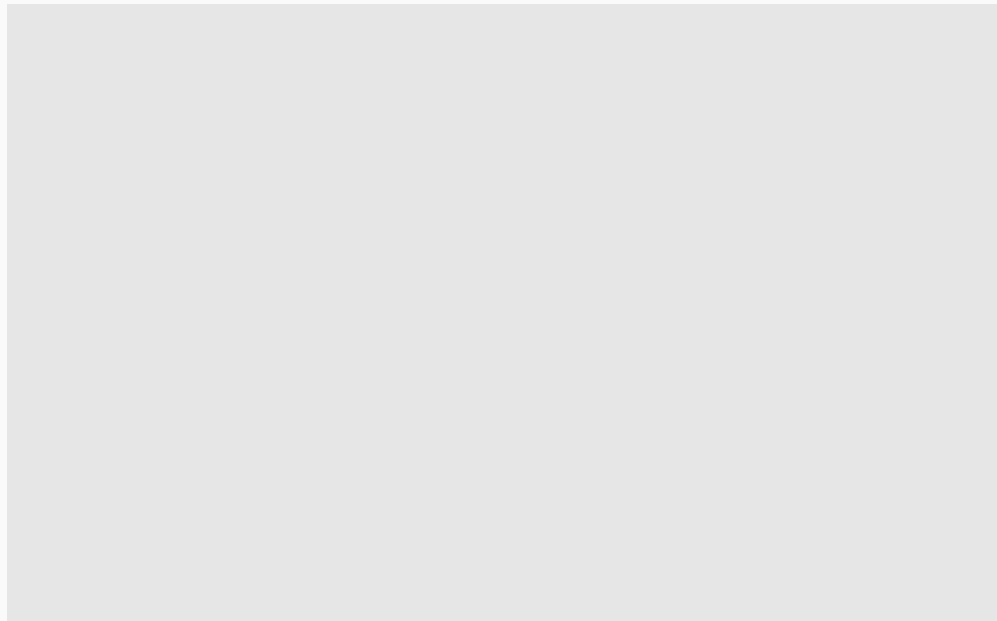
“This is a very complex issue,” Supervisor Marion Ashley said before asking for the continuance.

The item is scheduled to come back to the supervisors at their next meeting Oct. 17.

The board is being asked to change zoning to allow the San Geronio Crossing industrial distribution center, a 1.8 million-square-foot warehouse project, to be built off Cherry Valley Boulevard near the 10 Freeway between Beaumont and Calimesa.

The developer, Orange County-based Shopoff Realty Investments, touts job creation and road improvements that will come with the project, while opponents are worried about traffic, air quality and reduced property values.

ADVERTISING



The first 43 speakers asked the supervisors to deny the project. Many of them came on two buses chartered by No Way Gateway, the opposition group titled after the original “Gateway” name of the project.

When the meeting began, all of the 300-plus seats in the supervisors’ chambers in Riverside were filled, and the crowd spilled into the lobby, watching the action on television monitors.

The 11 people who spoke in favor of the project were primarily union workers promoting the jobs that would be created from the construction of the project.

“We think we did the absolute best we could,” said Steve Mehlman, a member of No Way Gateway.

Brian Rupp, senior vice president of development for Shopoff, said the hearing went as expected.

“I’m glad to get to this point,” he said. “We’re hoping to conclude on the 17th.”

Shopoff wants the zoning for the 277 acres in unincorporated Riverside County switched from rural/residential to light industrial.

The project, about the same square footage as the Skechers distribution center in Moreno Valley, proposes two buildings with 300 bay doors on 230 acres, of which about 144 acres would be developed.

There would be an estimated 600 trucks per day coming and going. The project would bring 750 high-paying jobs, the developer said.

Many of the opposition speakers are residents of Cherry Valley, an unincorporated community of minimum one-acre single-family homes.

“Cherry Valley is such a special place,” Tina Kummerle, president at Highland Springs Ranch & Inn, told the supervisors. “Once it’s changed the way that’s being discussed, it can never go back.”

But Rupp said the project will not affect that lifestyle.

“We’re not in Cherry Valley,” he said, adding the project is one-quarter mile off the 10 freeway and traffic won’t be going into neighborhoods.

The idea of development dates to 2008 and the project was “fast-tracked” in 2009, meaning it did not have to be approved by the county Planning Commission.

Tags: **commercial real estate**, **Top Stories PE**

Craig Shultz **Craig Shultz**

Craig Shultz primarily reports about the San Jacinto Valley. He started his journalism career there in 1985 and has reported on the community and region for most of that time, covering everything from sports to city halls and schools. He was previously the editor of The Hemet News and The Valley Chronicle. Shultz was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles and graduated from Cal State Northridge.

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NEWS

Pat Gilbreath, longtime Redlands City Council member, has died



The city of Redlands councilmember Pat Gilbreath. Tuesday, December 20, 2016. (Frank Perez/Correspondent)

By [KRISTINA HERNANDEZ](mailto:khernandez@scng.com) | khernandez@scng.com | Redlands Daily Facts

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 12:27 pm | UPDATED: October 4, 2017 at 1:34 am

[Pat Gilbreath](#), a longtime Redlands City Council member and civic leader, died early Tuesday, Oct. 3.

She was 75.

Gilbreath, a former CPA, focused her energy on balancing the city's budget and encouraging residents to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Her program, [Healthy Redlands](#), debuted in 2008 and was revived in 2013 when she returned to the council after a short time away.

"Today, our community has lost a tremendous public servant and a dear friend to many of us," Redlands Mayor Paul Foster said. "Her loss is unimaginable to me on the City Council. She has been such an integral part of the city's operation for decades, and to my knowledge, she is the longest serving City Council member.

"She was a gracious and wonderful woman," he added, "and we're going to miss her terribly."

Gilbreath served on the City Council from 1993 to 2010, when she left her seat to run for state Assembly. When Mike Morrell won the seat, Gilbreath sought re-election to one of three seats on the Redlands City Council but trailed Foster, Councilman Jon Harrison and former Councilman Bob Gardner.

She ran successfully for council in 2012 and was re-elected in November.

Gilbreath focused much of her efforts on the city's budget. A former CPA, Gilbreath touted her experience as necessary to helping the city overcome its budget challenges.

"They say we have a balanced budget, but we don't," she told The Facts in 2012. "When you look at our streets and what's going on, we don't."

A few months after her re-election, the city adopted a balanced budget for 2017-18.

Gilbreath was not one to back down from a challenge, and her interests ranged from flying planes to traveling across the globe to deep sea fishing.

She was born and raised in North Dakota. She traveled extensively for work before settling in Redlands and joining Eadie & Payne LLC. She told The Facts in 2016 that [she became involved with the city after seeing a need for a CPA on the council.](#)

On Tuesday, Foster emailed city employees a brief note about Gilbreath's death. Additional information on services would be available when provided by Gilbreath's family, he wrote.

Harrison called the news of his longtime colleague's death "very shocking."

Of all her work in the community, he said, the things Gilbreath loved most were the community gardens she brought to the city and the Healthy Redlands program she championed for, as well as her "razor sharp focus on making sure our budget was the best it could be."

"That contribution will be one that will be hard to replace; her ability to keep an eye on that for us," he added.

Rep. Pete Aguilar, a former mayor of Redlands, said news of Gilbreath's passing took his breath away.

"This is really a punch in the gut," he said by phone. "She was a colleague and friend, and someone I sat next to for the better part of eight years on the council."

Gilbreath nominated Aguilar to the Redlands City Council in 2006 to fill a void left by [former Councilwoman Susan Pepler, who had moved out of state.](#) The appointment was the launch pad for Aguilar's career in politics. He left the council when he was elected to Congress in 2014.

"I always appreciated her going out on a limb for me," Aguilar said. "At the time, I was a 26-year-old guy who was looking to make a difference and serve his community, and she was part of that starting point."

After news of Gilbreath's death spread through the community, friends, family and colleagues posted condolences to social media, including San Bernardino County Supervisor James Ramos and District Attorney James Ramos.

"Saddened to learn of the loss of Pat Gilbreath," [wrote Supervisor Ramos.](#) "She was a strong community leader who will be greatly missed."



James Ramos
@SupervisorRamos



Saddened to learn of the loss of Pat Gilbreath. She was a strong community leader who will be missed greatly.
[redlandsdailyfacts.com/2017/10/03/pat...](http://redlandsdailyfacts.com/2017/10/03/pat-...)

2:39 PM - Oct 3, 2017 · Redlands, CA



Pat Gilbreath, longtime Redlands City Council member, has died

Gilbreath, a former CPA, focused her attention on the city's budget and encouraging residents to live a healthy lifestyle.
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"A true leader and friend," said DA Ramos. "Thank you for all your work. God bless you and your family."



Michael Ramos
@michaelramos

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3:05 PM · Oct 3, 2017 · San Bernardino, CA

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It was not immediately known how the council would address the vacancy created by Gilbreath's death.

Redlands Daily Facts archives contributed to this report.

Tags: [Echo Code](#), [Top Stories RDF](#)

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By Hilton

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Kristina Hernandez

Kristina Hernandez is a reporter by day; pop culture addict by night. She has been a journalist for the Southern California News Group since 2005. She likes popcorn.

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The New York Times

REAL ESTATE

Preparing Your Home for a Disaster

By RONDA KAYSEN SEPT. 29, 2017

Disaster, even one experienced through a television screen, has a way of sharpening the mind. And the recent cascade of hurricanes, forest fires and earthquakes has reminded many Americans, including those thousands of miles from danger, that there is no time like the present to think about all the things that could go wrong.

Companies that sell emergency supplies like freeze-dried food, water barrels and survival packs say sales are up, and not just to people preparing for an imminent event. Customers are calling from all along the Eastern Seaboard, as storms have rolled across the Atlantic, devastating Caribbean islands. People are rattled along the West Coast, too, worried about forest fires, devastating earthquakes in Mexico and the threat of nuclear war with North Korea.

At Emergency Essentials, a Utah retailer with a large online business, sales are up by as much as 200 percent. “We know by watching CNN and the Weather Channel the kind of day we’re going to have,” said Kevan Allbee, the marketing director for Emergency Essentials. “When there are people suffering in the news, other people get ready.”

Frank Navetta, the owner of PowerPro Service in Bohemia, N.Y., which installs backup generators on Long Island, said that inquiries were up by 60 percent and sales by 15 percent. “My inventory is sold out,” Mr. Navetta said.

In early September, days before Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida, Michele and Glenn Nilsen began installing a generator in their three-bedroom home in East Islip, N.Y. For three years, the Nilsens, who are both 70 and retired, had thought about investing in the generator, which turns on automatically in a blackout and can power an entire house.

PowerPro installed their \$11,000 system, just as Hurricanes Jose and Maria gained force in the Caribbean, and the Nilsens worried that perhaps they had not acted quickly enough. “I’m looking at all these storms and I’m thinking, ‘Oh God, I hope we have this all in place before another storm comes up,’” Mrs. Nilsen said.

Those who don’t plan ahead might find themselves battling long lines and dwindling supplies at Walmart, as they rush to stock up on water, batteries and portable generators. “The week before Irma hit, we had so many phone calls from people desperate to have product overnighted to them,” said Paul Fulton, the president of the Ready Store, an online emergency preparedness retailer that has seen inquiries jump 500 percent in the past few weeks. “At that point, it’s just too late.”

The growing prepper movement might capture the imagination of zealous survivalists awaiting the apocalypse, but in reality, most Americans are woefully unprepared for any disruption to their daily routines.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and the Department of Homeland Security all provide advice on preparedness. Yet a 2015 FEMA survey found that only 39 percent of respondents had an emergency plan that they had discussed with their families, even though 80 percent of Americans live in counties that have suffered weather-related disasters since 2007.

“We need a culture of preparedness that becomes a part of our everyday existence,” said Leslie Chapman-Henderson, the chief executive of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, a nonprofit organization in Florida. “There is not a place in the U.S. that is not without some form of hazard and risk.”

The best time to prepare is when the sky is clear and your weekend is free, not when local officials are telling you to board up windows and head for higher ground.

But readying for the unknown can feel like a daunting and costly task — and one easily shelved. To make it more manageable, weave emergency planning into your everyday life, chipping away at the long to-do list. Here are some ways to get started.

CONSIDER WHAT AND WHERE YOU BUY

There is no way around it: Some homes are more disaster prone than others. Those near heavily wooded areas may face fire risk. Those near water could flood.

During this year's ferocious hurricane season, people shopping for homes have been on high alert. Real estate brokers in Connecticut and Long Island say that prospective buyers have been asking pointed questions about waterfront properties, and interest in such homes has dipped since Hurricane Harvey ravaged Texas.

"It seems like homes on the water that were selling briskly during the summer have taken a slowdown," said Joanne Schloen, the branch manager of the West Islip, N.Y., office of Coach Realtors, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate. Prospective buyers "are afraid to buy something on the water," Ms. Schloen said, adding that shoppers want to know if homes took on water in previous storms and are reluctant to consider those that have not been raised to meet FEMA flood elevation standards.

Some waterfront homes are a safer bet than others. Consider the five-bedroom home of Richard and Kim Alexander in Rowayton, a coastal village in Norwalk, Conn. After the 3,500-square-foot property sustained water damage in Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the Alexanders spent roughly \$300,000 to raise the house and the grade of the lot, exceeding FEMA elevation standards. "As soon as I saw the damage from Sandy, I basically said to myself, 'Third time is not a charm,'" said Mr. Alexander, 57, a consultant. "We've got to mitigate this flood exposure."

The house is currently listed for \$1.75 million. Amanda Davenport, the listing agent, said that elevating the property added \$250,000 to the list price and helped attract nervous shoppers. "Nine out of 10 buyers will say, 'I'm only looking at houses that are FEMA-compliant,'" said Ms. Davenport, a saleswoman for Halstead Property. "And that's different from two weeks ago."

A buyer made an offer on the house as Hurricane Irma was pummeling Florida, and the offer was accepted.

KNOW YOUR RISKS AND MAKE A PLAN

To protect yourself and your family from the unknown, you need to have some idea of what that unknown might be. If you live in New York, for example, you should prepare for blizzards, hurricanes and extreme heat, but you probably don't need to spend too much time fretting about earthquakes.

Not all risks, however, are immediately obvious. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes has a [map](#) that lists peril risk by state. Once you know your risks, download the **Know Your Plan** app from the Insurance Information Institute, which provides detailed checklists to help you prepare for various emergency scenarios.

At the very least, families should keep an emergency kit on hand. What you store in that kit will depend on where you live and the potential hazards you face. Generally, you'll be dealing with one of two scenarios: the need to evacuate or to shelter in place. To make a speedy exit a smooth one, pack a backpack full of supplies for each family member. To stay put safely, you'll need enough provisions to sustain your household for at least 72 hours.

Either way, you'll need items like clothes, water, food, flashlights, batteries, a portable radio, cash, a first-aid kit and medicine. Keep a paper copy of important names, phone numbers and addresses, because thanks to cellphones and speed dial, few of us remember anyone's phone number anymore. Items like baby wipes, work gloves and a **multipurpose tool** may also come in handy.

Discuss an emergency response plan with your family. Decide where to meet if you have to leave your home, or the neighborhood. Select a friend or relative to be the point person to call if you become separated.

And remember, emergency supplies need to be updated. Children outgrow clothes and medications expire. Warmer months call for different supplies than colder ones. Refresh your emergency kit as part of your spring and fall cleaning routine.

Diane Thomson, a professional organizer and life coach, suggests preparing in stages, to avoid getting overwhelmed. “We’re not going to get it done this week,” she said. “But let’s say over this year, let’s take one step at a time.”

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

Jenny Herrero, who lives with her husband, Jose Herrero, and their two children in Lake Worth, Fla., thought she was prepared for Hurricane Irma. The family had weathered Hurricanes Irene and Sandy when they were living in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., losing power in both storms. For Irma, the family stocked up on food, lantern-style flashlights, batteries and gasoline for the portable generator.

They lost power for only a day during Irma, a minor inconvenience compared to the 16 days they went without power after Hurricane Sandy, and did not suffer major damage. After so many storms, the Herreros plan to add a separate emergency electrical panel, an investment of about \$1,500, so that they can operate critical appliances using a transfer switch, without running extension cords through the house.

In all the preparation, though, Mrs. Herrero, 38, realized she had overlooked the family photographs. “I was scrambling to upload my digital photo collection onto Dropbox,” said Mrs. Herrero, who, ironically, owns Storyteller Productions, a company that stores and preserves photographs. “I was horrified that if we had flooding, or needed to leave suddenly, that my collection of family memories would be lost forever.”

The Herreros got lucky this time, but they learned an important lesson: Some preparation can be done weeks, if not months or years, in advance. Protect important documents and sentimental items like photographs and letters by uploading digital copies of the items or backing them up. Store original documents in a safe deposit box. And send a flash drive with digital copies of documents and photographs to a trusted friend or family member in another part of the country for safekeeping.

TALLY WHAT YOU OWN

To file a claim for damaged or destroyed possessions, you have to know what you own and roughly how much those items cost.

“No one remembers what’s in their house, not even me,” said Bob D’Amore, the president of the New York Public Adjusters Association. Homeowners often hire public adjusters to help file insurance claims and figure out what was lost.

But long before anything is damaged, you should take stock of your stuff; many insurance companies provide online tools to help. Or photograph rooms, items, receipts and the contents of closets to roughly document your possessions. Apps like **Sortly** and **Home Contents** make it easier to create a database that you could use if you were ever displaced.

KEEP TABS ON YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

As your home and life changes, so should your homeowner insurance policy. **Review your policy** every year to make sure it still provides adequate coverage. If you recently remodeled a kitchen or bathroom, your policy should provide enough coverage to rebuild it back to its updated condition.

Renters should buy insurance, too, and review those policies annually to make sure that the coverage for possessions is sufficient. “Sometimes renters underestimate how much it costs to replace the stuff that they have,” said Angi Orbann, a vice president of personal insurance at Travelers.

Not all hazards are covered in standard homeowners insurance policies. **Flood insurance**, for example, usually requires a separate policy. Only homeowners living in high-risk flood areas are required to buy flood insurance backed by the National Flood Insurance Program. However, more than 20 percent of flood claims come from people living outside such zones, according to **FloodSmart.gov**. “I personally believe that everyone should look at getting flood insurance,” Ms. Orbann said.

Discuss your policy with an insurance agent who can guide you through what sort of **additional coverage** you might need, depending on where you live and the particulars of your situation.

MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY

Some damage can be avoided, or lessened, by ordinary maintenance. Do not neglect chores like cleaning gutters and checking the roof for wear or damage. If your property has trees, have an arborist inspect them for signs of trouble.

“Seventy-five percent of trees that come down in a windstorm had some level of disease,” said Frances D. O’Brien, the division president of North America Personal Risk Services at Chubb. So part of protecting your home, she said, “is about maintaining your landscaping.”

If you live in a cold area, insulate pipes that face external walls to keep them from freezing. Know how to shut the water and gas off in the event of an emergency.

When you renovate, think about adding safety to your improvements. For example, when it comes time to buy a new roof, consider getting one that is resistant to fire, hail or hurricanes, depending on where you live. “If you’re already re-roofing, we’re talking about a nominal increase to upgrade to resistant” materials, said Ms. Chapman-Henderson, of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes.

Spend time now preparing your home and family from unforeseen risks, and when and if disaster strikes, you will be able to respond faster. “There is kind of a civic duty here,” said Ms. Thomson, the professional organizer. “The more we’re prepared, the less stress there is on the system.”

In other words, if you have the things that you need, then emergency responders can focus attention on those who do not.

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A version of this article appears in print on October 1, 2017, on Page RE1 of the New York edition with the headline: Preparing for the Worst.

LOCAL NEWS

Riverside County victims of Las Vegas mass shooting honored by supervisors

By **IMRAN GHORI** | ighori@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 10:37 am | UPDATED: October 3, 2017 at 2:28 pm



Riverside County supervisors on Tuesday morning, Oct. 3, remembered three Riverside residents who were among the 59 victims killed in [Sunday's mass shooting in Las Vegas](#).

Board Chairman John Tavaglione offered brief biographies of the victims, noting that they still only had limited information.

[Angie Gomez](#) was a 2015 graduate of Poly High School in Riverside, where she was a cheerleader. Tavaglione said she was the friend of a staff member's daughter.

[Thomas Allen Day, Jr., 54](#), worked with his father Thomas Day, Sr. at their Corona companies Tom Day Construction Co. and Portrait Construction, Tavaglione said.

"Tom, just like his dad, was full of life," Tavaglione said.

Chris Roybal was a military veteran who had served in Afghanistan "only to come back and get shot by a coward from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay," he said.

County Executive Officer George Johnson told the Board of Supervisors that he planned to reconvene the county's safety and security task force in light of the shooting as well as recent natural disasters in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

The group, which will present a report to the board, will look at Riverside County's readiness in case of such events, Johnson said.

“We can never be ready enough, but I think we’ve done a lot,” he said.

Tags: [Las Vegas mass shooting](#), [Top Stories PE](#)



Imran Ghori

Imran Ghori has been a reporter with The Press-Enterprise since 1999. He covers Moreno Valley and Jurupa Valley.

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NEWS

San Bernardino County coroners helping out in aftermath of Las Vegas mass shooting



John Locher, AP photo

Two women console each other outside of a family assistance center, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, in Las Vegas after the mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip. The Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner later opened a family assistance center at the Las Vegas Convention Center Exhibit Hall S-2, where a team of San Bernardino County coroners will help people seeking information about loved ones.

By **SUZANNE HURT** | shurt@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: October 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm | UPDATED: October 2, 2017 at 7:41 pm

0 COMMENTS

A team of San Bernardino County coroners arrived in Las Vegas Monday, Oct. 2, to help gather information, collect DNA – and possibly perform the hardest task of all, notifying family members their loved ones were killed when a sniper unleashed the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history on a country music festival.

Authorities say at least 59 people were killed and at least 527 were injured, with Southern Californians among them.

The team of three investigators and one supervisor arrived in the late afternoon, after a gunman identified as 64-year-old retiree Stephen Craig Paddock of Mesquite, Nev., opened fire Sunday night on the nearby Route 91 Harvest Festival from his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay casino hotel.

Three are members of a federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team. All four are trained to notify people when their family members have died, which could be one of their tasks now, said Robert “Rocky” Shaw, lead supervising deputy coroner investigator for San Bernardino County.

“Unfortunately, they do it every day in their regular job,” he said. “But they’re also skilled in working in a mass-fatality setting.”

With approval from San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner John McMahon and Coroner Division Captain Kevin Lacy, the San Bernardino County coroner team is expected to be there for five days to help at a family assistance center set up at the Las Vegas Convention Center Exhibit Hall S-2.

They'll interview people who stop in to find relatives – gathering information and possibly taking DNA samples to help with identification. The coroners would also let them know if their family members died in the attack.

San Bernardino County, the closest large county to Las Vegas, is the only California county sending coroners to help, said Dennis Smithson, state coroners mutual aid coordinator for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

He contacted the Clark County coroner at 4 a.m. Monday to offer help from throughout the state. So far, no other help has been needed.

"San Bernardino did offer some people," Smithson said. "And they have a large, capable coroner's office in San Bernardino, so they're a good fit."

Tags: [country music](#), [Las Vegas mass shooting](#), [mass shooting](#), [top stories ivdb](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [top stories sun](#)

SUZANNE_HURT **Suzanne Hurt**

Suzanne Hurt is an award-winning journalist who has written about everything from boxcar tramps and crooked Chicago and California politicians to surf kayaking, flash floods and the vanishing Borneo rainforest. She's worked as a reporter at a legendary Chicago wire service and daily newspapers in California and Oregon, The Modesto Bee and The Register-Guard. She's also worked as an editor and stringer/freelancer producing hard news; features; and nature, science, travel and adventure sports content – including multimedia – for newspapers, wire services, magazines, radio and their websites. Suzanne specializes in narrative storytelling, backed by extensive hard news experience, strict journalism standards and a master's in literary nonfiction from the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communication. Suzanne does narrative storytelling and covers water, the environment and health for The Press-Enterprise and Southern California News Group.

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NEWS

San Bernardino County supervisors approve sending personnel to help Las Vegas shooting victims



Police form a perimeter around the road leading to the Mandalay Hotel (background) after a gunman killed at least 58 people and wounded more than 400 others when he opened fire on a country music concert in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 2, 2017. The gunman who opened fire on concertgoers from 32nd floor of a Las Vegas hotel was found dead, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, when a police SWAT team burst in, authorities said Monday. They said at least eight weapons, including a number of long rifles, were found in the room from where 64-year-old Stephen Paddock rained automatic fire into thousands of terrified people attending a country music concert across the street. "We believe the individual killed himself prior to our entry," Las Vegas Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said. (MARK RALSTON/AFP/Getty Images)

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

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 12:26 pm | UPDATED: October 3, 2017 at 8:04 pm



In response to Sunday's deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a proposal to deploy county employees, upon request, to Las Vegas to aid victims and assist the city in its response.

The urgency item, added Monday to the supervisors' agenda following the shooting, requires county Interim CEO Dena Smith to prepare a report to the board within 60 days of deployment of additional county employees to Las Vegas, should the request be made from officials in that city.

County law enforcement and fire officials, including Sheriff John McMahon and District Attorney Mike Ramos, decamped for Las Vegas Monday with a crisis response team to aid in the aftermath of the tragedy.

“I urge this is a time that we look to come together, and we search out to help all and everyone that we can,” board Chairman Robert Lovingood said during Tuesday’s meeting. He opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims.

Fifty-nine people died and 527 were injured in Sunday night’s shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival outside the Mandalay Bay hotel, declared the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

A number of San Bernardino County employees, some of them sworn personnel with local police and fire agencies, attended the event and began assisting the wounded after gunman Stephen Paddock opened fire on the crowd from a hotel room window on the hotel’s 32nd floor.

County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig told the board an off-duty firefighter who was attending Sunday’s concert, whom he later identified as Mike Kordich from the Devore station, was shot while helping a mortally wounded victim.

“He was stopping the bleeding and providing CPR to a concertgoer that had ultimately suffered a mortal wound, and he was shot,” Hartwig said. “He is out of surgery and he’s expected to make a full recovery.”

Hartwig said after Tuesday’s meeting that Kordich, who was shot in the right forearm, was recuperating at Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas.

He said about 20 fire department employees were attending the country music festival while off duty, but their emergency medical training kicked into high gear when the gunfire erupted and bodies started falling.

“A lot of our firefighters have training on active shooter incidents – stopping the bleeding, triaging, treating – and (Kordich) was one of a handful of our (fire) suppression folks that were off duty there and started tending to some of the victims,” Hartwig said.

Deputy Recorder [Dana Gardner](#), a 26-year county employee, died in the shooting, and four grief counselors were deployed to the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk’s Office Monday, where employees were shocked and grief-stricken by the news, Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk Bob Dutton said.

Sheriff’s Sgt. Brad Powers, assigned to the Fontana station and a 19-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Department, was also attending Sunday’s concert when he was shot in the lower torso. He underwent surgery and was still listed in critical but stable condition Tuesday at a Las Vegas hospital, sheriff’s Lt. Sarkis Ohannessian said.

Also wounded in the shooting was an unnamed probation officer who also underwent surgery in Las Vegas and was subsequently released from the hospital, county Interim CEO Dena Smith said in an email to the Board of Supervisors on Monday.

Additionally, Human Services Personnel Tech Destinie Gutierrez was shot in the foot but did not require surgery, county spokesman David Wert said in an email Tuesday, adding that Gutierrez said she was doing “okay” and was at home with family.

An unnamed employee from the county’s fleet management division was also injured in the shooting, but his condition was not known Tuesday.

Tags: [Las Vegas mass shooting](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories RDF](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



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By Siemens



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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NEWS

Showtime's active shooter series to feature Dec. 2 San Bernardino attack; when it'll air is uncertain



A SWAT vehicle carries police officers north on Waterman Avenue where an active shooter situation takes place at the Inland Regional Center on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, San Bernardino, Ca. (Micah Escamilla/The Sun)

By **MICHAEL WATANABE** | mwatanabe@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: October 3, 2017 at 5:42 pm | UPDATED: October 4, 2017 at 8:12 am



Showtime's new series on active shooters is expected to focus on the Dec. 2, 2015, San Bernardino attack that left 14 dead and 22 wounded; whether it'll run this week in light of the [Las Vegas mass shooting](#) that left 59 dead was still in question Tuesday.

The episode was slated to run Friday; however, the network on Monday [pulled a repeat of the premiere](#) focusing on the Aurora, Colo, theater shooting in the wake of the [Las Vegas shooting](#) that left at least 59 dead and hundreds wounded, CNN reported. There was no word Tuesday afternoon as to whether Friday's episode would air as scheduled.

The episode on San Bernardino will focus on the [attack at the Inland Regional Center](#) during which San Bernardino County health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik opened fire during an all-day training seminar and holiday luncheon held by the county's Environmental Health Services Division.

The premiere episode, which aired two days before the Las Vegas attack, focused on the 2012 shooting in an Aurora, Colo., movie theater that left 12 dead and dozens wounded. The killer, James Eagan Holmes, 24, was a [former UC Riverside student](#).

Tags: [Las Vegas mass shooting](#), [Top Stories PE](#)

MICHAEL_WATANABE

Michael Watanabe

Editor. Geek. Pop culture aficionado. Michael Watanabe has been at The Press-Enterprise since 2003. When he isn't editing, he's at Comic-Con, watching a Firefly marathon or catching up on Gilmore Girls on Netflix.

[Follow Michael Watanabe @obiwab](#)

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The 35th Annual Highland Y Run Registration is Open

Posted: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 5:10 pm

The annual run will include 5k, 10k, and half marathon courses

The Highland Family Y is preparing for its 35th Annual Highland Y Run on Jan. 28, 2018. With professionally timed 5k, 10k, and half marathon routes, the Highland Y Run combines a scenic course with community comradery.

“The Highland Y Run is truly a community event,” said Jamila Coulson, the Highland YMCA Interim Executive Director. “In our years of doing this, we hear from our runners that they find themselves both challenged by the courses but supported by race organizers, volunteers, and even other participants.”

As a professionally chipped race, the Highland Y Run offers challenging courses that span across the hills of Highland and local citrus groves. With options for runners and walkers, the Highland Y Run offers opportunities for all to enjoy the event with fellow community members.

All participants will get a celebratory t-shirt and top runners in each category are eligible for prizes at the award presentation.

The Highland Y Run is part of the Loma Linda Lopers Club’s Quad City Challenge, a racing challenge designed to get runners involved with local events. To earn a Quad City medal, runners must participate in four local runs. The Quad City Challenge includes four local races: the 3rd Annual Turkey Trot in San Bernardino on Nov. 23, the 28th Loma Linda Holiday Classic on

Dec. 10, the 35th Annual Highland Y Run on Jan. 28, and the 35th Annual Run Through Redlands on March 4.

All net proceeds from the Highland Y Run benefit the YMCA Financial Assistance program. Through the Y’s Financial Assistance program, the Y offers scholarships to Highland youth and families who may be unable to afford Y programs.

Registration for all races is available online at: <http://ymcaeastvalley.org/events/highland-run/>

and will be available until the day-of. Information about the 35th Annual Highland Y Run is available online at www.ymcaeastvalley.org or any of the YMCA of the East Valley branches.

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NEWS

These Southern Californians died in the Las Vegas mass shooting. Here are their stories



Tourists and locals pay tribute to the victims in Sunday's mass shooting at a makeshift memorial on a median strip between Las Vegas Boulevard and Reno Avenue in Las Vegas, Nev. on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017. At least 59 people were killed and more than 500 hurt when a gunman opened heavy fire on them during the Route 91 Harvest country music festival on Oct. 1. (Photo by Rachel Luna, Orange Country Register/SCNG)

By **STAFF REPORT** | |

PUBLISHED: October 4, 2017 at 5:04 am | UPDATED: October 4, 2017 at 8:15 am

The bullets fired from a Las Vegas hotel the night of Oct. 1 rained down on a music festival crowd full of Southern Californians.

Authorities have yet to release a full accounting of victims, but families, friends and employers have begun sharing stories of their loved ones who died.

Here are current — and a few former — residents of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties known to have perished at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival. They account for at least 25 of the 59 killed.

To contribute additional information, email online@scng.com.



Hannah Ahlers (Courtesy photo)

Hannah Ahlers

Age: 34

Residence: Grew up in Redlands, lived in Beaumont for past few years

Family: She had three children with her husband of 17 years, Brian. The Ahlers family owns Redlands Jewelers in downtown Redlands.

Schools: Redlands East Valley High School, Crafton Hills College

Job: She was a full-time housewife and mother. "And she was amazing at it," Brian Ahlers said in a statement.

How she's remembered: Her brother, Lance Miller, said Ahlers was dedicated to her family and was "loved by everyone that met her." She was also active in the community and her children's schools, he said. "She was beautiful inside and out, and loved life and people," Miller added. "She was our sunshine."

Fundraiser: www.gofundme.com/hannah-ahlers-las-vegas-victim

Read more: [Beaumont resident, mother of 3 dies in Las Vegas mass shooting](http://www.dailybulletin.com/2017/10/04/southern-californias-long-list-of-victims-in-the-las-vegas-mass-shooting/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_...)



Carrie Barnette (Photo courtesy of Janice Chamber)

Carrie Barnette

Age: 34

Residence: Lived in Riverside; previously Garden Grove

Family: Barnette had recently bought a house in Riverside, near her sister. Her brother-in-law said she loved her nieces and nephews.

School: Pacifica High in Garden Grove

Job: Barnette was part of the culinary team at Disney California Adventure, working as a food prep trainer and manager overseeing the restaurants and concession stands in the Pacific Wharf area.

How she's remembered: "She's a very loving person," brother-in-law Joey Castillo said. "She always put others before herself, was a very hard worker and she loved going to her music concerts. Castillo said Barnette loved hummingbirds because she saw them as a sign that her grandparents – Norma Joy and Neil Barnette – were watching over her. Now, when they see a hummingbird, they'll know it's a sign of Carrie watching over their family, he said.

Read more: [Disneyland cast member Carrie Barnette among those killed in Las Vegas](#)



Candice Bowers (Courtesy of GoFundMe)

Candice Bowers

Age: 40

Residence: Garden Grove

Family: Bowers had a son, Kurtis, 20, and a daughter, Katie, 16, and had just adopted a 2-year-old niece.

Job: Waitress

How she's remembered: The single mother "never had any support, except herself," said Bowers' grandmother, Patricia Zacker. But a big smile and a loving heart always pulled her through. "She was a generous girl," Zacker said. Her aunt Michelle Bolks said she was a fiercely loyal woman who "would give her last dollar to anybody who needed it." Another aunt, Vicki Jeffries, said Bowers was a star for "working really hard and taking care of her children."

Read more: [Garden Grove's Candice Bowers takes rare weekend getaway but doesn't return after Las Vegas mass shooting](#)

[Las Vegas shooting massacre affects Pacifica High School football team](#)



Sandy Casey (Photo via Facebook)

Sandy Casey

Age: 35

Residence: Casey lived in Redondo Beach and grew up in Dorset, Vermont.

Family: Includes her parents, sisters and a large extended family. She had just gotten engaged in April to Christopher Willemse, who worked with her and was with her at the concert when she died.

School: Casey attended Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, Vermont, where she played basketball. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of St. Joseph in Rutland.

Job: Casey had worked for nine years as a special-education teacher at Manhattan Beach Middle School.

How she's remembered: Former co-worker and friend Franklin White said Casey was more quiet and reserved around her colleagues, but "lit up" with her students. "I never saw a special-ed classroom that was so positive and upbeat," he said. "She never portrayed any sort of impatience with them. She was just unflaggingly their greatest proponent and fan."

Read more: [Manhattan Beach teacher killed in Las Vegas mass shooting](#)



Andrea Castilla (Courtesy of Facebook)

Andrea Castilla

Age: 28 – she was celebrating her birthday with friends and family at the concert.

Residence: Orange

Schools: Estancia High School, Cypress College

Job: Castilla worked at Sephora

Fundraiser: www.gofundme.com/AndreaCastillaMemorial-LasVegasTragedy

Read more: [Orange's Andrea Castilla dies on birthday trip during Las Vegas mass shooting](http://www.dailybulletin.com/2017/10/04/southern-californias-long-list-of-victims-in-the-las-vegas-mass-shooting/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_...)



Austin Davis (Courtesy photo)

Austin Davis

Age: 29

Residence: Riverside

Family: Davis, an only child, was the "pride and joy" of parents Lori and Gary, a friend said.

Job: Pipefitter and member of the United Association union

How he's remembered: "The kid had a swing like no other," said Courtney Belger, who had played softball with Davis for a few years. Riding to softball tournaments, they would perform karaoke to country songs. Other times, they would chill by the pool with some beer – and, again, some country music. Berta Garcia, the co-ed director for USA Softball of Southern California, said Davis "was always happy and go lucky. He was always a great presence on and off the field. Everybody that knew him (agreed) he always had a smile on his face. He would do anything to help you out." Friend Katelyn Hood wrote on a GoFundMe page for Davis, "He worked so very hard and took the most pride in that and anything he did ... If he knew u, he loved you. That's just how he cared for people."

Fundraiser: www.gofundme.com/austin-davis-29-lv-mass-shooting

Read more: ['If he knew you, he loved you': Austin Davis of Riverside killed in Las Vegas shooting](#)



Thomas Day Jr. (Via Facebook)

Thomas Day Jr.

Age: 54

Residence: A lifelong resident of Corona

Family: He was very close with his adult children and worked at the family business where his father, Thomas Day Sr., is CEO.

School: Corona High School

Job: Estimator with Portrait Construction

How he's remembered: "He was so well-liked and enjoyable to be around," said Bruce Abbey, the vice president of Portrait Construction. "Every single client, he'd talk sports and talk history with them. He was a people person, and people just loved him." He was such a big Pittsburgh Steelers fan that he had their tattoo on his leg. He both played and coached Little League baseball Corona. Day especially loved boating with his family on the Colorado River, and attended the Stagecoach Country Music Festival with his kids every year.

Read more: [Las Vegas shooting victim Day was well-liked, lifelong Corona resident](#)



Christiana Duarte

Christiana Duarte

Age: 22

Residence: Torrance

School: Attended South High, then University of Arizona; was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority and graduated in May

Job: Fan-service associate for the Los Angeles Kings

How she's remembered: "To me, she was just kind of the all-around girl," said Gerald Laird, her cousin and a former Major League Baseball player. "She was young, beautiful. Her life was just starting." A GoFundMe page created to help defray the family's expenses said, "Chrissy was a bright beautiful young woman, full of life and energy."

Fundraiser: www.gofundme.com/christina-duarte-memorial

Read more: [Friends confirm death of missing Torrance woman shot at Las Vegas festival](#)

[Family grieves loss of 'bright, beautiful' Torrance woman gunned down in Las Vegas](#)



Brian Fraser

Brian Fraser

Age: 39

Residence: La Palma

Family: Fraser is survived by his wife and four children.

Job: Vice president of sales at Greenpath, a credit counseling agency

School: Cal Poly Pomona, graduated in 2001

Church: Friends Church in Yorba Linda

How he's remembered: "He served as my rock and my mentor," said Nick Arellano, whose mother married Fraser when Arellano was a teen. "He became my dad and my father figure. He helped anyone who asked. That's why people loved and adored him." Arellano said his father loved to hunt, deep-sea fish, snowboard and attend his children's sporting events. Fraser has recently earned his private pilot's license.

Fundraiser: www.gofundme.com/j8f37g-brians-family

Read more: [Brian Fraser of La Palma killed in Las Vegas mass shooting](#)



Dana Gardner (Courtesy photo)

Dana Gardner

Age: 52

Residence: Grand Terrace

Family: A daughter and two sons

Job: Deputy recorder for the San Bernardino County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk's office.

How she's remembered: Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk Bob Dutton said the county employee of 26 years was a "go-to" person and a "dedicated public servant" who "had a lot of knowledge. She was a great employee." Her co-workers were shocked and grief-stricken by her death.

Read more: [San Bernardino County employee killed, 5 others injured in Las Vegas mass shooting](#)



Troubled Delta tunnels plan viewed as growth ally in High Desert

By Shea Johnson
Staff Writer

Posted Sep 30, 2017 at 1:45 PM

Updated Sep 30, 2017 at 1:50 PM

With an annual budget of roughly \$45 million, the Mojave Water Agency is likely looking at a \$14 million expense for the WaterFix, although General Manager Tom McCarthy tempered that these were still very round figures.

VICTORVILLE — An ambitious \$17 billion state and federal effort, currently in flux, to re-engineer water flows from the Bay Delta to Southern California could increase this region's long-term average water supply by about 27 percent, according to the head of the Mojave Water Agency.

The sizeable uptick would represent a boon for planned future development not only in MWA's jurisdiction — 4,900 square miles in San Bernardino County including the High Desert, Yucca Valley and surrounding communities — but also across the state, where there'd be roughly 20 percent less water if the project is never implemented, MWA General Manager Tom McCarthy said.

"Without the project," McCarthy said, "we're likely looking at some limitation on growth."

But the project has also seen early signs of trouble. The Sacramento Bee reported last week that an influential farm irrigation district refused to help pay for it, sending advocates "scrambling ... to salvage it or conjure up a Plan B." Meanwhile, other options on the table face "substantial hurdles."

However, the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles, which would pay the largest share of the project, voted to help pay for it on Tuesday.

“We’re an anchor tenant,” Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger said at the board meeting. “No one’s going to make a decision to be in or out of this project until they really know what Metropolitan is going to do.”

For two years now, MWA officials have been reviewing how it will fund the California WaterFix, a project championed by Gov. Jerry Brown. As one of 25 state contractors below the delta responsible for 50 percent of the massive price tag, MWA’s share of that half is about 2 percent.

The 18-year project is a joint effort with federal contractors, who would be expected to cover remaining costs.

With an annual budget of roughly \$45 million, the agency is likely looking at a \$14 million expense for the WaterFix, although McCarthy tempered that these were still very round figures.

So while limiting water supply leads to restrained growth, embrace of a project to draw more water here and to open up growth essentially also will force MWA officials to reconcile committing to an expenditure equal to about 31 percent of the agency’s yearly spending plan.

“That’s the two sides of the coin,” said McCarthy, on the job for four months, who spoke Tuesday to the Victorville Rotary Club.

The newly appointed general manager said MWA’s primary plan to pay for the WaterFix will be to leverage the market created by virtue of the agency already not using all its yearly water allocation.

MWA has rights to about 90,000 acre-feet per year, but because it doesn’t use it all, it’s in the position to assist neighboring contractors and sell what isn’t needed to plan for the future.

The difference to MWA between implementation of the WaterFix and status quo, he added, is 57,500 acre-feet of water and 42,200.

Statewide, the WaterFix would provide about 4.9 million acre-feet per year of water compared to 3.9 million, based on long-term averages subject to precipitation and hydrology.

The project itself, the largest water initiative in the U.S., is being proposed as a fix to a current system deemed broken because of its reversal to natural river flows and impact to endangered fish habitats. As a result, water flow is occasionally suppressed when pumps are throttled back to protect species, sending flow wastefully into the ocean.

“The California WaterFix tries to address the biological conditions as well as the operating conditions,” McCarthy said. “In a sense, it’s having your cake and eating it too. How can we operate better to protect the environment?”

The plan is to build three intake structures and two parallel 150-foot-deep, 30-mile underground tunnels near Sacramento that will move water via gravity flow from north to south.

“The project does help with several other issues like levee failures, rising sea level, earthquake damage and takes into consideration climate change,” McCarthy said. “It would be a significant operational improvement overall.”

The MWA board on Thursday adopted a resolution of support for the WaterFix. McCarthy concluded that he expected there’d be a better sense of the project’s endorsement statewide within the coming weeks.

Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DP_Shea](https://twitter.com/DP_Shea).



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Valley District supports WaterFix

Posted: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 5:55 pm

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposed WaterFix that would build twin tunnels to take water from the Sacramento River for the State Water Project.

Valley District is the state agency that is responsible for importing water to supplement local supplies.

In a staff report, it was noted that the system that was approved in 1960 and began operation in 1970 has been plagued with ecological and habitat problems, hindering its ability to deliver contracted amounts of water.

The two tunnels would be 40 feet in diameter and take water upstream on the river, protecting the delta and avoiding taking fish into the system.

By signing on to support the project, the Valley District Board was committing to financially supporting the construction and future maintenance of the expensive system.

However, Valley District General Manager Doug Headrick emphasized the District is prepared to pay its share without raising taxes. The District got a windfall from the dissolution of redevelopment agencies,, has sold off some property and has a healthy reserve that will be enough to pay without financing a bond issue.

Other improvements will be a lower cost per acre foot of water and a higher water quality than currently imported, Headrick said.

Before the vote, Democratic Club President Tim Prince testified that any increase in taxes would draw serious opposition. However, he was assured there was no need for a tax increase.

Victorville veterans parade, mile-run set for Nov. 11

By Staff reports

Posted Oct 3, 2017 at 11:27 AM

Updated Oct 3, 2017 at 11:29 AM

Participants are being sought for the city's 21st Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony on Nov. 11. The application deadline is Oct. 19.

VICTORVILLE — Participants are being sought for the city's 21st Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony on Nov. 11. The application deadline is Oct. 19.

The parade is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Old Town.

Applications to participate in the parade are being accepted at Hook Community Center. Groups of all types are encouraged to participate, and recommended to follow a patriotic theme.

The parade route begins at Tracy and Seventh streets and the city's Veterans Day Ceremony will immediately follow at Seventh Street and Forrest Avenue.

The ceremony will feature a salute to Victorville veterans; any veterans interested in being included in the tribute must complete the city's Veteran Information Form no later than Oct. 15.

The parade application and Veteran Information Form can be downloaded from the city's website, VictorvilleCa.gov.

Meanwhile, preceding the parade, the city will host its Freedom Mile Run, which begins at 8:50 a.m. Participation is free. Registration will occur at the corner of Seventh Street and Forrest Avenue at 8:15 a.m.

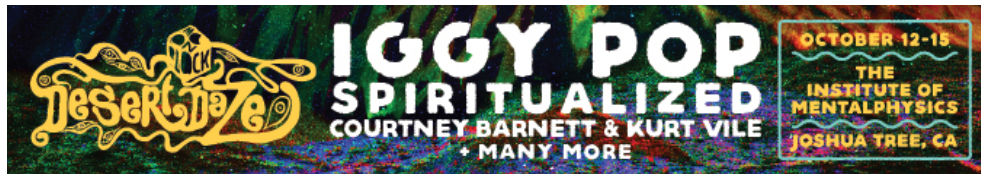
The first 100 runners registered will receive a free commemorative race bib.

For more information, call 760-245-5551 or 760-955-5028.



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THEATRE 29 HOSTS GALA OPENING NIGHT OF "THE MOUSETRAP"
THIS FRIDAY »

YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL HEARS OF FIRE STATION DELAY, BUDGET SURPLUS

By Z107.7 News, on October 4th, 2017

The Yucca Valley Town Council learned that the plans for its new fire station for downtown have been delayed; the station is in the fire department's five-year plans, but it's not known when the county will actually approve the funds to build the station. Yucca Valley firefighters respond to 350 to 400 calls per month. The council also received good news: a new brush engine will be coming to Station 41 next year. Managing editor Tami Roleff fills in the details of the rest of the town council meeting...

The Yucca Valley Town Council learned at its meeting last night the town has a 2016-17 budget surplus of more than \$600,000, of which \$400,000 was transferred into the capital projects reserve fund. And the town can expect even more funds coming due to the implementation of the new gas tax, set to go into effect in November. This year the town will receive only about \$120,000, since the tax starts in the middle of the fiscal year. In future years, the town can expect \$300,000 to \$400,000, which is about double of what it receives now. The town must use these funds on transportation projects.



County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle told the Yucca Valley Town Council that a new fire station is in the fire department's five-year plan.



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