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SKYPARK AT SANTA’S VILLAGE: No Appeal Filed – Opening Soon

in [News](#), [Ticker](#) / by [Michael P. Neufeld](#) / on November 17, 2016 at 4:00 pm /



The Welcome House at SKYPARK At Santa’s Village will soon be open to the public once all the requirements of the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) are completed. There were no appeals filed with the county on the park’s TUP. (Photo by Kelly Pajak/Mountain Magick Photography)

By Michael P. Neufeld

Sky Forest, CA – The San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department reports no one appealed the issuance of the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for SKYPARK At Santa’s Village by the 5 p.m. Thursday deadline. So the effective date of the TUP is November 18 and runs through April 1, 2017.



The Gingerbread House — formerly the Good Witches Bakery — will be offering some of the best homemade gingerbread around along with other baked goodies. (Photo by Kelly Pajak/Mountain Magick Photography)

Once the park completes all the requirements of the TUP, it will be open to the public. The document allows operating hours to be 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The TUP listed a number of conditions that were required for the park to open and a list of some of the things that were not allowed at the present time.

Basically, the TUP allows the developers to open the “original” section of the old Santa’s Village and prohibits utilization of existing trails outside the so-called Amusement Zone.

Camping is also prohibited and parking in the auxiliary lot across Highway 18 is also not allowed under the TUP.

The TUP may be extended by Land Use Services past the April 1, 2017 expiration date if a written request for extension is submitted by the developer.

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

Santa is coming to town....but the exact day depends on workers completing requirements of the TUP.

Visit [SKYPARK AT SANTA’S VILLAGE](#) online for frequent updates.

Summit Inn fundraiser nets \$5,300: Rebuild expected in early 2017

Thursday

Posted Nov 17, 2016 at 9:43 AM

Updated Nov 17, 2016 at 9:44 AM

By **Matthew Cabe**
Staff Writer

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HESPERIA — The benefit car show held at Midway Home Solutions on Nov. 5 raised approximately \$5,300 in donations toward the rebuilding of the Summit Inn, which was destroyed in August's Bluecut Fire.

Summit Inn co-owner Otto Recinos told the Daily Press the donations will be used to create a memorial room in the new restaurant that will house memorabilia recovered after the fire.

That memorabilia includes signs and pictures of celebrities who visited the Summit Inn, according to Recinos, who added that the 12,000-square-foot rebuild will consist of a restaurant, gift shop and a conference center for weddings and Route 66 gatherings.

"We don't have a firm date," Recinos said of a start date for construction, "but definitely within the next two weeks we're going to wrap up permits with the city (of Hesperia)."

He said construction will tentatively start in January and cost between \$3.2 and \$3.5 million. The Recinos family, who purchased the Summit Inn earlier this year, is selling properties in Los Angeles to cover part of the costs.

The rebuild effort was hindered by a cleanup that cost \$320,000 in order to remove asbestos and lead from the site, according to Recinos, who previously told the Daily Press his insurance company wanted to pay just \$10,000 from a policy that has a cash value of \$380,000.

Because the cleanup was paid for out of pocket, Recinos said that left his family in a catch-22 insofar as “we can’t start to rebuild without money, and we can’t get the (insurance) money until we start rebuilding.”

“We hired an attorney (Beverly Hills-based Lawrence Ecoff of Ecoff, Campaign & Tilles LLP) to deal with the insurance issues,” Recinos said.

Money from the sale of the Los Angeles properties will allow the rebuild to start, which will then allow the family to collect the insurance money, he added. The family also took out a loan with the U.S. Small Business Administration to help pay for clean-up costs and cover part of the rebuild.

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Adelanto shuts down second pot shop in 3 weeks

Thursday

Posted Nov 17, 2016 at 11:38 AM

Updated Nov 17, 2016 at 11:38 AM

By Staff Reports

ADELANTO — Local officials have shut down an illegally operating marijuana dispensary in the city for a second time in three weeks, seizing bags of cannabis products and several hundred dollars in cash, the city said.

This pot bust occurred Monday after Adelanto community safety officers received a tip about a business operating as "Patient Med Aid @395" in the 16000 block of Bartlett Road, east of Highway 395.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials obtained a search warrant and entered the business Monday, also finding an adjoining room used as a cannabis manufacturing area for the dispensary, city spokesman Michael Stevens said.

Community Safety Manager Steve Peltier said that in addition to being an illegal marijuana operation, the building did not have permits of any kind, including business license or fire inspection.

"As we've said before, we will vigorously pursue, shut down and arrest those responsible for operating outside the law," Mayor Pro Tem Jermaine Wright said in a statement. "If anyone wants to open and operate a dispensary or marijuana grow operation, we will not make exceptions to the rule that everyone must go through the application process."

The city's ordinance authorizing medical marijuana dispensaries within Adelanto is expected to go into effect next month.

No arrests were made Monday and law enforcement officials were in the process of identifying the building's owner.

"We're hoping that continued publicity about our efforts to shut down illegal operations will send a message to others willing to do the same," Mayor Rich Kerr said in a statement, "that they're taking a huge risk, and will be prosecuted to fullest extent of the law."

Anyone with information about the operation shut down Monday is urged to contact the Adelanto Community Safety Department at 760-246-2300.

Individuals wishing to remain anonymous can call the We-Tip hotline at 800-782-7436 or visit

Homeless former Marine and family get new house in Victorville

By Joe Nelson, *The Sun*

Thursday, November 17, 2016



VICTORVILLE >> For former Marine [Darrin Snyder](#) and his family, home used to be the Wal-Mart parking lot, free campsites, cheap motels, or anywhere else they could park their minivan and cargo trailer and stay the night.

Snyder, who traveled with his family to San Bernardino County from Virginia Beach in August in search of work as a recreational therapist with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, wanted more for his family, but he never expected what he got Thursday: a spacious 5-bedroom, 3-bath house in a quiet Victorville neighborhood, near La Mesa and Topaz roads.

“I think this is pretty awesome. Every time I look at all of this, I think it’s a dream,” said Snyder, 49, inside his new home Thursday, surrounded by representatives from the San Bernardino nonprofit Knowledge & Education for Your Success, which goes by the acronym KEYS. The nonprofit assists homeless or poverty-stricken families in finding homes.

Snyder is among the dozens of veterans recently placed in permanent housing by KEYS and its affiliate partners, including San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health and the Loma Linda V.A. It is part of an ongoing effort to house all the county’s homeless veterans and their families.

The Snyder family’s new home has a spacious backyard, a fireplace in the upstairs master bedroom, and an intercom system that allows family members to communicate with one another from any room in the house.

Snyder, who served in the Marines from 1985 to 1988 and uses a wheelchair due to myriad ailments including a herniated disc, two blown knees and diabetes, said the V.A. will be installing a stairlift in his new home so he can have access to the upstairs master bedroom. Until then, he plans to occupy the downstairs bedroom.

Additionally, the San Bernardino nonprofit Rolling Start, which provides resources and advocacy for disabled persons, will have a wheelchair ramp built to access the house, Snyder said.

KEYS program manager Julie Burnette said the Snyder family is on a one-year lease, with an option to renew. KEYS picked up the tab for the security deposit and first month’s rent of \$1,500, and then the need to continue assisting the Snyders financially will be assessed on a monthly basis.

Darrin Snyder is in the process of securing a job as a recreational therapist at Corcoran state prison’s substance abuse treatment facility. He plans to commute to the prison and camp out in his 6x10 cargo trailer during the workweek, and spend the weekends at his Victorville residence.

“I still get to come back to this place,” Snyder said with a grin.

Snyder’s daughters were just as elated as he was about their new home.

“Motel hopping absolutely sucks. I hope to never be in that situation ever again,” said Snyder’s oldest daughter, Carrie “Allie” Snyder, 22, holding her infant daughter Peyton outside their new home Thursday.

She said living in transition the past four months was an eye-opening experience.

“It definitely gives you a whole new perspective and empathy for people living on the streets,” Allie said.

Snyder’s youngest daughter, Katie, said KEYS and its partner agencies went above and beyond what she and her family anticipated.

“They went way out of their way,” said Katie Snyder, 20, noting that Heroes Warehouse Inc. in Fontana donated a couch, refrigerator, three queen size beds, a desk and three floor-to-ceiling bookshelves.

The Snyder family moved into their home just in time to enjoy the holidays. Although they plan to have Thanksgiving dinner at their church, they plan to have a Christmas at home.

“He’s excited because he gets to decorate this year,” Katie Snyder said of her father.

Darrin Snyder said he’s going to use the \$500 Visa gift card he just received for participating in the Detroit Marathon last month for Christmas presents. He said he has participated in many marathons, representing the Achilles Freedom Team for Wounded Veterans, which funded his trip to Detroit last month.

“Peyton’s going to have a great Christmas this year,” he said of his granddaughter.

His daughter, Katie, added, “There’s going to be toys everywhere!”

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/veterans/20161117/homeless-former-marine-and-family-get-new-house-in-victorville>

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Mental health facility coming to Joshua Tree

By Leah Sanson Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:35 pm

JOSHUA TREE — It was a packed house on Monday as representatives from the county came to the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council meeting to talk about the Crisis Residential Treatment Facility coming to Joshua Tree.

“This is long overdue,” Bob Johnson, resident of Joshua Tree, said.

Dena Fuentes, director of community development in San Bernardino County, revealed the tentative site for the facility is on Twentynine Palms Highway on the corner of Sunny Vista Road.

It will be built with a \$5.6 million state grant.

When representatives went to a MAC meeting in June and asked where community members would prefer the site, people said they wanted it located by Copper Mountain College, next to Hi-Desert Medical Center or on Twentynine Palms Highway.

The land by Copper Mountain College was not zoned for the facility and hospital officials decided they didn’t want to sell their adjacent land, so the county looked elsewhere, Fuentes said.

The facility will have 10 beds but will be able to expand as needed. Patients will stay between 30 and 90 days.

Fuentes described the facility as “recovery-based services in a homelike environment.”

“There is a crying need for this facility,” Beverly Scott, of Landers, said.

Sheriff’s Capt. Jeff Joling explained one of the benefits of the center. Today, if deputies need to transport someone for mental health care, they must drive to San Bernardino or Loma Linda, making them unable to respond to Morongo Basin calls for a minimum of three hours.

“I think you’re going to fill up pretty fast,” Mary Helen Tuttle, MAC representative from Copper Mountain Mesa, said.

If land acquisition goes as planned, construction is expected to begin in March and last 12-18 months.



Mental health facility coming to Joshua Tree

Displays at the Municipal Advisory Council meeting Monday show the proposed designs of a mental health facility planned for Joshua Tree.

Nestlé's permit for taking water from San Bernardino Mountains challenged

By Jim Steinberg, *The Sun*

Thursday, November 17, 2016



LOS ANGELES >> Three environmental and community-based groups have given their notice of intent to appeal a federal court's ruling allowing a subsidiary of Nestlé to continue to remove millions of gallons of water annually from the San Bernardino National Forest.

This notice comes after Riverside-based federal Judge Jesus G. Bernal rejected plaintiffs's arguments in September that the U.S. Forest Service had broken federal procedures in allowing Nestlé Waters North America to remove water from the remote West Fork of Strawberry Creek, which is located above San Bernardino.

The original lawsuit was filed in October 2015 by the Center for Biological Diversity, the Story of Stuff Project, and The Courage Campaign claiming that the Forest Service made errors in allowing Nestlé to maintain pipelines, pumps and other structures in the [San Bernardino National Forest for 28 years after its permit expired](#).

“This appeal is absolutely necessary in order to assure that the U.S. Forest Service does not continue to allow precious water to be siphoned off our public lands without any limits or conditions to protect wildlife, water, and other public trust resources,” said Ileene Anderson, senior scientist, who works out of the Los Angeles office of the Center for Biological Diversity. “After nearly three decades since the permit expired and now with California entering its sixth year of drought, this situation must be remedied now.”

The plaintiffs have until May 1 to file their appeal, said Rachel Doughty, a Berkeley attorney working for the plaintiffs.

“We have not drafted the brief, so I can't tell you what the arguments (for the appeal) are,” she said.

Among other complaints, the plaintiffs unsuccessfully argued in the lower court case that the special use permit for four miles of pipeline and other structures used to tap Strawberry Canyon's water had expired Aug. 2, 1988, and was never properly renewed.

Bernal said that the Forest Service did receive “timely and sufficient application for renewal” in May 1987.

“Plaintiff's do not identify, and the court cannot find, any authority holding that an agency's failure to act within a reasonable time” can invalidate a special use permit, Bernal wrote in his 12-page decision filed in U.S. District Court for the Central Division of California.

Andrew Smith, senior trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Albuquerque, N.M., declined to comment on the appeal notice. Smith handled the case on behalf of the Forest Service in Bernal's courtroom.

“Although not a party to this matter, we would welcome the 9th Circuit's review of the District Court's decision, which reflects established 9th Circuit precedent,” said Chris Rieck, a Nestlé spokesman. “We continue to work

cooperatively with the USFS on the permit renewal process and to manage the Arrowhead Springs in Strawberry Canyon sustainably for the long-term.”

“We Californians have dramatically reduced our water use over the past year in the face of an historic drought, but Nestlé has refused to step up and do its part,” said Michael O’Heaney, executive director of the Story of Stuff Project. “The court’s bad ruling forces us to appeal the decision.”

“The Forest Service has been enabling Nestlé to destroy the delicate ecosystems of Strawberry Creek for 28 years, and it has to stop.” said Eddie Kurtz, executive director of the California-based Courage Campaign Institute. “This appeal challenges a justice system that lets massive corporations play by a different set of rules than the rest of us. Taking a public resource and selling it at an obscene profit without the legal right to do so is unacceptable.”

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161117/nestles-permit-for-taking-water-from-san-bernardino-mountains-challenged>

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ONT officials smart to pursue Asian airlines

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Thursday, November 17, 2016



There's nothing solid yet, but we like the way Ontario International Airport's new management is pursuing air service to and from Asia.

Undoubtedly, Asian air service presents the biggest opportunity to expand the offerings for ONT passengers and cargo — thereby making the airport once again the kind of economic engine for the Inland Empire that it was before the Great Recession.

“What it means for the economy is that one of the principal pieces of infrastructure that has been languishing now has the opportunity to be able to contribute fully to the expansion of the region,” John Husing,

chief economist for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, said last month about the airport's return to local control. “It could potentially create thousands of jobs over time.”

It's hard to imagine full expansion of ONT without service to and from China and other Asian countries.

Airport CEO Kelly Fredericks has said he would contract out a strategic air service plan and another plan to analyze future air service from China and the Pacific Rim. Curt Hagman, a San Bernardino County supervisor and an Ontario International Airport Authority commissioner, has been courting Chinese companies to open operations in the Inland Empire and Chinese airlines to establish flights to ONT.

Hagman said OIAA officials have had initial talks with Hainan Airlines, the largest privately owned airline based in China and the fourth-largest airline based there.

“They have come out several times to discuss both routes as well as potential investment in the airport, but nothing's been signed,” Hagman said. He said OIAA has made overtures to several other Asian carriers, one from the Middle East and at least one from Europe.

A top Korean Airlines executive attended the ceremony handing control of ONT from Los Angeles to OIAA, though he was quick to say he was there by invitation and there are no plans for his airline to begin service to Ontario.

Husing noted the large population of Asian Americans living near the airport and in the San Gabriel Valley who could make use of Asian service, and that cargo could travel in the bellies of those passenger jets.

It will happen, we suspect — the sooner the better.

L.A. narrows list of developers for upcoming homeless-housing projects



Homeless people set up tarps and tents in downtown Los Angeles' skid row. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

By **Doug Smith**

NOVEMBER 17, 2016, 5:10 PM

Officials on Thursday took a preliminary step toward using city land to build about 500 housing units for Los Angeles' chronically homeless population.

The City Administrative Office [recommended](#) four developers who will have exclusive negotiating rights to build on 10 parcels scattered across Lincoln Heights, the San Fernando Valley, the Westside and South Los Angeles.

The use of excess city-owned land is a key element of the comprehensive homelessness plan the City Council adopted in February. Using municipal land could shorten the three to five years usually required to build such housing projects.

Chosen from among 49 developers that submitted proposals, the recommended firms include for-profit businesses and nonprofits.

Meg Barclay, Los Angeles' homelessness coordinator, said that once the council gives approval to the developers — perhaps by the end of the year — negotiations on specific plans can begin.

The city initially planned to offer the sites for supportive housing, which would include on-site services. But the recommendation released Thursday said proposals could include affordable housing, mixed-income housing, market-rate housing and occupant-owned housing as well.

City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana said the other types were included to give developers maximum flexibility in shaping their proposals to the surrounding communities.

Two of the parcels, Old Fire Station No. 5 on Manchester Avenue and Old Fire Station No. 53 on North Mesa Street, were deemed not suitable for development. They will be sold to help fund affordable housing.

Five lots in Lincoln Heights, in the vicinity of North Workman and North Daly streets, will be combined into one project. The remaining four projects are located at 11681 W. Foothill Blvd. in Sunland-Tujunga; 11950

Missouri Ave. in the Sawtelle area; 2322 S. Thatcher Ave. in Marina del Rey and 200 E. North Venice Blvd. in Venice.

A developer has yet to be chosen for a lot at 283 W. Imperial Highway in South Los Angeles.

The development teams are GTM Holdings/Works, LA Family Housing/Many Mansions, Hollywood Community Housing Corp./Venice Community Housing Corp. and Thomas Safran & Associates.

Santana has said he hopes to have groundbreakings on the projects before the end of the fiscal year in June.

Several hurdles, including potential community opposition, could slow that timeline.

According to Yolanda Chavez, assistant city administrative officer, some of the projects would require zoning changes to allow the number of units planned. That could spell trouble if voters in March approve the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, which would prohibit project-specific amendments to the city's general plan.

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This article is related to: [Homelessness](#)