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LOCAL

87 days of smog: Southern California just saw its longest streak of bad air in decades



By TONY BARBOZA

SEP 21, 2018 | 4:00 AM





The streak in ozone pollution began on June 19 and didn't relent until Sept. 14. (Wally Skalij / Los Angeles Times)



Southern Californians might remember the summer of 2018 for its sweltering heat waves, record ocean temperatures and destructive wildfires. But it also claimed another distinction: the summer we went nearly three months without a day of clean air.

The region violated federal smog standards for 87 consecutive days, the longest stretch of bad air in at least 20 years, [state monitoring data show](#). The streak is the latest sign that Southern California's battle against smog is faltering after decades of dramatic improvement.

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The ozone pollution spell began June 19 and continued through July and August, with every day exceeding the federal health standard of 70 parts per billion somewhere across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It didn't relent until Sept. 14, when air pollution dipped to "moderate" levels within federal limits for ozone, the lung-damaging gas in smog that triggers asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

It's not unusual for Southern California summers to go weeks without a break in the smog, especially in inland communities that have long suffered the nation's worst

ozone levels. But environmentalists and health experts say the persistence of dirty air this year is a troubling sign that demands action.

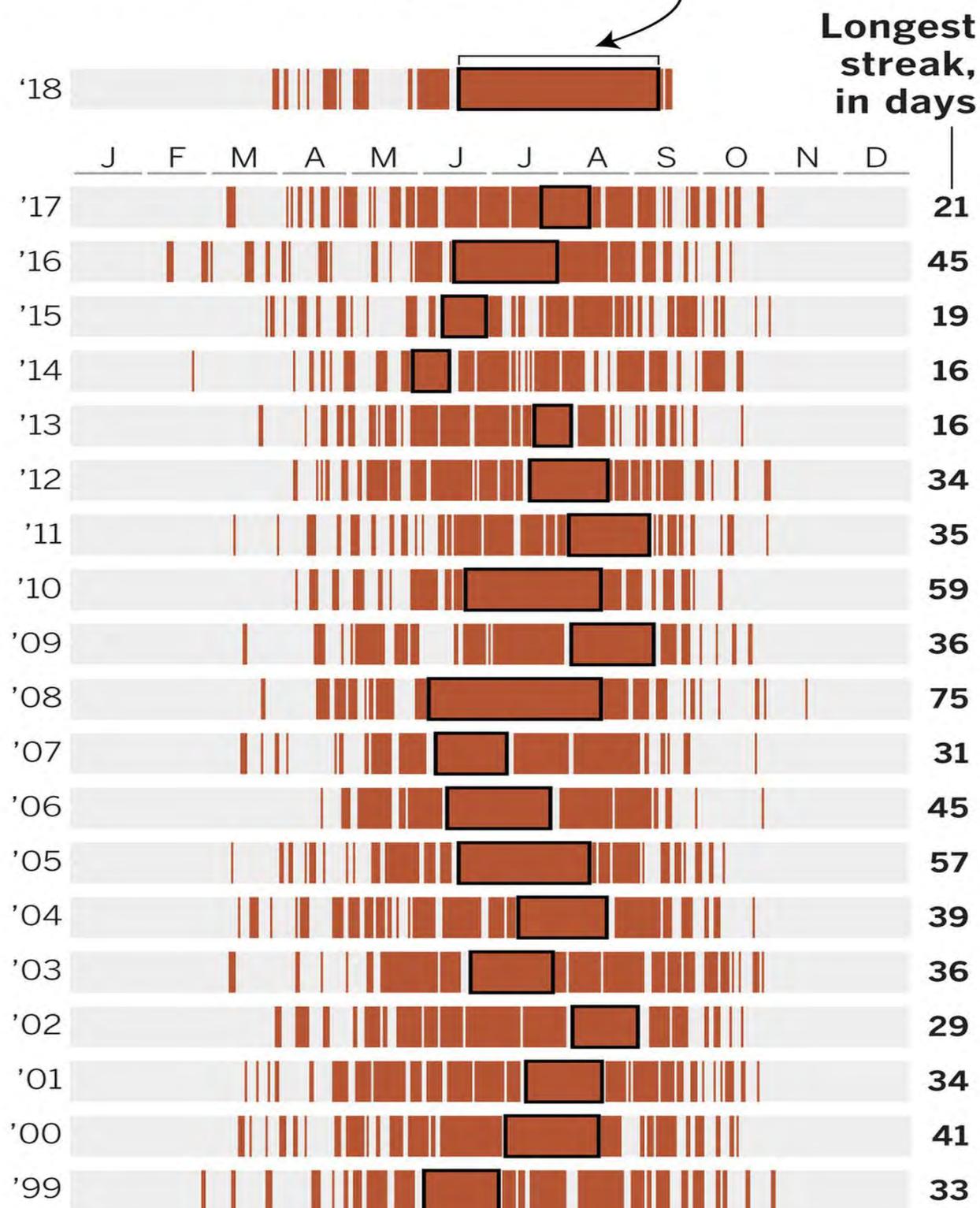
“The fact that we keep violating and having this many days should be a wake-up call,” said Michael Kleeman, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis who studies air pollution.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which is responsible for cleaning pollution across the region of 17 million people, said that consecutive bad air days is an inappropriate way to gauge progress curbing ozone, that this smog season was not as severe as last year’s and had fewer “very unhealthy” days.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency judges whether the region meets Clean Air Act standards based on the highest pollution readings, not how long bad air persists. By federal metrics, air district officials argue they are making strides. The highest ozone levels recorded this summer, they point out, were lower than the previous year, and the smog season began later.

“By all accounts this year is not great, but it’s a little better than last year,” said Philip Fine, deputy executive officer for the South Coast air district.

Smog violated health standard 87 days in a row



*Days with ozone above 70 parts per billion, South Coast Air Basin (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties)

Source: California Air Resources Board

@latimesgraphics

(Jon Schleuss / Los Angeles Times)



The bad air spell follows an increase in smog over the last few years that has bucked a long-term trend of improving air quality and left officials searching for answers. In 2017, the region logged 145 bad air days for ozone pollution, up from 132 ozone violation days in 2016 and 113 the year before.

By the same measure, this smog season is on par with last year, with 126 ozone violation days logged through Monday, according to air district statistics.

The district could not say if there had ever been a stretch of bad air days longer than the one this summer. The agency does not track consecutive violations of federal health standards, a spokesman said, because it “is not a useful or meaningful metric to gauge ozone air quality trends.”

Not everyone agrees. Joseph Lyou, a South Coast air quality board member who heads the Coalition for Clean Air, said he’s concerned that although the intensity of Southern California’s air pollution has dropped, its longevity is increasing.

“It’s a disturbing trend no matter what the law says you’re accountable for,” said Lyou, who asked about the streak of bad air days at a public meeting earlier this month. “It’s telling us we have a persistent problem and that we still have a long way to go.”

Regulators blame the dip in air quality in recent years on hotter weather and stronger, more persistent inversion layers that trap smog near the ground. They’re also planning a study into whether climate change is contributing to the smog problem, as many scientists expect, due to higher temperatures that speed the photochemical reactions that form ozone.

Hotter weather from global warming is not accounted for in pollution-reduction plans required under the Clean Air Act, even though scientists expect it to hinder efforts to control smog.

“This is one example of the close ties between air pollution and climate change, which makes meeting air quality standards even more challenging and illustrates the urgency for addressing climate change at all levels of government in the U.S. and globally,” said Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, an atmospheric chemist at UC Irvine who studies air quality.

Lyons worries that a failure to account for climate change could pose another obstacle to meeting federal ozone-reduction deadlines in 2023 and 2031. The air district's latest cleanup plan says the region can get there only by increasing local, state and federal cash incentives for lower-polluting vehicles by more than tenfold to \$1 billion a year. But so far, it's falling far short.

Environmentalists and community groups say the string of smoggy days is a symptom of insufficient regulation. They criticize air quality officials as too quick to blame the weather when they could be doing more to crack down on some of the biggest hubs of pollution, including truck-choked warehouses and ports and oil refineries.

"We know that it's getting hotter and drier from climate change, but the law says we need to breathe clean air no matter the weather," said Adrian Martinez, an attorney for the environmental law nonprofit Earthjustice who chronicled the mounting number of ozone violations from his Twitter handle @LASmogGuy.

"The last time we met the standard, Justice Kennedy had not announced retirement yet & the World Cup just started," Martinez tweeted on Sept. 7, some 80 days into the spell. "This isn't right. Our lungs deserve better."

Experts say the unsteady progress in Southern California is expected, and a reflection of the difficulties in controlling ozone, which is not emitted directly but forms when combustion gases and other pollutants react in the heat and sunlight. The formation of smog is so influenced by weather conditions and the precise mix of pollutants in the air that scientists and regulators are not surprised to see ozone pollution tick up, despite a long-term trend of declining emissions.

"As we work to bring the whole region down, we're actually seeing some areas where the ozone production is getting more efficient," said Kleeman, who thinks scientists should reconsider the effectiveness of control measures and whether targeting different types of pollutants could bring swifter reductions.

"Are we really doing the right things for the right reasons and is it having the effect that we think?" Kleeman said.

At the same time, health scientists are publishing more research linking ozone and other regional air pollutants to a wider array of health problems at levels well below regulatory limits. Such findings, they say, underscore the need to do as much as

possible to curb smog and ease the number of asthma attacks, missed school days, emergency room visits and premature deaths — all of which increase when ozone pollution is high.

“There’s no question that people with preexisting lung diseases, particularly asthmatics, have had a harder time this year than they would have in previous years where there weren’t so many exceedances,” said Michael Jerrett, who chairs the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at UCLA’s Fielding School of Public Health.

Such problems can be most acute in the smoggy Inland Empire. There, some are starting to view past success cleaning air pollution as an impediment to easing its health damage today. They say clearer mountain views can belie the fact that the air still exceeds health limits for much of the summer.

Smog’s less visible presence can make it easier to live in denial about the health effects, said John Cadavona, a registered respiratory therapist who supervises Arrowhead Regional Medical Center’s Breathmobile, a fleet of RVs that treat schoolchildren in San Bernardino County, where asthma rates and ozone pollution are both high.

“We have parents that think that a cough that their child has is normal, when it may be asthma,” Cadavona said. “If we had cleaner air, we’d have kids who were healthier, whose lungs can function normally and can play sports without having to take medication.”

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POLITICS

California's DMV finds another 3,000 unintended voter registrations



By JOHN MYERS

SEP 20, 2018 | 8:00 AM

| SACRAMENTO





Voter registration forms in different languages at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Santa Ana on May 5, 2016. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

□ □

Officials at California's Department of Motor Vehicles said Wednesday that an additional 3,000 people were mistakenly signed up to vote during the rollout of the state's new "motor voter" program, errors made during the spring and summer and part of a larger batch of problems first reported two weeks ago.

While the total number of registration errors between mid-April and early August remains the same —

estimated at roughly 23,000 — the new discovery more than doubles the instances in which customers unsuccessfully tried to opt out of registering to vote, the DMV said.

“We have completed our review of records and already have new and improved processes in place to ensure this error doesn’t occur again,” DMV Director Jean Shiimoto said in a written statement to The Times.

The 3,000 newly discovered registrations will be canceled, Secretary of State Alex Padilla told local elections officials during a conference call on Wednesday.

The motor voter program was designed to automatically register to vote any eligible Californian who applied for a driver’s license or identification card unless that person declined to participate. Since problems were first reported, elections officials have urged those who used the DMV’s services to check the status of their voter registration by logging on to voterstatus.sos.ca.gov. Changes in registration are transmitted to the county where a voter lives.

[California voters will be able to fix sloppy signatures and track their ballots under new election laws »](#)

Two weeks ago, [DMV officials disclosed that](#) a series of “administrative processing errors” were made when the department’s employees failed to properly clear customer information from computer screens between appointments. In most cases, the errors involved details about the person’s voter preferences — their political party affiliation and whether they wanted to receive a ballot in the mail, for example.

At the time, a smaller number of the errors — about 1,600 — affected people who did not intend to register. Wednesday’s disclosure brings that total number to about 4,600, or one of every five reported mistakes.

DMV officials said they completed their review of the 23,000 customer errors last week. Customers who were affected by the issues are being notified by mail.

These are not the first reported problems with the launch of the motor voter law. In May, some 77,000 voter records were misreported to elections officials — in some cases, more than one registration form was generated by DMV computers for a single voter. Had that error gone unnoticed, in the most extreme cases it could have resulted in two ballots being issued to a single voter.

Democratic lawmakers pushed through the law that created the new voter registration system in 2015, and [Gov. Jerry Brown signed it that fall](#). Supporters said the program would raise voter participation rates by making it easier to register. The program’s launch was contingent on completion of a new statewide voter registration system, which was [certified by Padilla in March 2016](#). But it took until April for motor voter program to get up and running at the DMV, and even then the rollout was delayed by two weeks.

The problems with the voter registration system have come at the end of an especially difficult summer for the DMV, which has faced sharp criticism over [long lines at field offices across the state](#). Efforts to initiate a formal audit of the agency were rebuffed by legislative Democrats, and the problems have

become a familiar talking point for Republican candidates, led by John Cox, the GOP candidate for governor.

Of the 3,000 wrongly enrolled voters, DMV officials said as many as 2,500 had no prior history of registration and that there's no clear answer as to what mistake was made that caused registration data for them to be sent to California's secretary of state.

Because the errors were identified early, none of the people were considered to be fully registered voters and none were able to cast ballots. DMV officials have said they believe all problems were resolved once the registration system was restarted on Aug. 23.



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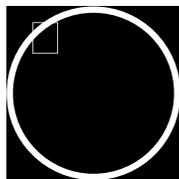
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John Myers

CONTACT



John Myers joined the Los Angeles Times as Sacramento bureau chief in 2015 after more than two decades in radio and television news, much of that as an award-winning reporter covering statehouse policy and politics. During a decade of work for San Francisco's NPR affiliate, his unique online projects included everything from one of Sacramento's original politics blogs to California's first politics podcast. He also served as the moderator of gubernatorial debates in 2014 and 2010. Often cited by state and national news organizations as one of Sacramento's top journalists, he's a graduate of Duke University and the University of California, Berkeley.



LOCAL NEWS

Rancho Cucamonga holds open house Friday on Etiwanda Heights plan, annexation efforts



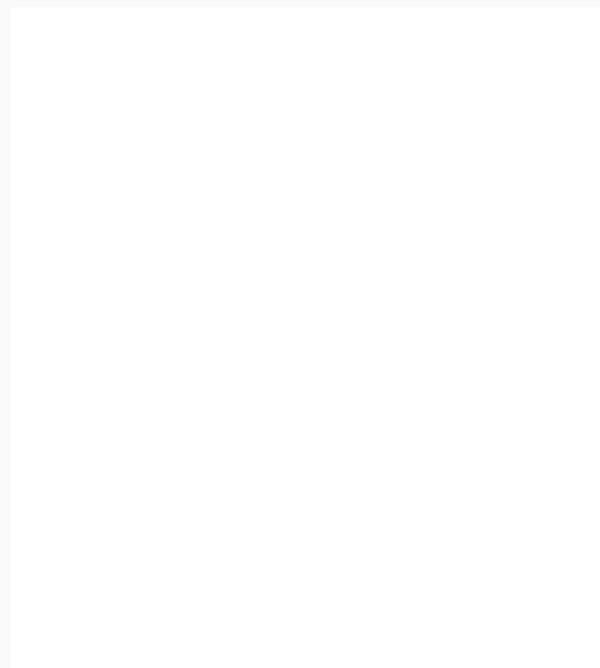
By **BEAU YARBROUGH** | byarbrough@scng.com | 

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 4:28 pm | UPDATED:
September 20, 2018 at 4:29 pm

Rancho Cucamonga residents will be able to get their first look at a [revised annexation plan](#) Friday, Sept. 21, at Victoria Gardens.

The latest version of the Etiwanda Heights



Neighborhood and Conservation Plan Proposal will be unveiled at the open house event. For more than a year, the city of Rancho Cucamonga has been working on annexing unincorporated land northeast of the city.

[The process hasn't always gone](#)

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[smoothly](#), with Rancho Cucamonga residents raising concerns about high-density housing and what sorts of commercial development will be permitted.

The latest version of the plan incorporates community input gathered over the summer.

The open house will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center Courtyard, 12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga.

For more information, call 909-774-2048.

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West Nile virus: 1st local human case since 2013 reported in the High Desert



The *Culex tarsalis* mosquito is currently the main vector of West Nile virus in the Western United States. (Photo by James Gathany/Centers for Disease Control)

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By **DEEPA BHARATH** | dbharath@scng.com | Orange County Register
PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 12:31 pm | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 2:39 pm



Public health officials have confirmed San Bernardino County’s first locally acquired human case of West Nile virus in the High Desert.

According to a statement issued by the county’s Department of Public Health, this is the first human case of the virus acquired in the county since 2013. In previous cases, officials suspected that the infection was contracted outside of the region.

West Nile virus can cause serious illnesses in humans, said Maxwell Ohikhuare, the county’s health officer. “I urge residents to take precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites,” he said.

According to the California Department of Public Health, this year, Los Angeles County has reported nine human West Nile virus cases. Orange and Riverside counties have reported five cases each.

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West Nile virus is transmitted to human beings through the bite of an infected mosquito.

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Symptoms of the infection include fever, body aches, rash, nausea, vomiting and headache.

Many who are infected may not have any symptoms or may only experience mild flu-like symptoms. However, some of the more serious complications from West Nile virus include paralysis.

Health officials recommend the following steps to protect against the virus:

- Avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts to protect against mosquito bites
- Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes breed.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have torn or have holes in them.

The health department is asking the public to report green or neglected pools by calling the Division of Environmental Health Services at 800-442-2283.

More information: <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/programs/ehs/>

misery around a wide swath of Southern California

In the war on West Nile Virus, mosquito-eating fish are the latest biological weapon

3 human cases of West Nile virus reported in Southern California



LOCAL NEWS

San Bernardino chooses developer for 5th Street Gateway Project



By **BRIAN WHITEHEAD** | bwhitehead@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 4:30 pm | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 4:30 pm

San Bernardino approved an agreement with Los Angeles-based ICO Real Estate Group on Wednesday, Sept. 19, for the purchase and development of 6.56 acres just east of the 215 Freeway.

The 5th Street Gateway Project [calls for the development of 27 parcels](#) near West Fifth and Sixth streets and North H and G streets, less than a

mile from downtown San Bernardino. Developing the site will be the first step in San Bernardino’s renaissance, city leaders have said.

“This (agreement) is a great sign of progress,” Councilman Henry Nickel said Wednesday.

In the past five years, ICO Real Estate Group has renovated, expanded and developed San Bernardino office buildings and retail spaces.

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The real estate developer currently is working on a plaza in the Shandin Hills neighborhood.

According to a staff report on the 5th Street Gateway Project, [ICO is expected to include commercial and residential development](#) in its present and future plans, a key element sought by the city. Furthermore, ICO will implement a practical financing plan and is open to working with additional partners.

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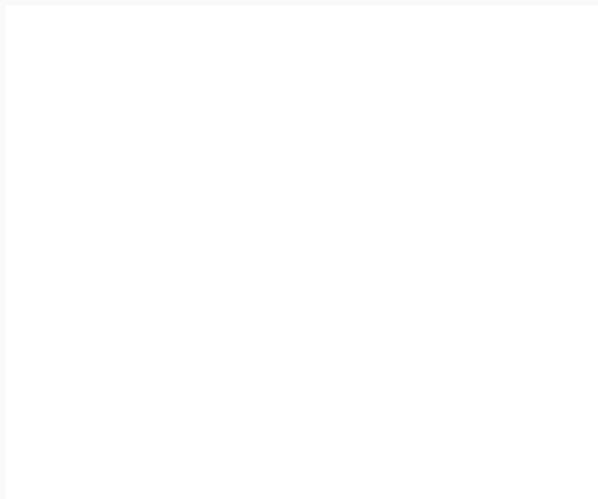
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“What I think we have is a proposal that will truly make us a world-class city,” Nickel said.

ICO must submit to the city a preliminary development concept package no later than Dec. 3, under terms of the agreement. A final development concept package could be submitted by summer 2019.



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Brian Whitehead

Brian Whitehead covers San Bernardino for The Sun. Bred in Grand Terrace, he graduated from Riverside Notre



LOCAL NEWS

San Bernardino council members to receive first pay raise in 63 years



By **BRIAN WHITEHEAD** | bwhitehead@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 10:43 am | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 2:37 pm



For the first time in 63 years, San Bernardino council members will receive a pay raise. The City Council on Wednesday, Sept. 19, approved increasing city leaders' salaries from \$600 to \$14,000 a year beginning next year, [aligning their total annual compensation package](#) with those offered in neighboring cities.

Councilman Fred Shorett was the lone dissenter. Council members' salaries had remained stagnant since being set in 1955. And while the pay raise represents a nearly 2,400 percent increase, some, including retiring Councilwoman Virginia Marquez, believe that isn't enough of a hike.

“This should be a full-time job,” Marquez said this month. In addition to attending bimonthly meetings and working with constituents, she said, there are events and ribbon-cutting ceremonies and special presentations, as well as city issues that pop up unannounced. The raises will take effect Jan. 1.

Over the past few months, a San Bernardino commission has discussed city leaders’ compensation and benefits as they relate to those in Chino, Fontana, Ontario, Riverside, Victorville and several other nearby cities.

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As a result, the nine-person commission recommended increasing salaries for San Bernardino council members to \$14,000 per year, or about what Fontana pays its council members. The salary increases will add \$10,000 annually to the city’s CalPERS pension costs, according to a staff report on the issue.

“You get what you pay for,” Councilman Henry Nickel said Wednesday. “If we’re truly going to be a world-class city as we’re committing ourselves to, we’re going to need world-class leadership. And we need to make sure we attract those world-class leaders to this position.”

In addition to the pay raise, San Bernardino council members approved lowering

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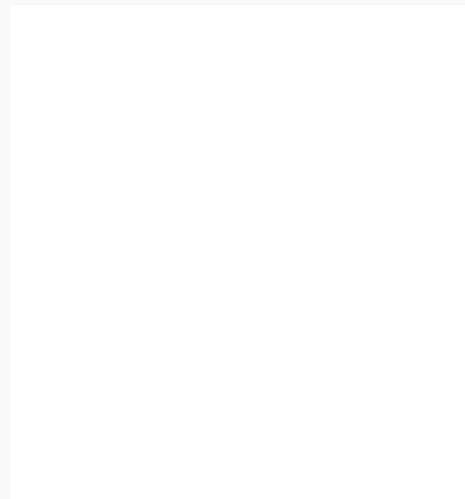
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their monthly auto allowances from \$750 a month to \$500 a month.

The new compensation figures can be reassessed in two years.

City leaders on Wednesday also approved a \$7,000 annual salary increase for the mayor's seat, another recommendation Shorett opposed.



The mayor's salary is set at 50 percent of that of a San Bernardino County Superior Court judge and can be adjusted annually. Starting in 2019, mayoral compensation will be about \$125,000 a year. Citing the mayor's reduced role under the new city charter, Shorett suggested a \$60,000 salary, plus stipends and benefits.

"The responsibilities of the mayor have significantly gone down," he argued. "It's a full-time job, but also it really isn't the same type of full-time job it was in the past."

Shorett's motion received no support.

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San Bernardino council members could receive first pay raise in 63 years

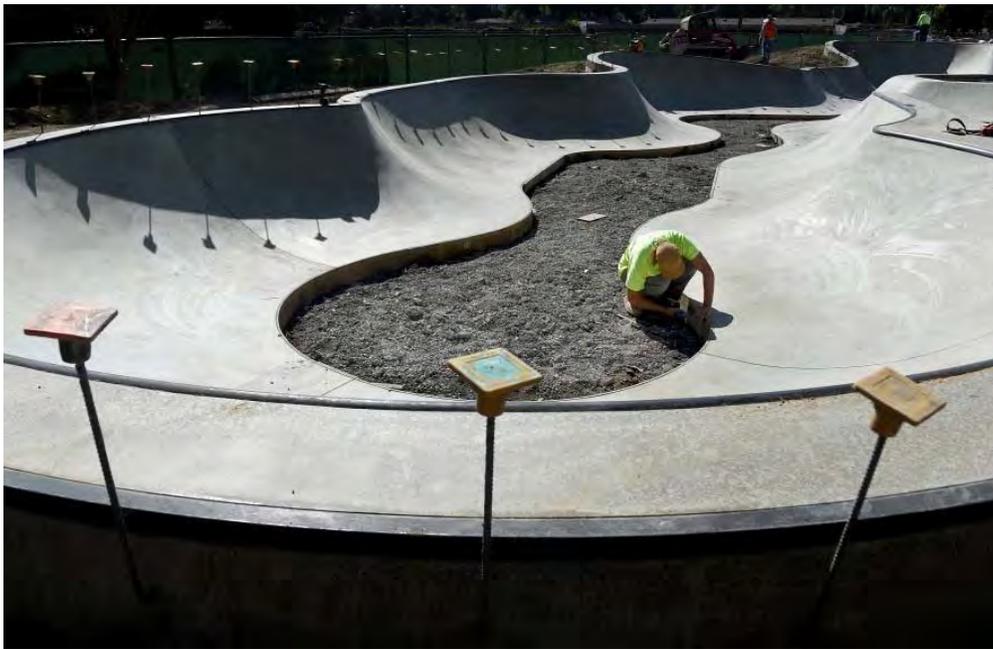
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LOCAL NEWS

Construction is in full swing at \$1 million Redlands skatepark



A construction worker removes framing from the snake-run in the new Redlands Skatepark at Sylvan Park in Redlands on Thursday, September 20, 2018. The park, which is on schedule for completion in January, will consist of approximately 15,000 square feet of surface area with features such as a snake-run, donor benches, stairs, rails, a China wall and a large bowl. (Photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

By [JENNIFER IYER](mailto:jiyer@scng.com) | jiyer@scng.com | Redlands Daily Facts

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 4:39 pm | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 4:40 pm



Walls and ramps were drying in the sun Thursday, Sept. 20, as workers poured concrete for Redlands' long-awaited skating facility at Sylvan Park.

After more than a decade of fundraising by backers, the council [approved the construction contract in April](#). The price tag came in just over \$1 million.

A [ground breaking ceremony](#) was held in July, and the project is on schedule for completion in January.

The 15,000 square-foot in-ground facility will offer street- and bowl-type skating.

Tags: [development](#), [outdoors](#), [skateboarding](#), [Top Stories RDF](#)



Jennifer Iyer

A lifelong Inland resident, Jennifer Iyer started working in journalism at The Press-Enterprise in 2000. She has written (and shot photos for) stories on wildflowers, camping with a dog, and many community events, and as a videographer covered wildfires and war games to blimp rides and camel racing from Temecula to Big Bear Lake, Twentynine Palms to Jurupa Valley.

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Candidate Profile: Dew touts public service background, advocating to follow proven models in latest Victorville Council run

By Shea Johnson

Staff Writer

Posted at 2:30 PM

Updated at 2:30 PM

VICTORVILLE — During the past two election cycles, Lionel Dew has come remarkably close to winning a Council seat: In 2016, he lost by 404 votes despite holding a lead for days as early results were counted. Two years before, 11.

Dew, who ran on a strong governance background — including stints on the 28th District Agriculture Association, Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District and Sheriff Information Exchange Committee, as well as education boards — will now seek to clear the hurdle that has prevented his arrival as a city councilor.

He has sat up on the dais for the past four years, albeit in a different capacity. As a Victorville planning commissioner appointed in 2014 by Councilman Eric Negrete, who he is now effectively running against, Dew nodded to his public

service experience and feel for city development and land use projects as giving him a leg up.

Dew was particularly proud of the Commission's address of water use and problematic businesses and its dealings with Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, which opened its first location in the state here earlier this year. The Commission doesn't tackle merely what to build, but how to do it, he noted: "And I think we've gotten better at that."

His decision to seek for a third-straight time an elevated seat within the city, he explained, stems from people asking him to run.

"I think that's primarily a result of my evidence of being a proven leader," he said. "I can move us forward in a way that everyone is proud of and that we make progress along the way in the smartest way possible."

He advocated for a two-fold approach to reduce homelessness in the city, one of the key problems facing it today, saying that local government should follow models that have proven successful elsewhere while also securing and relying on partners like San Bernardino County for help.

Dew described maintaining a great rapport with the Sheriff's Department, as well as security, safety and a robust economy as essential to the city, and he indicated he was for the proposed high-speed rail between Victorville and Las Vegas.

To bolster the city's economy, he said he would use his influence to seek to draw corporations that pay livable wages by visiting cities that have had such success and implementing similar models.

"I think it's good to have a job, but I think it's better to have a career," he said, adding that higher wages would act as an incentive to young people to stay in the Victor Valley.

He said the ongoing transition to an independent fire department would be something he would want to review if elected, not unlike everything else, but that he did have confidence in city decision-making because he knew the officials personally.

Additionally, Dew was adamant that the Green Tree Golf Course, whose operating budget has been held up by Councilwoman Blanca Gomez, was an asset to Victorville, noting how nonprofits hold fundraisers there.

“No one person has the right to withhold the progress” of the entire city, he said. “I find where we are today to be quite disruptive to the process.”

The general election is Nov. 6. Visit www.vvdailypress.com to see videos of each candidate explaining why they’re running for office and what key issues they’re focused on.

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).



THINGS TO DO RESTAURANT REVIEWS + FOOD

Dine 909: Find out what's coming to Haven City Market, San Bernardino County's first food hall



Construction is nearing completion on Rancho Cucamonga's Haven City Market food hall. (Photo by John Plesse)

By **JOHN PLESSEL** | jplesse@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun



PUBLISHED: September 19, 2018 at 8:39 am | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 10:21 pm

Rancho Cucamonga's coming food hall — [Haven City Market](#) — has announced its first tenants.

A video posted to the food hall's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts reveals the names of several eateries:

- [Baked Dessert Bar](#)
- [Belly & Snout](#)
- [Burgerim](#)
- [Churro Bar](#)
- [Fala Bar](#)
- [Honeymee](#)
- [It's Boba Time](#)
- Kuraya Ramen
- [Native Son Alehouse](#)
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As with the Riverside Food Lab, many of the announced eateries are established businesses. However, I couldn't find any information on two of them: Kuraya Ramen and Sizzlin' Place.

Haven City Market is under construction at 8443 Haven Ave.

No opening date has been released, but the video indicates the food hall — [announced about a year and a half ago](#) — will open this fall.

Woops! Bakery comes to SoCal

New York-based [Woops! Bakery](#) has opened its first Southern California location at Ontario Mills.

The bakery specializes in macarons, and also sells other pastries, including alfajores, a South American shortbread sandwich cookie filled with either dulce de leche or Nutella.

Macaron flavors run from the classics like pistachio, strawberry and vanilla to less traditional flavors such as peanut butter and jelly, mojito and lychee rose. The Woops! kiosk is located in Neighborhood 10, near Off Broadway Shoe Warehouse, and across from Coach.



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By Lending Tree



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wearing seat belt, CHP says

Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Tea house opens

[Liquid Tea Bar](#) has opened in north San Bernardino.

The tea house offers a variety of hot and iced teas and coffees, as well as milkshakes and other specialty drinks.

Liquid Tea Bar is at 4414 University Parkway, Unit B, San Bernardino. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Juicery now open

[Pressed Juicery](#) has opened in Rancho Cucamonga's Victoria Gardens.

In addition to cold-pressed juices, the store also offers two-ounce functional shots; Heat, the chain's line of hot drinks; and Freeze, a vegan, dairy-free, gluten-free frozen soft-serve treat made purely from fruits, vegetables and nuts.

The juicery is at 12544 N. Mainstreet, next to Bath & Body Works.

Food Lab openings

More eateries are open at the [Riverside Food Lab: Masala Mischief](#), which specializes in Indian street food; and the second location for Redlands' [Bricks and Birch](#), which offers pizza and pastries.

Riverside Food Lab is at 3605 Market St.

Sophomore year

[Euryale Brewing Company](#) is turning 2!

The Riverside brewery [will celebrate](#) its second anniversary from 3-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22. The event will feature several bands, a cornhole tournament and, of course, plenty of craft beer.

Euryale is at 2060 Chicago Ave., Suite A17.

Pomona food and beer fest

Tickets are available for the [Global Flavor Festival](#), set for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the [Rookery Alehouse and Grill](#), 171 W. Second St., Pomona.

The event will feature live music, international entertainment, and unlimited food and beer samples.

Participating local breweries include [Kings Brewing Co.](#), [Rescue Brewing Co.](#) and [Sanctum Brewing Co.](#)

The event will also feature a pop-up speakeasy-style Pomona Queen Lounge, hosted by [Last Name Brewing](#), which is one of the sponsors of the event.

Tickets are \$50 (plus a \$4.74 service fee if purchased online) for general admission and \$75 (plus a \$6.12 service fee if purchased online) for VIP admission, which grants entry at noon and other perks. Designated driver tickets are available for \$25 (plus a \$3.37 service fee if purchased online).

Proceeds from the event will benefit [Priceless Pets](#), [YWCA San Gabriel Valley](#), [Friends of the Pomona Library](#) and the [Pomona Valley Art Association](#).

For information or to purchase tickets, visit www.globalflavorfest.com.

Chipotle fundraiser

You can help fight childhood cancer by eating at [Chipotle Mexican Grill](#).

All day Wednesday, Sept. 26, Southern California Chipotle locations will host a fundraiser for [Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation](#), an organization dedicated to helping to improve the care, quality of life and survival rates of children with malignant diseases.

To participate, simply mention the fundraiser to the cashier and the chain will donate 50 percent of your bill to the organization.

DQ in SB

The [long-anticipated Dairy Queen](#) Grill & Chill in north San Bernardino is finally opening.

The new eatery, 3164 Kendall Drive, opens Friday,

Sept. 21.

Hot Chicks leave town

Hot Chicks Kitchen and the Lowkey Poke Joint in Rancho Cucamonga have closed.

The twin restaurants [opened a mere six months ago.](#)

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Man arrested after reportedly swinging handgun, shooting at car along National Trails Highway

By Staff Reports

Posted at 10:23 AM

Updated at 12:33 PM

ORO GRANDE — A man is in custody after authorities say he shot at a passing car along National Trails Highway and waved a rifle in the air Thursday morning.

According to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Victor Valley Station Sergeant Mark James, deputies initially responded to reports of a man standing in the roadway with a handgun at approximately 7:30 a.m.

The man was reportedly swinging the gun around at passing cars, shooting and striking at least one, James told the Daily Press.

When deputies arrived, the man, who has not yet been identified, ran into the front yard of a nearby house in the 20400 block of National Trails Highways with a rifle in hand, holding the loaded weapon in the air over his head.

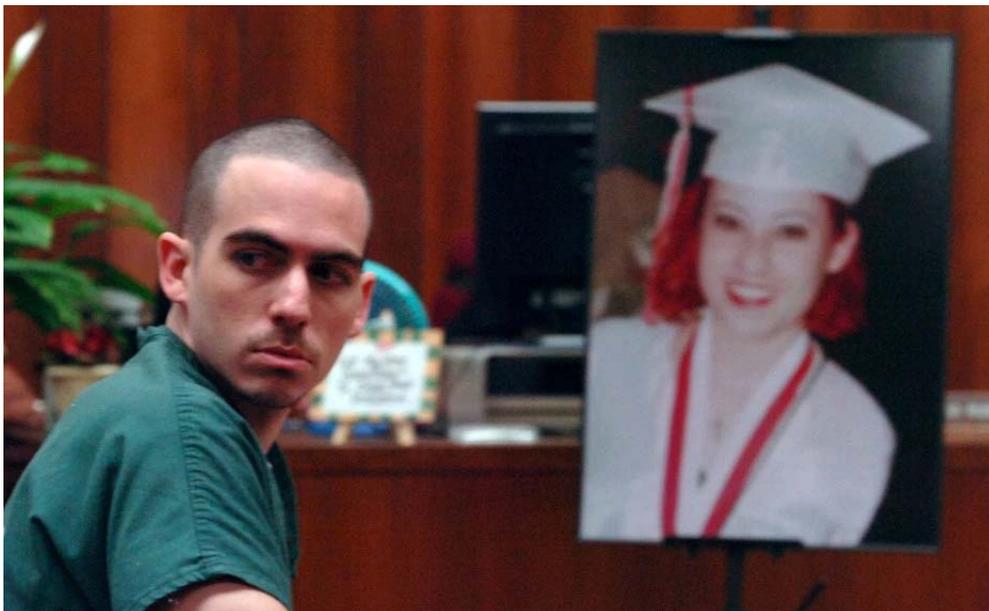
Deputies use "less-lethal force" to subdue and apprehend the suspect. Medical aid was requested for the suspect before he was taken into custody. No other injuries were reported.

National Trails Highway was shut down in both directions for approximately two hours, but was reported to be reopened as of 9:30 a.m.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

NEWS > CRIME + PUBLIC SAFETY

Man convicted in 2003 murder of Redlands student Kelly Bullwinkle up for parole



Damien Guerrero looks towards his family during his sentencing hearing in a San Bernardino Superior Courtroom August 23, 2008. Guerrero was sentenced to 15 years to life for his part in the September 13, 2003 shooting death of Kelly Bullwinkle, pictured in background.

By **SANDRA EMERSON** | semerson@scng.com | Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

PUBLISHED: January 5, 2018 at 2:52 pm | UPDATED: January 5, 2018 at 3:35 pm

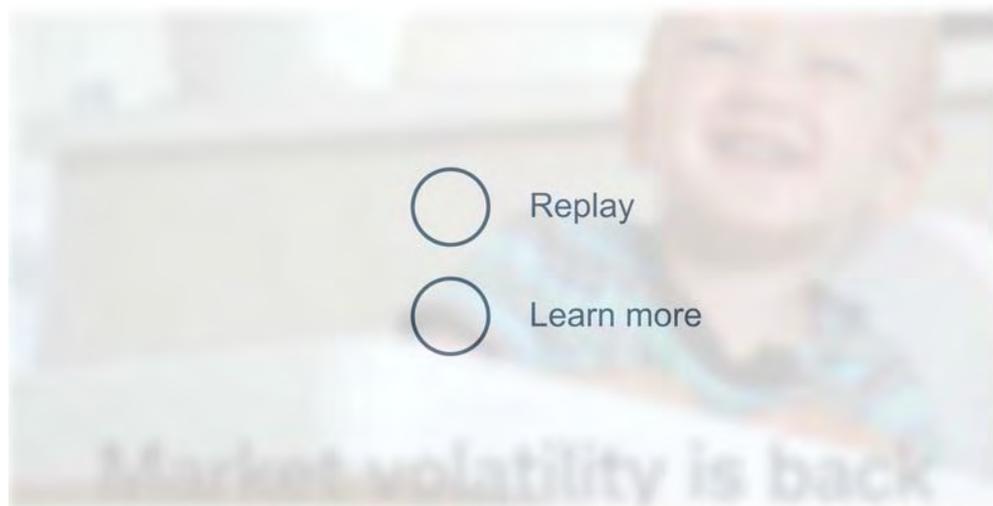


The Highland man convicted of murdering a Redlands college student is scheduled to go before the state parole board in May.

[Damien Matthew Guerrero](#), 33, will be considered for parole, after serving 15 years of a 15 years-to-life sentence for the 2003 murder of 18-year-old [Kelly Bullwinkle](#), who was found shot to death in San Timoteo Canyon.

District Attorney Mike Ramos, who knew Bullwinkle and her family, said they will be prepared for the hearing, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 2 at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe.

ADVERTISING



“My attorney will be in attendance and we will make sure that the parole board is reminded of the horrendous facts surrounding this murder and how Kelly’s life was taken,” Ramos said.

Ramos said Connie Lasky, a San Bernardino County deputy district attorney with the office’s Lifer Parole Unit, will attend Guerrero’s hearing.

Since forming the unit in 2003, a prosecutor is present at every parole hearing held for inmates sentenced to life for crimes committed in San Bernardino County.

Leading up to the hearing, Lasky will review Guerrero record in prison and psychological evaluation reports, Ramos said.

[Guerrero was sentenced in August 2008](#) to 15 years to life in state prison as part of a plea agreement following a mistrial in 2005. He was credited nearly 5 years for his time served prior to the sentencing.

“As the district attorney, I just want to assure the family that our job isn’t done,” Ramos said after the 2005 sentencing. “He will be held responsible for his actions at all of his parole hearings.”

Kinzie Noordman of Redlands was convicted of first-degree murder in march 2005 and sentenced to 45 years to life in prison.

Noordman, 34, is currently serving her sentence at the California Institution for Women in Corona, according to the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Bullwinkle, a Redlands East Valley High School graduate and freshman at Crafton Hills College, was last seen on Sept. 13, 2003 leaving her job at Baker's Burgers in Redlands.



Kelly Bullwinkle (Courtesy)

According to authorities, Guerrero, 19 at the time, and Noordman, 20, lured Bullwinkle into San Timoteo Canyon and shot her to death, leaving her body in a shallow grave they had dug the day before.

Guerrero and Noordman, however, claimed Bullwinkle's murder was an accident and that they only meant to scare her.

[Guerrero testified in 2005](#) that the gun, a .25-caliber semi-automatic Raven, accidentally discharged when he pulled it from his pocket, hitting Bullwinkle in the head.

She fell to the ground, still alive, and Guerrero dropped the gun. Noordman told him to shoot her again, he said. When he refused, Guerrero said Noordman picked up the gun and fired at Bullwinkle's head, killing her.

Guerrero then picked up Bullwinkle's lifeless body and placed it in the hole. He said he sat nearby while Noordman used a shovel to cover Bullwinkle's body with dirt.

The pair abandoned Bullwinkle's car at the Ontario Mills mall and returned to Redlands where they dined at Denny's and saw a movie.

Police found Bullwinkle's body several weeks later.

The murder gained notoriety when it was [featured in an episode of Lifetime's "I Killed My BFF"](#) in 2014. The 40-minute episode titled "Under a Deadly Spell" included interviews with friends of both Bullwinkle and Noordman and investigators from the Redlands Police Department who handled the case.

The Lifetime episode used actors to portray Noordman and Bullwinkle painting the pair as best friends and Guerrero as Bullwinkle's love interest.

"I think the story is about kids who don't know how to handle their emotions and their circumstances and got carried away in some sort of fantasy world," Bullwinkle's friend Rachel Schneider said in the episode.

Ramos said the murder was shocking and had a huge impact on the community, including those who went to school with Bullwinkle and the killers.

“I think it shocked a lot of people, including myself, that these individuals that committed this murder were actually people in our community, students in our school district,” Ramos said.

Bullwinkle’s murder hit home for Ramos in two ways, he said. Not only did it happen in his hometown, but he coached Bullwinkle while on his daughter’s soccer team.

“Talk about a great kid,” he said. “She would do anything for her teammates.”

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Sandra Emerson

Sandra Emerson covers the cities of Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, Montclair, Chino and Chino Hills for the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

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Offspring to headline public music festival on Twentynine Palms Marine base

By Jené Estrada, Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Thursday, September 20, 2018 5:42 pm

MCAGCC — The combat center will be rocking this weekend as the Twentynine Palms military community gathers for BaseFEST — a free and open-to-the public all-day festival.

BaseFEST is staged by TTF Entertainment, a company founded by military veterans that aims to bring live music and entertainment events directly to people in service and their families.

The inaugural BaseFEST took place last year at Camp Lejeune and was followed by a winter show at Naval Air Station Pensacola. After thousands from the military community attended the shows, the fest expanded this year to visit Fort Bliss in Texas, Naval Station Mayport in Florida, Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and Twentynine Palms.

“We’ve entertained over 65,000 folks at these events so far and each one is a special and unique experience,” said Sean Gilfillan, founder and CEO of TTF Entertainment.

Around 15,000 people are expected to attend BaseFEST in Twentynine Palms, Gilfillan said, and much of that attendance can be attributed to an impressive lineup of musicians.

Headlining the festival will be The Offspring. A rock band from Garden Grove, The Offspring has become a household name since they blew up the rock charts in the late '90s and the early 2000s.

Their big hits include “Self-Esteem,” which, at its peak, was in the top 10 of America’s alternative and mainstream rock charts.

Other performers playing at BaseFEST will include NoMBe, Carlton Zeus and Ha Ha Tonka.

BaseFEST adds artists to the lineup that have military ties including Carlton Zeus, who served in the U.S. Air Force, and D.J. Modest Monaco, who served in the United States Marine Corps.

Along with musicians, the fest has a kids zone, an adult rec and fitness area, food and beverages and a lounge area. The games and activities, like entrance to the festival itself, are free. BaseFEST is funded by title sponsor USAA, as well as Monster Energy, Harley-Davidson, Sailor Jerry and Coors Light.

For those who want to get close to the action, attendees can purchase a VIP ticket that will get them access to a seated viewing area near the main stage. It will also give them two free drinks and access to a special cash bar.

For information, visit www.basefest.com and click on the Twentynine Palms page.

Tribe and Edison volunteers work for desert tortoise

By Susan Cox Special to the Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Friday, September 14, 2018 1:41 pm

Growing up on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, Marlene Woo, president of Southern California Edison's Native American Alliance, remembers the desert life: "the look, the heat and the smell from the desert plants wafting through the vast openness of the range."

Those memories returned recently when she volunteered with the company's employee resource group to help clear a tortoise fence on the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Reservation.

Woo joined a team of volunteers who spent a hot summer morning clearing brush and debris along the tribe's desert tortoise exclusion fence. Running along land near the Tortoise Rock Casino in Twentynine Palms, the wire fence serves as a barrier to protect desert tortoises, which are a federally threatened species.

Tortoise protection on native lands

Vehicles on roads and highways pose a serious threat to an estimated 150,000-200,000 tortoises in the Mojave Desert, which includes the city of Twentynine Palms. The tortoise's color blends in with the desert landscape, making the reptile difficult to spot.

To keep tortoises safe near the casino, the tribe erected an exclusion fence, but the fence had become clogged with vegetation and litter.

Volunteers went to work after a desert tortoise awareness training conducted by Shawn Muir, the Twenty-Nine Palms tribal environmental coordinator.

Armed with shovels, rakes, hoes and hedge trimmers, they leveled soil, cleared the ground, picked up trash and removed overgrown vegetation along the fence surrounding an approximately 120-acre desert tortoise exclusion area within the 160-acre reservation. The remaining 40 acres of the reservation has been designated by the tribe as a conservation area for the desert tortoise.

Areas of the fence in need of fixing were tagged with flagging tape for tribal staff to repair at a future date.

"We've volunteered in urban communities in the past, but this year, NAA deliberately came out to the tribes to build a partnership, to be visible and have a presence," said Woo.

SCE's partnership with the tribe is mutually beneficial. The tribe's endeavors align with SCE's strategic initiatives that include diversity and inclusion, community outreach, education, corporate philanthropy and environmental stewardship, according to Woo.



Tribe and Edison volunteers work for desert tortoise

Southern California Edison volunteers clear brush and debris along the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians' desert tortoise exclusion fence.

Edison International, the parent company of SCE, presented a \$5,000 grant to the tribe to support historic preservation and environmental protection projects.

As midday approached, the rising desert sun signaled the end of the volunteers' workday. A quick glance back at the area along the exclusion fence revealed a fence line that had been cleaned and inspected per the tribe's habitat conservation plan.

"It's a large area and just shows you the desert tortoise habitat in the high desert," said Anthony Madrigal Jr., director of the tribal historic preservation office. "This event helped us eliminate invasive vegetation so we can restore the fence to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service guidance, and clean up trash that accumulates over time on the reservation.

"It definitely had a meaningful impact. It was a great event and the tribe is appreciative."



NEWS POLITICS

'Extensive review' of Riverside County social services amid search for new director



Riverside County Administrative Center (File photo).

By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

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PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 12:32 pm | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 12:32 pm



Riverside County is conducting “an extensive review” of its child and adult protective services divisions following the departure of the county’s social services director and lawsuits alleging botched casework that harmed at-risk children.

The review, announced Thursday, Sept. 20, is already underway and “also will provide vital information and recommendations to help strengthen county protective services,” according to a county news release. The county is in talks with a law firm experienced in representing social-services programs to help conduct the review, the release added.

“Nothing we do is more important (than child and adult protective services),” County Executive Officer George Johnson said in the statement. “The county has worked hard to reduce attrition and add social workers over the past two years. Those measures support efforts by our social workers to protect thousands of children and adults every year.”

Privacy and client confidentiality concerns will prevent the full release of the review’s results, but a public version will be made available, the release read. There is no timetable for when that report will be disclosed.



Susan Von Zabern, then the director of Riverside County’s Department of Public Social Services speaks about the child-abuse case involving 13 captive siblings in a Perris home in this January file photo (Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG).

Word of the review comes about a week after [Department of Public Social Services Director Susan von Zabern left her job](#). No reason was given for her departure.

Asked why the review is happening now, county spokesman Ray Smith said: “As the county begins searching for a new director, it is an opportune time to conduct this kind of review. It also is important to assure the community about the county’s commitment to

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protecting vulnerable children and adults.”

The review will take place while the county searches for von Zabern’s replacement. “The broad recruitment will focus on candidates with extensive experience dealing with state social-services regulations,” the county’s release read, adding the search is expected to take at least several months.

Child and adult protective services fall under the county’s social services department. Since late 2017, the county has been hit with at least two civil lawsuits alleging action or inaction by social workers led to horrific outcomes for a then-3-year-old girl and a teenage girl in another household.

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One suit, filed on behalf of “Gail C.,” who is now 4, accuses social workers of not doing enough to protect the girl, whose mother had a history of addiction and mental illness. According to the lawsuit, a police officer in April 2016 found Gail hugging the mummified corpse of her infant sibling, with her mother saying the dead infant was “faking it.”

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Another lawsuit, filed in March of this year, accuses social workers of failing to stop Jacquelyn H. from being raped and abused by her mother's live-in boyfriend. The girl eventually became pregnant and gave birth at age 13, according to the complaint.

The social services department also came under scrutiny following the 2015 arrest of John David Yoder of Palm Springs, an adoptive parent and special education aide who was sentenced to more than 20 years in prison for his role in a child pornography ring.

Prior to Yoder's arrest, county social workers investigated allegations that Yoder was molesting children, finding evidence that included photos of underage boys in their underwear on his computer. Yet the social workers determined that evidence to be "inconclusive," and did not revoke Yoder's license to serve as a foster parent to a boy.

A 2015 social services assessment conducted following Yoder's arrest praised social services for consistently checking on children in open cases, but found that the number of social workers was below the state's recommended minimum for a county as large as Riverside. The report also noted that caseworkers and supervisors didn't always communicate about at-risk families, and that the turnover rate among caseworkers was high.

The attrition rate for child protective services workers has fallen from 20 percent in 2016 to 9.2 percent today, while the number of social workers carrying caseloads has gone up 16 percent since 2016, the county news release read.

The CPS hotline received more than 40,000 calls last year alleging mistreatment of children. Social workers investigated 34,200 calls and

substantiated allegations in almost 5,000 cases, according to the news release.

Tags: [Top Stories PE](#)

Jeff Horseman

Jeff Horseman got into journalism because he liked to write and stunk at math. He grew up in Vermont and he honed his interviewing skills as a supermarket cashier by asking Bernie Sanders “Paper or plastic?” After graduating from Syracuse University in 1999, Jeff began his journalistic odyssey at The Watertown Daily Times in upstate New York, where he impressed then-U.S. Senate candidate Hillary Clinton so much she called him “John” at the end of an interview. From there, he went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he covered city, county and state government at The Capital newspaper before love and the quest for snowless winters took him in 2007 to Southern California, where he started out covering Temecula for The Press-Enterprise. Today, Jeff writes about Riverside County government and regional politics. Along the way, Jeff has covered wildfires, a tropical storm, 9/11 and the Dec. 2 terror attack in San Bernardino. If you have a question or story idea about politics or the inner workings of government, please let Jeff know. He'll do his best to answer, even if it involves a little math.

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NEWS CRIME + PUBLIC SAFETY

How Riverside County sheriff's deputies will communicate better with deaf people



By **BRIAN ROKOS** | brokos@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 10:55 pm | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 10:56 pm



Riverside County sheriff's patrol deputies are learning to use new technology that will allow them to more quickly communicate with deaf people and others who have difficulty hearing.

An app loaded onto deputies' computer tablets puts them in touch with sign-language interpreters, Sgt. Chris Willison said. A camera on the

tablet will allow an interpreter to watch the person use sign language. The interpreter will then relay the information to the deputy, Willison said. The Sheriff's Department has been using the technology in its jails since March, a news release said. The app was created by [Purple Communications](#), which provides video remote interpretation services.

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The Sheriff's Department will demonstrate the app at the DEAFestival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3900 Main St., Riverside. The event will feature street vendors, live entertainment, food trucks, a kids' zone, face painting, games, a bounce house and a rock-climbing wall.

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LOCAL NEWS

Lawsuits over ex-Riverside city manager's contract delayed until next year



By **RYAN HAGEN** | rhagen@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: September 20, 2018 at 8:08 am | UPDATED: September 20, 2018 at 8:08 am

Those suing Riverside over changes made in February to then-City Manager John Russo's contract and the city officials defending against those lawsuits had all hoped to have a resolution by year's end.

That now looks impossible.

Mayor Rusty Bailey's lawsuit, in which he's [joined](#) by former Press-Enterprise Editor and Publisher Marcia McQuern and retired Riverside County supervisor Tom Mullen, isn't scheduled for another hearing until January. Resident [Ben Clymer's lawsuit](#) won't be heard until March — more than a year after the City Council [approved Russo's new contract](#) and Bailey announced he would veto it.

Court officials scheduled the hearings without input from attorneys.

ADVERTISING

"We're kind of up in the air," said Susan Knock Beck, Bailey's attorney.

"Everybody wants it over with, everybody wants it decided once and for all so we can move on ... but the court didn't hear our argument."

The argument is that the two lawsuits should be heard together, since they concern the same issue. Attorneys hope that would more quickly remove the [black eye](#) of an ongoing lawsuit filed by its mayor and concerning its former top official.

The City Council has asked that the suits be ended as quickly as possible, and that's the goal, City Attorney Gary Geuss said.

The city had agreed to consolidate the two cases, but now they won't be able to tell that to the judge until Bailey's case comes up in January, he said.

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“That means it’s impossible at this point to get the court to hear it before then,” Guess said. “The plan is now to appear for the trial setting conferences and see if we can get it set as soon as possible.”

The uproar began Feb. 6 when the City Council approved a new contract for Russo.

Though city administrators said the contract was cost-neutral to taxpayers, Bailey said it was too expensive, and he would veto it.

Geuss said Bailey didn’t have that power, because the city charter says the city manager reports directly to the City Council. Geuss said Bailey would have to go to court if he disagreed — so Bailey did.

The new contract includes a \$675,000 loan, intended for Russo’s Riverside home, and additional time off. But it didn’t change his yearly salary, and it limited how much leave time Russo could convert to cash.

Clymer, who supports Bailey’s lawsuit, [filed a separate one](#) to cover related issues and to avoid [potential procedural hurdles](#).

As community members sent scores of messages criticizing the new contract, the City Council voted in April to [fire Russo](#). In July, he was [hired](#) for the top job in Irvine.

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Russo hasn’t yet been served with notice of the case, as

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Empire, and yet that mayor does not have the right to a speedy trial, what chance does the regular citizen have?" Clymer said Tuesday.

"That's supposed to be a basic, core function of government."

required for Clymer's case, court records indicate.

Clymer and his attorney weren't available Wednesday, Sept. 19. But Clymer spoke at the City Council meeting the night before to request documents related to the case and decry the delay.

"The mayor first issued the veto in February, and if we consider that the mayor is the mayor of the most populous city in the entire Inland

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Eager Inland eaters take a big out of National Cheeseburger

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Ryan Hagen

Ryan Hagen covers the city of Riverside for the Southern California Newspaper Group. Since he began covering Inland Empire governments in 2010, he's written about a city entering bankruptcy and exiting bankruptcy; politicians being elected, recalled and arrested; crime; a terrorist attack; fires; ICE; fights to end homelessness; fights over the location of speed bumps; and people's best and worst moments. His greatest accomplishment is breaking a coffee addiction. His greatest regret is any moment without coffee.

[Follow Ryan Hagen @rmhagen](#)

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