

THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

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Life isn't about getting and having; it's about giving and being.

—Kevin Kruse

The Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency is charged with coordinating, evaluating, and planning the emergency medical response systems in San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Counties.

ICEMA: Behind the Scenes in EMS

When a major accident or medical emergency happens, we dial 911 and help arrives.

We don't stop to consider the inner workings that go into ensuring an ambulance and first responders get there, that the paramedics on board have the right training and equipment, or that the hospital we're taken to has the appropriate medical personnel and expertise to treat us. But

that's what the team at the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) thinks about all the time.

ICEMA is one of 33 emergency medical services agencies in California charged with coordinating, evaluating, and planning local emergency medical response systems. The agency is a joint powers authority formed by San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties to comply with the

ICEMA, PAGE 2

CASA Provides Mentors for Foster Youth



About 3,400 children in San Bernardino County live in foster care.

Most suffered abuse and neglect at the hands of the people who were supposed to protect them.

Thankfully, a team of dedicated foster parents, social workers, judges and volunteers are working to do what's best for these vulnerable youth so the young people can overcome the myriad challenges they face. As a volunteer mentor with Court Appointed Special Advocates of San Bernardino County (CASA), Carlos Llamas, 27, of Fontana is a proud member of that team.

Carlos learned about CASA during a class on family violence at California State University, San Bernardino, where he's currently working on a major in sociology. Judges appoint CASA volunteers to represent the best interest of children under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency court.

After completing 30 hours of training over several weeks, volunteers are given the opportunity to select the child that they would like to work with and are asked to develop a mentoring relationship by spending a minimum of 10 hours—but hopefully more—a month with the youth. Volunteers advocate for their child by drafting reports in coordination with CASA staff members to provide recommendations to

CASA, PAGE 2

CASA, PAGE 1

judges charged with determining how to best protect the interests of the child.

Like some volunteers, Carlos came into the experience expecting to make an immediate difference, but his expectations were tempered by the reality that changing a young person's life, especially one who has been through so much, doesn't happen over night.

"It's hard for them to really open up to people, so it doesn't really work like that," he said. "What you're doing is planting a seed."

Carlos discovered the boy he selected was a big sports fan, so he took him to play basketball and to batting cages as they got to know each other. Since then, he's taken the boy

on his first snowboarding trip and on his first visit to Los Angeles where they enjoyed a Lakers game.

"I feel very happy with his improvement so far, and I can definitely see a change," Carlos said. "I love doing this."

Carlos recommends CASA to others who want to make a difference in a child's life, but he also cautions that potential volunteers must be ready to commit at least 18 months to the work.

"There are so many kids out there going through tough situations, and they need to have some consistency," he said. "If you are going to do it, you have to give 100%. If not, don't do it at all."

Visit www.casaofsb.org to learn more about CASA.

ICEMA, PAGE 1

Emergency Medical Services System and Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act. The law, adopted in 1980, requires counties to create emergency medical service (EMS) agencies to carry out and implement state EMS requirements at the local level.

One of ICEMA's responsibilities is the management of exclusive operating areas (EOA) for ambulance providers. These zones were created, in part, to avert the free-for-all ambulance responses that existed prior to 1980 in some parts of the country.

The lack of coordination meant multiple ambulances might arrive on scene when only one was needed. In addition, ambulance providers might "cherry pick" areas to serve, which meant potentially inferior service for low-income or difficult to serve areas such as rural parts of a county.

By granting ambulance providers the exclusive right to operate in specific zones, ICEMA can better manage emergency responses and ensure service to all. EOAs can serve to control and even lower the cost of ambulance service by reducing overhead costs (management, dispatch, vehicles, etc.) and the over deployment of resources.

"Without those economics of scale, ultimately prices start spiraling upward for consumers," ICEMA EMS Administrator Tom Lynch said.

Counties can open EOAs up for competitive bids from ambulance providers, and they are required by law to do so when creating new EOAs.

ICEMA is also charged with coordinating the level of care available at local hospitals with ambulance and air rescue

providers. For example, two San Bernardino County hospitals—Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and Loma Linda University Medical Center—qualify as trauma centers because they have the personnel, services and equipment necessary to care for trauma patients at a moment's notice.

Other hospital categories including base hospitals, receiving hospitals, stroke centers, and ST-elevated myocardial infarction receiving centers. The agency is also tasked with stepping in and helping manage responses during disasters or other emergency situations.

ICEMA coordinated the request for ambulances to respond to the San Diego fires last spring and for the tragic local rampage of a former Los Angeles police officer. During the recent Ebola scare, the agency helped draft a script for emergency dispatchers to use to screen patients to determine if they may have been infected with the deadly virus; it also developed the personal protective equipment and response standards for EMS responders.

ICEMA is also playing a major role in the transition to the electronic reporting of patient information by serving as the data repository for electronic patient and trauma reports from all of California's local EMS agencies. Electronic reporting is key to creating a comprehensive health information exchange that will allow paramedics, doctors, and other healthcare providers to quickly access patients' health information to improve care and safety.

Visit www.sbcounty.gov/icema to learn more about ICEMA and its role in emergency medical care.

Speedway Offerings Beyond NASCAR

Every year, tens of thousands of NASCAR fans converge on the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana for a weekend of racing action. But the track—built in the mid-1990s by racing legend Roger Penske in partnership with Kaiser Ventures—is home to a lot more than NASCAR.

Just about every day of the year, there's something happening on the 600 acres of land the Speedway occupies in an unincorporated pocket of western Fontana.

IndyCar Series returned to the track with the MAVTV 500 in 2012 after a seven-year hiatus.

This year's event takes place on June 27 and is sure to attract thousands of open-wheel race fans from across the southwest.

The Rusty Wallace Racing Experience and the Mario Andretti Race Experience give hardcore race fans opportunities to zip around the two-mile, D-shaped oval track in real stock cars or open-wheelers after classroom instruction on how to handle the high-performance automobiles.

Exotics Racing is the latest addition to the track's interactive attractions.

The company offers fans one-on-one instruction and a chance to drive exotic vehicles from Ferrari, Lamborghini, Aston Martin, Nissan GTR, Porsche and Audi on a 1.2-

mile street course fashioned inside the main track. The company even offers a ride-along with a professional racecar driver for those who'd rather sit in the passenger seat and enjoy the ride.

Outside the track, CalSpeed Karting offers high-performance outdoor go-kart rentals and training sessions. In addition, it hosts a variety of organized go-kart racing and private events.



Exotics Racing is the latest addition to the many interactive offerings at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana.

The Auto Club Dragway located north of the track regularly holds street legal drag events for amateur racers as well as professional drag racing events hosted by the Pacific Street Car Association, National Muscle Car Association, and the National Hot Rod Association.

In addition to these and other offerings, the Auto Club Speedway plays host to commercial and movie filming and has also held large community events, such as the Cardenas Festival and Fourth of July fireworks shows.

For more information, visit www.autoclubspeedway.com or call 1-800-944-RACE (7223).

In case you're interested, NASCAR's Auto Club 400 returns to the track on March 22.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: The Rolling Stones played their first concert in the United States at Swing Auditorium in San Bernardino on June 5, 1964.

Question: What is San Bernardino County's most valuable agricultural commodity?

Contact Information

Main Office

385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, Fifth Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 387-4833

District Office

8575 Haven Avenue, Suite 110
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

<http://sbcounty.gov/rutherford>
SupervisorRutherford@sbcounty.gov



Kiosk Connects Residents to Financial Help

Residents can get free one-on-one help with a multitude of housing and financial issues at a new virtual empowerment kiosk located at the Lewis Library and Technology Center in Fontana.

The virtual empowerment kiosk is part of the new Virtual Counselor Network that is available to help residents connect with services and counselors that can help with a variety of housing and financial issues. Counselors help with matters such as buying a home, starting a business, fixing bad credit, mortgage modifications, landlord-tenant questions and more.

Residents seeking help can visit a kiosk to speak to a Triage Counselor through video chat. After a brief conversation, the Triage Counselor facilitates and starts an online counseling session with a variety of counselors that are available on the Virtual Counselor Network.

Counselors can also share informative visuals, budget spreadsheets, mortgage documents, brochures and other documents through the online portal.

“The video feature helps make it more personal and accessible. A person using the VCN can meet with a counselor and receive services without having to travel far distances,” said Roberto Gonzalez, a Program Manager with Housing Opportunities Collaborative.

The Lewis Library is located at 8437 Sierra Avenue. Another VCN kiosk is available at El Sol Educational Center in San Bernardino.

Visit www.virtualcounselornetwork.org or call (800) 826-1502 or for more information about VCN and the Housing Opportunities Collaborative.

Upcoming Events

April 1	The Lake Arrowhead Branch Library will host Threads—a program that ranges from knitting to crocheting to needle crafting—at 11 a.m. The library is located at 27235 Highway 189. Call (909) 337-3118 for more information about this branch library.
April 3	The Fontana Car show takes place from 5 to 9 p.m. the first Friday of the month in the parking lot of Fontana City Hall on Sierra Avenue. Come enjoy classic cars, entertainment, and local food and craft vendors. Call (909) 349-6946 for more information.
April 4	The annual Duck Derby hosted by the Crestline Chamber of Commerce will take place on the South Shore of Lake Gregory. A free Easter egg hunt sponsored by Mountain Communities Boys and Girls Club for kids 12 and under will take place prior to the derby at 11:30 a.m. Call (909) 338-2706 or email info@crestlinechamber.net for more information.
April 4	The city of Upland will host a Spring Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. at Memorial Park. This event is for children ages 7 and under and is sponsored by the Upland-Foothill Kiwanis and the city of Upland Recreation Division. Call (909) 931-4280 for more information.
April 11	The Cucamonga Valley Water District located at 10440 Ashford Street in Rancho Cucamonga will host an Earth Day celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (909) 987-2591 for more information.
April 11	The Fontana Farmers' Market is held downtown every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Center Stage parking lot, south of the Lewis Library located near the corner of Sierra Avenue and Arrow Route.
April 13	Inland Counties Legal Services will host a free legal aid clinic at 5:30 p.m. at 14501 Live Oak Avenue in Fontana. Attorneys will provide counsel on family law, guardianships, conservatorships, bankruptcy, and other legal matters. Clients should bring all legal documents and proof of income. This event is held on the second Monday of every month.
April 18-26	Rancho Cucamonga Community Theatre will present William Shakespeare's <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> at the Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga. Call (909) 477-2752 or visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com for showtimes and more information.
April 24-26	The annual Lemon Festival returns to historic downtown Upland. Visit www.uplandlemonfestival.com for times and more information.
May 16	The city of Upland will host a Pet Adoption Faire from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Memorial Park. Call Upland Animal Services at (909) 931-4185 for more information.
May 22	Lake Gregory Regional Park opens for summer 2015. The lake features an inflatable play area, water slides, a zero-depth play area, and other great family-friendly activities. Visit www.lakegregoryrecreation.com for more information. Swimming hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.