



# NEWS



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## **Garner Holt adopts Bing Wong Elementary**

**Hector Hernandez Jr., Fontana Herald**

Posted: Thursday Dec 1, 2:39 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 29, was a day for celebrating community partnerships at Bing Wong Elementary School which hosted a special ceremony formalizing a new partnership with local animatronics company Garner Holt Productions and honoring its many other community partners.

The new partnership, the adoption of Bing Wong by Garner Holt Productions was formalized with the signing of and adoption certificate by Garner Holt, Principal Ryan Rainbolt, student representative Ki Ani Kelly, San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) Board Member Abigail Medina and SBCUSD Superintendent Dale Marsden.

Before signing, Garner Holt shared his own experiences growing up in the area, attending nearby Curtis Middle School and testing out of Pacific High School to start his own animatronics business at age 16. That business, on Tippicanoe Avenue, is now the world's largest in animatronics and is responsible for many popular Disney attractions.

Holt said he was inspired by the characters and attractions at Disneyland and enabled by his middle and high school shop classes.

"Garner Holt Productions would not have existed had I not had the introduction to technology I received in those shop classes," Holt said. "I'm excited to see you students are getting those opportunities younger than I did, in elementary."

Rainbolt said this partnership will further the school's STEM programs and could possibly lead to an animatronics career pathway in the future.

In anticipation for the new partnership, students in the school's animatronics exploration afterschool program designed and built several animatronic figures, inspired by Garner Holt's work and using irrigation supplies, packing materials and windshield wiper motors.

Five characters were created depicting historic San Bernardino figures: Capt. Leland Norton, namesake of Norton Air Force Base; Bing Wong, education advocate and namesake for the elementary school; Will Rogers, cowboy actor; Dorothy Inghram, first African-American teacher in San Bernardino; and Garner Holt. The event also highlighted Bing Wong's numerous existing community partnerships which have helped the school develop a variety of health and technology programs and career pathways unique for among elementary schools.

Those partnerships include existing relationships with San Bernardino City Police Department, the Art Institute of the Inland Empire, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Beverly Rainbolt and Loma Linda University Health (LLUH). These collaborations have helped bring law enforcement, health care, art, multicultural and physical education programs on campus.

Lt. Richard Lawhead of the San Bernardino City Police Department was thanked for his participation in helping stage accurate crime and UFO crash scenes used to teach crime scene investigation techniques, analytical thinking and to inspire student writing projects.

The Art Institute helps in the school's culinary and fashion programs and revealed for the first time a new student-created 3D tiger mascot.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is also a new partner, within the past year, supporting the school's physical education program by establishing a higher emphasis on maintaining physical fitness for career readiness. Many career fields require physical activity such as firefighting and law enforcement. The fire department also plans to help in the school's existing healthcare career pathway.

"Here in the city of San Bernardino we answer about 35,000 calls a year and over 80 percent of those call are people experiencing a medical problem," shared **County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig**. "A working relationship with healthcare is a vital part of the fire service. So we are really excited about this partnership."

LLUH helped create the school's healthcare career path which feeds into similar paths at neighboring Curtis Middle School and Indian Springs High School. According to Principal Rainbolt, that partnership will continue with the expansion of the program and the creation of an on-campus eye care lab.

Beverly Rainbolt, one of the school's longest running partnerships, helped organize and grow the school's annual multicultural festival for the past five years. It brings a wide array of art, music and dance performances to the school to expose students and the community to an ever growing variety of cultures. The celebration of diversity, held each May, has become a signature event of the school.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/schools/garner-holt-adopts-bing-wong-elementary/article\\_096449f0-b817-11e6-9302-0b6b42c36049.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/schools/garner-holt-adopts-bing-wong-elementary/article_096449f0-b817-11e6-9302-0b6b42c36049.html)

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## **Head-on crash shuts down Locust Avenue in Hesperia**

Monica Solano, VV Daily Press  
Posted: December 1, 2016; 5:42 p.m.

HESPERIA — A portion of Locust Avenue was temporarily shut down due to a head-on traffic collision that occurred Thursday.

Just after 5 p.m., deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Hesperia Station and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to a head-on collision involving a black Honda Civic and a Ford F150 pickup truck at the intersection of Locust Avenue and Sequoia Street in Hesperia.

"All four patients involved in the crash were outside their vehicles once we arrived and no was trapped inside," Corporal Mark Rios told the Daily Press.

Two people were transported by ground to a local hospital while both vehicles sustained moderate damage and no further information was provided on scene during the time of the accident.

Locust Street was shut down in both directions.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161201/head-on-crash-shuts-down-locust-avenue-in-hesperia>

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## **Inland firefighters join battle against wildfires in southeast U.S.**

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: Nov. 30, 2016; updated: Dec. 1, 2016 2:16 p.m.

*Updates with San Bernardino County firefighters assisting*

With 15 large wildland fires stretching thin the firefighting resources in the southeast United States, the call has for assistance has gone out far beyond that region.

Agencies in Southern California have answered that call.

The Riverside Fire Department over the Thanksgiving holiday sent a captain to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where on Nov. 27 flames roared out of the Great Smoky Mountains and into the city. At least seven people have died.

The Riverside captain is part of a statewide management team, working in an administrative position where he taps into databases to find firefighters certified to work as strike team leaders, division supervisors and crew bosses, among other jobs.

“Because of resources that are so depleted, they were requested to go to the state of Tennessee,” said Capt. Tyler Reynolds, a Fire Department spokesman.

The department is not identifying the captain out of concern for his home’s security in his absence, Reynolds said.

Riverside firefighters are often tapped to assist at disasters because of their expertise, such as in urban search and rescue. In 2014, the department sent two teams to Oso, Washington, where a landslide killed 42 people.

The department is a member of a regional task force that has responded to the 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York City and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005.

“The department has a lot of high-quality people,” Reynolds said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** sent two assistant chiefs to help manage the Tennessee fires, spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said.

Additionally, Chris Fogle, a battalion chief for the San Bernardino National Forest’s San Jacinto Ranger District, led a team of 50 Southern California fire managers from numerous agencies on a three-week deployment to Georgia. Fogle’s team, which returned last week, worked on the 27,000-acre Rough Ridge fire near the Tennessee border.

Such teams typically oversee resources such as firefighters, aircraft, fiscal matters and providing information to the public, among other duties, San Bernardino National Forest spokesman John Miller said.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/department-819810-firefighters-team.html>

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## **2 critically burned in suspected San Bernardino honey oil lab explosion**

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun  
Posted: December 2, 2016; 2:30 p.m.

**SAN BERNARDINO** — Two men were critically burned early Friday in what authorities are calling a honey oil extraction explosion.

“The two men escaped the home and they both sustained significant burns and were trying to relieve themselves of those burns in a fountain at the location,” San Bernardino police Lt. Mike Madden said.

A San Bernardino County sheriff’s news release identifies one of the men as Edgar Jaciel Monarrez, 24, of San Bernardino and states the other man was unidentified as of Friday afternoon. Both men were taken to a hospital and reported in surgery Friday afternoon.

About 1:30 a.m. Friday, **San Bernardino County firefighters** went to a home in the 2400 block of Duffy Street for a reported fire, according to Madden. They found a structure behind the home on fire and the two injured men in the fountain.

“They also found numerous containers of butane bottles and large amounts of packaged marijuana,” Madden said.

Fire personnel called police as well as the sheriff’s bomb and arson detail, marijuana enforcement team and gangs/narcotics division to investigate.

After executing a search warrant at the main residence, which was reported undamaged by the fire, investigators found evidence of a THC extraction occurring, the news release states.

“Investigators believe the suspects were manufacturing and making concentrated cannabis, referred to as wax or honey oil, when the initial explosion occurred,” the news release states.

The incident is still under investigation. Anyone with pertinent information is asked to call the sheriff’s gangs/narcotics division at 909-890-4840 or the anonymous WeTip hotline at 800-782-7463. Tipsters can also leave information anonymously at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

*Staff writer John M. Blodgett contributed to this report.*

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161202/2-critically-burned-in-suspected-san-bernardino-honey-oil-lab-explosion>

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## **Firefighter Honored For Heroism After San Bernardino Massacre Credits Employees for Keeping Their Cool**

Crystal Cruz, CBS 2  
Posted: December 2, 2016; 6:40 p.m.

**SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA.com)** — A year later, the memories for a first-responder remain vivid. “There was water with a trail of blood coming out through. You could hear screams, moans” says Ryan Starling who is a firefighter and also a SWAT team member.

He spoke to CBS2's Crystal Cruz for a story that is Only On 2.

Walking into the Inland Regional center a year ago was unlike any call Starling had ever been on.

"You could still smell the gunpowder in the air and all your senses are going, but you know you have a job to get done," Starling said.

Starling and his team were credited with saving many lives thanks to the triage they set up.

However, Starling praises the IRC employees who a year before the shooting trained for a similar situation.

"They remembered everything that they were trained on," Starling says, "The fire alarm was pulled, they helped each other out, they ran, barricaded themselves in a room. Who knows? With that fire alarm being pulled, it could've scared the terrorists."

**County Fire** gave Starling a medal of valor for his work that day and he was also personally thanked by President Barack Obama.

"To get to meet him was a true, true honor," says Starling, "It's changed my life over the last year." Cruz said Starling turned the tragedy into a teachable moment, sharing what he learned that day with others in the county.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2016/12/02/firefighter-honored-for-heroism-following-san-bernardino-massacre-credits-employees-for-keeping-their-cool/>

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## Fire breaks out at goatkeeper's remote property

Stacy Moore, Hi Desert Star

Posted: December 2, 2016; 6:56 p.m.



San Bernardino County Fire Capt. David Bolesworth talks to crews as they work on a fire in northern Joshua Tree Friday. The fire destroyed a travel trailer on the property, which had no permanent structure for a house. Photo: @EPN560

**JOSHUA TREE** — Several goats died in a fire on a property in the 3900 block of Border Avenue in northern Joshua Tree Friday.

**Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle** said the fire was reported at 11:24 p.m.

Five fire engines from the **San Bernardino County stations** in Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms as well as the Marine base fire department responded.

They found flames consuming a travel-trailer, animal pens and other items on the property.

The resident was able to rescue some of the goats, but suffered minor burns in the process.

Morongo Basin Ambulance personnel treated and released him at the scene.

Other goats died in the fire; Tuttle said he knew of three that had died, and animal rescuer Jessica Gregory, who lives near the property, said three adults and four babies were killed.

Firefighters took 30 minutes to knock down the flames, Tuttle said.

“The wind definitely contributed to the fire spread, but we were able to confine the fire to the property,” he added.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Gregory, who runs Moonlight Animal Rescue in Joshua Tree, said the owner of the property had almost 25 goats.

Gregory has agreed to take in the surviving animals.

“From what I saw when I stopped over there to do a fast assessment, all have been singed or burned, but mainly on their fur, not their flesh,” she said. “They’re going to need sweaters and coats.”

She is raising money for feed and to have a veterinarian examine the surviving goats. Donations of food or money may be taken to C&J Feed Barn at 350 Old Woman Springs Road in Flamingo Heights. For more information, visit Moonlight Animal Rescue on Facebook.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_0440d9be-b904-11e6-9cb2-fbdafa6aa8e2.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_0440d9be-b904-11e6-9cb2-fbdafa6aa8e2.html)

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## **Upland’s fiscal recovery plan is worthy of support: Guest commentary**

Richard Anderson, Mark Bertone, and Carolyn Anderson Corrao, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: December 2, 2016; 3:17 p.m.

As individuals deeply concerned about the financial future of Upland, we wholeheartedly support the recovery plans being presented to the City Council by the city manager and his staff.

It is clear to all of us that Upland is at a financial breaking point, and that we need to act with a sense of extreme urgency. The plans presented by Marty Thouvenell and his team won’t cure all of our city’s problems — they barely stop the bleeding — but they are a start.

Before we get too far into that, however, it’s important to understand how Upland got to where it is. Over the years, a combination of external and internal factors have taken us from a position of financial strength to one in which the city’s ability to deliver efficient and effective public services has been seriously compromised.



These factors range from declining revenues to the loss of redevelopment financing to years of deferred maintenance and upgrades on everything from streets to our water and sewer infrastructure to the vehicles and equipment our police officers use. Rising pension liabilities have been another significant challenge.

As a result, Upland's \$46 million budget today is easily \$10 million to \$12 million below where it should be.

Looked at another way, Upland spends \$606 per capita to deliver essential services to its residents. That's approximately \$250 per person less than the average for neighboring communities.

The answer, therefore, isn't to continue to cut expenses, but to do business differently — to see if there are more practical and efficient ways to deliver certain city services, while also finding ways to raise revenues.

In the first category — doing business differently — Upland has done a good job of restructuring pensions and benefits for existing and incoming employees. Over time, that will help the city recoup some of the pension losses it now incurs on an annual basis.

But it is going to take more. The city manager's proposal to transfer fire services to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is a prudent move — one that will make our community safer while helping our bottom line. It would require a \$14-per-month parcel tax — a small price to pay for all we will get in return. Indeed, we see this not as simply a good investment in our city's future, but a necessary one.

*Richard Anderson, Mark Bertone and Carolyn Anderson Corrao are members of an ad hoc fiscal committee appointed by the city of Upland. Steve Lambert, Randall Lewis, Linden Brouse and Michael Milhiser also contributed to this commentary, and are members of the ad hoc committee.*

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20161202/uplands-fiscal-recovery-plan-is-worthy-of-support-guest-commentary>

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## **Transient Burned in Mojave Riverbed Fire**

Hugo C Valdez, Victor Valley News Group  
Posted: December 3, 2016



A Firefighter from Station 311 wraps a women's arm after she suffered burns from a warming fire in the Mojave River Bed. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. Dec 3rd (VVNG) – A woman suffered burns to her arm after a warming fire near the Mojave Riverbed spiraled out of control.

**San Bernardino County Fire** responded at approximately 7 p.m. Saturday night and was able to contain the fire quickly.



A firefighter from Station 311 in Victorville wrapped the arm of a woman who suffered 2nd to 3rd-degree burns and was transported to a local hospital.

Fire personnel remained on scene for an extended amount of time to ensure all hot spots were out.

As the temperature drops, the rate of transients starting fires to stay warm increase, posing a fire risk.

At the time of the fire, temperatures were in the low 40 degrees and expected to drop to 30 degrees.

<http://www.vvng.com/transient-burned-in-mojave-riverbed-fire/>

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## **Strong winds slam the Fontana area**

Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 3, 2016; 10:20 a.m.

Strong winds battered the Fontana area on Friday, Dec. 2 and are continuing this weekend.

Wind gusts were expected to reach as high as 50 mph in Fontana on Saturday, Dec. 3 and 30 mph on Sunday, Dec. 4.

On Friday, gusts of 51 mph were reported in Ontario and gusts of 47 mph came through the Cajon Pass in Devore.

Even though temperatures are cooler, the fire danger remains high because of the drought conditions in the area, said Jeff Allen, a public information officer for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

"We urge the public to remain vigilant and to be especially careful when disposing of fireplace ashes," Allen said.

While there were no fires reported in the region as of Friday, Allen said that there have been increased reports of downed electrical power lines due to the wind in recent days.

Here is the forecast from the National Weather Service:

Saturday, Dec. 3 -- Sunny, with a high near 65. Windy, with a north wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph.

Saturday night -- Mostly clear, with a low around 50. North wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday, Dec. 4 -- Sunny, with a high near 73. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Sunday night -- Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Monday, Dec. 5 -- Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the morning.

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Monday night -- Patchy fog after 10 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/weather-update-strong-winds-slam-the-fontana-area/article\\_34936dc6-b985-11e6-9632-47138a7fcedf.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/weather-update-strong-winds-slam-the-fontana-area/article_34936dc6-b985-11e6-9632-47138a7fcedf.html)

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## **Burn permit suspension lifted**

VV Daily Press

Posted: December 3, 2016; 6:24 p.m.

San Bernardino County's burn permit suspension will be lifted at 6 a.m. Monday, county officials announced. San Bernardino County Fire Chief/Fire Warden Mark Hartwig is formally cancelling the burn permit suspension issued on Sept. 26 for all areas of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. Permitted burning is allowed in the Divisions noted below with a valid permit:

- Division 1 – All unincorporated valley areas, including the cities of Fontana and Grand Terrace.
- Division 2 – All unincorporated north desert areas as well as the cities of Adelanto and Hesperia.
- Division 3 – All unincorporated High Desert areas as well as the city of Victorville.
- Division 5 – All unincorporated south desert areas as well as the town of Yucca Valley.
- River Battalion – All unincorporated river areas, including the Parker Dam area, Big River as well as the city of Needles are NOT restricted unless necessary based upon local weather observations by the Battalion Chief assigned to this Battalion.

Visit sbcfire.org for a map of Division boundaries. Questions regarding burn permits can be directed to the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of the Fire Marshal by calling 909-386-8400.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161203/burn-permit-suspension-lifted>

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