



NEWS



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Victorville City Council meeting: What to watch

Staff writer, Daily Press

Posted: February 19, 2018, 12:30 p.m.

VICTORVILLE — The City Council will convene at 6 p.m. Tuesday for its regularly scheduled meeting inside council chambers at City Hall, 14343 Civic Dr. Notable items on the agenda include:

- Agreement not to exceed \$42,000 with Spohn Ranch for the design of a skate park at Doris Davies Park
- Purchase of five command vehicles for the city fire department, costing \$134,755
- Purchase of two paramedic squad vehicles for the city fire department, costing \$295,850
- Public hearings for mid-year amendment to the 2017-18 fiscal year library budget and establishment of the Green Tree Golf Course annual budget
- Update on illegal dumping in the city
- Discussion on potential joint solutions for organizations distributing meals to the less fortunate
- Increase compensation with consultant NBS to a total amount not to exceed \$46,330 for a solid waste rate study through June 30

Meetings can be watched live online at ci.Victorville.ca.us or viewed later as archived versions.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180219/victorville-city-council-meeting-what-to-watch>

All lanes reopen on 10 Freeway in Rialto after deadly collision

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 17, 2018, 9:33 a.m.



San Bernardino County firefighters and tow truck drivers work together to remove a six-axle cement mover from the top of a car at the scene of a five-fatal accident on the Eastbound I-10 at the bottom of the Riverside Avenue offramp Friday in Rialto, CA. February 16, 2018 (TERRY PIERSON, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG)

A day after a truck crashed through the center divider of the 10 Freeway in Rialto, slamming into several vehicles and killing five people, lanes finally reopened and motorists who had fortuitously missed the carnage were counting their blessings.

The lanes were reported open at 8:13 a.m. Saturday after the last of the orange cones was removed from the westbound lanes, the CHP log said.

The vehicles were cleared at 3:22 a.m. and the far right two lanes were reopened at 4:05 a.m.

Caltrans on Saturday replaced the metal center-divider guardrail that the six-axle cement pump truck crashed through, spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said. Repairs to the shoulder on the eastbound side at Riverside Avenue still must be made, but the damage wasn't affecting traffic, she said.

Five people died in the crash just before 1 p.m. Friday that completely shut down the freeway at the Riverside Avenue offramp. The truck was traveling west when it crashed through the guardrail, entered the eastbound lanes and struck five other vehicles, the CHP said.

The CHP has not said what caused the truck to veer off course as of early Saturday afternoon.

The Coroner's Office was still attempting to identify the dead and notify their relatives as of Saturday afternoon. Shutting down the lanes forced thousands of motorists onto other freeways and city streets. The 10 freeway is a key route for commuters and shippers. According to Caltrans, there were an average of 196,000 trips daily through the 10 at Riverside Avenue in Rialto in 2016, the most recent year for which data are available. The hourly peak was 13,100 trips and the daily peak was 202,000.

"I for some reason didn't get on the 10 freeway (on Cedar) today after work to head to Redlands, like I normally do," Irma Rodriguez wrote in a Facebook post. "Instead I took the streets and got onto the 10 freeway at Rancho Blvd. Little did I know I had just missed this entire accident. Wow I am at loss of words."

Facebook poster Lystra Wilson thanked God that she was not involved in the collision.

"I had just driven through this exact area, eastbound, about 15 minutes prior to the collision. Thirty minutes later, I drove by this horrific scene, westbound, praying for those involved, hoping there were no deaths but there were. Tomorrow is not promised!" Wilson wrote.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/02/17/all-lanes-reopen-on-i-10-rialto-after-deadly-collision/>

Fontana man sentenced to 4 years for setting 11 fires near 15-215 interchange in Devore area

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 17, 2018, 5:26 p.m.



Ricky Russell Whipple, 29, of Fontana was accused of setting 11 fires in the Cajon Pass on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018. He pleaded guilty to one count of arson on Feb. 16. (Courtesy San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

A Fontana man accused of setting 11 fires near the 15-215 interchange in the Devore area in January pleaded no contest to one felony arson count and was sentenced to four years in custody on Friday, Feb. 16, San Bernardino County Superior Court records show.

Ricky Russell Whipple's no-contest plea carries the same legal weight as a guilty plea but cannot be used against him in a subsequent civil or criminal case.

Judge Richard V. Peel ordered Whipple to be incarcerated at California Institution for Men in Chino. Under state law, Whipple will receive a credit of two days for every four days served.

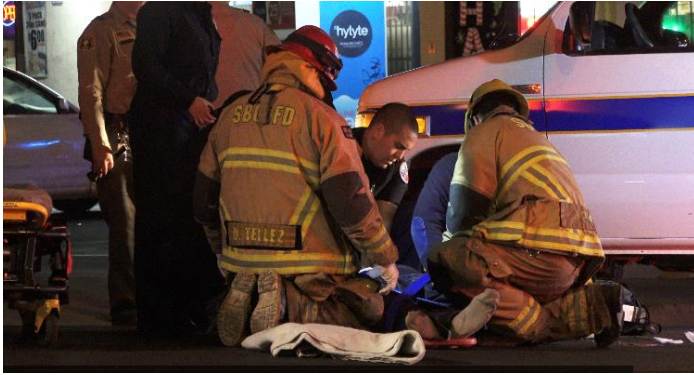
Whipple, a 29-year-old transient, set the small fires the morning of Jan. 15 before he was apprehended.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/02/17/fontana-man-sentenced-to-4-years-for-setting-11-fires-near-15-215-interchange-in-devore-area/>

Pedestrian in critical condition after hit-and-run in Victorville

VVNG Staff, Staff Writer

Posted: February 16, 2018



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Police are actively searching for a vehicle that struck a pedestrian here Friday evening and fled the scene.

It happened at about 6:45 p.m., February 16, 2018, on 7th Street just east of Tatum Road in the City of Victorville.

Authorities say they are searching for a dark-colored vehicle with front-end damage. The driver fled the scene immediately after hitting the pedestrian, leaving the victim fighting for his life.

When First Responders arrived on scene, they located a black male adult lying in the westbound lanes of 7th Street, one shoe was about 200 feet away on the opposite side of the road.

The victim was unconscious as he was transported by ground ambulance to Victor Valley Global Medical Center. He was further airlifted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Authorities are conducting interviews and gathering footage from local businesses in an attempt to identify the suspect and the vehicle.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2991 <https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-critical-condition-hit-run-victorville/>

Multi-vehicle crash jams northbound traffic in the Cajon Pass

By Staff Reports

Posted: February 16, 2018, 8:50 p.m.



A multi-vehicle crash on northbound Interstate 15, south of Oak Hill Road, resulted in one person being airlifted and traffic backing up in Cajon Pass. [Phot courtesy of Ralph Maese]

CAJON PASS — A multi-vehicle crash caused a major traffic jam along northbound Interstate 15 Friday morning.

Reported at 6:35 a.m. as a collision involving a tractor-trailer and two sedans south of Oak Hill Road, the crash spread debris across multiple lanes of traffic, according to California Highway Patrol logs.

A traffic break was requested to clear the debris and a SigAlert was later issued at 7:07 a.m. to shut down the No. 1, 2, and 3 lanes, per CHP logs.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to the scene and one person was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center, according to scanner traffic.

All lanes were reported to be reopened at 7:58 a.m., but traffic was already backing up toward Highway 138. The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the CHP.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180216/multi-vehicle-crash-jams-northbound-traffic-in-cajon-pass>

Toy Drive Success, Children's Fund Collected 33,000 Gifts For Kids

Staff Writer, Inland Empire US

Posted: February 16, 2018

Children's Fund provides toys to vulnerable children for the 29th year San Bernardino, Ca – Children's Fund, a nonprofit serving vulnerable children in San Bernardino County since 1986, has wrapped up the 29th Annual Celebration of Giving toy drive campaign and the results are better than all previous years.

Nearly 33,000 gifts were collected, inventoried and distributed this holiday season to foster youth and other vulnerable children throughout San Bernardino County. Every year the campaign has grown—last year 30,300 children were served.

“Many children in our community go without a gift during the holiday season,” said Dr. Ciriaco “Cid” Pinedo, President & CEO of Children’s Fund. “With the vital support of our donors, we ensured they were not forgotten.”

Pinedo explains 26% of the children living in San Bernardino County live in poverty. Those families use their limited resources for food, shelter, and basic needs. Often, there isn’t enough left over for holiday gifts.

Pinedo states that “a gift for a child represents the belief that every child deserves our care and support. It sends them the message that they are valued and gives them the confidence to continue on with hope for the future.”

In order to collect and distribute so many gifts each year, Children’s Fund works with many volunteers and community partners. Spark of Love and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** provide truckloads of gifts, and 78 agencies throughout the entire county help distribute them to the children.

“The Highlander Boxing Club in Highland tried to make this Christmas season just a bit brighter for families and children with an annual toy give-away,” said Tony Cifuentes, the Director of the boxing club. “We would like to thank Children’s Fund, without whose support, this could not have happened.”

Teenagers are often difficult to purchase gifts for, so this year foster children ages 12- to 18-years old received a \$25 gift card instead of a toy. Many organizations and individuals donated cash to enable Children’s Fund to supply the nearly \$40,000 needed.

If you would like to receive information about how you or your organization can get involved in our next Celebration of Giving campaign, please contact us at 909.379.0000.

About the Children’s Fund

Founded in 1986 by Patrick Morris and the late Jack Brown, Children’s Fund is a nonprofit whose mission is giving our vulnerable children support, opportunity, and hope by breaking destructive cycles through community partnerships. Last year, Children’s Fund provided more than 69,000 services to children in need in San Bernardino County and since its inception has facilitated over 1.5 million points of service to children and families. For more information on Children’s Fund or to learn how you can give a child hope for brighter tomorrows, go to www.childrensfund.org or call 909-379.0000.

<https://inlandempire.us/toy-drive-childrens-fund-gifts/>

Cooperation is king in Hammertown

Kelly O'Sullivan , Hi desert star

Posted: February 16, 2018 5:00 am

JOHNSON VALLEY, CALIF. — Every January, an army of HammerKing Productions employees and volunteers descend on Means Dry Lake bed here to build Hammertown, a 56-acre, high-tech encampment that serves as a hub for the annual King of the Hammers races held the first week in February.

Inside Hammertown's fences, on streets with names like King Court, Axial Way and Monster Alley, they set up race headquarters; Wi-Fi hotspots; a media tent with live race feed, charging stations and Internet access for hundreds of journalists from around the world to file stories and videos; team garages; viewing stands; a public square where spectators can gather to watch the action live on a Jumbotron; more than 120 food and vendor booths; and restroom facilities.

They map and mark a series of trails that take competitors out of Hammertown and back through hundreds of miles of some of the most punishing terrain in the country, some on board the Combat Center.

HammerKing Productions co-founder Dave Cole and his crew couldn't pull it off without the cooperation of federal, state and county agencies including the U.S. Marine Corps, Department of the Navy, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, California Highway Patrol, and **San Bernardino County fire** and sheriff's departments.

"BLM is very excited about the coordination that's occurring among the agencies," said Beth Ransel, BLM's California Desert District manager. "There's an extraordinary amount of planning that goes into this before race day."

The agencies work with HammerKing staff to ensure the safety of hundreds of desert racing and rock-crawling teams competing in five separate races throughout the week. They also ensure the safety of 50,000 spectators who come from all over the world to cheer on their favorites and drive their own rigs on the public lands along the Combat Center's western border.

The Navy and Marine Corps got involved in KOH after the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 was signed into law in December 2013, withdrawing 107,000 acres of public land in Johnson Valley for exclusive military use. The legislation also created the 56,000-acre Shared Use Area, where Means Dry Lake is located, dividing management between the BLM and Marine Corps. For 10 months out of the year, it falls under BLM jurisdiction, with two months allotted to the Marine Corps for military training.

Passage of NDAA 14 left KOH's future uncertain, said Katrina Symons, field manager, BLM Barstow field office, who has monitored the event since 2012.

"With the NDAA, we went to 'oh my God, there's the loss of land and it will impact King of the Hammers,'" Symons said. "Everyone was really afraid" the Marine Corps would shut down the popular off-roading event, which pumps about \$5 million into the nearby Yucca Valley and Lucerne Valley economies.

The feared shutdown of the races didn't happen. Combat Center officials worked with the BLM and HammerKing Productions to ensure the races would continue. After an initial three-year agreement expired in 2017, the Department of the Navy entered into a five-year agreement with HammerKing Productions, and the BLM granted a special recreation permit authorizing the event from 2018 to 2022.

“The Marine Corps prides itself on being a good neighbor and we have lived up to that standard,” said Combat Center Government and External Affairs Deputy Director Kristina Becker, who serves as the base’s KOH liaison.

“We fully understand the economic impacts to the local community from this race, and more importantly, the historic use of the Johnson Valley area,” Becker said. “We realize and appreciate that this land has been used by families over multiple generations and are excited to be part of the event.”

With the agreements, “it went from uncertainty to certainty,” Symons said. “This really is a good example of the federal family working together.”

HammerKing’s Cole agrees.

“Land like this doesn’t exist anywhere else,” Cole said during a phone interview from Johnson Valley on Valentine’s Day as he was wrapping up Hammertown operations and preparing to take his staff to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, for a week “where we can not be dusty” before gearing up for their next race event in Pennsylvania in April.

“Our ability to lease the land and work with the Marine Corps and the BLM is vital,” he said. “It’s really cool. It’s been 12 years and it’s been a rewarding experience.”

http://www.hidesertstar.com/observation_post/news/article_dc98711e-12b3-11e8-b1f3-2ffedcc580d4.html