



# NEWS



## News Headlines 5/31/2017

- Fire annexation good for Upland; San Antonio Heights will benefit too: Debbie Stone
- Firefighters battle blaze on Rialto elementary school campus

## **Fire annexation good for Upland; San Antonio Heights will benefit too: Debbie Stone**

Debbie Stone, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: May 30, 2017, 9:45 AM



Upland City Hall is seen in a March 2013 file photo. (Staff file photo)

I would like to thank our community for the support we've received for annexation into the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

This is a prudent move that will help Upland close the financial gap we face in the years ahead, while providing residents and businesses with the kind of fire protection we've come to expect.

Contrary to misinformation that has been spread by a small group of dissenters, including a City Council member who should know better, the annexation process has been given a fair, public review and will go a long way toward allowing the city to provide essential services for generations to come.

Most of the credit goes to our city staff, which did its homework, separated fact from fiction and kept the community informed.

Assuming the measure survives its protest vote, Upland will have taken a critical first step toward long-term financial security, to the benefit of every resident, property owner and business owner in the city.

To those San Antonio Heights residents who have opposed annexation, understand that it was not the city's decision to include the Heights. Our plan was to make this an Upland-only initiative. That said, I do believe that a stronger Upland means a stronger Heights. We want the same things — a safe, vibrant community that our children, and theirs, will be able to enjoy and flourish in.

This seemed a remote concept as recently as a year ago, but with our new council leadership and the hard work and dedication of our City Hall team, we've begun to move mountains. Upland still has its challenges. I, for one, believe we'll need to revisit the idea of a sales tax increase to further offset our financial losses in recent years.

We also need to remain undistracted from the toxic politics that historically have kept us from making the right tough decisions. The frivolous claims made by one of our council members in recent weeks is a troubling reminder of how a singular rebel yell can stand in the way of progress.

We're not going to let that happen. Disagreements are one thing. Dysfunction is quite another. The majority of our council understands that and is committed to doing the right thing on behalf of the community we serve.

The support of our constituents is essential to keeping us, and the city, on the straight and narrow.

We're fortunate in Upland to have that support.

Annexation is a difficult choice, but the appropriate one. Thank you for giving us the space to do the right thing.

*Debbie Stone is mayor of Upland.*

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20170530/fire-annexation-good-for-upland-san-antonio-heights-will-benefit-too-debbie-stone>

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## **Firefighters battle blaze on Rialto elementary school campus**

**Doug Saunders, The Sun**

Posted: May 30, 2017, 8:43 PM

RIALTO >> Firefighters battled a fire on the playground of Casey Elementary School Tuesday.

Shortly before 7 p.m. firefighters were called to a reported brush fire in the 200 block of N Eucalyptus Avenue but when they arrived they found a large playground set near the rear of the campus well involved.

“The recycled rubber base under the playground equipment was fueling the fire and generated a large amount of fire and thick black smoke,” Battalion Chief Kevin Collinge wrote in a news release. “The smoke column was visible over a large area.”

Rialto and **San Bernardino County firefighters** contained the blaze to the immediate area protecting nearby classrooms.

Investigators were called in to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170530/firefighters-battle-blaze-on-rialto-elementary-school-campus>