



NEWS



News Headlines 3/08-09/2018

- Village Drive closed after pedestrian struck and killed early Friday morning
- Brush fire kept from reaching homes
- Firefighters save kittens from smoking tower right before training exercise in Victorville
- Rehab Celebration Backfires
- Police are looking for driver and passenger who were involved in hit-and-run collision
- Upland mayor says it's time for city to consider raising taxes
- SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN NORTH JOSHUA TREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Village Drive closed after pedestrian struck and killed early Friday morning

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 9, 2018

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A stretch of Village Drive in Victorville remains closed after a pedestrian was struck and killed early Friday morning, officials said.

At about 4:15 am, **San Bernardino County Fire** and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the intersection of Village Drive and Vasquez Avenue after receiving reports that a pedestrian had been struck.

Upon arrival, first responders located a gold GMC Sierra 2500 and a pedestrian down in the roadway. The female pedestrian, described as being in her early 30's, was pronounced deceased at the scene and a white sheet was placed over the body.

Through investigation officers determined the pickup truck was southbound on Village Drive and the pedestrian was walking westbound in the no.1 lane of Village Drive when she was struck. According to Officer Adam Hylin, the driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities. "One witness on scene watched it happened and his story collaborated with the drivers," stated Hylin.

A stretch of Village Drive between Clovis Street and Llanada Avenue for an unknown duration as the Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team conducts the investigation.

Further details were not immediately available. Please check back for updates as they become available.

<http://www.vvng.com/village-drive-closed-after-pedestrian-struck-and-killed-early-friday-morning/>

Brush fire kept from reaching homes

RODD CAYTON, The Daily News

Posted: March 9, 2018



Capt. Kevin Smith, of the Fort Mohave Mesa Fire Department, applies water to a hot spot Thursday afternoon following a vegetation fire in the 8200 block of Boundary Peak Road in Mohave Valley. About 15 firefighters got the blaze contained in about 45 minutes, said Fire Marshal Don Gibson of the Mohave Valley Fire Department. No one was injured and no homes were damaged.

MOHAVE VALLEY — A quick response by firefighters kept a Thursday afternoon fire from causing damage to nearby structures, authorities said.

At 1:40 p.m., the Mohave Valley Fire Department received a report of a structure fire in the 8200 block of Boundary Peak Road. Fire Marshal Don Gibson said.

Crews arrived to find a vegetation fire that was threatening structures, Gibson said.

The blaze may have reached a metal shed, he said, but all nearby homes were spared.

“It looked like the guys got on it pretty quick,” Gibson said.

He said that the blaze was contained in about 45 minutes.

MVFD personnel were assisted by units from the Oatman and Fort Mojave Mesa fire departments, he said, with a water tender from **San Bernardino County Fire** en route.

Gibson described the fire site as a vacant lot used for storage. The property appeared to have been dense with salt cedar, arrowweed and other brush.

Mohave Electric Cooperative employees were called in to secure power lines in the area.

No one was injured in the blaze. The fire is under investigation.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/brush-fire-kept-from-reaching-homes/article_ddc1c1d6-235b-11e8-a6a0-4b7f155b7980.html

Firefighters save kittens from smoking tower right before training exercise in Victorville

Mike Cruz, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: March 8, 2018, 2:36 p.m.



A San Bernardino County Fire crew in Victorville found two kittens during a training exercise Wednesday. (courtesy photo)

A fire crew at Station No. 311 in Victorville was preparing for an exercise on a training tower Wednesday, March 7, when crew members suddenly heard kittens meowing.

Smoke flowed from the tower, and the **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel already had on their breathing apparatus.

After a quick search, firefighters found and rescued two kittens still inside the tower, Capt. George Ray said. Stray cats have been seen around the station for some time, Ray said by email.

When firefighters were working up in the tower earlier in the day, the mom cat jumped out and ran off, the fire captain said. The fire crew figured they had scared her and didn't think much of it.

The kittens are now on their way to a new start.

"He (Ray) was successful in finding both kittens a new home," said Tracey Martinez, county fire spokeswoman.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/03/08/victorville-fire-crew-rescues-kittens-during-training-exercise/>

Rehab Celebration Backfires

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: Thursday, March 8, 2018, 9:31 a.m.

To celebrate his release from a drug rehab facility on the mountain, an Orange County man and his girlfriend decided to spend a few days at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, reported Gilbert Flores, public information officer for the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station.

The couple's weekend did not turn out well. Paramedics transported the male guest from the Resort to a hospital because of an apparent drug overdose. Deputies took the man's girlfriend to jail, allegedly due to possession of dangerous drugs, and an animal control officer drove the couple's dog to an animal shelter for safekeeping, according to a report from the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station.

Front desk and security personnel at the Resort responded immediately at 6:40 p.m. on March 1, when notified that the male guest was not breathing.

Paramedics from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department reportedly found a small black bag containing possible cocaine next to the male subject, who appeared to have overdosed on narcotics. They immediately took him to a local hospital, according to the deputy's report.

The hotel guest, who was not identified, had checked in with his female companion, with whom he was in a dating relationship. The sheriff's report stated that a search of their rented room turned up more narcotics (believed to be cocaine and heroin), as well as possible ecstasy, located in a drawer containing women's lingerie.

Stefani Joy Williams, 43, of Mission Viejo, was arrested for allegedly violating California Health and Safety Code §11377, possession of drugs, and §11550(A), apparently for being under the influence of drugs. She was taken to the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino, where she was cited and released 12 hours later. No court appearance has been scheduled.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/crime_log/article_889d3dbc-22f6-11e8-8119-17ec1b2cc998.html

Police are looking for driver and passenger who were involved in hit-and-run collision

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald News

Posted: March 8, 2018

Fontana Police Department officers are looking for a driver and his passenger who were involved in a hit-and-run collision.

On March 8 at about 2:05 a.m., the Fontana P.D. and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to an accident in the 4800 block of Ravenwood Court in the northwestern part of Fontana.

Witnesses said they heard the squealing of tires of a gray Nissan Frontier pickup, followed by a crash. When the witnesses went outside, they saw two males running away.

The Frontier apparently hit a red Ford F350 pickup that was parked on the street, and then the driver lost control and smashed into a community mailbox.

Officers searched the area for the suspects but could not find them.

The accident caused property damage, but no injuries were reported.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the accident.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/police-are-looking-for-driver-and-passenger-who-were-involved/article_9ed351c8-22f3-11e8-9243-bfce38019dd7.html

Upland mayor says it's time for city to consider raising taxes

SANDRA EMERSON, Redlands Daily Facts

Posted: March 7, 2018, 5:28 p.m.

Over the past year, Upland has exceeded its expectations to restore the city's pride, but the need for new revenues continues, Mayor Debbie Stone said at the annual State of the City address.

"We still have challenges, but the progress we've made in the past 12 months is evident everywhere you look," Stone said. "Walk up the Euclid trail or drive up one of our major streets and you'll see how far we've come in restoring Upland pride."

Speaking Tuesday, March 6, at the Upland Hills Country Club, Stone touted the city's work trimming trees, repaving streets, reducing homelessness and attracting new businesses to town, but said the city faces a bleaker future without an additional source of revenue.

Stone advocated for a sales tax increase, an idea the council – including Stone – previously rejected due to mixed public support. Now, however, Stone says without a tax increase the city's ability to continue funding essential services is very much in doubt.

The cost of deferred maintenance of city infrastructure will continue to compound and Upland may have no choice but to raise fees, and implement new ones, in order to maintain its youth sports facility, Stone said. Other community programs may be affected as well.

"We can't afford as a city to reduce our Police Department staff anymore," Stone said. "But without a sales tax, the costs to maintain public safety will come at the expense of other services – programs to the youth and seniors, as an example."

As the city prepares the budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which begins July 1, Stone asked residents and businesses to learn as much as they can about the challenges ahead.

"People always say the city should run more like a business," Stone said. "And if that were true, we can't afford to stay in business without a new revenue stream."

Some of the city's accomplishments and upcoming developments were highlighted through a game of "Upland Jeopardy" featuring attendees and city staff. Tables were issued "Debbie Dollars" for correct responses.

Here are a few takeaways from the State of the City, hosted by the Upland Chamber of Commerce:

Since contracting with **San Bernardino County Fire**, the city has benefited from regional service delivery and additional fire equipment.

Downtown Upland is poised to gain new retail businesses, restaurants and housing. Downtown is also seeing building facade improvements through federal funding obtained by the city.

The city would need an additional \$5 million annually to bring the city's roads, sidewalks and alleyways up to par.

Crimes such as homicide, rape, residential burglary and auto theft declined by 10.7 percent in 2017, according to Capt. Marcelo Blanco. Other crimes dropped by 6.14 percent. The Police Department's response to high-priority calls declined from eight minutes to six-and-a-half minutes. Response to calls with lower priority went from 31 minutes to 26 minutes. Injury traffic collisions also saw a 6.6 percent decline, Blanco said.

Nancy Kelly, superintendent of the Upland Unified School District, said the relationship between the district and city is on solid ground, after working with former interim City Manager Martin Thouvenell. Kelly said she is grateful for the strong relationship with the Police Department. Kelly highlighted the district's philosophy of focusing on the needs of the whole child and improvements made to the school lunch program.

Cathy Rebman, vice president for business development and community outreach at San Antonio Regional Hospital, reviewed the hospital's initiatives and programs aimed at improving community health. She also updated the room on its partnership with City of Hope.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/03/07/upland-mayor-says-its-time-for-city-to-consider-raising-taxes/>

SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN NORTH JOSHUA TREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: March 8, 2018

The **county fire** department is investigating a suspicious fire in north Joshua Tree last night. County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Mesa, and Yucca Valley were called to the blaze in the 62600 block of Sun Mesa Road at 9:56 p.m. He said the smoke and flames could be seen from a mile away. The vacant garage was fully involved when firefighters arrived, and the building was already starting to collapse in on itself. Tuttle said the fire was under control in about 10 minutes, and firefighters were on the scene about an hour. There was no home on the property, only a cement slab for a house. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>