



NEWS



News Headlines 1/22/2018

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Rialto family, cats displaced by early morning fire

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: January 22, 2018 at 8:15 am

An early morning house fire displaced a family and their pets Monday, according to Rialto Fire officials. “As usual our wonderful partner (The American Red Cross) responded for three adults, six kids and two cats that all escaped the fire,” tweeted the fire agency Monday morning.

The fire was first reported around 4:30 a.m. near the area of Third Street and Acacia Avenue, according to the fire department.

Crews found flames and smoke coming from the home and everyone — including their pets — managed to escape the flames, according to authorities.

Rialto firefighters, with help from **San Bernardino County Fire**, were able to knock down the flames after a short time.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. No injuries were reported.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/01/22/rialto-family-cats-displaced-by-early-morning-fire/>

A look back at 2017 in Needles

Saul A. Flores, Needles Desert Star

Posted: January 20, 2018

NEEDLES — In April, the Women’s Club of Needles brought back their flower show for an 88th appearance. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe donated a scoreboard to the Needles’ softball fields. The I-40 to Arizona Hwy. 95 connector project was reported to be coming in under budget by \$16,714.99 and was approximately 50 percent complete while having used 60 percent of the allotted time. America’s Best Value Inn in Needles caught fire and affected about 20 units of the two-story motel. Embrace Me! Adopt and Foster Care came to the city to carry out the Faith In Motion program which helps families who are looking to adopt. Parking along J Street was increased by 17 spaces.

The city conducted a traffic analysis and determined that three intersections on the I-40 to Arizona 95 connector would need to be controlled by full traffic signals. The Needles Public Utility Authority and Western Area Power Administration agreed to increase the amount of electricity allocated to the city to 60 megawatts with the possibility of going up to 100. The Mustangs varsity baseball team, Lady ’Stangs softball team and the NHS golf team all secured spots in the NIAA 2A South League Playoffs.

In May, the Needles High School AVID program took place in the second phase of the eTutor program: testing cameras and microphones with tutors.

The annual Run For The Wall event came to Needles as hundreds of U.S. Veterans riding motorcycles from California to Washington D.C., stopped in Needles for fuel, food and rest. The city’s first-ever traffic signals were being installed. **San Bernardino County Fire Station 32** received a new medical engine. Both the Mustangs varsity baseball and Lady ’Stangs varsity softball made it to the NIAA 2A State Playoffs.

NHS named four valedictorians for 2017: Brenna Chavez, Eason Lillard, Camryn Tacy and Ivy Stone. The Mustangs varsity baseball team were the 2017 NIAA 2A State Runners-up and the Lady 'Stangs varsity softball team were the 2017 NIAA 2A State Softball Champions.

The city council approved a \$2.3 million contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

In June, the NHS graduated 22 honors students, 55 regular students, three graduates from the Community Day School and 10 from the district's Educational Training Center. The Needles Middle School promoted 70 students in the Class of 2021. The Needles Center of Palo Verde College started pursuing plans for an adult education partnership with the Needles Unified School District. The Needles Sandsharks started their 2017 swim season with a second place finish at the Bullhead City Barracudas Invitational. The Needles Branch Library continued with their summer reading program.

The city council approved a medical marijuana cultivation and manufacturing facility on Spikes Road. Adrian Chavez was hired and sworn in as senior code enforcement officer. Baker Ambulance offered a bid of \$60,000 to purchase the old fire station.

In July, Needles Center for Change started their Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act youth program for those who need jobs. The annual Independence Day celebration at the Needles Aquatic Center named Kaden Gilliam as Mr. Firecracker and Morgan Mills as Ms. Freedom. City Councilor Tona Belt met with California Dist. 8 Congressman Paul Cook. The city council officially allowed medical marijuana cultivation facilities to use volatile solvents for cannabis extraction. The Sandsharks swim team earned Colorado River Finals win by edging out the rival Bullhead City Barracudas.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/a-look-back-at-in-needles/article_cc218030-fe29-11e7-85d9-cfc859581bae.html

Fire erupts at Church of the Valley in Apple Valley

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: January 19, 2018, 2:37 p.m.



A fire Thursday at Church of the Valley in Apple Valley was knocked down by firefighters in about 20 minutes, authorities said. [Submitted photo]

APPLE VALLEY — Investigators are working to determine the cause of a fire at Church of the Valley that destroyed a fenced storage area and caused extensive damage to an adjacent structure.

The Apple Valley Fire Protection District received a report of the blaze at 10:30 p.m. Thursday at the church located in the 20700 block of Standing Rock Avenue next to Civic Plaza Park, Battalion Fire Chief Jim Hulbert reported.

The fire appears to have started and was confined to the enclosed yard area, which also included a small shed that was consumed in the blaze, which was knocked down in about 20 minutes.

The AVFPD was assisted by **San Bernardino County Fire**. Firefighters knocked down the blaze by 11:15 p.m. There were no injuries reported and the church's main sanctuary and larger buildings were not affected, Hulbert said.

Church ministry associate Kathy Bishop told the Daily Press on Friday she's thankful there were no injuries and that the blaze didn't touch the main sanctuary, where weekly services are held.

Church volunteers Greg Hinkle and Don Amador were at the church Friday morning to inspect the damage that occurred to the permanent structure and enclosed area at the northeast end of the campus.

Both structures were used to store donated items that will be sold during the church's bi-annual rummage sale. The fire occurred just yards from several wooden sheds that are also used to store sale items, Amador said.

"This enclosed area was used to store hard-to-sell items and most of those items were made of metal," Amador told the Daily Press. "The bigger building contains furniture, larger items and donations that have just arrived."

The permanent structure — with rollup doors, three entry doors and cooling system — appeared to have sustained exterior damage, with signs "the fire or smoke" may have entered the building, Hinkle said.

"The doors are locked and there's caution tape over them so we don't know what kind of damage was caused inside the building," said Hinkle, as he pointed to smoke stains over three doors. "I know our insurance will take of the damage and I know that Romans 8:28 will play out."

Hinkle's Biblical reference states that, "in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."

"The last fire destroyed two of our sheds that contained books and electronics," Hinkle said. "That fire was determined to be arson. I hope it's not the same story for this fire."

Hinkle and Amador said they are not sure if the surveillance cameras attached to the building captured any activity.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of arson in the 2016 fire that destroyed four sheds and a travel-trailer at the church. Property damage was determined to be \$8,000, the AVFPD reported.

Hulbert said there appears to be no link between Thursday's blaze and the last one that occurred at the church, but the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Apple Valley Fire Protection District at 760-247-7618 . Persons wishing to remain anonymous can contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or online at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180119/fire-erupts-at-church-of-valley-in-apple-valley>