



NEWS



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FIREFIGHTERS SAVE TWENTYNINE PALMS HOUSE AFTER OVEN FIRE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: September 23, 2019

Twentynine Palms firefighters saved a house in Twentynine Palms after an oven fire Friday night (9/20/19). According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, the firefighters were called to the house fire in the 5700 block of Halsey Avenue just after 9 p.m. They arrived to find the kitchen well involved with flames and smoke. After an aggressive attack, they had the fire knocked down in five minutes. Firefighters from Joshua Tree and the Combat Center helped with salvage and overhaul. Tuttle said there was major damage to the kitchen, but the rest of the house was saved. The fire was caused by food being left unattended in the oven. There were no injuries to firefighters or the residents.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-save-twentynine-palms-house-after-oven-fire/>

COUNTY SUPERVISORS LOOK AT FP-5 ALTERNATIVES TOMORROW

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: September 23, 2019

When the county board of supervisors meet tomorrow morning, they are expected to consider alternative methods to fund Fire Protection District 5 and close the books on the FP5 special fire fee that residents will see on their property tax bills this November. Here's reporter Mike Lipsitz with more on that and the items relevant to our Morongo Basin...

Agenda item 45 will certify results of the Twentynine Palms Water District's August 27 Election which saw election of Michael Arthur and Carol Giannini. Down at agenda item 53, supervisors are expected to approve a 33-month agreement with the Family Service Association for continued use of the commercial kitchen at the Joshua Tree Community Center. The non-profit prepares Meals on Wheels for seniors. The last item on tomorrow's agenda includes a presentation on funding alternatives to the special fee for the **County Fire** Protection District 5 and anticipated guidance from supervisors to staff as they explore funding mechanisms to pay for fire and emergency services. Whatever those recommendations are, the issue is expected go to fire district voters by January 1, 2021. Tomorrow's meeting streams online and to the first-floor teleconferencing room in the County Government Center on White Feather Road in Joshua Tree where public comment may be made via live video link.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-supervisors-look-at-fp-5-alternatives-tomorrow/>

Car bursts into flames after crashing into utility pole on Hesperia Road; 1 killed

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 21, 2019



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News Group)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — At least one person was killed in a fiery crash just before midnight Friday.

The single-vehicle traffic collision was reported at 11:48 pm on Hesperia Road, south of Lemon Street in Hesperia.

According to radio traffic reports, the vehicle was traveling over 100 mph before crashing into a utility pole and bursting into flames.

San Bernardino County Firefighters found the vehicle fully engulfed in flames with lines down across the roadway and the train tracks.

Firefighters extinguished the fire and located a deceased victim inside the vehicle.

A sheriff's helicopter was requested to respond and assist with searching for any other possible victims near the scene of the crash.

The Hesperia Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) responded to conduct the investigation.

A hard-road closure on Hesperia Road between Yucca and Lemon is expected to remain in place for several hours as Southern California Edison crews work to repair the damaged equipment.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/car-bursts-into-flames-after-crashing-into-utility-pole-on-hesperia-road-1-killed/>

Hesperia Days kicks off

Joselyn Villalobos, Daily Press

Posted: September 21, 2019, 7:14 pm



Hesperia Days Parade on Saturday. [Jose Huerta, for the Daily Press]

As the Hesperia Days Parade made its way down Main Street for the 71st year, there was no shortage of humor.

Themed “Under the Big Top,” the annual event kicked off on Saturday, pulling in thousands of spectators as a lineup of parade entrants passed by donning their best clown garb.

Pulling a homemade circus cage cart filled with stuffed animals, Becky Otwell has participated in the parade for over 30 years. Otwell, owner of Shear Realty, said the weather was a bit warm for her clown suit but was happy to enjoy her last parade.

Bruce Henderson, the parade’s grand marshal, rode in a Mercedes convertible from Timberlane Avenue to E Avenue.

“It felt pretty good,” he said.

Henderson played football for Sultana High School. He was 17 when he suffered a traumatic brain injury in the fourth quarter of a home game in Sept. 2016. He spent nearly four weeks in the hospital before returning home, the Daily Press reported.

Henderson said his recovery has “been a long run, but we are getting somewhere with it.”

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department made their appearance with ambulances, fire trucks and two fly-bys with a helicopter.

Zoe Buczynski, 16, celebrated her first parade as she marched with the Oak Hills High School Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Program.

“Being in formation and feeling like a family with the crowd just cheering us on, it was awesome,” she said.

Stepping aside from the circus theme, Boy Scout Pack 152 transformed their float into a pirate ship in only a few days, said Cubmaster George Watson.

“I asked the boys what they wanted to do and they said ‘arrgh,’” he said. “The community showed a lot of support. The boys got a lot of cheers and I’m proud they showed their scout spirit.”

Hosted by the Hesperia Recreation and Park District, Otwell said the community was “lucky” to have the Hesperia Centennial Lions Club take oversight of the Hesperia Days Parade.

The club took over as organizer last year when the local Kiwanis Club disbanded its group, leaving no one to organize or fund the parade.

“The Lions did a great job,” Otwell said.

A 5K run, walk and skate down Main Street set off before the Parade.

The two-day event continues with food and merchant vendors, a kid’s zone, an “American Music Festival” and firework show on Saturday.

Hesperia Days’ main activities start back up at 11 a.m. through 6 p.m. at Hesperia Lake Park, 7500 Arrowhead Lake Road. The event is free to attend.

Sunday’s festivities include a Wranglers Championship Gymkhana at 8 a.m. and a duck race sponsored by Victor Valley Community Services Council at 3 p.m.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190921/hesperia-days-kicks-off>

TWO INJURED IN YUCCA VALLEY CRASH FRIDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: September 21, 2019

Two people were injured in a Yucca Valley crash Friday morning. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said that firefighters were called to the single-vehicle crash in front of the Best Western motel at 6:35 a.m. Friday. The Honda Civic had crashed head-on into a cement power pole, knocking the pole to the ground. The 23-year-old male driver and 24-year-old female passenger were taken to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs. Southern California Edison was called to replace the downed power pole.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-injured-in-yucca-valley-crash-friday/>

Fire crews battle two blazes in rural Victorville

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: September 20, 2019, 8:13 pm



An abandoned motor home burns in rural Victorville on Friday. [Martin Estacio, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Two fires that ignited in a trash-strewn rural area, one involving a burning motorhome, were extinguished by firefighters Friday afternoon.

At about noon, a Victorville Fire Department engine was responding to a fire originally reported in the 17100 block of Crestview Drive.

While en route, “the crew witnessed a second column of smoke and requested an additional unit to respond to the second fire,” VFD spokesperson Sue Jones said in an email.

The first fire was found in an isolated area off Seneca Road, east of Hesperia Road. It was extinguished by the first crew.

A second crew in a brush engine attacked the second fire, a motorhome aflame in a gully north of the first fire, before they ran into a problem.

Firefighters couldn't get the engine's main pump, which sends water to the hose, to work properly, Jones said. They were forced to use a second pump to douse the vehicle, which appeared to be abandoned.

The second blaze highlighted one of the issues facing the city-operated fire department following Victorville's move away from county-run services.

According to a report presented to the City Council in June, the department faces a slew of repairs and equipment replacements after ending its contract with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. Before the contract's termination, County Fire had provided emergency services to the city since 2008.

The report said that after the March 30 transition, VFD personnel found missing items on engines, expired medication used by paramedics, damaged trucks and dirty stations, to name a few. Fire officials estimated the cost to fix, replace and resolve other discrepancies to be over \$400,000.

County Fire spokesperson Tracey Martinez previously told the Daily Press that the department would examine the report and follow up with the city on any issues that "should be addressed."

The 25-year-old brush engine firefighters manned on Friday is one of the department's oldest still in active service.

Regular annual testing of engine pumps, as suggested by the National Fire Protection Association, can lead to less costly repairs in the future.

According to VFD officials, the county, which was financially responsible for maintaining city-owned engines, provided records that indicated it tested pumps every three to four years.

A city document showed no pump tests for the brush engine for the span of the 10-year contract with the county.

Jones did not immediately respond when asked if the engine will be replaced.

A more than \$300,000 federal grant was recently awarded to the department. Mayor Gloria Garcia said the money would be used to "replace unusable or non-working equipment left by the county."

City officials said the most significant cost for the department, minus personnel, would be replacement and rehabilitation of its "aging" fleet in the first five years.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190920/fire-crews-battle-two-blazes-in-rural-victorville>