



# NEWS



## News Headlines 4/21/2017

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## **CALFIRE: Mulch on Joshua Avenue catches on fire**

**Hesperia Star**

Posted: April 19, 2017, 11:15 AM

LUCERNE VALLEY — A pile of mulch caught fire at a residence in the 8800 block of Joshua Avenue last Thursday, April 13.

CALFIRE received a call about 11:45 a.m. for a vegetation fire on a several-acre property. **San Bernardino County Fire** assisted.

“Luckily we were able to get on the property pretty quickly and knock it down,” said CALFIRE public information officer Capt. Liz Brown.

According to Capt. Brown, the property owner had mulch on his property and a pile of mulch caught fire. There were 20 mph winds and it was fairly dusty, so it started to catch surrounding vegetation on fire.

Firefighters were still on scene mid-afternoon.

“There’s quite an extensive mop up,” she added.

No injuries reported but property owner was treated on scene for possible respiratory hazards from the mulch. No respiratory hazard for neighbors or surrounding properties.

The cause is still under investigation, but the property owner said he allows an area recycling facility to dump mulch on his property. Since mulch generates its own heat, and with the winds that’s all it could have taken to spark a fire.

The official cause remains under investigation.

<http://www.hesperiastar.com/news/20170419/calfire-mulch-on-joshua-avenue-catches-on-fire>

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## Circus is coming to Trona

*Culpepper & Merriweather explains circus life, procedures*

Michael Smit, Ridgecrest Daily Independent

Posted: April 20, 2017, 9:55 AM



Skitter the Clown (left) attempts to bring cheer to Christina Sanders from San Bernardino County Fire Station 57 in Trona. Skitter visited Trona to promote the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus coming on Monday, April 24 at the Trona High School baseball field. There will be a free tent raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., then a first show at 5 p.m. and a second at 7:30 p.m.

Lions and tigers and clowns, oh my. The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to Trona. The troupe will bring lions, tigers (but no bears), clowns, acrobats, contortionists, and more to the isolated desert town whose museum holds an old road sign which reads, "End of the world 10, Trona 15."

The Circus will hold two performances on Monday, April 24. The first performance starts at 5 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m., with each running approximately 90 minutes. The Circus will set up its big tent on the baseball field at the Trona Joint Unified School Grounds at 83000 Trona Rd. Then before the end of the day, the troupe will pull down the tent, pack everything back onto their trucks, and head off for a show the very next day in Lake Isabella.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Station 57**, also known as the Trona Fire Station, is sponsoring the circus. Christina Sanders, from the fire station, said that after the Circus sells 100 tickets, funds from any more sales will go directly to the fire station.

According to a press release from the Circus, the setting up of the tent Monday morning turns into an event all of its own. They invite any curious parties to watch the tent go up on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m., then stay around to tour the circus grounds to learn about the performers and animals. During this time, the press release says attendees can also learn about the hygiene, grooming, and care of the animals. The tent raising and tour is free.

The circus touring life runs in performers' blood. Culpepper & Merriweather Circus officer manager Alana Green said that many of the performers are family members from either the Dykes or the Perez families.

Green told the Daily Independent that throughout the March to October touring season, the performers put on two shows a day almost every day. To get around so quickly, they move their equipment on trucks and the performers live in trailers.

She continued to explain that plenty of the performers wear many hats. Miss Simone acts as the ringmaster, but also performs on the single trapeze. Meanwhile, her husband is the Circus owner, but also performs with the big cats.

Green said Trey Key took over the big cat performance in 2009 so that he could control how the cats are handled. As public perception of circuses has grown toward concern for the well being of circus animals, Culpepper & Merriweather seem to be adjusting its practice.

The largest example of this change is the lack of the largest animal. Culpepper & Merriweather no longer feature elephant acts, as elephants cannot be trained to do tricks through the use of positive reinforcement.

Green said that lions and tigers, however, do respond well to positive reinforcement. To highlight this, she stated that Key doesn't use a cattle prod or tool of intimidation while in the ring with the big cats.

"People on the show are animal lovers," she said. "They have a relationship with the animals." She acknowledged that while the circus had received a number of infractions from the USDA in previous years, it has received very few since changing their practice when Key took over the big cat act. The last infraction received, she said, was a paperwork infraction due to the height of their fence, a rule which had been adjusted by the USDA while they were unaware.

The Circus features performances by horses and dogs, but the main draw for both circus fanatics and animal activists alike is sure to be the three big cats. Green said they keep one male lion and two tigers, which are transported in travel cages, like larger versions of the cages pet owners use to travel with dogs. She stated that the animals are given time to get out and play every day, and that they are not forced to do tricks any animal wouldn't want to, such as jumping through a ring of fire.

Green said that the cats are not taken from the wild, but rather born into captivity at a shelter which the Circus acquired them from after it was shut down. She stated during non-touring season, the big cats stay at the GW Zoo in Oklahoma.

"I hear both sides of the argument," Green said. "In a utopian society humans would never encroach on the habitat of any animal. But we do, every day." She continued, stating that as long as people do encroach on animal territory, there will be animals in captivity and that these animals can't survive if released into the wild after a lifetime of having meals served to them.

The Circus states that the animals are happy and healthy, but encourages curious parties to learn more at the tent raising event at the morning of the show.

"I'm always willing to have an adult conversation about it," Green said. "Come and see for yourself!"

The Circus's press release states that the show is in its 32nd edition, and proclaims itself as an old-fashioned big top circus. It features one ring in a tent large enough to allow high flying acrobatics but small enough to maintain a personal feel.

Early purchase tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and seniors over 65. On show day, tickets for adults are \$13 and \$8 for children and seniors. Children under the age of 2 enter free. Tickets are available for purchase from Trails Drive Inn, TIS Hardware, Trona High School, and the Trona Fire Station.

Doris Van Horn, from the Trona Fire Station, said that interested parties can call the station at 760-372-5588 and the station can set up tickets to be delivered to Ridgecrest for anyone interested in purchasing but unable to travel five miles beyond the end of the world before April 24.

<http://www.ridgecrestca.com/article/20170420/NEWS/170429967>

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## Mtn Highway Tragedies

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: April 20, 2017, 10:26 AM



A northbound vehicle on State Highway 18 overturned and caught fire on April 16. Occupants safely exited the vehicle. San Bernardino County Fire got the fire under control quickly. **Facebook**

The Easter holiday weekend brought tragedy to the mountain communities along with more backed-up traffic than usual.

In one incident, on April 15 a 72-year-old man from San Bernardino died after his motorcycle ran off the road roughly two miles north of Highland Avenue on State Highway 330. Arrowhead Area California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers responded to the scene at approximately 5:32 p.m.

Kenneth G. Patrick was riding his motorcycle northbound on SR-330, north of Highland Avenue at an undetermined speed. For unknown reasons, Patrick's 2002 Harley Davidson motorcycle veered off the roadway onto the northbound shoulder of the road. When the motorcycle hit the guardrail, Patrick was ejected from his motorcycle back onto the northbound lane of SR-330.

According to a press release from the coroner's office, paramedics transported Patrick to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 6:31 p.m., having suffered fatal injuries as a result of the accident.

CHP Officer A. Chen is handling the collision investigation.

Then on Easter Sunday, a northbound vehicle on State Highway 18 overturned and caught on fire. According to Eric Sherwin, spokesman for **San Bernardino County Fire**, the department received a call at 9:08 a.m. and responded to a location near the Crestline cutoff.

The overturned vehicle was a silver Audi hatchback, and all occupants were able to exit the vehicle safely. Minor injuries were reported, but no one was transported to a hospital. County firefighters brought the fire under control. Meanwhile, up-bound lanes were blocked. The California Highway Patrol is investigating to determine the cause of the accident.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_6e26b8a6-25ee-11e7-8a12-afb5bc373076.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_6e26b8a6-25ee-11e7-8a12-afb5bc373076.html)

## Pedestrian is seriously injured after being hit by car in Fontana

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: April 20, 2017, 4:58 PM



Officers investigate the scene where a man was seriously injured after being struck by a car on Sierra Avenue in Fontana on the night of April 19. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A man who was walking in the 9200 block of Sierra Avenue in Fontana was seriously injured after being struck by a vehicle on the night of April 19.

At about 11:45 p.m., the pedestrian was reportedly walking southbound on Sierra when he was hit, the Fontana Police Department said.

Officers said the vehicle that struck the man stopped at the scene.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and paramedics responded and stabilized the man at the scene. He was transported to a local hospital.

Fontana officers were searching articles of miscellaneous items on Sierra that might have belonged to the victim. Officers said they were still trying to determine if the victim was walking in the street or in the middle of the driveway of a nearby business.

The identity of the driver and the type of car the motorist was driving were not available. Southbound traffic was shut down during the investigation.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/pedestrian-is-seriously-injured-after-being-hit-by-car-in/article\\_34602a3a-2625-11e7-8994-1b119b5c5b.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/pedestrian-is-seriously-injured-after-being-hit-by-car-in/article_34602a3a-2625-11e7-8994-1b119b5c5b.html)

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## San Bernardino firefighters tackle two-alarm structure fire on E Street

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: April 20, 2017, 8:48 PM



A two-alarm fire ignited Thursday evening at a boarded-up building in the 1400 block of North E Street in San Bernardino. PHOTO BY DOUG SAUNDERS



A two-alarm fire ignited Thursday evening at a boarded-up building in the 1400 block of North E Street in San Bernardino. PHOTO BY DOUG SAUNDERS

**SAN BERNARDINO >>** Firefighters tackled a two-alarm blaze Thursday night at a boarded-up building on North E Street.

Fire officials on scene said they believe squatters living in the burned out shell may have caused the fire but arson investigators have been called in to make that determination.

Fire personnel were dispatched shortly before 8:30 p.m. to the 1400 block of North E Street. E Street was closed between Magnolia Avenue and 13th Street.

This is not the first time firefighters battled a two-alarm blaze here. On July 27, 2014, the same building, which was also boarded up at the time, erupted.

Shortly after 9 p.m. fire officials reported the fire as knocked down. Firefighters conducted a primary and secondary search of the gutted building. No injuries were reported.



Witnesses told firefighters they watched several people running from the area.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170420/san-bernardino-firefighters-tackle-two-alarm-structure-fire-on-e-street>

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## **Firefighters Training In Controlled Burns In Twentynine Palms Next Week**

Z107.7 News

Posted: April 20, 2017

Most residents of rural areas are accustomed to seeing occasional “controlled burns” of unwanted brush and plant life. What’s not usually included, however, are buildings. Reporter David Haldane says that’s about to change...

If you happen to see smoke in Twentynine Palms next week, don’t be alarmed; it’s just the fire department burning down some houses.

It’s all part of a joint action by the city and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** to benefit both.

The firefighters get to train 40 new recruits in actual structure fires and the city gets rid of two duplexes and four single family dwellings standing in the way of Project Phoenix.

One of them, officials say, is among the nicest houses around.

Fortunately, the city compensated various owners at their properties’ assessed values. To accomplish the demolition by fire, Cholla, Smoketree, Yucca and Tamarisk Avenues will be closed between Highway 62 and Cactus Drive from April 24-28.

Oh, and a bit of advice from the fire department: if you see any smoke that you’re not sure comes from the training burns, please call 911.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-training-in-controlled-burns-in-twentynine-palms-next-week/>