



NEWS



News Headlines 09/13/2019

- County advisers get news on public safety
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County advisers get news on public safety

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

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Tom O'Key, a Joshua Tree representative for the International Dark Sky Association, gave a presentation to the board about the importance of preserving the night sky in the Morongo Basin.

JOSHUA TREE — The Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council met Monday to discuss public safety and changes to the dark skies in the desert.

San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle reminded everyone that burning is still banned.

“Burning is still closed probably through the fall, until we have the first big rain,” he said.

Jason Kobaly with the California Highway Patrol discussed the CHP’s enforcement efforts over the Labor Day weekend.

“This Labor Day weekend was quite busy out here,” he said.

There were seven traffic collisions over the long weekend and several DUI arrests.

Sheriff’s Department Lt. Luke Niles announced that the department received three times the amount of grant money they got in previous years for their off-highway vehicle team. With this money, he said, they should be able to staff two teams to roam around the desert every weekend during tourist seasons.

“That’s far and above anything we’ve ever been able to do up here,” he said. “We’ve come a long way. The state recognized the needs of our community.”

Niles also said the department is working on a new juvenile court system for children with relatively small offenses. The program would allow students to be the judge, jurors, defense attorneys and prosecutors in their own trials with the guidance of a volunteer judge.

“We’ve seen the program work in San Bernardino and in Indio,” Niles said.

He said the hope is that the program will give the students’ agency and get them interested in the judicial system.

The board also heard a presentation from Tom O’Key, a Joshua Tree representative for the International Dark Sky Association.

O’Key asked locals to pay attention to the of light their houses emit — how much and what kind.

He reminded everyone that simply changing their light bulbs to warm-toned bulbs can reduce light pollution.

He invites everyone to visit www.darksky.org to learn more about what you can do to reduce light pollution.

San Bernardino County District Services Coordinator and Yucca Mesa resident Frank Haggard then updated the board on ongoing and upcoming projects.

“Our preschool program here in Joshua Tree has started and is running at full capacity,” he said.

“We have also received approval for a capital improvements project to install a dog park here in Joshua Tree.”

MAC adds name to hate-free zone

After his brief update the board decided to join many local agencies, including the city of Twentynine Palms and the Morongo Valley Community Services District, in declaring the Morongo Basin a Hate-Free Zone.

The board adopted a resolution that they referred to as a social contract that said Morongo Basin organizations share hate-free ideals and values.

If a few other local organizations also vote to adopt the resolution, a banner will be placed on top of the Morongo grade in a few months that declares the Morongo Basin a hate-free zone.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_629166be-d594-11e9-afef-976a32c8c9f8.html

Hot and dry in Riverside and San Bernardino counties

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Graphic courtesy of the National Weather Service

RIVERSIDE — Hot and dry conditions will create an elevated fire risk Friday through Sunday throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties, according to the National Weather Service.

High pressure will continue to build Friday, and daytime humidity will drop to between 10% to 15% in the inland valleys and between 7% to 10% in the deserts, forecasters said.

Santa Ana winds are expected Friday, and gusts could reach as high as 35 mph.

High temperatures Friday could reach 110 degrees in the Coachella Valley, 108 in the San Geronio Pass near Banning, 102 in Riverside, 97 in Temecula and 102 in Hemet. Other highs Friday include 80 in Big Bear; 81 in Wrightwood; 82 in Running Springs; 95 in Hesperia; 96 in Victorville; 98 in Yucaipa; 100 in Lake Elsinore, Ontario and Redlands; 101 in Perris, Murrieta and Rancho Cucamonga; and 102 in Hemet, Menifee and San Bernardino.

The mercury will continue to rise on Saturday, eventually reaching a peak of 112 in the Coachella Valley, 104 in the Riverside metropolitan area, and 102 in San Bernardino, forecasters said. Humidity will be slightly higher throughout the region on Saturday.

Cooling centers are open daily across the county, providing residents who do not live in climate-controlled environments a free, cool space to relax until the evening hours. A complete list of cooling centers is available at https://www.capriverside.org/Portals/0/PDF/Cool/2019_Cool_Center_Directory_7_10_2019.pdf.

A deep trough of low pressure is expected to move south along the West Coast by the end of the weekend, bringing cooler temperatures Sunday through the middle of next week, forecasters said.

<https://www.pe.com/2019/09/13/hot-and-dry-in-riverside-and-san-bernardino-counties/>