



NEWS



News Headlines 8/3/2017

- Victorville voters will decide half-percent sales tax for public safety
- Tips To Avoid Getting Lost in the Desert
- Driver of pickup truck killed after collision with semi on Highway 18
- Fire Threatens Waterman Canyon
- Volunteering Proves a Lifesaving Experience
- Motorcycle Collides with SUV
- Lightning Causes Two Fires in Morongo Basin Wednesday Night

Victorville voters will decide half-percent sales tax for public safety

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: August 2, 2017, 5:05 PM



A San Bernardino County firefighter tackles a homeless camp blaze in Victorville in June. The City Council will likely decide on the future of its fire services after a special election in November. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Determined to secure longer-term adequate funding for public safety amid rising contract costs, the city will send a half-percent sales tax to voters in a special election Nov. 7.

The City Council unanimously approved the resolution to call for the election Tuesday evening, with Councilman Eric Negrete abstaining from voting. Maybe unexpectedly, no one from the public sought to speak before the decision was solidified at the dais.

But residents will have the ultimate say-so: The ballot measure presenting the special tax, technically a transactions and use tax, will require two-thirds voter majority to pass.

The tax is projected to generate roughly \$8.4 million yearly in restricted general fund dollars to be spent on fire and police services, officials have said.

The boost could mean opening San Bernardino County Station 315, which was built in 2008 on Eucalyptus Street but never fully staffed, adding 15 firefighters/paramedics and at least 10 Sheriff's deputies, while setting aside reserve funds for a rainy day.

The tax, officials warned, is necessary to keep up with increasing costs to fire and police contracts — unsustainable even as the city budget experiences modest growth — and to perform several needed upgrades that are currently back-logged in the queue.

It would add to the city's current 7.75 percent sales tax rate, increasing it to 8.25.

Conversations about a tax earmarked for public safety were an off-shoot of the Council's February decision to terminate the city's contract with **County Fire**. It acted not as an indictment on the agency's performance but instead as a launch-point for the city to vet different agencies for fire services based on costs before County Fire's deal officially expires June 30, 2018.

Officials initially were reviewing all options on the table, including Apple Valley Fire Protection District and CalFire. As of Wednesday, however, city spokeswoman Sue Jones said three options remained: a city-run department, a renewed contract service with County Fire or annexation to County Fire.

But the Council will likely wait until after the election to make its decision since the ballot measure's failure will essentially force the city into annexation, officials say.

By annexing into County Fire's Service Zone FP-5, accompanied by a \$153 special tax levied on nearly 38,000 parcels in the city, officials have said services would improve and the city would transfer financial responsibility to County Fire for certain fire protection and other related costs.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170802/victorville-voters-will-decide-half-percent-sales-tax-for-public-safety>

Tips To Avoid Getting Lost in the Desert

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 2, 2017

With the search for a pair of missing hikers reaching its sixth day, reporter Rebecca Havelly offers these tips on how to avoid getting lost in the desert—or anywhere else...

It's not uncommon for people to become lost or turned around in Joshua Tree National Park. Thankfully, most find their way out, or are rescued by searchers. First of all, if you're going in the desert, let someone know beforehand where you're going, when you'll be back, and give them your cell phone number. **County Fire Battalion Chief Mike Snow** offered these tips to avoid getting lost. He urged visitors and hikers to be familiar with the areas where they are going. Many maps can be preloaded onto your smart phone and used even in places where there is no cell service. Download the map before you leave home. Snow also said hikers could use a GPS to track your route and mark your way points. Some phones also have GPS apps. And another tip: look behind you occasionally so you can recognize the trail when you return.

<http://z1077fm.com/tips-to-avoid-getting-lost-in-the-desert/>

Driver of pickup truck killed after collision with semi on Highway 18

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: August 2, 2017



The driver of a pickup truck was killed after colliding with a semi on Highway 18. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif.(VVNG.com) The driver of a pickup truck died early Wednesday morning after crashing with a semi.

Emergency personnel were called to the scene of a head-on traffic collision with extrication on Highway 18 west of Camp Rock Road in Lucerne Valley at 6:47 am.

Upon arrival, they located a fully loaded Robertson's Transport Ready Mix truck and a 2002 Chevy Silverado with major damage along the shoulder.

According to CHP Officer Mike Mumford, the driver of the Silverado was traveling eastbound on Highway 18 when the truck drifted to the south side of the roadway.

"The driver turned hard to the left and re-entered the roadway going back across lanes," stated Mumford. "The big rig driver tried to slow down, brake, turned to the left and ended up colliding into the driver side of the Silverado."

The 21-year-old driver of the pickup was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the semi tractor-trailer was uninjured.

Westbound traffic on Highway 18 was temporarily diverted onto Camp Rock Road. Eastbound traffic used the westbound lane while officials alternated traffic.

At around 10:30 am, **San Bernardino County Fire** was called back to the scene to extricate the deceased male from the vehicle.

The crash is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol – Victorville Division.

<http://www.vvng.com/driver-pickup-truck-killed-head-collision-semi/>

Fire Threatens Waterman Canyon

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: August 3, 2017



Firefighters were in the process of mopping up the Mile Fire.

A wildfire broke out in Waterman Canyon on Monday at around 1:49 p.m. and quickly spread from 70 acres to approximately 100 acres. Known as the Mile Fire, the vegetation fire originated on county land, and San Bernardino County became lead agency for investigating the cause, which is currently unknown.

San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFD) requested assistance from local municipalities, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Cal Fire, which noted on its website that the fire was located just one mile south of Crestline. However, no evacuations were necessary.

A full-air attach was ordered fairly early in the fight, at around 2:24 p.m. San Bernardino County Fire's incident commander organized several structure protection and gel force strike teams, which were dubbed the Waterman structure group.

Approximately 160 firefighters worked to suppress the fire, including ground and air resources.

Flames slowly backed up slope during the three o'clock hour; and movement at the head of the fire was minimal, except when it got into heavier brush. Fixed-wing aircraft attacked the top of the fire with retardant.

At that point, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) called for full closure of State Highway 18, all the way up to State Highway 138 at the Crestline turnoff.

Ultimately, no structures were threatened and, by 5:15 p.m., authorities released the structure protection crews.

Four injuries were reported initially, among firefighters who suffered from heat-related injuries, and five ambulances were on site. Throughout the afternoon, five more firefighters suffered heat-related injuries and, by 5:30 p.m., a tenth firefighter was transported to the hospital.

Three injuries involved USFS firefighters, and the rest were from other agencies.

The fire was attacked strongly from the air, with helicopters dropping water and fixed-wing aircraft dropping retardant.

By 5:40 p.m., the rate of the spreading fire had been stopped, according to the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) Twitter account and USFS Incident Commanders Josh Boehm.

At approximately 6 p.m., the SBNF reported on Twitter that the Mile Fire was reduced to 76.4 acres and was 15 percent contained.

By 7:30 p.m. on Monday, CHP reopened State Route 18, along with Waterman Canyon between 40th Street and State Highway 138.

Cause of the fire remains under investigation.

(Print Edition)

Volunteering Proves a Lifesaving Experience

Mountain News

Posted: August 3, 2017



L to R: Cheryl Nagy, David Hobbs, Will Hrehniy, and Michael Ramirez.

Will Hrehniy celebrates with Danielle Mackey, the woman who Hrehniy saved.

Annually, **San Bernardino County Fire Office of Emergency Services (OES)** honors volunteers who are members of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Disaster Corps and Emergency Communications Service volunteer programs.

Over the past two years, outstanding mountain community volunteers have shown the true meaning of being a volunteer for OES.

In spring 2016, David Hobbs of Lake Arrowhead, Mountain CERT coordinator, received the CERT Volunteer of the Year Award for all of the work he has done to bring the MTN CERT program together from Green Valley Lake to Crestline, and Marlene Kimmel of Running Springs received the Eagle Award for her dedication as lead American Heart CPR/1st Aid instructor for OES' newly created training program.

For the second year in a row, the Eagle Award went to a mountain resident, Destiny Davis of Running Springs, who received the 2017 Eagle Award for her countless hours of support services to the three OES volunteer programs.

Volunteering time in the field of emergency services takes hours of training and dedication. This year's CERT Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Running Springs resident Will Hrehniy. Due to the American Heart CPR/1st Aid training available to OES volunteers, he used those lifesaving skills while spending time off the mountain.

We all make those weekly, sometimes daily, trips down the mountain to go to work, pick up supplies or attend an occasional appointment.

On July 1, 2016, Hrehniy set off on a shopping trip to the Highland Lowe's. As a CERT volunteer, Hrehniy takes many different trainings but little did he know that his CPR/1st Aid training would save someone's life.

As Hrehniy came around the corner of an aisle at Lowe's, he saw Danielle Mackey of East Highland lying on the concrete floor and a store manager kneeling over her, telling her that she would be OK. Hrehniy looked closer and saw that Danielle had suffered severe head trauma. By using his training, Hrehniy checked for Mackey's pulse and found that he had none.

Another Lowe's customer had already called 9-1-1. Hrehniy asked to speak to the dispatcher on the line and explained the situation and Mackey's condition. He was told to begin CPR until paramedics arrived.

Once they arrived, Hrehniy stepped away and completed his shopping trip. Thanks to his quick thinking, Mackey's life was saved and she and her family will never forget the hero in their lives.

On July 22, 2017, while attending training at San Bernardino County Fire Station 91 in Lake Arrowhead, Hrehniy was presented his award in front of his fellow CERT volunteers. To their surprise, Hrehniy shared that he would be spending that very afternoon attending Mackey's and her twin sister, Denise's, 61st birthday party. At the party, Hrehniy learned that, following the incident at Lowe's, Danielle Mackey spent four months in a coma, then recovered with minimal memory loss. In Danielle's recent words, "I can't tell you what it meant to me and my family that you celebrated our birthday by the fact that you saved my life by giving me CPR on July 1, 2016. Will, I'm forever grateful to you."

It is safe to say that Will and Danielle have formed a life-long friendship.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering for San Bernardino County Fire OES, visit SbCFire.org or contact Emergency Services Officer Cheryl Nagy at (909) 356-3998

(Print Edition)

Motorcycle Collides with SUV

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: August 3, 2017



A motorcycle crossed the center line of Highway 189 in Blue Jay, colliding with an SUV. The impact caused the SUV, its trailer and boat to disconnect. The motorcycle driver was seriously injured.

On July 23, a motorcycle traveling on State Highway 189 in Blue Jay collided with an SUV pulling a boat, resulting in serious injuries to the motorcycle driver. The impact also caused the SUV, trailer and boat to disconnect, according to a report from the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Officer J. Quintero confirmed that, at approximately 5:50 p.m., Edward Camarena, 55, of Azusa, had been driving eastbound on Highway 189, 11 feet west of Acorn Lane, when he reportedly crossed into opposing traffic for unknown reasons. The oncoming westbound vehicle was a gold 2002 Mitsubishi Montero. The driver, Eric Jonathan Wyland of Lake Arrowhead, was not injured.

CHP Officer Johs was at the scene after the collision. He reported that Wyland's vehicle had been pulling a boat mounted on a Capre trailer. The impact caused the trailer hitch to disconnect, and there was moderate collision damage to the left side and right rear of the trailer, Johs noted in his report. Information about damage to the dismantled boat was unavailable.

A third vehicle was parked on the roadside. That 1995 Ford E50 white van suffered damage to the left front and left rear, Johs recorded.

Camarena was wearing a helmet, but suffered a fractured skull and multiple brain bleeds. Both the tibia and fibula of his left leg were broken and protruding through the skin, according to the CHP report. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** paramedics transported him to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Camarena's maroon and gray 2006 Harley Davidson Road King incurred major rollover damage as a result of the collision, which is still under investigation, CHP Officer Quintero said. Officer Johs is the investigator.

(Print Edition)

Lightning Causes Two Fires in Morongo Basin Wednesday Night

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 3, 2017

Morongo Basin firefighters were called out to two fires Wednesday night caused by lightning. About 11:45 p.m., Twentynine Palms firefighters went to the 74300 block of Pinon in Twentynine Palms for a palm tree that was on fire in the yard. Firefighters had the fire out in about 10 minutes. A Joshua tree fire in Joshua Tree was much more difficult to put out though. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said firefighters were called about midnight to an area off the 8900 block of Willow. Calfire, who assisted Joshua Tree firefighters, hiked about a quarter-mile into the desert to get to the tree on fire. Tuttle said they were out there about three hours trying to put it out. The storm Wednesday night caused lots of flooding on the roads, but Tuttle said firefighters were not called out for any rescues.

<http://z1077fm.com/lightning-causes-two-fires-in-morongo-basin-wednesday-night/>