



NEWS



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TRASH CAN FIRE AT YUCCA VALLEY SOCCER FIELD IS SUSPECTED ARSON

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: September 12, 2018

Sheriff's deputies are investigating a case of suspected arson in Yucca Valley late Tuesday night. Just before 11 p.m., firefighters and deputies were called to the Yucca Valley Community Center for a commercial fire. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vioria said the fire was actually in a trash can next to the restrooms near the soccer fields. He added that deputies had a suspect in custody, but no information is available at this time as to the suspect's identity or age.

<http://z1077fm.com/trash-can-fire-at-yucca-valley-soccer-field-is-suspected-arson/>

OOPS, FIRE FEE AREA COVERS MILLIONS, NOT THOUSANDS OF ACRES. NOTICES COMING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: September 12, 2018

On Tuesday, while **County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig explained to the board of supervisors how a clerical error resulted in the false description of the proposed Fire Protection Zone FP-5 as 11,215 acres when the true acreage is more than 12,200,000 acres, others in the department prepared for this Friday's mass mailing of public notices on the proposed expansion. Reporter Mike Lipsitz helps sort it all out...

Despite the error in reported acreage, the proposal to expand Fire Protection District FP-5 to encompass nearly all of the county has always been characterized as just over 19,000 square miles. The proposed expansion comes in response to an almost \$30 million budget shortfall facing county fire. The solution is for the owner of every parcel within the 19,000 square mile zone to pay a \$157 fee added to their property tax bill. Not yet a done deal, Friday opens a 30-day public protest period and Friday's public notice mailing will include instructions on how property owners can protest the expansion and fee. If 25 percent of the affected property owners register a protest, then the proposal will go to the ballot as a voter initiative. The protest period ends at the conclusion of a public hearing before the board of supervisors on October 16.

<http://z1077fm.com/oops-fire-fee-area-covers-millions-not-thousands-of-acres-notices-coming/>

Abandoned building in San Bernardino called total loss after fire

Robert Gundran, The Sun

Posted: September 11, 2018, 10:33 p.m.



An abandoned-building in San Bernardino is left a total loss on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, after a fire raged through it the night before. Officials said nobody was injured during the fire near Base Line and D Streets. (Photo by Eric Vilchis, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

An abandoned-building fire raged through the night on Tuesday in San Bernardino, and a fire official said the building was a total loss.

Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, said nobody was injured during the fire near Base Line and D Streets.

Units were still at the scene of the fire as of 9:30 p.m. Tuesday night, and Sherwin said he expected fire crews and investigators to be there until at least midnight.

“We’re still very early in this, so cause will remain under investigation,” Sherwin said.

“The fire was contained to the building of origin, and there was no threat to any surrounding or adjacent structures,” he added.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/11/abandoned-building-in-san-bernardino-called-total-loss-after-fire/>

Fontana residents remember victims of 9/11 attacks

Alejandro Cano, Fontana Herald News

Posted: September 11, 2018



Firefighters participated in the ceremonial ringing of the bell, remembering the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, during an event in Fontana on Sept. 8. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

The "ringing of the bell" is part of a solemn ceremony, signifying that a firefighter has come home for the final time.

On Sept. 8, this sad event took place in Fontana as local residents remembered those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001 with an emotion-filled ceremony held at the Fontana Community Senior Center.

Organized by Veterans Partnering with Communities of Fontana, the ceremony saluted those firefighters who tragically died while responding to duty as well as the nearly 3,000 other persons who perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"We will never forget," said Danny Marquez, the organizer of the event. "We will be here next year and the following years, paying tribute to all of you."

The ceremony also paid tribute to the memory of Victor Garcia, who died on July 1, 2007 while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq. Organizers presented the Garcia family with Gold Star banners that would be displayed around downtown.

Victor Garcia, who died at age 22, was an Army specialist who belonged to the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) 2nd Infantry Division.

Garcia was stationed in Ft. Lewis, Washington.

The ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, including Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Congresswoman Norma Torres, Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, and Fontana City Councilmember Michael Tahan, among others.

The event was part of the Sept. 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, during which residents created and delivered hundreds of military care packages for the United States troops.

Before and after the ceremony, organizers also provided information to the public with a mini resource fair.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-residents-remember-victims-of-attacks/article_b40478ceb5e7-11e8-ae9-bfa6683471a9.html

‘Never forget’: Students and faculty honor those lost in 9/11 attacks

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: September 11, 2018, 4:59 p.m.



Serrano High School students walk by a 9/11 memorial featuring photos of firefighters and first responders killed in the 2001 World Trade Center attacks. Bob Howard, a Navy Vietnam veteran, waves to students during Pinon Mesa Middle School’s Patriot Day “parade of Heroes” at the school in Phelan on Tuesday [James Quigg, Daily Press]

PHELAN—The 17th anniversary of 9/11 was marked locally by a number of events, which included honoring the many lives lost in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon.

“Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America,” said former President George W. Bush, soon after the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000.

“These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”

Schools, businesses, groups and individuals across the nation and High Desert paid their respects to those who died on 9/11, with many also honoring those who have protected and are currently protecting the country.

Several schools in the Snowline Joint Unified School District conducted a variety of Never Forget services on Tuesday as part of the district’s annual Patriot Day tradition.

Pinon Mesa Middle School

Pinon Mesa Middle School teacher Curt Chase told the Daily Press that Tuesday’s school assembly included students and staff reflecting on the past events of 9/11, but also honored those who currently “protect America.”

“Our moment of silence paid tribute to those who died on 9/11, but we also remembered the brave men and women who once protected our country, as well as those who continue to protect and serve,” said Chase, who instructs at the school of nearly 800 students. “We also talked about what we can all do to keep our country safe.”

During the assembly, Pinon Middle School students and staff conducted a “Parade of Flags” from all 50 states and a “Parade of Heroes” where many first responders, veterans and military personnel were honored.

Each branch of the military was honored during the event that also included an honor guard, bagpiper, several speakers, music, confetti cannon and a special “environmentally friendly balloon release,” Chase said.

ASB co-presidents Jasmine Cordero and Payton Cornell shared their thoughts and gratitude to those who serve and protect America.

“Today, we are especially mindful of the nearly (1.5 million) service men and women currently beyond our shores protecting America’s interests,” said Cordero, who made mention of the millions of American soldiers

at home who defend the U.S. and countless first responders and unpaid volunteers who protect and serve on U.S soil.

“As Americans, we must also honor the families of the men and women who stand behind their sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers to defend us daily,” said Cornell, just before introducing the school choir that performed the “Armed Forces Medley” and asking that those serving and their families be recognized for their sacrifice.

Several students read quotes from U.S. leaders, such as former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice and Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Thomas Jefferson and Barack Obama.

Other students read poetry pieces and shared their own thoughts about America, such as Riley Tingesdahl, who reflected on what it means to be an American.

“It simply means that we have a chance to get where we want and that by working hard we can get there,” Tingesdahl said. “Being an American doesn’t mean that it will always be easy. It doesn’t mean that we are perfect, but it does stand for something.”

Tingesdahl continued by stating that America is “all of us sitting here, which stands for freedom” and standing for what is right even though there may be disagreements at times. “In the end, it always means we have a chance — a chance to do more and a chance to make our country and our world a better place.”

Heritage School

The school’s focus for this year’s Patriot Day was “SB Strong,” with a special memorial placed in the school’s Liberty Garden dedicated to the 14 people who were killed and 22 others who were injured on Dec. 2, 2015, during a mass shooting and an attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

Officials with the **San Bernardino County** Sheriff’s and **Fire** departments, along with K-9 units, attended the ceremony that honored nearly 100 police officers and 10 service dogs that have been killed nationally.

Teacher Todd Anton told the Daily Press the “SB Strong” memorial held a special place in the heart of the school, along with fellow teacher Aaron Elliott and himself.

Anton and Elliott were with 60 eighth-graders as they toured the campus of California State University, San Bernardino when “the terror attack was happening just a few miles away from us,” Anton said.

“The CSUSB campus was evacuated and as we left our bus broke down, leaving us to feel rather vulnerable and alone,” Anton said. “Thankfully a CHP unit stayed with us until the replacement bus arrived. So ‘SB Strong’ has a special place with us.”

Serrano High School

To honor the firefighters who lost their lives at the World Trade Towers in New York City on 9/11, the campus of Serrano High School in Phelan flew 343 American flags. The faces of the lost firefighters were also on display in a memorial that was placed in the school’s quad area.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180911/never-forget-students-and-faculty-honor-those-lost-in-911-attacks>

Oasis arsonist faces five years in prison

Staff Writer, The Desert Trail

Posted: September 11, 2018, 10:17 a.m.



Steve Raines Special to The Desert Trail – A firefighter approaches flames that light up the night at the Oasis of Mara Monday, March 26.

LOS ANGELES — United States District Judge Manuel L. Real on Monday, Sept. 10, handed down the statutory maximum 60 month sentence to the Twentynine Palms man who plead guilty to setting fire to the Oasis of Mara in Joshua Tree National Park.

George William Graham, 26, will spend his time in federal prison. He was also ordered to pay \$21,019 in restitution to the National Park Service.

In a plea agreement, Williams admitted to starting the March 26 fire by igniting a palm front with a hand held lighter.

The fire grew to approximately 9,989 square feet and destroyed numerous grasses, bushes, palm trees, vegetation and other items of significance within the oasis.

Seven California fan palms and scores of other plants were essentially destroyed in the blaze National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers arrested Graham at the scene of the fire after he was observed watching the blaze.

Graham had two prior arson convictions for which he received sentences of four years in state prison. Graham was on parole for one of those convictions at the time.

The investigation was conducted by the National Park Service with assistance from the United States Bureau of Land Management, the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Sentencing was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn Small of the General Crimes Section and Julia L. Reese of the Criminal Appeals Section.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_94443a2a-b5e6-11e8-9f0f-afb5be5a0282.html