



NEWS



News Headlines 11/2/2017

- Firefighters Rescue Four Family Pets From Burning Fontana Home
- 2 dead in Hwy 138 rollover crash Wednesday afternoon
- Man airlifted after Halloween night stabbing in Helendale
- Measure K: Reviewing campaign spending and fact-checking claims
- Fontana Civic Center Campus Welcomes Fontana Fire Protection District Headquarters

Firefighters Rescue Four Family Pets From Burning Fontana Home

24/7 Headline News

Posted: November 2, 2017



FONTANA – Firefighters responding to a fire at a home in the 17600 block of Filbert Street in the City of Fontana were able to rescue the four or the eight family pets on Wednesday morning.

At around 7:30 a.m. firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the single-story single family home. The home had heavy fire coming from the back of the home. The residents of the home were not home at the time of the fire. During a primary search of the home, three dogs and one cat were located by firefighters. Firefighters were able to gain control of the fire within 15 minutes.

“All four family pets required resuscitative measures consisting of basic airway support and oxygen therapy,” said San Bernardino County Fire Department Public Information Eric Sherwin. “These efforts were conducted by additional firefighters on scene. Thankfully all four are expected to recover from their injuries.” Four other dogs and two cats died as a result of the fire.

A total of twenty fire personnel from the San Bernardino County Fire Department, as well the Rialto Fire Department responded to the scene. Three adults, one teen, and the four pets were displaced as a result of the fire, which caused around \$100,000 in damage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation through San Bernardino County’s Office of the Fire Marshal

<https://247headline.com/firefighters-rescue-four-family-pets-from-burning-fontana-home/>

2 dead in Hwy 138 rollover crash Wednesday afternoon

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: November 1, 2017, 4:14 PM



Fire Personnel responded to a rollover crash on Hwy 138 Wednesday afternoon. Officials say one person died due to the crash. [Submitted photo]

PINON HILLS — Officials said two women were killed in a rollover crash on Highway 138 Wednesday afternoon.

Reported at 2 p.m., the crash occurred on Highway 138 just west of Hess Road and involved a green Dodge van and a tractor-trailer. California Highway Patrol officials are still investigating, but San Bernardino CHP Officer Brian Alvarez said the two women, both believed to be in their 30s, died at the scene.

Alvarez said the crash occurred as the parties in the van were headed west on Highway 138, while the tractor-trailer was headed in the opposite direction.

“It appears one of the vehicles veered onto opposing traffic lanes and the vehicles sideswiped each other, causing the van to overturn,” Alvarez said.

Emergency personnel arrived on scene and confirmed two women in the van were deceased, Alvarez said. Scanner traffic reported extrication was requested to help free a trapped party. No other injuries have yet been reported.

Highway 138 traffic was affected in both directions, with Caltrans reporting all eastbound lanes were blocked at 2:45 p.m. Alvarez said one lane is currently open in each direction to allow vehicles to pass.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171101/2-dead-in-hwy-138-rollover-crash-wednesday-afternoon>

Man airlifted after Halloween night stabbing in Helendale

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: November 1, 2017, 2:03 PM

HELENDALE — A man was rushed to a trauma center after he was stabbed during a confrontation with several alleged vandals on Halloween night, officials said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and **County Fire** officials said they responded to the incident, which happened in the 26000 block of Helendale Road, near Blue Water Road, just before 9 p.m. Tuesday.

The man was reportedly stabbed in the back while attempting to detain a group of men allegedly breaking car windows in the area, officials said in a Wednesday statement. One suspect, Montel Jorden Smith, 21, of Helendale, was quickly arrested, but the other suspects remain at large.

Several residents took to social media to sound off on the incident — along with other Halloween night mischief in the otherwise quiet town. Smashed car windows, egged houses, attempted break-ins, thefts, and assaults were all reported in the Silver Lakes area Tuesday night.

Sheriff's call logs show five vandalism calls throughout Silver Lakes were received between 6:30 and 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Two calls reporting verbal disturbances and one call reporting a petty theft were also received. A call reporting an assault was received at 9:41 p.m., according to the call logs.

Officials stated they received "several 911 calls" regarding four to five black males breaking windows of vehicles in the area of Blue Water and Corona roads just before 8:15 p.m. Tuesday.

A fight occurred when some of the victims and witnesses attempted to detain the group. Smith reportedly swung a hammer at several of the victims, while the other men assaulted others with "wood sticks," officials said.

"Several victims were able to hold Smith down in an attempt to detain him until law enforcement arrived. While holding him down, one of the victims was stabbed in the back by one of the suspects," officials said.

County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said the stabbing victim was flown to a trauma center for treatment. Sheriff's officials said he's currently in critical but stable condition. No other injuries were reported.

Smith was quickly taken into custody when deputies arrived, but the rest of the group ran from the scene. A sheriff's helicopter and sheriff's K-9 Raider were deployed for a search. Raider located clothing the suspects left behind, but they remain at large as of Wednesday afternoon.

Smith was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit a crime. He remains in custody at the Adelanto Detention Center in lieu of \$1 million bail, booking records show, and is expected to appear in court Thursday.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is urged to contact at Detective Scott Chapdelaine of the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station at 760-552-6800. Persons wishing to remain anonymous can contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or online at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171101/man-airlifted-after-halloween-night-stabbing-in-helendale>

Measure K: Reviewing campaign spending and fact-checking claims

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: November 1, 2017, 12:40 PM

County Fire union set aside \$25K for anti-campaign, which is being outspent by proponents.

VICTORVILLE — The San Bernardino County Fire Department union has contributed \$40,000 to try to defeat the half-percent sales tax here for public safety and a similar measure in Barstow, its president and records confirm.

The Local 935 political action committee gave the amount, campaign finance records show, on Aug. 14 to the Inland Empire Taxpayers Association (IETA), the organization behind the campaigns fighting Measure K in Victorville and Measure J in Barstow.

Jim Grigoli, president of Professional Firefighters Union, Local 935, said that \$25,000 was to be designated toward repelling Measure K and the other \$15,000 to rebuffing Measure J, the city of Barstow's ballot measure to buoy funding for its own fire department.

Grigoli and IETA President Chris Mann have previously acknowledged the contributions, but this is the first time the amounts have been confirmed and published. Mann cautioned, however, that its donors don't get to specify how contributions are allocated.

"We could end up using all of that and more toward (opposing the measures)," Mann said by phone, "or we could end up using less."

The connection between the County Fire union and the taxpayers association — the two share "aligned interests," Mann says — has never been in doubt. And neither has the growing resentment by city officials over what they believe has been a war of misinformation.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cox, the most vocal critic of the anti-campaign, sought to highlight both on Oct. 26 in an internal memo to Councilwoman Blanca Gomez, two days after she appeared to cast hesitation on whether there in fact was a link between the IETA and union.

It was unclear whether Gomez was referring to a connection in a blanket manner or to just the union's awareness of recent city-disputed IETA statements delivered to voters. Grigoli said he had a conversation with the councilwoman in which he explained the union does not review campaign materials.

Mann confirmed donors are not privvy to such details. Gomez did not return a message seeking clarification. In the memo, obtained by the Daily Press, Cox draws the clear parallel between the two groups through campaign finance records, while also castigating a recent IETA mailer as "horrible," adding he knows of individuals who have called the IETA to say as much.

"I recommended that they call you and express their disappointment in this organization," Cox wrote to Gomez, "because the attached information clearly ties the two together."

Mann this week stood firmly by those statements, which he said had been reviewed by the legal counsel for the taxpayers organization, emphasizing how the group had never run afoul of political or legal rules in 11 years of advocacy.

“This is not an uncommon type of response for us. The truth can be a pesky thing,” Mann said. “When the truth does not support the outcome you want, sometimes people react by lashing out. I don’t believe there is anything that was sent out by the taxpayers association that was factually inaccurate or misleading. I do think it was pretty damning to city leadership, so I’m not surprised they’re (having a) tantrum over it.”

In the memo, there were five core insinuations that Cox denounced, which the Daily Press has fact-checked:

— **Victorville residents are already paying the highest state sales tax in the United States. *True.***

California has the highest state-level sales tax rate in the U.S., according to the nonprofit Tax Foundation. But the city’s sales tax rate, if raised to 8.25 percent, will be much lower than other cities in California which hover above 10 percent, yet also will become the second-highest in San Bernardino County behind Yucca Valley (8.75 percent).

— **Measure K will increase taxes for the average Victorville family by hundreds of dollars every year. *Highly unlikely.***

Measure K taxes will amount to \$100 for the family that spends \$20,000 a year, or roughly \$1,667 each month, on taxable items. To rack up “hundreds of dollars” in Measure K taxes, a family would need to spend at least twice as much, or the equivalent of \$40,000 a year, or roughly \$3,334 each month. The city’s median household income is \$45,894, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

— **Measure K will raise gas taxes even higher than the state’s 12-cents-a-gallon tax hike. *Misleading.***

The lowest gas price in Victorville as of this week — \$2.73 at Costco on Valley Center Drive, according to gas-price tracker GasBuddy — would increase 12 cents under the gas tax and 1.4 cents under the Measure K tax.

“The point being made is, ‘Hey, we’re being gouged,’” Mann explained, saying the statement was meant simply to express, “this is just more gouging.”

But Cox dismissed this as an excuse by the organization after they were called on it. “It’s designed to make people believe (the Measure K tax is more than the gas tax).”

— **Measure K is unfair to senior citizens on fixed incomes and families who must spend more of their incomes on taxable items. *Debatable.***

“I think that can be said of any tax increase,” Mann said about their impacts to the vulnerable. However, Cox countered by questioning what a \$153 yearly parcel tax would do for those populations, referring to the cost of annexing into County Fire’s Service Zone FP-5, the seemingly inevitable alternative to Measure K’s failure.

Cox, who owns rental properties here, said he “let my people know that if the city is forced (into annexation), they’re rent will go up \$153. I can’t imagine other people wouldn’t do the same thing.”

— **City officials like Cox squandered millions to build a fire station that’s never been used, wasting taxpayer dollars. *Misleading.***

The \$7.65 million construction for Sunset Ridge Park and the fire station in question was paid by development impact fees, according to a March 2008 city staff report. Such mitigation fees are not collected from taxpayers but from developers and must be used on parks, roads and public safety capital improvements.

Impact fees are held in a restricted fund, not in the city's general fund, but an argument can be made as to how to appropriately allocate those funds. Cox said the funds in question were collected for use in the area and that residents there had overwhelmingly urged officials to build a park and fire station.

The city's manager between 1969 and 2000, Cox did not return to the city until 2009, meaning he was also not affiliated with Victorville at the time the fire station construction contract was approved.

Meanwhile, the IETA has spent more than \$21,000 on its anti-campaign, including for street signs, mailers and material designs, according to a review of financial disclosure forms this week.

The effort, however, is being outspent by Measure K's pro-campaign, which spokesman Michael W. McKinney previously called a diverse group recognizing the importance of decreasing response times and increasing public safety personnel.

It's funded in part by an investment group connected to Prime Healthcare and a slew of developer groups, several of which are from Newport Beach. Disclosure forms show expenses of more than \$40,000, including for mailers, signs, print, website costs, walkers and a media buy.

Cox and Councilman Jim Kennedy have both contributed to the campaign, records show.

The pro-campaign delivered a mailer to voters a few weeks ago seeking to articulate one central point:

“Measure K takes the money out of the hands of politicians and requires it to be spent on public safety personnel.” *Mostly true.*

While Measure K revenue must be spent on public safety, policymakers do maintain discretion over how to utilize funds and how much to keep as reserves — decisions that will be made as part of each budget cycle.

Therefore, the money isn't quite out of their hands, but Cox said the transparency and specificity of how funds will be spent was designed to tie the hands of policymakers.

“Most of the public has no confidence in the government's ability to tell the truth,” he said, pointing to the state's regular diversion of funds for other purposes and reiterating support for a citizens oversight committee.

In order to secure the confidence of voters, he said the thinking had been: “We need to establish some really fixed policies to tie this down.”

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20171101/measure-k-reviewing-campaign-spending-and-fact-checking-claims>

Fontana Civic Center Campus Welcomes Fontana Fire Protection District Headquarters

Inland Empire.US

Posted: November 1, 2017



FONTANA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DIVISION 1—WEST VALLEY HEADQUARTERS

Fontana, Calif. – To commemorate the relocation of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Administration Office to the Fontana Civic Center Campus, the City of Fontana Mayor and Council will be joined by San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and Assistant Chief Jeff Birchfield for a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. An open house with guided tours will follow.

The open house (located at 17001 Upland Avenue) near Fontana City Hall and the Fontana Police Department will include displays of various engines, guided tours of the facility, refreshments and giveaways.

The Fontana Fire Protection District Division I – West Valley Headquarters serves Fontana, Bloomington, Upland, San Antonio Heights, Lytle Creek and other various area of San Bernardino County. The new area will act as a centralized location to serve the public, conduct regular planning meetings and house Fire Administration and support staff. The main line for the administration office is (909) 356-2520.

The previous administrative office will be used as a training facility.

For more information about the Fire Administration Office open house, please contact Communications and Marketing Manager Martha Guzman-Hurtado at (909) 350-6520.

<http://inlandempire.us/fontana-civic-center-campus-welcomes-fontana-fire-protection-district-headquarters/>