



NEWS



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UPDATE: Barricaded man in Helendale taken into custody

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 6, 2019



(Photo by Frank Shaw)

UPDATE @ 9:40 pm – The suspect was taken into custody without incident. and **San Bernardino County Fire** was requested to check on him.

UPDATE @ 9:10 pm – Several large bangs were heard. They were believed to have been less than lethal rounds.

HELENDALE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department have surrounded a residence in the community of Helendale where a man is barricaded inside.

Neighbors of the small lake and golf course community were alarmed when a sheriff's aviation helicopter was hovering very low over the 27400 block of Outrigger Lane on Thursday afternoon.

Residents said they could hear announcements being made over a loud intercom advising the suspect to come out with his hands up.

Sheriff's Spokeswoman Cindy Bachman told VVNG police responded to the location reference a domestic situation and now there is a barricaded male.

Witnesses at the scene said a mother and her daughter were seen safely exiting from the residence.

Bachman said officials don't believe that anyone else is in the home with the barricaded man.

“It is an active scene and deputies are attempting to contact him,” stated Bachman.

People familiar with the incident said this is the result of a bad breakup and the male inside is named Ryan Bomgaars aka “skip” and he’s in his 40’s.

People are advised to avoid this area as the sheriff’s SWAT team are on scene and several roads in the vicinity are closed. Residents in the immediate area are encouraged to stay indoors.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-barricades-himself-inside-helendale-home-mother-and-daughter-safe/>

YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL PART 2: A HERO IS HONORED

Staff Writer, Z107.7 NEWS

Posted: June 6, 2019



County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe presents a proclamation to Cleo Ross of Yucca Valley for her heroic actions in saving a 4-year-old boy who was injured in a fiery car crash in Yucca Valley in March.

A Yucca Valley woman was honored by the Town Council Tuesday night for her heroic and life-saving actions following a horrific fiery head-on crash on Avalon Avenue in March. Jack Pennington, 37, was driving his Nissan van northbound on Avalon about 3:20 p.m. when he tried to pass a slower-moving vehicle and crashed head-on into a pick-up truck towing a trailer that was traveling southbound. Neither Pennington nor a 4-year-old boy in the back were wearing a seatbelt. A fire started in the van's engine compartment following the crash and filled the van with smoke. Tuesday night, the Yucca Valley Fire Department, Town of Yucca Valley, and the County Board of Supervisors all honored a Yucca Valley woman who witnessed the crash and stopped to help. In this follow-up story to the town council meeting, managing editor Tami Roleff has more on Cleo Ross...

“It's very rare that someone stops and takes the opportunity to help another person.”

Council member Rick Denison, a retired (**San Bernardino**) county fire battalion chief, spoke of the brave efforts of Cleo Ross of Yucca Valley, who came upon a fiery head-on crash on Avalon Avenue and Songbird Lane on the afternoon of March 22. Neither the driver of the van nor a 4-year-old boy inside the van, were wearing their seatbelts; when Ross stopped, the driver had been partially ejected from the van, and the boy was on the floor behind the front seats.

“The passenger compartment was filled with smoke from the associated engine compartment fire. Without consideration for her own safety, she helped to extricate the child from the van and moved him to a safe location. Throughout the incident, Cleo Ross stayed with the child, keeping him calm by holding him, reassuring him.”

Denison explained because the fire department doesn't have a mechanism to recognize civilians who show outstanding bravery, the Yucca Valley fire stations, the town, and the county's Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe provided Ross with special recognition certificates at Tuesday's meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council.

“Through her quick and decisive action, Cleo Ross saved the 4-year-old male victim from further injury. She remained with him until he was transported, comforting him and soothing his fears. Her actions getting him out of the van were nothing short of heroic.”

Supervisor Rowe also recognized the outstanding work done by the Yucca Valley firefighters and paramedics in stations 41 and 42.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-town-council-part-2-a-hero-is-honored/>

Officials from Fontana and San Bernardino County say: Don't use illegal fireworks

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 6, 2019

It's no longer fire season in California -- it's fire year.

Due to high fire hazards and risk of injury, the City of Fontana Police Department and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are working to prevent the use of illegal fireworks through an educational outreach campaign from now until July 5.

The Say No to Illegal Fireworks Awareness and Enforcement Campaign will include a series of fire and law enforcement operations to stop attempts towards the use, sale and possession of illegal fireworks.

The campaign also includes public service announcements, digital billboard ads on the Interstate 10 and 210 Freeways, and movie preview ads playing before all movies at Regency Fontana 8 from June 14 to July 4.

Residents can expect to see social media posts, banners throughout the city, and Say No to Illegal Fireworks magnets on Police Department patrol cars and city-owned vehicles.

The Fontana P.D. is strictly enforcing fireworks-related violations. Fines for possession and use of illegal fireworks range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

"In 2018, California saw its worst fire season in the state's history. Due to the destruction caused by wildfires, we're not taking any chances," said Fontana Police Department Sergeant Kellen Guthrie. "Fontana officers will be heavily enforcing fireworks-related offenses."

Fireworks not in direct control of the operator or that explode, shoot into the air, move along the ground and are not approved by the California State Fire Marshal are deemed dangerous, and are illegal everywhere in the state of California.

In 2018, the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of the Fire Marshal, in cooperation with law enforcement, seized more than 60,000 pounds of illegal fireworks in the county.

"Since May 2019 we have already seized 4,000 pounds," said Fire Marshal Mike Horton.

Residents who plan on purchasing fireworks must purchase Safe and Sane fireworks. Sale of these fireworks are permitted only from noon to 10 p.m. on June 28, and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily on June 29 through July 5. Safe and Sane fireworks can only be used between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on the days which these fireworks are sold.

While Safe and Sane fireworks are allowed within the majority of Fontana's city limits, all fireworks -- including Safe and Sane -- are prohibited in Fontana's high fire hazard area in the northern area of the city.

Per municipal code section 15-616, property in the city north of Summit Avenue, west of Interstate 15 and east of Lytle Creek Road is deemed a high fire hazard area. To find out if they live in Fontana's high fire hazard area, where all fireworks are prohibited, residents can visit the City of Fontana's fireworks information web page at www.fontana.org/fireworks to view the boundary map.

----- THE CITY OF FONTANA invites everyone to attend its Fourth of July Celebration at Fontana High School on Thursday, July 4. The event will be filled with food vendors, activities for all ages, and a performance from Kalimba, The Spirit of Earth Wind and Fire. Gates open at 5 p.m., with a spectacular fireworks show lighting up the summer sky at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and go on sale on Monday, June 10 at the following locations:

- Community Services Department, 16860 Valencia Avenue
- Don Day Neighborhood Center, 14501 Live Oak Avenue
- Fontana City Hall, 8353 Sierra Avenue
- Jessie Turner Health and Fitness Center, 15556 Summit Avenue

To report the use of illegal fireworks, call the Fontana Police Department at (909) 350-7700 or WeTip Hotline at 1-800-47-Arson.

For more information about the use of fireworks, visit www.fontana.org/fireworks or call the Fireworks Information Line at (909) 356-7101.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/officials-from-fontana-and-san-bernardino-county-say-dont/article_04369bf2-88aa-11e9-9129-b71d33965610.html

Weather Service says a massive ladybug swarm was spotted. One expert is skeptical

Joseph Hong, USA Today/Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: June 6, 2019 at 8:35am

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – The radar footage showed a green mass, spanning more than 60 miles, and moving.

In a Twitter post, the San Diego office of the National Weather Service referred to it as a "cloud" or "bloom" of ladybugs.

And while the Weather Service's tweet has prompted several news reports about the swarm of ladybugs, one local scientist is skeptical.

James Cornett, senior scientist with James W. Cornett Ecological Consultants, said a swarm of that size and density would have darkened the skies over the region.

"There would have been unbelievable numbers of telephone calls to the police," Cornett said. "It merits some investigation."

According to Mark Moede, a Weather Service meteorologist, the agency attributed the radar readings to the insects after a weather spotter in Wrightwood, a town in the San Bernardino mountains, reported a high number of ladybugs in the area.

"Our weather spotter said that this happens often," Moede said. "He said there were ladybugs everywhere."

Casey Oswant, another Weather Service meteorologist in the San Diego office, said the weather on Tuesday could not have accounted for the radar readings.

"If you look at the satellite for that area, there weren't a lot of clouds," Oswant said. "This radar return was much larger than what those clouds could've been producing."

Oswant said she was not able to verify where the ladybugs came from or where they were heading. However, they were off the radar's perimeters before noon Wednesday.

Cornett, a scientist who has authored books on desert ecology, remained skeptical that a migrating swarm of ladybugs could cover an expanse larger than Hesperia, a city in the alleged swarm's path.

"Ladybugs do gather in large numbers during the winter and the fall," Cornett said. "But we're talking about thousands of individuals, not tens of millions."

Cal Fire-San Bernardino County Fire Department received no reports of a ladybug swarm, spokeswoman Tracy Watts said.

The size of the green area shown on the radar reading is more than 60 miles long, expanding from Riverside to Barstow, and appears to cover more than a 1,000 square miles.

Cornett also said it's very strange for ladybugs to be moving south this time of year. He said ladybugs would be moving north to find more food.

Additionally, he said, ladybugs and other beetles would not fly high enough to be spotted on radar because their wings are too heavy. Moede was unable to comment on what elevations can be detected by the radar.

Cornett said ladybugs are also not known to migrate across great distances, as shown in the Weather Service's post.

"I'm not the last word on ladybugs, but it sounds so unusual to me," he said. "The world must be coming to an end."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/06/06/national-weather-services-radar-spots-swarm-ladybugs/1364925001/>

Cycling 3,000 Miles to Raise Awareness

Zac Moran, The Mountain News

Posted: June 6, 2019, 2:43 PM



Courtesy of Sean Jackson

Race Across America (RAAM) is the self-proclaimed “world’s toughest bicycle race.” Many agree that it is at least among the top ten toughest races in the world. According to the race’s website, it starts “under one of the longest piers in California, spans 3000 miles, climbs 175,000 feet, crosses 12 states and finishes at City Dock in Annapolis, Maryland” with a time limit of nine days for teams and 12 days for solo riders.

Two years ago, firefighters and bicycle enthusiasts from **San Bernardino County (SBC) Fire Station 91** in Lake Arrowhead decided they were going to tackle the race. This year, they are doing it again.

Sean Jackson, one of the firefighters at Station 91, said he and Captain Tim Goforth are both avid cyclists. Watching a documentary on RAAM got them excited to participate in the race themselves, so they did their research, built the four-person team “Fire Velo/Norton Strong” and began practicing.

During the process, they had discovered that “a lot of teams did the race for charity” and they wanted to use this opportunity to do the same. At the time, Jackson said another firefighter, Correy Norton, was battling cancer and they decided to ride to raise funds and awareness for those in the fire industry who are battling cancer.

“This was the obvious cause to ride for,” Jackson said. “We have guys in our own department struggling with cancer...”

When the race came around in 2017, Jackson said Norton saw them off at the starting line while riding in an SBC fire engine from 1929. During the race, he said a dozen different fire departments from across the country supported them during the race and another fire engine escorted them through the last few miles.

This year, they changed their team name to Fire Velo 935. Additionally, Jackson and Goforth are racing with two different team members, Lindy Moss and Bryan Benso. Correy's father, Chris Norton, will be the crew chief for this year's race. Chris is a retired battalion chief from the fire department and he is "really fired up about it." Jackson said Correy, who is better than he was two years ago, but not yet in remission, wanted to be the crew chief, but couldn't commit the time to it.

Though the team isn't all the same, they are riding for the same cause, are taking donations and have a GoFundMe campaign set up. At the time of writing, the GoFundMe page reports that over \$13,700 has been raised in the last three months. Jackson said they will keep the GoFundMe page open and they take checks as well. He also said the team has already raised funds needed to perform the race, in terms of bike-related equipment and other necessities, allowing them to give the remaining donations to charity.

"Whether you can donate a dollar or donate \$100, every little bit helps," Jackson said.

Last time they raced, Jackson said they finished in seven days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes. This time around, they plan to finish in under seven days.

"[This] is a very realistic goal," Jackson said about finishing in under seven days. "The two teammates we have this time are super strong riders, so I think we will do better overall."

Lindy Moss is one of the two teammates. She said she has been riding bikes her whole life, but became "seriously committed" in 2006 and is a "big believer in charity and community," so it is "like a dream come true" to bring awareness by riding.

"I've been cycling for years with Tim Goforth," Moss said. "We had talked about it for so many years and he was the pioneer who went out and did it with other firemen. I told him I was jealous because I always wanted to ride my bike across America."

As for the race itself, Moss is "expecting lots of pain and suffering." She said that is part of races like this though and that her coping mechanism to get through that is to "think about people who suffer from cancer."

"[Cancer patients] don't ever get a break, it's always on their mind. It's how they feel every single day," Moss said. "This is the very least I can do as a healthy person; five to seven days of suffering in their honor."

Moss said she is "excited to be on the bike" and know her team is behind her. However, she expects the hardest part of the race will be "getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to ride when you're dead-dog tired and sleep deprived," especially since she's used to getting nine hours of sleep each night.

Jackson said calling the race tough would be an understatement.

Their approach is to have one rider on the road 24/7 by splitting their four-person team into smaller teams of two. Each team will take eight-hour shifts. One team will be out riding, with each rider on the road in 30-minute intervals, while the other team is in the motor home resting, eating, and showering.

"It's a non-stop caravan circus across the country," Jackson said. "Each rider is doing somewhere between 110-120 miles per day... The team, collectively, is doing about 420 miles per day."

With a riding schedule like that, Jackson said this race is a painful, but unique experience.

“I’ve ridden as much as 140 miles in one continuous ride, but this is totally different. It pushes you different than you could ever image going,” Jackson said. “It’s amazing how far you can push yourself.”

Jackson said the race isn’t just about the distance either and they will experience extremes in both temperature and altitude.

“The extremes are of the race itself are phenomenal,” Jackson said. “You start at the Oceanside Pier...and then you turn inland and within five miles of the start, now it’s 90 degrees....80 miles from start, it was 116 degrees. The lowest point of the race is below sea level by a few hundred feet. The highest point is Wolf Creek pass, over 10,000 feet high. We might encounter snow.”

Jackson said the easiest part for him was Kansas, with 700 miles of flat land. Meanwhile, the hardest was crossing the Appalachian Mountains, which he said is 2,500 miles into the race and includes inclines of 11 to 14%.

“The race itself is very symbolic of the fight cancer patients go through, Jackson said. The race has highs and lows and physical and emotional changes. A cancer patient deals with the same highs and lows.... The difference for Correy is that he’s been going through those peaks and valleys for more than three years now and the race is a week long. If Correy can do that for three years, I can do it for a week. That’s kind how we put it into perspective. This is tougher than anything we’ve ever done, but it doesn’t even compare to what a cancer patient goes through in a week of chemo. There’s just no comparison.”

The race begins on Saturday, June 15 and the team aims to be done by Friday, June 21.

The team’s Facebook can be found at www.facebook.com/TeamFireVelo935 and has a link to the team’s GoFundMe. For more information on Race Across America, visit www.raceacrossamerica.org.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_30317f16-88a4-11e9-b4e4-c72622b57b7e.html

Motorcycle and SB County vehicle crash in Hesperia; rider airlifted

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: June 6, 2019



The rider was flown to a trauma center. City of Hesperia vehicle and a motorcycle crashed. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A Motorcycle rider was injured following a crash with a San Bernardino County vehicle on Thursday.

The crash was reported at the intersection of Alder Street and Sante Fe Avenue at 9:44 a.m. in Hesperia.

San Bernardino County Fire and Sheriff Deputies responded to the incident and located a rider down on the ground.

The rider was taken to Desert Valley Hospital and then airlifted to a trauma center by a County Fire Helicopter.

The driver of the county vehicle did not require transportation to a hospital.

The cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the Hesperia Sheriff's Station.

<https://www.vvng.com/motorcycle-and-sb-county-vehicle-crash-in-hesperia-rider-airlifted/>

Stations fly red flag on fire warning days

Janice Rutherford, San Bernardino County Supervisor, Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 6, 2019

When the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Red Flag Warning, most San Bernardino County residents know to keep a watchful eye for signs of fire in their community.

But what exactly does a Red Flag Warning mean? And how do you know if one's in place?

In a nutshell, the warning means warm temperatures, very low humidity, and strong winds are expected to combine to produce an increased risk of fire danger within a 24-hour period.

Red Flag Warnings are usually reported on the radio or in newspapers, and they are also shared on social media, but even with that many venues getting the word out, some residents might miss the message.

In light of this, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** has begun flying a red flag under the American flag at fire stations within areas under Red Flag Warnings.

“The Red Flag Warning program is designed to enhance public safety by providing a visual reminder that extreme fire conditions are predicted or present,” said Fire Chief Don Trapp. “This program is another tool in reaching out to communities during Red Flag Warnings and asking them to take extra precautions.”

The Fire Department will also fly the red flag when the National Weather Service issues a Fire Weather Watch, which means fire conditions are likely to exist in the next 12 to 72 hours.

In addition to watching for signs of fires, there are things residents should not do when a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch are in place, such as yard work that might generate sparks.

Fire agencies typically increase the number of firefighters on duty and get equipment positioned and ready when fire warnings are in effect.

Residents are encouraged to report any sign of fire immediately to 911 regardless of whether a warning is in place. Learn more about the County Fire Department and how to make your home and property fire safe by visiting www.sbcfire.org.

(San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford represents the 2nd District, which includes part of Fontana. This article originally appeared in "The Rutherford Report.")

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/opinion/stations-fly-red-flag-on-fire-warning-days/article_7f004c7a-8878-11e9-958a-ef7eb10cc75b.html