



NEWS



News Headlines 9/6/2018

- Legality of FP-5 Expansion approval procedure questioned by residents
- HOUSE FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING
- San Bernardino County fire will use grant to train in hazardous materials
- Man airlifted after stabbing in Hesperia Wednesday afternoon
- Woman killed in head-on crash on Phelan Road ID'd as Daisy Preciado, 28
- Body of 24-year-old girl found in Colorado River leaving just one still missing after horrific Labor Day Weekend boat crash

Legality of FP-5 Expansion approval procedure questioned by residents

Terri Hill, Mountaineer Progress

Posted: September 6, 2018

Many High Desert residents are questioning the legality of the Fire Protection Service Zone 5 (FP-5) Expansion, and associated fees, by San Bernardino County. Referencing Proposition 218, critics are concerned that the new fees attached to the expansion are tantamount to taxation without representation. The general intent of Prop 218 was to ensure that all taxes, and the majority of charges imposed on property owners, would be subject to approval by voters. Another concern of Prop 218 was the use of fees, collected from property owners, for general governmental services rather than property-related services.

Specifically at issue is the requirement to hold an election on any property-related fee, other than a fee for water, sewer, or refuse collection. The process for approval of the FP-5 Expansion and fee however, must see written objections submitted by 25% of property owners (holding at least 25% of the property value of the proposed expansion area), or it will pass without going to voters.

Asked for clarification, **San Bernardino County Fire** Public Information Officer Steve Tracy sent the following email:

The FP-5 service zone assessment was previously approved by voters when it was created. Therefore, Prop 218 does not apply with the approved resolution to expand the Service Zone FP-5. Health and Safety code 13800 gives the governing board of a Fire District the authority to expand an existing Service Zone to maintain or improve services within the Fire District. The Government code stipulates all that's required to expand the Service Zone is a majority vote of the District's Board (San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors), notification to the property owners, and a public hearing. The Protest period was proposed by the Fire Chief to the Board as a means for the Fire Board to gauge public opinion regarding the expansion of Service Zone FP-5. The Fire Board approved the Chief's proposal and adopted the LAFCO protest process in the resolution.

Mailed-in objections to the expansion and fee must be received by October 15, 2018, walk-in objections must be received by the close of the October 16, 2018 Public Hearing, 10 .am., San Bernardino County Government Center, 1st Floor Covington Chamber.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/thisweeksnews.html>

HOUSE FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: September 5, 2016

Firefighters were called out to a structure fire early this morning. **County** Battalion Chief Mike O'Bier said firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Wonder Valley, and Joshua Tree were called to the 71500 block of Sunflower Drive in Twentynine Palms at 4:11 a.m. by a house alarm. O'Bier said it appeared that the blaze started in the kitchen, and there was more smoke than flames in the unoccupied and empty home. O'Bier estimated damage at less than \$25,000. An investigator has been called in to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://z1077fm.com/house-fire-in-twentynine-palms-early-wednesday-morning/>

San Bernardino County fire will use grant to train in hazardous materials

Sandra Emerson, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: September 5, 2018



San Bernardino County firefighter Sergio Mora sprays water on a truck, which caught fire. The truck fire ignited brush along the northbound 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass, near Kenwood Drive in Devore Heights on Friday, July 6, 2018. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

San Bernardino County firefighters will get additional hazardous materials training thanks to the feds.

Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-San Bernardino, on Wednesday announced \$355,148 in federal funding for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District through the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fire Prevention Operations and Safety Program, according to a new release from Aguilar's office.

"California is facing an exceptionally challenging fire season, and we need to do all we can to make sure that our local firefighters have every resource they need," Aguilar said in the news release.

Earlier this year, Aguilar hosted a grant training workshop for local fire departments, which was attended by fire district officials, on best practices for FEMA grant applications, including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, according to the release.

The funding will allow the fire district to bolster its Hazmat capabilities by more than 40 percent daily, according to a statement from Fire Chief Mark Hartwig.

"Additionally, in conjunction with the California State Office of Emergency Services, the Fire Protection District will also be able to assist on any type of Hazmat response throughout the State of California," he said.

Aguilar represents the 31st Congressional District, which spans from Upland to Redlands. He is running for re-election Nov. 6 against Republican challenger Sean Flynn, a business owner and economist.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/05/san-bernardino-county-fire-will-use-grant-to-train-in-hazardous-materials/>

Man airlifted after stabbing in Hesperia Wednesday afternoon

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 5, 2018



County Helicopter H325 VVNG.com undated file photo (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Authorities are searching for a female suspect who stabbed a man as he attempted to defend his girlfriend Wednesday afternoon in Hesperia.

At about 12:15 pm, on September 5, 2018, Hesperia deputies responded to the 16000 block of Juniper Street in regards to a stabbing.

Deputies arrived on scene and through investigation discovered that the victim and his girlfriend were approached by several Hispanic subjects, officials said.

“A Hispanic Female Adult with blue hair, heavy set, wearing a black and white shirt and blue jeans wanted to fight victim’s girlfriend. The victim did not allow the female subject to harm his girlfriend, that was when the female subject produced a four-inch knife and stabbed the victim in the left hip,” stated Sheriff’s Service Specialist Edgar Moran.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** requested helicopter H325 to transport the man who was transported by ground ambulance to Desert Valley Hospital and subsequently airlifted to an out of area trauma center.

According to Moran, all of the subjects fled the scene of the stabbing. Deputies conducted an extensive area check but were unable to locate the female suspect.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Hesperia Sheriff’s Station at (760)947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/woman-airlifted-after-stabbing-in-hesperia-wednesday-afternoon/>

Woman killed in head-on crash on Phelan Road ID'd as Daisy Preciado, 28

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 5, 2018



CHP officers investigate the fatal wreck that claimed the life of a 28-year-old woman. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A woman killed in a traffic collision in the community of Phelan over the Labor Day weekend was identified by family as Daisy Preciado, 28, of Hesperia.

The fatal crash happened on Saturday, September 1, 2018, on Phelan Road, just west of Mango Street and involved a 2018 Mercedes-Benz SUV and a 2001 Chevy S-10.

At about 12:33 pm, officers with the California Highway Patrol along with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded and located the vehicles on opposite sides of the roadway after a head-on crash.

Preciado, who was driving the pickup truck, died at the crash site at around 12:50 p.m. Her 42-year-old husband who was a passenger in the pickup sustained minor injuries in the accident and was transported by ground ambulance.

The driver of the Mercedes, a 21-year-old woman from Phelan was not injured in the crash. However, her passenger a 76-year-old woman sustained injuries to her head and was airlifted to an out of area trauma center.

According to a CHP news release, the investigation revealed the Mercedes SUV was traveling eastbound on Phelan Road at approximately 35 mph and the Chevy was heading westbound approaching the SUV.

“For reasons still under investigation, the driver of the Mercedes allowed her vehicle to travel into the westbound lane, colliding head-on with the Chevrolet, causing fatal injuries to the driver of the Chevrolet,” stated the release.

Preciado’s family have launched a Gofundme campaign to help with funeral expenses. Daisy is described as a truly amazing and astonishing individual who was full of life and always energetic. Donations can be made by clicking the link ‘Daisy Preciado’.

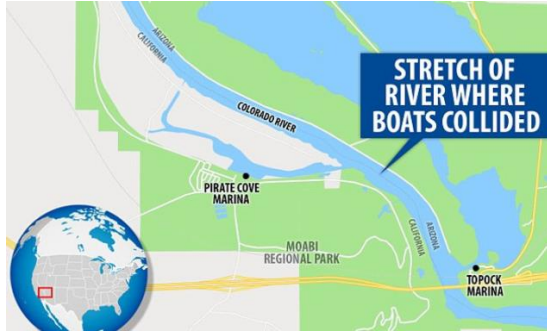
The collision is still under investigation by Officer J. Jarvis with the Victorville CHP office and anyone with information is asked to call (760)241-2911.

<https://www.vvng.com/woman-killed-in-head-on-crash-on-phelan-road-idd-as-daisy-preciado-28/>

Body of 24-year-old girl found in Colorado River leaving just one still missing after horrific Labor Day Weekend boat crash

Anneta Konstantinides, Dailymail.com

Posted: September 5, 2018, 1:09 p.m.



More than 60 crew members from Arizona and California searched for the victims this week

The body of a third victim from the horrifying Labor Day Weekend crash on the Colorado River in California has been found.

Divers located the body of 24-year-old Kirra Drury around 12.35pm on Tuesday, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

The body of Brian Grabowski, 50, was discovered three hours earlier. Both had been missing since Saturday night, when two boats collided on the river around 8pm.

Authorities recovered the body of Christine Lewis, 51, on Monday morning. Raegan Heitzig, Grabowski's niece, remains missing.

All four victims of the deadly crash were on a Halley boat holding 10 people, including Drury's boyfriend Lance Nelson.

Nelson shared a photo of one of his last moments with Drury and said she was the 'sweetest soul that ever touched my heart'.

'She made me the happiest guy ever and I had so many plans for us,' he wrote in an Instagram tribute. 'I'm so glad they found you and I hope you didn't suffer, you never deserved this and I still don't know why the best people get taken so early. I love you so much.'

Also on the boat were Heitzig's sister Jordan and her aunt Tabby, who was married to Grabowski. Both women were critically injured in the crash and taken to a Las Vegas hospital, where they are still recovering.

The family revealed on a GoFundMe campaign that it was Tabby who saved Jordan's life after she was knocked unconscious by the crash.

Jordan fractured her spine at the top of her neck and has burns from the crash.

The family were told as the search began that the authorities believe Heitzig was unconscious from the impact of the crash and did not suffer.

Sheriff Doug Schuster said the department will continue search efforts until Heitzig is located.

'It is our deepest desire to provide a measure of closure for the family and all involved,' he wrote in a statement on Facebook.

'We will continue to do everything within our means to do so and pray for a speedy resolution.' Survivor Taylor Corbino discussed on Tuesday how total chaos broke out after the crash.

Corbino was enjoying Labor Day Weekend with family friends when their Sleek Craft boat, which held six people, smashed into the Hallet boat.

The recent college graduate was sitting at the back of the boat, chatting with friends, when she suddenly heard someone exclaim 'Oh, s**t'.

'And I look up and next I see the boat, the other boat,' she told Good Morning America. 'And next thing you know, I'm in the water.'

Pat Kelly, Corbino's father, was in a nearby boat when he heard the horrific crash.

'We were just turning into Pirate's Cove and our buddy went by us and we were waving at him,' Kelly recalled.

'And we see his lights going on, and then a horrific crash. The river's all dark, it was totally dark. Sounded like a freight train hitting the side of a building. It was horrible.'

Corbino said she was underwater for so long that she couldn't hold her breath anymore.

'The current was so strong it was moving me around and all I could think about was 'get air'', she recalled.

'I actually breathed in some water and all I told myself was: 'Taylor, swim to the top to get some air in''.

'I swam to the top and my friend that I was actually sitting next to on the boat, I felt him grab me.'

Meanwhile, Kelly jumped off his own boat - which was about 50 yards from the accident - as he desperately tried to find his daughter.

His friend Dave Dade, who was on the boat with Kelly and Kelly's wife Kathy Boelter, said the river turned into complete chaos.

'While we're going into the crash site, there was debris everywhere. And I was afraid to roll the boat up, cause I didn't wanna chop somebody up [with the propeller].'

'I couldn't find Pat. So his wife was hysterical. All she could say was. 'Where's my baby? Where's my baby?'' Kelly said it was 'pandemonium' as people began screaming and crying.

'When it crashed, we were just trying to find [Corbino], find anybody,' he said. 'We didn't even know it was another boat until we heard other people screaming.'

'It was total chaos - and then I heard her. Somebody said, "Taylor's okay". I'm screaming "Where's Taylor? Where's Taylor?"'

'And then we knew she was okay, so we got over to that side, actually seeing her before we calmed down. But everyone seemed to be all right.'

Corbino said she feels lucky to be alive.

'I thought I was going to die,' she added. 'I thought I was going to drown.'

She remains sore from the crash and said the survivors have talked little about the accident.

'I think we're all still in shock,' she said. 'It hasn't hit us yet completely. It's been a very crazy weekend.'

'But when I do talk to them about it - we're all very thankful and blessed to be alive. We shouldn't be alive.'

Lewis was a nurse at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia, California for 22 years. She is credited with saving hundreds of lives.

'We are shocked and heartbroken to learn about the passing of one our own in this weekend's tragic Colorado River boat crash,' said Kaweah Delta CEO Gary Herbst.

'Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who knew Chrisi Lewis and to the family and friends still searching the river for their loved ones.'

Grabowski, also of Visalia, was a board-certified ophthalmologist who made ocular prosthetics with his company Grabowski and Associates.

More than 60 crew members from Arizona and California have been searching for the victims through the week.

They tracked their route with a computer program that maps the riverbed while two helicopters searched by air.

One detective with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department suffered minor injuries after participating in 10 dives in the last two days.

'This detective has been very tenacious with his involvement,' the department said in a statement.

'[He has been] trying to do his best to help the family members get some sort of closure.'

All 16 people were thrown off both boats when the two vessels collided on Saturday. Some were swept as far as 3 to 5 miles downstream from the crash site.

It is believed that none of the boaters were wearing life vests at the time, according to ABC News.

The force of the crash also caused both boats to sink, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** District.

Nine victims, including two in critical condition, were transported to nearby hospitals by ambulance.

The sheriff's office has yet to determine whether speed or alcohol played a factor in the crash.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6135511/Body-24-year-old-girl-Colorado-River-boat-crash.html>