



# NEWS



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## Kids learn and help others in nationally ranked camp

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: July 20, 2017 2:43 PM



Students in SummerBoost Camp give presents to local firefighters last week. The students made pillows for the local heroes because they know they sleep in the fire house.

**YUCCA VALLEY** — Yucca Valley Elementary School is in its second year of offering a SummerBoost Camp, a free camp where kids get experiences that are both educational and fun. The SummerBoost program recently won the third annual Founder’s Award from the National Summer Learning Association.

The award recognizes unique and non-traditional summer program models.

“We are really excited and happy about the designation,” said Teresa Isarraraz, program coordinator for Save the Children, which runs the camp.

The camp was evaluated by the NSLA and competed with other schools across the nation.

SummerBoost is a six-week-long camp where students participate in lessons in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) , reading and healthy choices and take part in physical activities.

“We hope to close the gap of learning in the summer,” Isarraraz said.

The camp hosts kids five days a week for six hours each day. The only requirement is that the child has to be enrolled in the Morongo Unified School District.

The program is privately funded by Save the Children, a nonprofit contracted through the Morongo Unified School District to provide after-school programs throughout the school year. Children in the camp also complete a community service learning project.

One of the service projects students completed this summer was for the Yucca Valley firefighters at Station 41. The children made pillows for the firefighters because they know they sleep at the station.

This is not the only SummerBoost program in the Basin. Palm Vista Elementary school is also offering the summer camp.

The space is limited to about 50 kids and although both camps are full this summer, Isarraraz said they hope to add a third location for the camp in Joshua Tree next year.

“We hope to have one in every elementary school in the Basin,” Isarraraz said.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_7ecbe3b4-6d94-11e7-8b28-97e1af2dc441.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_7ecbe3b4-6d94-11e7-8b28-97e1af2dc441.html)

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## **Alzheimer’s residents remain at Loving Care Ranch as staff works to rebuild fire-damaged Helendale building**

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 25, 2017, 4:43 PM



A fire extinguisher remains at the site of the the Loving Care Ranch fire from last week. One building at the Alzheimer's care facility was destroyed by fire and insurance appraisals are needed before it can be rebuilt. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

HELENDALE — When Adrian Datuin first came across the fire at Loving Care Ranch here last week, he immediately thought the worst.

“As I’m coming down [National Trails Highway] I saw the road was blocked and I could just see the fire raging. I thought there was an explosion,” Datuin said.

Fortunately for the owner and caretaker of the assisted living facility, all of the home’s 10 residents, who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease, were able to safely escape the flames.

“We’ve been with many of our residents for a long time. The important thing is making sure they’re taken care of and they’re safe,” Datuin told the Daily Press on Tuesday. “Thank God no one was hurt.”

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials said five of Loving Care Ranch’s residents were displaced after a fire tore through one of the facility’s buildings July 19.

While no injuries were reported, the building was heavily damaged by the flames. Damages were estimated at over \$100,000, according to County Fire battalion chief Dave Meddles.

The five displaced residents have been temporarily moved to another building at the facility that was undamaged. Red Cross was requested for assistance.

Red Cross San Bernardino Chapter Public Information Officer Georgia Duncan said the agency sent a team to ensure the facility’s residents were safe and taken care of.

“The residents were not allowed into the building until firefighters cleared all the smoke from the building and deemed it safe,” Duncan said.

As of Tuesday, Datuin said the facility’s staff is focusing its efforts on ensuring the residents are taken care as the damaged structure is rebuilt. The five displaced residents will move again to a third building once that building is approved by the county’s fire marshal.

Datuin said he’s still waiting for his insurance company to appraise the damaged building before construction begins.

“The insurance company said rebuilding could take about four to five months,” Datuin said.

The Red Cross team also provided the facility with funds to replace some of their durable goods on the night of the fire, but the facility was still in need of donations last weekend.

However, a little help from the community, which donated drinking water, clothes, diapers and other items, went a long way.

“I just want to give a big thanks to the Helendale and Silver Lakes community,” Datuin said. “After the fire, we had so many people come by to offer help and drop off donations. We are just very grateful.”

County Fire officials said the blaze was believed to have started near the facility’s water heater, but the cause remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170725/alzheimers-residents-remain-at-loving-care-ranch-as-staff-works-to-rebuild-fire-damaged-helendale-building>

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## **How Redlands is making sure it’s ready for disasters**

**Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts**

Posted: July 25, 2017, 6:12 PM

REDLANDS >> Once fire season is over, members of the San Bernardino County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster will still be around, ready to assist those in need.

“Once that fire is put out and the fire department goes away and maybe even law enforcement goes away, we are still working with the emergency managers. We’re still working with the Office of Emergency Services,” said Debra J. Williams, vice chair of county VOAD, during the Redlands Disaster Council meeting Monday at City Hall. “We are still bringing agencies in because that’s when the people really need the help.”

Members of the county VOAD are deployed to assist following disasters throughout the county, including the numerous fires that have hit the area recently as well as the North Park Elementary School shooting on April 10 and the terrorist attack on Dec. 2, 2015, in San Bernardino.

The county’s VOAD is comprised of six county Community Organizations Active in Disaster groups. Redlands is in the East End COAD.

Members include non-governmental and government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, private organizations and faith-based organizations.

“You’ve heard the saying ‘It takes a village to raise a child’?” Williams asked the audience. “It’s the same thing when it comes to a disaster. It takes the entire community to prepare, to respond and to recover.”

Williams said the county VOAD is not only focused on fostering efficient streamlined services delivered to people affected by disasters, but also preparing for disasters.

The group helps with volunteer management, case management, food and clothing, medical and mental health services, recovery and child care, among other needs.

Williams said donation management is especially important, as donations start flowing in after an incident.

“Every time we have an incident, people start donating stuff whether we need it or not,” she said.

The disaster council, which meets quarterly, also heard an update from Carrie Cruz with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**/Operational Area/Office of Emergency Services, and Fay Glass, the city’s Emergency Operations manager.

Glass said 360 members have been trained over the past four years as part of the city’s Community Emergency Response Team.

“I’m really, really excited about that,” Glass said.

The next class is planned for Sept. 15-17 at Plymouth Village, 945 Salem Drive.

For more information, call Glass at 909-335-4705.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170725/how-redlands-is-making-sure-its-ready-for-disasters>

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## UPDATE: Blaze at Victorville homeless encampment results in arson arrest

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 26, 2017, 12:55 PM



A San Bernardino County firefighter attacks a fire at a homeless camp in Victorville on Wednesday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]



A San Bernardino County firefighter navigates his way through the debris in a homeless camp while battling a fire in Victorville on Wednesday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters made quick work of a blaze that erupted near two local apartment complexes Wednesday, dousing the flames within minutes, while San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials arrested a woman accused of starting the fire.

Danielle Alexandria Giangrossi, 32, a Victorville transient, was arrested on suspicion of arson following the blaze, which occurred near the Rancho Seneca Apartments in the 14700 block of Seneca Road at 11:22 a.m. Wednesday.

The blaze erupted at a homeless encampment in a desert field between Rancho Seneca and the Summer Breeze Apartments on Seneca Road. Giangrossi set fire to a transient encampment near her encampment in the area, according to Victorville Sheriff's Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** Captain Jeremy Kern said 10 firefighters responded to combat the flames. They were able to keep the flames from spreading further, and the fire was doused within minutes. No injuries were reported.

Giangrossi remains in custody at the High Desert Detention Center in lieu of \$50,000 bail, booking records show, and is expected to appear in court Friday.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170726/update-blaze-at-victorville-homeless-encampment-results-in-arson-arrest>

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## **Obernolte lauds fire fee suspension, but not deal that made it happen**

**Shea Johnson, Daily Press**

Posted: July 26, 2017, 2:04 PM



Assemblyman Jay Obernolte, R-Hesperia, on Wednesday applauded the suspension of a controversial yearly fire prevention fee even though he voted against the bill that made it happen. [Daily Press file photo]

Assemblyman Jay Obernolte on Wednesday applauded the suspension of a controversial yearly fire prevention fee even though he voted against the bill that made it happen.

Obernolte, R-Hesperia, has long been an advocate for dismantling the fee, which was enacted in 2011 to support state fire services in response to deep budget cuts to CalFire's general fund. It affects mostly rural homeowners in so-called State Responsibility Areas and is the subject of an ongoing class-action lawsuit.

Impacting homeowners in this region in parts of Pinon Hills, Phelan, Wrightwood, Oak Hills and Apple and Lucerne valleys, the fee has been described by opponents as a tax in disguise that should have required two-thirds majority passage although it was approved by a simple majority.

Last week, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill 398 to extend the state's cap-and-trade program through 2030, which has been touted as the signature law to battle global warming. Included in the plan: a provision to suspend the fire prevention fee as of July 1 and ultimately end it, although it will not relieve homeowners of bills sent out earlier this year.

"Obviously, I'm very happy that we're suspending it," Obernolte said by phone. "I do wish it was an outright repeal."

The repeal, under the cap-and-trade legislation, is expected to occur in 2031. But its termination, which lawmakers said was made possible by replacing the mostly rural homeowner burden with cap-and-trade revenue to pay for state fire services, did not mesh with the vision of Obernolte, other lawmakers and activists.

"We certainly would rather have it passed through legislation," he added, meaning a stand-alone bill and not as a sweetener in a legislative piece he ultimately did not support.

Obernolte was one of 22 “no” votes when the bill passed the Assembly Floor on July 17, but they were out-muscled by 55 “yes” votes, including seven Republican colleagues. In the state Senate, one Republican voted for the program.

“Today, we proved that Sacramento can rise above the partisan fray of our country to do right for all Californians,” Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes, who supported the cap-and-trade extension, said in a statement following the bill’s passage, calling the fire fee’s repeal “a victory for rural Californians.”

Yet Obernolte, who participated in a Republican working group leading up to the vote — which produced a document of what a GOP-led cap and trade would look like — ultimately felt as if too many Republican principles were omitted from the final plan.

Instead, he had hoped the program would return more revenue to Californians, noting that money didn’t have to be spent on state programs “and you certainly shouldn’t treat it like a giant legislative piggy bank.”

Cap and trade puts a limit on carbon emissions and requires polluters to obtain permits to release greenhouse gases. Some permits, known as allowances, are given away while others are auctioned, generating billions of dollars in revenue for the state.

State law requires California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 — among the most aggressive mandates for carbon reduction in the world. Without cap and trade, state regulators would be forced to enact restrictive mandates on polluters that would be burdensome for businesses and significantly more expensive for consumers, Gov. Jerry Brown said.

Republican critics likened the bill to a tax that will hit Californians at the gas pump and the grocery store. The nonpartisan legislative analyst said last year that the existing cap-and-trade program accounted for an 11-cent-per-gallon increase in gasoline prices. The office has not analyzed the extension proposal.

Obernolte, who has regularly introduced legislation to ease fire fee burdens and hosted several educational town halls since his election to the Assembly in 2014, said he will continue to stand behind ongoing litigation to force fee repayment to anyone who had paid it under protest. It means homeowners had completed and submitted a petition for determination disputing the fee, which can be up to \$152.33 yearly for each habitable structure they own.

“What happens to all the revenue that got paid illegally, I feel,” Obernolte said, “and will that revenue be returned to the people that paid it?”

The ongoing class-action lawsuit in question was brought in October 2012 by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association against CalFire and the Board of Equalization.

Jon Coupal, president of HJTA, said in a statement that while the suspension of the fire fee was a welcome relief for thousands of homeowners, it was “scant consolation in light of these new regressive fuel price increases on every single California taxpayer.”

— *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170726/obernolte-lauds-fire-fee-suspension-but-not-deal-that-made-it-happen>



## Pickup Truck Leaps Guardrail

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: July 27, 2017



This pickup truck crossed over the guardrail along State Highway 18 north of Lake Gregory Drive around 10:25 p.m. on July 1. Bryan Allen.

A pickup truck traveling northbound on State Highway 18 on the night of July 21 suddenly hit the guardrail and was propelled up and over. The vehicle landed with one wheel on the rail and three wheels on the other side of the rail, resting upon the mountainside.

Michael Craig Hollinghurst, 61, of Rancho Santa Margarita had driven approximately .8 miles north of Lake Gregory Drive when the accident occurred around 10:25 p.m.

No passengers were traveling with Hollinghurst, who suffered a laceration to the nose. According to the CHP report, Hollinghurst was found to be under the influence of alcohol, which was determined to be a factor in the accident. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** paramedics transported him to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Officer Johs, the investigating officer at the scene, determined that the weather was clear. The road surface was dry and no unusual conditions existed, except that the area was dark and without street lights. No other vehicles were involved and no pedestrians were present.

As a result of the accident, the 2014 Ford F150 suffered major damage to the left rear, the rear end and the right front side of the vehicle.

The report by Officer Johs provided no additional details on what happened, and the accident remains under investigation.

[\(Print Edition\)](#)

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## Brush Fire Under Control

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: July 27, 2017

Firefighters have succeeded in containing the Dollar Fire off State Highway 30 and Old City Creek Road, southwest of Running Springs. The most recent update available was on Monday at 12:37 p.m. That report indicated that the fire in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) was 70 percent contained at 50 acres, down from 100 acres on Saturday.

InciWeb.nwcg.gov reported that 125 firefighters were still on the scene, “continuing line construction and strengthening the existing fire line.”

Cal Fire’s website said the fire began July 22 at 1:35 p.m., and within 20 minutes it covered three acres with a moderate rate of speed. By 2:20 it was just over 15 acres but by 3 p.m. it covered more than 55 acres. It did not threaten any structures, but was moving rapidly uphill toward Running Springs. No evacuations were ordered.

Highway 330 remained open, but the California Highway Patrol (CHP) advised motorists to sue caution passing through the area as the fire quickly spread to more than 100 acers by 4 p.m.

SBNF officials tweeted that they were making good progress when they reduced the fire to 85 acres at 40 percent contained as of 7 p.m. Saturday. Mostly chaparral had burned.

The responders assisting the SBNF fire crew included Cal Fire; Arrowbear; Running Springs and Glen Helen fire departments; **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and Sheriff’s Department; California Department of Corrections; and the CHP.

Several helicopters dropped water and fixed-wing aircraft dropped fire retardant, while 150 firefighters fought the blaze on the ground throughout the weekend.

Last reports available on Monday stated that the fire was holding within the retardant lines. Cause of the fire is still unknown and is under investigation.

[\(Print Edition\)](#)

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## **Snake Rescued From Twentynine Palms Motel Elevator**

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 27, 2017

Twentynine Palms firefighters rescued a snake in an elevator Wednesday morning. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike Snow said at the time of the call, the snake, estimated to be about 1 to 1-1/2 foot long, was inside the exterior elevator, but by the time firefighters arrived, the snake had slithered out a crack in the door and fell to the bottom of the elevator pit. Rescuers sent the elevator to the second floor, and then turned off the power while they rescued the reptile. After opening the elevator door on the first floor, they used a collapsible ladder to descend down into the elevator pit. The snake had crawled inside a discarded pipe, and so Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Easley put one end of the pipe into a pillowcase and shook the snake into the case. The gopher snake was then released into the desert.

<http://z1077fm.com/snake-rescued-from-twentynine-palms-motel-elevator/>