



NEWS



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Grubstake Days Rodeo 2019

Stacey Lorton, Cowboy Lifestyle Network

Posted: May 12, 2019



If you're planning on hitting the rodeo road this summer, why not kick off your travels at the 2019 Grubstake Days Rodeo, in Yucca Valley, CA? The event runs May 24th-27th, but kick-off festivities are slated to begin earlier in the month. Read on to learn about all of the exciting happenings!

Business Decorating Contest

Residents of Yucca Valley are encouraged to decorate their storefronts during the month of May to honor the rich history of the Morongo Basin region of California's desert. In the past, store owners have gone all out to earn one of four coveted decoration titles, so when you arrive in Yucca Valley for the Grubstake Days Rodeo, be on the lookout for some very festive storefronts!

Kick-Off Western Mixer

On Thursday, May 23rd, there will be a kick-off dinner sponsored by the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge. The event will run from 5-7 pm and will include a cash bar, food, business mixing, live music, and dancing for guests to enjoy.

Golf Tournament

Calling all golf fans! If you're in town for the rodeo, you might as well set your sights on Hawk's Landing Golf Club where the Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament will be held on May 24th. If you're interested in participating in the tournament, be sure to register online at yuccavalley.org or call (760) 365-6323.

Rodeo

The rodeo, sponsored by the National Police Rodeo Association and co-sanctioned with the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo, will take place May 24th-25th at 7 pm each night; gates will open at 6 pm. Tickets are available through the Yucca Valley Chamber by calling (760) 365-6323 and A Stylish Affair by calling (760) 218-1980. For those who are unable to purchase tickets ahead of time, there will be tickets for sale at the gate.

Carnival

This year's carnival Grubstake Days Rodeo will be bigger and better than ever! The carnival will run May 24th-27th, and will feature fan favorite rides. For more information about the carnival and purchasing tickets, visit yuccavalley.org.

Pancake Breakfast

Did someone say pancake breakfast? Sponsored by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Explorers Post #121, those who'd like to participate in the breakfast, held at 7 am on May 25th, need only to bring a donation with them to the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge.

Pony Express Ride

On Saturday, May 25th, riders from the Mane Street Stampede Wild West Show and the Yucca Valley Equestrian Center will grace Mane Street in Pioneertown delivering letters and postcards. The demonstration takes place at noon, but be sure to arrive early to ensure a good watching spot! Other events that can be enjoyed during the Grubstake Days Rodeo are tug of war, a horseshoe tournament, beard contests, a run/walk, the Little Miss and Mr. Miner Competition, and kids day.

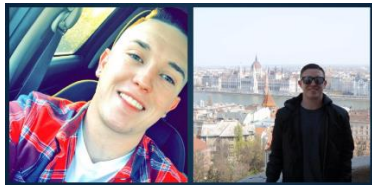
Be on the lookout for the Cowboy Lifestyle Network team as they hit the town of Yucca Valley for the 2019 Grubstake Days Rodeo!

<https://cowboylifestylenetwork.com/grubstake-days-rodeo-2019/>

23-year-old killed in Phelan Road crash identified

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: May 11, 2019



PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A young man who died after allegedly driving on the wrong side of the road has been identified as Gary Thacker, 23, a resident of Phelan, according to the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office.

Officials with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and California Highway Patrol responded around 2:50 am, May 6, to the area of Phelan and Vinton Roads reference a head-on collision.

First responders arrived and located a gray 1992 Mazda pick-up truck and a white 2012 Hyundai Sonata blocking the roadway.

According to a CHP news release, the driver of the Mazda, now identified as Thacker, was not wearing his seatbelt and was pronounced deceased at the scene by fire personnel.

The driver of the Sonata, a 22-year-old male from Pinon Hills, was transported to ARMC for the complaint of pain.

CHP officials said Thacker was driving westbound on Phelan Road in the eastbound lane at a suspected speed of 10 MPH.

“The collision occurred when the front end of the Mazda impacted the front end of the Hyundai completely within the eastbound lane of Phelan Road,” stated CHP officials.

According to Thacker's Facebook page, he was a former 19k Armor Crewman at U.S. Army and had just celebrated a birthday on May 3rd. He leaves behind a 1-year-old son.

CHP is continuing their investigation into the crash and anyone with information is asked to call Officer B. Diaz reference case #19176 at (760)241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/23-year-old-killed-in-phelan-road-crash-identified/>

BEE SWARM: 2 people attacked in Lucerne Valley Saturday; one person hospitalized

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: May 11, 2019



Bees attacked two people in Lucerne Valley Saturday. (Gabe Espinoza, VVNG.com)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) Firefighters had to rescue a man and a woman during an active bee swarm Saturday.

At about 11:23 a.m., on May 11, 2019, **San Bernardino County Firefighters** were dispatched to a call of two people actively being stung by a swarm of bees on the 7900 block of Trading Post Road in Lucerne Valley.

Initially, firefighters were unable to make access to the two people due to the bee swarm and they had to utilize the stream of water from their hoses as protection while treating the victims, according to scanner traffic.

The man had hundreds of stingers left in his body, but was reportedly in stable condition and taken to St Mary's Medical Center, scanner traffic reported.

The woman who was attacked had minor reactions to the bee bites and declined medical transportation.

The woman and four other children were unable to stay on the property as a result of the active bees.

Emergency crews rushed the woman and four children from the house in the awaiting ambulance. They were unable to access their personal vehicle as it was reportedly surrounded by bees, radio traffic confirmed. No other injuries were reported.

In 2017, a man walking in the 7400 block of Escondido Avenue in Oak Hills, died after he was stung hundreds of times by bees.

According to the City of Hesperia's website, when participating in outdoor activities the following points can help you avoid unknowingly disturbing a hive:

When participating in recreational activities, watch for numbers of bees flying around the vicinity and listen for buzzing sounds. If you encounter either, leave the area immediately.

When picking out a picnic site or setting up camp, first scout the area for bees. Never let young children play in an area you have not checked for bees.

Never climb into a hunting blind without checking for bees and beehives first. Watch for bees flying in or out of the blind.

When hiking, listen and watch for bees. Never step on or turn over logs or rocks where bees may be nesting.

When activities take you into outdoor areas where bees may be nesting, have an escape plan.

Should a bee, or bees sting you, it is important to remember the following:

Everybody reacts in some way to stings.

Most swell around the stung area. That is not the same as a systemic allergy. Less than 1 percent of the population has a systemic allergy to bee stings.

Symptoms of a systemic allergy, obvious within 20 minutes of the sting, may include swelling of the tongue or throat, hives, dizziness or difficulty with breathing, loss of consciousness.

For a normal, healthy person to receive a deadly dose of bee venom, it would take about 10 stings for each pound of body weight, or 1,500 stings at once for a 150-pound person.

Because such a small percentage of the population is allergic, doctors do not recommend that everyone have an allergy test, but you can if you want to make sure.

A honeybee only stings once, and then it dies.

Honeybees are attracted to hair and dark colors.

Regular honeybees will chase you about half the length of a football field. Africanized honeybees may pursue you three times that far.

<https://www.vvng.com/bee-swarm-2-people-attacked-in-lucerne-valley-saturday-one-person-hospitalized-%F0%9F%90%9D/>

Stolen vehicle crashes on side of road in northern Fontana; woman suffers serious injuries

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 11, 2019



A stolen vehicle crashed on the side of a road in northern Fontana on May 10. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A woman was hospitalized after the stolen vehicle she was driving crashed on the side of a road in northern Fontana on May 10, according to the Fontana Police Department.

At about 10:10 a.m., police dispatch received a call of a single vehicle traffic collision on Miller Avenue east of Citrus Avenue.

Officers arrived and discovered that the driver had serious injuries. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** used the Jaws of Life to extricate her from the black Chevrolet Silverado pickup. She was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, where her condition was unknown.

Police were investigating the circumstances of the collision. The crashed vehicle had paper plates. When police checked the VIN number, it returned reported stolen, police said.

The case will be sent to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office for review, police said.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/stolen-vehicle-crashes-on-side-of-road-in-northern-fontana/article_db01976c-740b-11e9-9c0a-7779cc6ae226.html

\$10,000 worth of illegal fireworks seized in San Bernardino County

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: May 11, 2019, 11:50 am



A law enforcement officer examines fireworks seized during a traffic stop near Needles on May 8, 2019. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Authorities seized fireworks with an estimated value of \$10,000 during a traffic stop in San Bernardino County.

The state Department of Food & Agriculture and state Department of Justice were doing a roadside enforcement on Goffs Road at Highway 95, about 15 miles west of Needles, when they stopped a truck. Inside, they found 4,000 pounds of illegal fireworks, according to a news release from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Officers called in fire investigators, who determined that the truck had been rented in Los Angeles and that it was returning from Pahrump, Nevada, where there are a large number of fireworks retailers. The driver was cited, and the fireworks were seized.

“It is not uncommon for illegal fireworks to be purchased in Pahrump and smuggled into California, San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton said in the release.

In California, most fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess without a permit. In the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County and most cities within the county, possession of any type of fireworks, including the safe and sane fireworks, are illegal, the Fire Department said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/05/11/10000-worth-of-illegal-fireworks-seized-in-san-bernardino-county/>

Busted! Officials seize 4,000 pounds of fireworks worth \$10,000 near Needles

Shane Newell, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: May 10, 2019, 5:15 pm



Officials seized roughly 4,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from a Penske rental truck Wednesday evening. (Photo: Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A Penske rental truck chock full of 4,000 pounds of fireworks was stopped Wednesday night near Needles, leading authorities to seize the vehicle and \$10,000 worth of fireworks, according to fire officials.

The incident occurred about 10:10 p.m. near Goffs Road and Highway 95, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. The truck was stopped as part of a roadside enforcement by the California Department of Food & Agriculture and California Department of Justice.

After opening the truck, officials discovered the fireworks and determined the vehicle was rented from Los Angeles and was returning from Pahrump, the largest fireworks provider in Nevada, officials said.

The driver, whose name was not released, was cited and released, according to fire officials. The seized fireworks were sent away for destruction.

"It is not uncommon for illegal fireworks to be purchased in Pahrump and smuggled back into California," San Bernardino County Fire Department Fire Marshal Mike Horton said in a news release

"Each year [San Bernardino County Fire Department] investigators conduct random checkpoints in attempt to keep these dangerous fireworks from entering our county and surrounding counties," he added. "On average, approximately 40,000-60,000 lbs. of illegal fireworks are confiscated during these checkpoints."

https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2019/05/10/officials-seize-4-000-pounds-fireworks-worth-10-000-near-needles/1168294001/

Adelanto City Council meeting roundup

Garrett Berghold, Daily Press

Posted: May 10, 2019, 2:02 pm

ADELANTO — The City Council voted on several items during Wednesday’s Council meeting. Staff also made a few important announcements.

Here’s a recap of what happened:

Closed session, 6 p.m.

- Despite 2 hours of closed session that pushed the start time of the regular meeting to 8 p.m., the city attorney announced direction was received by the Council for three items, but no other specifics were given.

Open Session, 8 p.m.

City manager announcements

- City Manager Jessie Flores said the city has been conducting inspections and audits on cannabis cultivation sites.

- Flores said there are approximately 38 active grows in the city, and the city has inspected 19.

- Part of the inspections include measuring cannabis grow canopy, which will be used to tax cultivators at 42 cents a square foot per month per Measure S, the city’s cannabis tax overhaul approved by voters in November.

- In the three months since these audits began, Flores said, the city has collected about \$330,000 in cannabis taxes.

- Flores also announced that the city had hired a cannabis tax auditor.

Presentations

- Mayor Gabriel Reyes announced while honoring the Adelanto Little League that the city would donate \$4,700 to the organization.

The Adelanto Public Utility Authority Board

- The Council, acting as the board of the city’s public utility authority, voted to authorize the pre-purchase and transfer of temporary water rights from LHC Alligator LLC, a subsidiary of Lewis Group of Companies, for 125 acre-feet of production rights in the Alto Subarea of the Mojave Basin Area.

- The cost of the lease is \$40,875.00

New business

- The Council approved a \$41,149.89 expenditure for repairs to a city-owned Caterpillar loader, which is used by the Public Works Department.

- The fiscal year 2019-2020 budget for city fire protection and emergency services by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District, roughly 5% increase from last year, was approved by the Council by a 5-0 vote.

- The services will cost the city \$4,724,802 for the fiscal year.

- Assistant Chief Dave Corbin said the increases were due to several factors, including increases in salaries and benefit levels of county firefighters assigned to the station, and increases in workers compensation rates this year.

- The Council unanimously approved amending a law enforcement services agreement with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for fiscal year 2019-2020, which included a 2.2% increase in cost from last year, up to \$6,064,017. Lt. Todd Newton said the increases were partly due to increased lawsuits against the department county-wide. The Sheriff's department made the decision to compel contract cities to pay into an account connected to fighting these lawsuits, Newton said.

- Councilwoman Joy Jeannette said that expenditures for county fire and the Sheriff's Department account for three quarters of the city's budget.

- The Council approved by a 5-0 vote to set a future public hearing for a resolution that would increase solid waste rates paid to Burrtec by Adelanto residents.

- The hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2019 and notices will be mailed out to affected residents soon.

Archived meetings and agendas can be viewed on the Adelanto city website.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190510/adelanto-city-council-meeting-roundup>

VEGETATION FIRE IN JOSHUA TREE YESTERDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 10, 2019

A vegetation fire burned about 2 1/2 acres in Joshua Tree last night. About 7:20 p.m., firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms and the BLM at Black Rock were called to Sunburst Avenue and Verbena.

County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said the wind contributed to the fire's spread, but an aggressive attack by firefighters kept the fire from spreading further.

Apartments on Verbena were nearby but were not threatened by the blaze.

Crews had the flames knocked down in about 15 minutes but they were on the scene for about two hours mopping up hot spots. The cause is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/vegetation-fire-in-joshua-tree-yesterday/>

Community reports take the dais at PPHCSD meeting

Terri McCrawley Hill, Mountaineer Progress

Posted: May 9, 2019

At the first of the month, public agency representatives attend the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District (CSD) meeting and give reports concerning issues outside the CSD sphere of influence. The May 1 board meeting had a light agenda, but the reporting agency reps had plenty to say.

San Bernardino County (SBC) Fire Battalion Chief Dave Wetzel reported call stats for the month of April. Eighty calls for medical aid were received, nine for traffic collisions – one with extraction and one caused a fire. Wetzel stressed that even in April, vegetation fires had already become a problem. Fires included four structures, three vegetation, and four vehicle fires. Bringing the total calls to 117 were 14 investigations.

SBC Sheriff Sergeant Robert Vacarri ran down the stats for Phelan: 748 calls for service - resulting in 76 reports taken and 25 arrests. From Pinon Hills, 243 call for service resulted in 27 reports and nine arrests. The CSD Board members and staff, and Sergeant Vacarri have noted that generally, 10% of calls for service result in reports taken.

Snowline District Superintendent, Dr. Ryan Holman gave some updates on District activities and accomplishments. Holman was happy to announce that 388 students at Serrano had perfect attendance this year, and the school cut the number of absences in half compared to last year. The “It’s a Gas to Go to Class” program rewards seniors in the High Desert for perfect attendance. Victorville Motors sponsors the annual all-day event and gives three cars away in a dramatic drawing. Students from other districts won the cars this year, but dozens of vendors also support the event, with raffles, drawings, and freebies for the students.

Holman also provided an update on the Serrano seniors’ “secret” project, painting “2019” on the water tanks south of the campus.

At the May 15 meeting, nine presentations and appointments will precede the continued and new business on the agenda.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/may2019news.html>