



NEWS



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SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN WONDER VALLEY

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: August 14, 2018

Sheriff's deputies are investigating what fire officials call "an extremely suspicious" fire in Wonder Valley. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vioria said firefighters from Wonder Valley, Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center responded to a fire at 3:40 p.m. in the 84600 block of Amboy Road. The fire was knocked down in about 10 minutes. While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, Vioria said it appeared that ashes placed in a dumpster somehow moved out of the dumpster to a 25,000-square foot metal building, which caught on fire. He added that it was obvious that at one time the building was used as a marijuana grow; while no plants were in the building, there were tools and equipment associated with illicit activities on the site. He added that the utilities had been "hijacked" from other sources. Anyone with information should call the Sheriff's Department at 760-366-4175.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

Man ejected from crash in Victorville, 2 others injured

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: August 13, 2018



(Photo by Randy Martinez)

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VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man was ejected from a crash Monday afternoon in Victorville.

The two vehicle traffic collision was reported at 3:20 p.m. on Village Drive and Tawney Ridge Lane.

When **San Bernardino County Fire**, AMR, and Victorville deputies arrived, they located a blue Scion Tc and silver Dodge Ram.

The driver of the Scion was ejected after his vehicle was t-boned by the Dodge, sending him about 30 feet away from the crash, according to radio traffic reports.

The man was rushed to Victor Valley Hospital and further airlifted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Two other occupants from inside the Dodge sustained less critical injuries and were transported to Victor Valley Community Hospital.

The official cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victorville Police Department. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-ejected-from-crash-in-victorville-2-others-injured/>

‘We’re in dire straits’: Barstow Firefighters to endorse City Council candidates, sales tax measure

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: August 13, 2018, 8:46 a.m.

BARSTOW — Local firefighters have decided to endorse potential City Council candidates willing to back the proposed sales tax measure on the ballot this fall.

As the city continues to grapple with a struggling fire district, firefighters with the Barstow Professional Firefighters Association have stressed the need to find a steady source of revenue to continue to keep fire services local.

“The fire district is in dire straits,” Barstow Fire Protection District Cpt. John Wymore said during the Aug. 6 City Council meeting. “We’ve cut our budget as much as we can. The next thing to cut would be rank-and-file firefighters.”

As such, Wymore — also the president of the Firefighters Association — announced the union’s decision to endorse the one-percent sales tax measure recently proposed by the council.

“We see the need to pass this sensible sales tax, and will be endorsing candidates who support it,” Wymore said.

The council approved a resolution to add a general one-percent sales tax to this fall’s ballot during the July 16 meeting. The new measure would raise Barstow’s total sales tax rate from 7.75 percent to 8.75 percent.

City officials say the revenues will fund operating expenses for the fire district, along with improving 911 response times and bolstering police services.

“Most of our call response times are already delayed,” Wymore said at Monday’s meeting. “Just yesterday, we were called to a report of a woman who fainted. The engine across town had to respond. I wish I could say this didn’t happen a lot, but it happens on an almost daily basis.”

Wymore told the Daily Press the fire union decided to endorse the tax, and candidates who support it, as the tax would ensure “a stable revenue stream that we haven’t had in the past” for the fire district.

The decision to endorse candidates, while unprecedented, also follows the same vein, as Wymore pointed out.

“I’ve been here for 10 years and I’m almost positive that we haven’t endorsed anyone in the past,” Wymore said. “We want to make sure the right people are in those positions of leadership that share our vision.”

As a general sales tax, it would require a majority vote, with revenues going into the city’s General Fund. This has caused some strife among residents who are doubtful the funds would be used as intended. Wymore acknowledged this was also a factor in the union’s decision to endorse candidates.

“It’s a bit of a gamble since we don’t know for sure if the money will go to us, so it’s important we have someone there to support us,” Wymore said.

The union will meet on Aug. 16 to interview City Council candidates, Wymore said, and will possibly decide on a selection that same day.

“We don’t want to have someone on the council that doesn’t support our vision of having a strong fire department. Our next step is either annexation or layoffs,” Wymore said “I can’t imagine there is a third option. We can’t continue to run in the red forever.”

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Aug. 20. Visit www.barstowca.org for more information and to watch archived meetings.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180813/were-in-dire-straits-barstow-firefighters-to-endorse-city-council-candidates-sales-tax-measure>