



NEWS



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FIRE DESTROYS HOME IN YUCCA MESA MONDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: June 17, 2019



Black smoke can be seen pouring from a home in the 56900 block of Campanula Monday morning as Captain Zack Taylor and Engineer Aaron Comstock from Station 41 enter the house. San Bernardino County Fire Department photo.

A Yucca Mesa man is without a home after a fire this morning. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley, and Joshua Tree firefighters were called to the 56900 block of Campanula Street in Yucca Valley at 5:40 a.m. The house was fully involved with flames when firefighters arrived. Tuttle said that while the house is still standing, it is a complete loss. It's not known yet where the fire or how the fire started. Firefighters had the blaze knocked down in about 30 minutes. There were no injuries to the occupant, animals, or firefighters.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-destroys-home-in-yucca-mesa-monday-morning/>

1 airlifted and several others injured after crash on Main Street in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: June 17, 2019



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A traffic accident Sunday night in Hesperia injured at least five people, one critically.

It happened at around 7:30 PM in the intersection of Main Street and Topaz Avenue.

One of the involved vehicles, a white 2018 Honda Civic careened off the road and into a business sign of the Topaz Market Place.

A male passenger in the vehicle had to be extricated by **San Bernardino County Fire**.

The man was transported by air ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

An older model Toyota pickup truck with front end damage was also involved in the accident.

The accident is under investigation by the Hesperia sheriffs station.

<https://www.vvng.com/1-airlifted-and-several-others-injured-after-crash-on-main-street-in-hesperia/>

Hesperia woman identified as pedestrian killed on Bear Valley Rd in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: June 16, 2019



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The San Bernardino County Coroners Office identified the pedestrian killed on Saturday as Fabiola Maria Sanchez, 46, of Hesperia.

On June 15, 2019, at approximately 3:17 a.m., **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and deputies from the Hesperia Sheriff's Station responded to a call of a traffic collision on Bear Valley Road near the intersection of Eleventh Avenue in the City of Hesperia.

The reporting party said he just ran over a person, officials said.

When deputies arrived, a Hispanic female adult was located lying in the no. 3 eastbound lane of Bear Valley Road east of the intersection.

The female, later identified as Sanchez was unresponsive with no signs of life and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

MAIT Investigators from the Hesperia Sheriff's Station arrived at the location and conducted an investigation.

“Through the initial investigation investigators determined the driver of a 2003 black Chevrolet Avalanche was driving eastbound in the #3 lane of Bear Valley Road and the female appeared to be crossing Bear Valley Road in a southeast direction, approximately 160 feet east of the crosswalk at Eleventh Avenue. The driver of the Chevrolet struck the female,” stated a sheriff's news release.

The driver of the Chevrolet remained at the scene and was cooperative with MAIT Investigators.

According to the release, “the driver of the Chevrolet did not show signs of being under the influence during the investigation.”

Bear Valley Road was closed in both directions from Eleventh Avenue to Ninth Avenue until about 8:15 a.m. while MAIT investigators processed the scene for evidence.

MAIT Investigators are continuing the investigation into the collision.

The Hesperia Sheriff's Station wants to remind the public, specifically pedestrians, to use crosswalks whenever available to avoid these tragic incidents.

Anyone with information, or anyone who may have witnessed the collision, is asked to contact Deputy Scott LaFond or Deputy Russell Ballantyne from the Hesperia Station at 760-947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/hesperia-woman-identified-as-pedestrian-killed-on-bear-valley-rd-in-hesperia/>

3 people hospitalized after engine trouble causes plane crash in Upland

Nathaniel Percy, Daily Breeze/Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 15, 2019, 11:20 AM



San Bernardino County firefighters investigate the crash of an airplane at the Upland City Yard on June 15, 2019. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Three people were hospitalized after the single-engine plane they were traveling in crashed in Upland Saturday morning, June 15.

San Bernardino County firefighters and Upland police responded to the 1300 block of Benson Avenue about 9:45 a.m., authorities said.

The plane landed in front of the Upland City Yard building, said Kyle Hauducoeur, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The location is across the street from the Cable Airport.

A Cessna 182 had engine trouble, then crash landed in a parking lot 300 feet short of the runway at Cable Airport, said Allen Kenitzer of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The aircraft sustained substantial damage, Kenitzer said.

The crash caused minor damage to the building, Hauducoeur said.

One person suffered life-threatening injuries while the other two suffered minor injuries, Hauducoeur said. Further details about the occupants were not immediately available.

Firefighters arrived and found the three occupants outside of the aircraft and sitting on a bench, a Fire Department spokesman told reporters at the scene.

“It’s probably a combination of pilot skill and a little bit of luck,” he said. “It’s amazing we had the minor injuries and the outcome was what it was.”

The plane was a single-engine, four-seat aircraft, Hauducoeur said.

Northbound lanes on Benson Avenue were closed at 13th Street while the investigation continued, police said.

Further details, including where the aircraft took off from or where it was headed, were not immediately available.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash, Kenitzer said.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/06/15/3-people-hospitalized-after-engine-trouble-causes-plane-crash-in-upland/>

Three people are hospitalized after small plane crashes in Upland on June 15

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 15, 2019



Authorities investigate the crash of a small plane in Upland on June 15. (Contributed photo by Upland Police Department)

Three people were treated for injuries after a small plane crashed in Upland on the morning of June 15, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

At about 9:45 a.m., the single light aircraft went down just east of the runway at Cable Airport in the 1300 block of Benson Avenue, the Fire Department said on Twitter.

All three occupants were transported to an area trauma center.

The plane was secured with a small fuel leak mitigated, the Fire Department said.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/three-people-are-hospitalized-after-small-plane-crashes-in-upland/article_b408079c-8fa7-11e9-ad82-331d5902ce9b.html

Small Plane Crashes Near Upland Airport, 3 Injured

Staff Writer, CBS Los Angeles News

Posted: June 15, 2019, 11:30 AM

UPLAND (CBSLA) – A small plane carrying three passengers crash-landed near Cable Airport in Upland Saturday morning, authorities said.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, officers responded to a plane crash in the 1300 N. Block of Benson Ave. around 9:45 a.m.

All three passengers were reported to have sustained injuries, one life-threatening, and were transported.

Northbound traffic at 13th St. was closed while officials investigated.

It was not immediately reported what caused the crash.

A witness tells CBS2/KCAL9's Cristy Fajardo the pilot had just taken off from the airport when he lost power; he was trying to make his way back to the runway when the crash occurred.

"This plane was taking off in this direction, lost his landing gear and spun around," witness Dominic Cusumano said in part. "He almost hit the building."

People were advised to avoid the area.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2019/06/15/upland-plane-crash/>

Elite team of skaters heads to World Roller Games to honor slain Grand Terrace rink owner

Brian Whitehead, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: June 14, 2019, 4:13 PM



Evie Berg, 15 from Riverside, Nicole Fields, 15 from Highland, Kalei Becker, 21 from Redlands, and brother Chance Becker, 16 from Redlands, will all compete in the upcoming World Roller Games in Barcelona, Spain at Cal Skate in Grand Terrace Wednesday evening June 12, 2019. The group will skate in the memory of rink owner Ryan Harsany who was murdered at the rink earlier this year. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

As the sun set on a weekday in March, a shaken city gathered outside its local roller rink to grieve the loss of a beloved community pillar.

To teary-eyed mourners holding lit candles outside Cal Skate Grand Terrace that evening, Ryan Harsany was a family member and a friend, an effervescent business owner, boss and supporter of area youth.

To longtime roller skating coach Lori Becker, the late rink owner was the man who gave her four-wheeled athletes more than a practice facility, but a home – somewhere novices and veterans alike could fall, get back up and, ultimately, blossom into nationally-ranked roller skaters.

“It’s invaluable to have a practice facility where owners and management care more about the kids and their goals than they do really anything else,” said Becker, of Redlands. “It’s the foundation of the community. For us, for skating, without that support, not one of my skaters could compete locally and be successful, let alone make it to this level of championships.”

Next month, a quartet from Becker’s Cal Skate-based Academy of Champions club will travel to Barcelona, Spain, for the World Roller Games, where top teams from 114 countries will vie for gold medals in various roller sports.

From a deep-rooted rink in San Bernardino County to the world stage a continent away, Nicole Fields, Evie Berg, and siblings Chance and Kalei Becker will skate for Grand Terrace, the United States and, above all, one of their biggest fans.

“He was here all the time, watching our practices,” Kalei Becker said of Harsany, who was 43. “He helped any time we needed more practice time or his opinion on stuff. We took different pieces of music to him when we were going to do a new routine.

“He was just always here, always at practice, always watching, always cheering, always helping.”

Rink rats

Lori Becker’s Academy of Champions has been around in one form or another for three decades, and while the troupe has bounced from rink to rink over the years, it has always belonged at Cal Skate.

A former competitive artistic skater herself, Becker had her now-16-year-old son Chance and 21-year-old daughter Kalei on skates earlier than most. The siblings recall being raised on four wheels, and have the family pictures to prove it.

Now 15, Fields grew up wanting to be an ice skater. Yet, with no ice rinks in the area, she said her parents took her to Cal Skate as a preteen, where she met the Beckers and joined the matriarch's roller skating club.

"I did not know what I got myself into," Fields joked.

After picking up skating fundamentals in Riverside, Berg, 15, linked up with three-fourths of the Grand Terrace club's original quartet. Though relatively new to the sport, Berg is hardly out of her depth.

As with all elite sports, roller skating practices are exhaustive, doubly so with regional, national and international competitions on the horizon. Artistic roller figure skating is all about synchronicity and emotional value, and yet, what gets teams to the world stage isn't necessarily what brings home gold.

Judges want routines to tell stories, said Kalei Becker, who first competed regionally at 10, but crafting those narratives takes time and a whole lot of patience.

The Academy of Champions, which presently has about 12 skaters ages 6 to 76, typically practices five days a week, twice a day. It's taxing work, but teams don't just get invited to Spain.

"As a figure skater," Kalei Becker said, "you always dream about getting to this level. And now we are."

'This is our home'

In the year or so preceding Harsany's purchase of Cal Skate in April 2018, the Academy of Champions practiced out of Stardust Roller Rink in San Bernardino.

While a home base in name, the North Lugo Avenue rink regularly needed to be cleaned before use, which Lori Becker said her young skaters often did without complaint.

"To watch teens – and 10- and 11-year-olds – put gloves and boots on to clean so they could skate, it was a building year," Becker said. "We saw what amazing children we were working with."

After watching her nationally-ranked quartet earn a trip to France last year for the World Roller Games, Becker learned her club had lost its practice facility.

With no place to call home, she connected with an old friend who had taken over operations at Cal Skate.

"These rinks, they can either do something for the kids or they can do something for the money," said Eric Dominguez, another longtime friend of Harsany's who served as general manager under the new owner. "Anything to do with kids, that's your main focus, keeping kids out of trouble, keeping them in a good sport, a healthy environment, a family environment."

In September, a month ahead of their trip to France, Becker and her club returned to Grand Terrace.

“It’s really important to have a home that you can come to and practice, a place you’ve done everything in,” said Chance Becker, who won bronze at the World Roller Games as half of a pairs team. “A place where you’ve done your training, where you’ve gotten hurt, where you’ve succeeded, in this one place.”

“When you have a bunch of different locations that aren’t permanent, it’s harder to build a strong foundation.”

Added Kalei Becker: “It’s nice to have that security. This is our home.”

‘I knew something was wrong immediately’

On March 16, Harsany was found fatally shot inside Cal Skate, the rink he and his brother, Brian, frequented as children and later as young adults.

While responding to a robbery call at the Commerce Way rink just before 2 a.m., deputies found Harsany, of Brawley in Imperial County, inside the building unconscious with several gunshot wounds. Smoke was rising from the building when San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputies arrived, requiring **county firefighters** to extinguish two small fires.

About a month later, detectives arrested 25-year-old Tre’elle Potts, of Moreno Valley, on suspicion of murder.

Hours before news of Harsany’s death spread, Becker said she received a call not to use the rink for her club’s normal early Saturday practice.

“I knew something was wrong immediately,” she said, choking back tears months later. “As the morning unfolded and we learned what happened, we were devastated.”

Fields, Berg and the Beckers were among hundreds at the March 18 vigil outside the skating rink. “There was so much support,” Chance Becker said. “You could feel it in the environment.”

Cal Skate temporarily closed operations following Harsany’s slaying, opening about two weeks later thanks, in large part, to Dominguez’s perseverance, Lori Becker said.

“Ryan wasn’t just my rink owner. He was my boss,” Kalei Becker said. “I work here. I skate here. I’m here all the time, always. (His death) was definitely a shock and a surprise, and we took a bit of a step back. But, coming back and having this routine before everything happened, him watching it, him liking what we were doing, when we got back into it, it was a moment to do it for him.”

Coping with tragedy collectively, Lori Becker said, proved to be therapeutic.

“I don’t know if we would’ve made it through had everybody just gone home and not stayed together.”

Hometown heroes

Fields, Berg and the Becker siblings need not win gold at the World Roller Games to become hometown heroes.

According to Dominguez, who is sponsoring Berg this year, they already are.

“I’ll ask a handful of kids why they’re skating and they’ll say they want to be just like the world skaters,” said Dominguez, who spent hours with Harsany restoring Cal Skate’s luster after he took over. “That’s good for kids. It gives them a wholesome sport to follow.”

All told, the crew didn’t just inspire children.

“Ryan loved watching them skate. They were his joy,” Dominguez said. “He would always come downstairs and watch their practices. He was very supportive of not only this club, but every club. But more importantly, he was really struck with their professionalism and how Lori’s kids worked.

“As they came up, Ryan was there. He gave hugs, they’d have ICEEs. He would always try to help. He was very supportive, and he loved those kids.”

In less than a month, Lori Becker’s quartet will be one of about 30 troupes with “USA” emblazoned on its uniforms.

It’ll be the only one, however, with Grand Terrace in its heart.

“There’s a really big sense of supporting where you’ve come from,” Chance Becker said. “You go to regionals and you’re from this spot. Then nationals, and you’re from California. Then you go all the way up to worlds and you’re representing the United States and trying to give a good name to everything that’s helped raised you.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/14/elite-team-of-skaters-heads-to-world-roller-games-to-honor-slain-grand-terrace-rink-owner/>