



NEWS



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SERIOUS INJURY IN MEANS LAKE ROLL-OVER CRASH

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: October 21, 2019

A 26-year-old man was seriously injured in an off-road accident in the Means Dry Lake bed area of Johnson Valley Saturday night. About 9:30 p.m., Yucca Valley firefighters and a crew from Morongo Basin Ambulance were called to the scene. The man was flown to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs.

<http://z1077fm.com/serious-injury-in-means-lake-roll-over-crash/>

3 INJURED IN 29 PALMS ROLLOVER CRASH FRIDAY NIGHT

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: October 21, 2019

Three people were injured in a roll-over crash in Twentynine Palms Friday night. Firefighters were called to the intersection of Utah Trail and Highway 62 at 7:45 p.m. where they found a two-vehicle crash, with one car rolled over. The driver and passenger in the rolled-over vehicle suffered minor injuries and were taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center. Morongo Basin Ambulance took a 21-year-old woman from the other car to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

<http://z1077fm.com/3-injured-in-29-palms-rollover-crash-friday-night/>

MORONGO BASIN ITEMS ON TOMORROW'S COUNTY SUPERVISORS AGENDA

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM

Posted: October 21, 2019

A handful of items specific to our Morongo Basin appear on the agenda for tomorrow's 10 a.m. meeting of county supervisors in San Bernardino. Reporter Mike Lipsitz is here with an overview...

Supervisors are expected to adopt a resolution opposing plans to release sexually violent predator Ross Wollschlager into the county. Also, the board will likely approve an \$8,125 grant for the "Veterans Connect @ the Library" program at the Twentynine Palms Library. Approve plans for a \$400,000 grant-funded development on the 605-acre Desert View Conservation Area south of the highway in Joshua Tree. And approve an \$81,660 three-year lease extension for **County Fire** Protection District office space on 57485 Aviation Avenue in Yucca Valley. Tomorrow's meeting streams online and to the first-floor teleconferencing room in the County Government Center on White Feather Road in Joshua Tree where public comment may be made via live video link.

Background information on plans for the Desert View Conservation Area:

The Desert View Conservation Area (DVCA) is comprised of mostly undisturbed habitat. The Project provides for development of a parking area, restroom, informational kiosk, and two trails in the natural open space area. The improvements are designed to enhance both outdoor educational and recreational opportunities while protecting the wildlife area.

The informational kiosk will be placed at a trailhead nearest to the new parking and will educate the public on the natural resources of the area, creating an interactive experience within the Joshua Tree woodland and creosote plant communities.

<http://z1077fm.com/morongo-basin-items-on-tomorrows-county-supervisors-agenda/>

One dead and two injured after major traffic collision

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: October 19, 2019



A Sheriff's deputy patrol car and a white Honda crashed on Twentynine Palms Highway and Richard Drive in Yucca Valley at approximately 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Officials were still at the scene hours later at 1:30 p.m.

Jené Estrada Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY – One passenger was killed and one was severely injured in a major car accident this morning. A Sheriff's deputy patrol car and a white Honda crashed on Twentynine Palms Highway and Richard Drive in Yucca Valley at approximately 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

The Sheriff's department has not yet issued a press release about the incident but, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, the driver of the white Honda was a male in his late teens or early 20's and suffered from major injuries from the crash. The passenger, who Tuttle also identified as a male in his late teens or early 20's, was pronounced dead on the scene.

Close friends of those involved in the accident identified the deceased as Bobby Barajas on Facebook. Barajas was a former Joshua Springs Christians Schools student and local. The injured driver has not yet been identified.

The deputy involved in the accident had minor injuries from the collision and Tuttle said that it is unclear at this time if he was responding to a call at the time of the accident.

The investigation into the collision is ongoing.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_2125fbc6-f2b9-11e9-9ef8-1fb9f59a6b79.html

YUCCA VALLEY MAN KILLED IN CRASH INVOLVING SHERIFF'S PATROL SUV

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: October 19, 2019



One person is dead, and two others injured, following a crash involving a Sheriff's deputy early Saturday morning. About 6:30 a.m., Thomas Geiger, 22, of Yucca Valley, was driving a 2008 Honda Civic eastbound on Highway 62. As Geiger approached the intersection of Indio Avenue, he started to make a left turn onto Indio Avenue into the path of an oncoming Sheriff's patrol car. Geiger's car was broadsided by the patrol car. Robert Barajas, 24, of Yucca Valley, was sitting in the Honda's front passenger seat and was not wearing his seatbelt. Robert Barajas was killed in the crash. Thomas Geiger received major injuries and was taken to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs where he is in stable condition. The deputy received minor injuries and was treated and released from a local hospital.

The name of the deputy involved was not released.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-man-killed-in-crash-involving-sheriffs-patrol-suv/>

Fire breaks-out at an abandoned motel in Oro Grande

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 19, 2019



(Photo courtesy of SB County Fire/Twitter)

ORO GRANDE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters are battling a second-alarm fire at an abandoned motel in Oro Grande.

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, at about 5:43 pm **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a commercial structure fire in the 19700 block of National Trails Highway.

Fire crews arrived on scene and located a fully engulfed structure along with two well involved vehicles and several large trees on fire.

SB County Fire tweeted about the incident and said they are working a single story, medium size building with multiple exposures. Firefighters are currently in a defensive mode and are working to keep the fire from spreading to other vehicles and vegetation in the river bottom.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/fire-breaks-out-at-an-abandoned-motel-in-oro-grande/>

2 airlifted from crash near Kramer Junction Friday

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 18, 2019



(SB County Fire/Twitter)

KRAMER JUNCTION, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two people were airlifted from a multi-vehicle traffic collision near Kramer Junction Friday afternoon.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the crash was reported at 4:14 pm on October 18, 2019, on Highway 58, just west of Highway 395.

San Bernardino County Fire tweeted about the incident and said they responded to a traffic collision with extrication and had two immediate patients and four delayed.

Per the logs, the crash involved a semi and multiple vehicles. One of the vehicles was struck by the semi and pushed into another vehicle.

One caller reported his leg was pinned in the vehicle and bleeding from the head.

Two medical helicopters landed at the scene and airlifted two patients to out of area trauma centers.

The official cause of the crash is under investigation by CHP.

<https://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-from-crash-near-kramer-junction-friday/>

Sandalwood Fire in Calimesa destroys 74 mobilehomes

RACHAEL M. GUSTUSON and MICHELLE LOPEZ, News Mirror

Posted: October 18, 2019

A rapidly spreading fire broke out in the city of Calimesa on Thursday, Oct. 10, during Santa Ana wind conditions. The devastating fire, which ultimately burned 1,011 acres, was started by a CR&R trash truck, which allegedly dumped a smoking load on Seventh Street, near a vacant field.

Riverside CAL FIRE reported the fire was 100% contained on Monday, Oct. 14.

The Villa Calimesa Mobile Home Park remains uninhabitable and closed due to unsafe conditions.

Affected residents are urged to call Calimesa Emergency operations center at 795-2287, for more information.

Mesa View Middle School

The fire was in close proximity to the Mesa View Middle School campus. At no time were any students in danger or trapped in buildings. The school transported students in buses to Calimesa Elementary School.

Cassidy Melvin, 12, of Mesa View Middle School was picked up by her dad Shawn Melvin, at Mesa View, shortly after the fire started.

“There was this really thick black smoke coming from the mobilehome park and over the intercom, they told us to follow our teacher’s instruction but I was scared, shocked and worried,” she said.

Nicole Shaver has two children that attend Mesa View Middle School. She said it was a scary but overall effective evacuation, last Thursday.

“The staff at Mesa View did a wonderful job making sure my kids were safe,” Shaver said. “However, in the future, I would like that rear gate to always remain open. I would even volunteer my time to monitor the gate, if possible.”

KQLH and other help

Fire victims and the public were kept up to date with ongoing fire coverage.

Local radio station, KQLH, 92.5 FM is a locally powered radio station in the community. The Yucaipa-stationed radio station provided ongoing live coverage of the fire.

The city of Calimesa posted on social media and updated fire victims throughout the fire.

Press conference

The following day, Riverside County Fire department, in cooperation with CAL FIRE, held a press conference in Beaumont to provide an operational briefing and current status of the fire.

During the press conference Jeff Hewitt, Riverside County 5th District Supervisor and Calimesa resident said, “Today is a very difficult day for Riverside County and especially the city of Calimesa. The Sandalwood Fire has caused extensive damage to our community and tragically, someone has lost their life from the result of this fire. My heart goes out to our community, whose been displaced from the safety and comfort of their homes and thrust into a very difficult and uncomfortable time. Our thoughts are especially with the grieving family of the resident who lost their life. This morning, Riverside County and the city of Calimesa proclaimed a local emergency as a result of the devastation to the beautiful city of Calimesa. The local proclamation will support additional opportunities for resources and funding as we continue through this response. We’re all in this together.”

San Bernardino County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe also commented.

“The tragic loss of life and property in the Sandalwood Fire underscores the need to be prepared for wildfires, especially during high-wind events like we experienced last week,” said Rowe. “The multi-jurisdictional response from Calimesa Fire Department, Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE, Redlands Fire Department, and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department undoubtedly reduced the spread of the fire and saved countless lives and structures. I’m grateful for the firefighters and public safety personnel who risked their lives to keep our communities safe.

Victims

Sadly, there are two reported victims of the Sandalwood Fire. The first was a resident of the mobilehome park, who died in the fire on Thursday. Lois Warren Turner Arvickson, 89, moved to Calimesa in 1939. Marion Lovelace is Arvickson's niece. "The family appreciates and feels the support of the community and friends," Lovelace said. "It's greatly appreciated."

The name of a second victim has not been released, as of press deadline.

Calimesa Fire officials

"A 911 call came in and when it was received it, we responded appropriately" said Captain Corey Bennin from the Calimesa Fire Department referring to the Sandalwood Fire. Origin of the fire was a normal operation. Urban interface with the wildland operations battalion chief deployed operations appropriately. There were high-winds and it got ahead of the organization and engulfed the trailer park." When asked if he was satisfied with the way everyone worked together he said "I couldn't be happier with unified command, Yucaipa, Calimesa, Redlands, and Riverside did volumes of support getting the results they desired."

Water

South Mesa Water Company's Board President George Jorritsma announced on Oct. 11 to the company's customers and local firefighting authorities that its reservoir levels are at over 90 percent after fires erupted in Calimesa.

In an email sent to customers and on posted notifications, Jorritsma said, "We are pleased to have sufficient supplies helping firefighters to prevent the fire from spreading in our service territory in Calimesa ... We urge all our customers to conserve as much water as possible to assure that our supplies remain robust in light of this emergency."

"We have instructed our General Manager, David Armstrong, to stay in touch with firefighting authorities to assure them of our ability to provide the water supplies they need to do their heroic jobs during this emergency," said Jorritsma.

Animal concerns

On Monday, Oct. 14 at the Yucaipa City Council meeting, four residents spoke regarding their concerns on the evacuation process of large animals in the San Timoteo and Live Oak Canyons, including establishing multiple evacuation sites with safe and effective communication to direct evacuation efforts to include large animals. Those four residents echoed the same concerns.

The canyon areas have a "high large animal population due to the number of boarding facilities and private residences containing horses and other types of animals. There is not an effective and efficient method of communication established in order to organize and direct evacuation efforts," said horse owner and local resident Dorre Yamashiro. "

"Time is of the essence in moving big animals and it helps to have efficient egress and regress through the canyon," said resident Cindy Mendoza. Yucaipa resident Vanessa Register said there was no clear evacuation plan in place, since the Palmer Fire in 2017.

“Two years ago I was told the city was working on an agreement with the neighboring cities/counties to come up with a plan,” said Register, who said she was told the Yucaipa Equestrian Center was not a designated evacuation site. “Two years later do we have a plan? Who executes the plan? Will the ranches know? Who will tell them?”

City Manager Ray Casey responded.

“In that particular instance the equestrian area was used for an evacuation site for large animals,” Casey said. “There were some challenges with that because of the geography in the San Timoteo Canyon a lot of agencies were involved - Riverside County, Redlands, San Bernardino County, city of Yucaipa, in the after action report and process from that fire several years ago, it was determined that another site would make for a better large animal evacuation center for the canyon. We will work with the other agencies to inform ranchers of evacuation facilities for large animals.”

LAC meeting

During the Local Assistance Center (LAC) meeting held on Oct. 15 at Norton Younglove Senior Center, Sandalwood fire victims received resources and assistance from several organizations. “A lot of these people have been through so very much in such a short period of time,” said Specialist Jose Arballo Jr from Riverside University Health System’s Senior Public Information. “It is a long process of recovering and this is just one of the many steps along the way,” said Arballo.

For the latest fire-related questions, contact PIO Corey Bennin at 951-489-9212.

Ways to donate:

Sanctuary Church

Sanctuary Church, located at 1090 Fifth St., Ste. 102A in Calimesa is taking donations for fire victims.

To donate, reach out to the offices and leave your information. monetary donations will be accepted at <https://sanctuarychurch.churchcenter.com/giving/to/Sandalwood-incident-fund>.

Yucaipa Family Assistance is accepting donations of household items and non-perishable food — especially blankets, bedding, outerwear and personal hygiene items. Drop them off at 35076 Ave. B, Yucaipa.

Deseret Industries

The thrift store in Calimesa is taking material donations. Drop them off at the store: 1197 Calimesa Blvd., Calimesa.

The Salvation Army

It has a fund set up for California Wildfire victims. Donate at <https://www.salvationarmy-socal.org/southern-california/news/ca-wildfires>.

The United Way

United Way of the Inland Valleys is taking contributions that will benefit fire victims. Donate at <https://uwiv.org/sandalwood-fire>.

Red Cross

People can also donate directly to the Red Cross to help victims of disasters here and nationwide. The Red Cross has been setting up evacuation centers to help people displaced by the Southern California fires, and also routinely provides assistance to people whose homes have burned down. Visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Family Promise and YHS ASB to donate

Ongoing efforts are being made for the students affected by the fire.

The Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District, in partnership with Family Promise, is assisting families that are recovering from the Sandalwood Fire.

Anyone who would like to donate, can go through Yucaipa High School Associate Student Body via this link

https://webstores.activenetwork.com/school-software/yucaipa_high_schoqq6/ or via check made payable to Family Promise and dropped off at the YCJUSD District Office 12797 Third St. Yucaipa. If you would like to adopt a family, you can email your information to contact_us@ycjUSD.us

The group is working directly with our families to determine short-term and long-term needs. The YHS ASB and Family Promise along with other services in the community are working together to take care of the victims.

Pet supplies and food

Yucaipa Animal Placement Society (YAPS), Daisy's Hope Foundation, and Guardian Angel Pet Rescue, Inc. have joined forces to help our neighbors in Calimesa. YAPS is a collection and distribution site for pet supply donations. They are primarily distributing dog and cat food, bowls, leashes, litter and bedding. YAPS donated pet food, and accessories to the Calimesa Senior Center.

Donations have been made possible by YAPS, Daisy's Hope Foundation, Guardian Angels, Paws in Redlands, Rock The Paws Foundation, Pet Scene in Yucaipa, and private citizens. The three organizations plan to continue their efforts to collect and distribute supplies with those affected by the fire through the recovery process.

YAPS is located at 11937 13th Street in Yucaipa and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 790-1440.

Daisy's Hope Foundation will also hold its monthly pet food distribution on Oct. 31 at 195 N Del Rosa in San Bernardino, from 10 a.m. to noon.

https://www.newsmirror.net/news/local/sandalwood-fire-in-calimesa-destroys-mobilehomes/article_1d73d7f2-f104-11e9-a4ce-db7557ea3db3.html