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Wonder Valley fire station saved from ax for another year

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 15, 2017, 10:18 AM

WONDER VALLEY — This community's fire station will stay open through the next fiscal year.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a county fire budget for 2017-2018 which included station 45 in Wonder Valley, said Battalion Chief Mike Snow.

Located on Amboy Road, Station 45 serves Wonder Valley all the way to the I-40 and Twentynine Palms.

"The staffing will remain the same," Snow said.

Community members were concerned for the station's future when a new budget for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** released in May did not include the Wonder Valley fire station.

"All the stations in the area should remain open because of the call volume in the area and the number of communities we cover," said Snow.

Teresa Sitz, who represents Wonder Valley on the county Municipal Advisory Commission, took to Facebook to post the good news to the Wonder Valley Community page.

"Good news, everyone. This from Assistant Fire Chief Tom Marshall: 'Today the fire district budget was approved and station 45 was part of that budget.' So we are guaranteed our fire service for another year," she wrote.

Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle announced the news at the Twentynine Palms City Council meeting Tuesday. The fire department will be able to keep two professional, full-time firefighters on staff daily, Tuttle told the council. He thanked Supervisor James Ramos for his support.

Jim Grigoli, president of the firefighters union, San Bernardino County Local 935, has been optimistic throughout the process.

He said he talked to the county supervisors every day to explain the importance of not only the Wonder Valley station, but of the other services the county wants to cut.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_9628e5fa-51ee-11e7-9e00-67ba8de65cbe.html

Fire destroys Joshua Tree outbuilding

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 15, 2017, 10:51 AM



Crews from Station 36 and Station 41 clean up after a shed fire in Joshua Tree Tuesday afternoon. Leah Sanson Hi-Desert Star

JOSHUA TREE — Both Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree firefighters responded to a fire burning in a shed in the 60400 block of Latham Trail Tuesday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Mike Snow said the storage shed, about 10-by-10 feet, was deemed a total loss.

Six firefighters responded along with one battalion chief and an ambulance was put on standby.

It is still unclear what was stored in the shed and the cause is still under investigation, Snow said.

The firefighters got the flames under control in about 10 minutes.

No one was hurt and the fire did not extend into the main structure, Snow said.

Snow cautions residents to make sure they are not running electricity to outside buildings that could possibly short.

He also recommends community members to follow proper protocol of clearing vegetation around structures to make sure that a fire cannot spread easily.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_3571e824-51f3-11e7-b5d4-df7a0981f13b.html

'Love Fontana' event will offer free food and fun at Jack Bulik Park on June 17

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 15, 2017, 3:30 PM



Families enjoyed a "Love Fontana" event in 2016. Another event will be held on Saturday, June 17 at Jack Bulik Park.

A "Love Fontana" event will be held on Saturday, June 17 at Jack Bulik Park, 16581 Filbert Avenue in Fontana.

This free event for all community members will take place from 6 to 9 p.m.

Free hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the Fontana Police Officers Association.

There will also be entertainment, various booths, and a kid's zone with games, activities, face painting and jumpers.

The event is co-sponsored by Calvary Chapel Summit Church and the City of Fontana.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/entertainment/love-fontana-event-will-offer-free-food-and-fun-at/article_3d628788-521a-11e7-aa1d-efd45e2fcf0d.html

A day at the pool (or the ocean) can be dangerous — here's why

Doug Saunders, Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 15, 2017, 3:44 PM



People enjoy the water at the Temecula Community Recreation Center swimming pool in Temecula Thursday, June 15, 2017. FRANK BELLINO, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG

Eleven-year-old Ally Hatch knows firsthand the danger of swimming pools; last month, she nearly drowned in her grandmother's Moreno Valley swimming pool.

When firefighters arrived, Ally's mother and grandfather were giving her CPR – which firefighters credit with saving the girl's life.

“I've been doing this for a few years and this is the best outcome of a (near-)drowning that I've ever come across in my career,” said Christian Linnemann, a fire captain for Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire in Moreno Valley.

Education – for both kids and adults – is the key to preventing drownings, officials say.

And though a recent federal study noted that drownings are on the decline, authorities are reminding residents about the dangers as summertime draws closer and families spend their time around pools, lakes and the ocean.

Number of drownings

Each year, 10 people nationwide die from drowning each day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, two are children 14 and younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency room care for nonfatal submersion injuries.

Already this year, Riverside County has recorded at least 22 water submersion reports, five adult deaths and one child death.

There were 68 reports records in 2016, and from them 12 adults and seven children died.

And San Bernardino County responded to 20 possible drowning calls, 10 children and 10 adults. Five of the 20 cases — including 2 children — ended in death.

In 2016, there were 63 drowning calls countywide, 11 of which had fatal outcomes.

Even wading pools can be dangerous

Children can drown in as little as 1 inch of water, reminds **San Bernardino County Fire** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez.

So, even though the majority of drownings and near-drownings occur in swimming pools and areas of open water, wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, toilets, spas and hot tubs can also be dangerous, she says.

“Parents should consider teaching children to swim at an early age, and should never leave a young child unattended near water,” Martinez said.

Devices such as bathtub seats or water wings cannot be relied upon to keep them afloat and alive, according to San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Near-drownings, the department says, can also be devastating; the incident may leave children or adults with severe brain damage.

Adds Cal Fire Capt. Linnemann: “The big thing is just always have a responsible person there to supervise,” he said. “That’s a huge one right there especially when you have kids around the outdoor pool or spa or even if it’s just a wading pool.”

Drownings on the decline

A recent study, however, offers a glimpse of hope.

Since 2010, the number of reported child drownings in swimming pools involving children younger than 5 — the most vulnerable population — has decreased 17 percent nationwide, according to a report released in May by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

“Despite the positive decline in numbers, there are still far too many children who drown each year in pools and spas across the country,” said CPSC Acting Chairperson Ann Marie Buerkle in the report. “Swimming should be fun and a great way for families to be active, so long as everyone knows how to pool safely.”

“As a mother, grandmother and registered nurse, I raised my kids, and now my grandkids, with a respect for water. Constant supervision, along with four-sided fencing, knowing how to perform CPR and teaching children how to swim are all important steps to continuing the decline in child drownings,” Buerkle continued.

Education is the key

Leading the way for the education of drowning prevention is Rialto firefighter Matt Payne.

Payne introduced a program in 2006 to the Rialto Unified School District in which Rialto firefighters and paramedics visit classrooms to present three important water-safety rules in the book “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim.”

The rules are:

- Learn to swim
- Wear a life jacket
- Only swim in the presence of adults

Payne began his crusade after a 3-year-old girl was found floating in her family's hot tub on Christmas Eve 2004. That call catapulted the firefighters to find a way to educate children.

"Since we began, a decade ago, no child going through this program has drowned and that's the reality behind this program," Payne said.

Another group, the Riverside County Water Safety Coalition, which includes members from a variety of county agencies, also strives for education.

"We all came together and wanted to campaign to see if we can get these numbers down by educating the public, parents (and) caretakers," said Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department spokeswoman Jody Hagemann.

Not only does the coalition plan events throughout the summer to raise awareness about water safety, Hagemann said, they also have a variety of tips on their website about ways to stay safe near a variety of different water sources.

A lesson learned

Eleven-year-old Ally – the near-drowning victim — learned her lesson.

After her ordeal, she spent several days in a medically induced coma; she was released after five days.

She recently visited Moreno Valley Fire Station 91 to thank the firefighters who responded.

"The firefighters were so wonderful and kind," Ally's mother, Tiffany, said in a Moreno Valley news release. "They hugged her and welcomed her and explained the equipment they used to help save her life. They were just great."

Adults need lessons, too

Tiffany Hatch and experts believe drowning education shouldn't stop with children.

They say parents should also be knowledgeable in CPR and other forms of basic life-saving techniques in case a child or an adult needs immediate help.

"Drowning is a leading cause of death for children in California," Rialto Fire Chief Sean Grayson said. "If we can educate and help eliminate any statistic of children drowning, we should do our part. This is an important investment for our community's youth."

Safety Tips

San Bernardino County Fire officials offer these safety tips when around open water:

- Install four-sided, isolation fencing at least 5 feet high around pools, with self-closing and self-latching gates. Never prop open a gate.
- Pool alarms and covers can offer extra protection. But don't rely on them to keep kids safe.
- Children should never run, push or jump on others around water.
- Children should learn to swim. Enroll them in lessons with qualified instructors when ready, usually after age 4. If you can't swim, enroll with your kids.
- Do not consider young children to be drown-proof because they had swimming lessons.
- Know which of your child's friends and neighbors have pools. Be sure they will have adult supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers by the pool.
- Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. Appoint a "designated watcher" to protect children.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first — seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and be sure others do too.
- Remove toys when pool is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/06/15/as-temperatures-rise-so-does-the-danger-of-drowning-authorities-say/>

Why a consultant was allowed at Upland's closed-door meetings

Liset Marquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 15, 2017, 3:51 PM



L-R, Councilwoman Carol Timm, Mayor Debbie Stone and Councilman Gino Filippi. PHOTO BY LISET MÁRQUEZ

UPLAND >> When Councilwoman Janice Elliott complained to local prosecutors that the City Council twice this year violated the state's open meeting laws, one of her beefs was that the city's public relations consultant was present during the closed-door sessions.

But Upland City Attorney Jim Markman said that's not so unusual.

Staff and others may join council members behind closed doors if they can contribute to the discussion, Markman told the council at Monday's meeting.

The council met April 24 and May 8 in executive sessions to discuss criticism of the interim city manager, a permissible topic for private discussion, Markman said, according to case law and the Ralph M. Brown Act, the state law which requires elected officials to conduct most business in the public eye.

Because Elliott hosted a town hall focusing on the Fire Department's annexation to **San Bernardino County Fire**, and later decided to take some of her concerns about the council to members of the business community, Markman said, "it's probably not a bad idea to have your public relations person there."

However, Elliott still doubts the consultant's presence was legal.

"What I read that is in closed session, the people who are allowed to be in those meetings is very, very narrow," Elliott said at the Monday meeting.

Markman, who at the last council meeting declined to address the topic, said during Monday's meeting he didn't exactly disagree with Elliott.

Markman acknowledged it wasn't his suggestion to have the consultant.

"If any council member felt uncomfortable with that, I would have asked him to leave," he said.

"That's the ultimate (criterion), is creating an environment where the council can be candid and comfortable. I don't disagree with what you're saying."

Elliott told Markman she wasn't aware she had the option of speaking up.

Markman sympathized.

"I know it's not easy. The first six months of you being a being council member is not that all easy as people make it," he said.

Elliott quickly responded: "especially without any training," acknowledging she never received training through the League of California Cities, as is customary for new council members.

The league publishes "Open and Public V," a guide to the Brown Act. In its April 2016 revised issue, the league offers guidance about who is allowed to attend closed sessions:

"Closed sessions may involve only the members of the legislative body and only agency counsel, management and support staff, and consultants necessary for consideration of the matter that is the subject of closed session, with very limited exceptions for adversaries or witnesses with official roles in particular types of hearings (e.g., personnel disciplinary hearings and license hearings)."

When asked about his participation in the closed meetings, public relations consultant Steve Lambert, said in an email it would not be appropriate for him to comment on what was discussed.

"It is not unusual for city staff or consultants to be asked to participate in a closed session to provide professional counsel or be available to answer council member questions, which was the case here," Lambert wrote.

At Monday's meeting, Councilman Gino Filippi also asked Markman whether Elliott violated the Brown Act when she disclosed some of the contents of the closed-door meeting.

Markman said he has avoided discussing the details of the closed sessions, and doesn't intend to, even though some contents have been made public.

He said it made him "uncomfortable," and said "it serves everybody well to not do that."

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170615/why-a-consultant-was-allowed-at-uplands-closed-door-meetings>

Blaze tears through Summit Valley home, leaves 1 injured

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 15, 2017, 7:57 PM

SUMMIT VALLEY — Firefighters battled a blaze that tore through a home and left one person with a minor burn Thursday evening, authorities said.

Reports of a structure fire at a home in the 12000 block of Highway 138, near Summit Valley Road, were received just before 5:45 p.m. Thursday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said the home was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

“Firefighters entered a defensive attack — they couldn’t enter the structure — due to the level of fire involved,” Sherwin said.

The flames briefly spread to a small spot of vegetation near the home, Sherwin said, but firefighters were able to get a handle on it before the flames could spread further.

One civilian sustained a minor burn injury, Sherwin said, and was being treated on scene. Further details aren’t yet available. No other injuries have been reported.

Around 6:30 p.m. scanner traffic reported the fire was out, but firefighters remained on scene for cleanup and to watch for any “hot spots” as winds picked up. A fire investigator was also reported to be en route.

Firefighters kept busy battling flames here and at another structure fire in Phelan, reported minutes after this blaze. A travel-trailer was fully engulfed in an area near Holly Street and Sheep Creek Road, Sherwin said.

The flames extended into another travel-trailer and into a small spot of brush before they were contained.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170615/blaze-tears-through-summit-valley-home-leaves-1-injured>

Firefighters battle travel-trailer blaze in Phelan Thursday

Daily Press

Posted: June 15, 2017, 7:58 PM

PHELAN — A blaze that began in a travel trailer quickly spread Thursday, engulfing the trailer in flames as it spread to nearby structures and brush, authorities said.

Reports of a structure fire in the area near Holly Street and Sheep Creek Road were received at 5:55 p.m. Thursday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said firefighters arrived and found the travel trailer “well involved” with flames, with potential exposures.

The flames then quickly spread to another nearby travel trailer, Sherwin said.

The blaze was reported to be out around 6:45 p.m., according to scanner traffic, but firefighters were expected to remain on scene for several hours for cleanup. No injuries have yet been reported.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170615/firefighters-battle-travel-trailer-blaze-in-phelan-thursday>

Authorities: 1 person killed in crash that shut down Palmdale Road Thursday

Daily Press

Posted: June 16, 2017, 7:43 AM

ADELANTO — One person was killed and another injured in a crash that shut down Palmdale Road for the majority of the day Thursday, authorities said.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department said that 25-year-old Muataz Abdelatif, of New Jersey, was killed after crossing a double-yellow line and striking a semitrailer on Palmdale Road between Jonathan and Pearmain streets.

Abdelatif was the driver and sole occupant of a gray sedan traveling east on Palmdale Road when he struck the semitrailer traveling west. According to authorities, Adelatif was transported by ambulance to Victor Valley Global Medical Center where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room.

The collision sent the semitrailer onto the dirt shoulder where it erupted in flames, causing black smoke to billow high into the air before **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel were able to extinguish the blaze.

San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Larry Lavogue said extrication was required to free Abdelatif from the gray sedan, and the driver of the semitrailer was also transported to a local hospital with injuries.

Palmdale Road was closed in both directions between Jonathan and Pearmain streets for a majority of the day as investigators combed the scene.

The crash remains under investigation by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT).

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170616/authorities-1-person-killed-in-crash-that-shut-down-palmdale-road-thursday>

1 Dead After Truck Slams into Big Rig on 15 Freeway

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 16, 2017



The driver of a pickup truck died after crashing into the rear of a big rig Thursday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) At least one person died after a pickup truck crashed into the rear of a tractor-trailer and burst into flames.

The accident occurred at approximately 11:42 p.m. Thursday night on the northbound 15 Freeway just north of the Stoddard Wells/Bell Mountain Road exit.

When firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** arrived on scene they were able to extinguish the fire within 5 minutes. However, the driver of the green 1999 Toyota Tacoma was pronounced deceased at the scene.

No other information was immediately available as of midnight Friday morning.

The cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<http://www.vvng.com/1-dead-truck-slams-big-rig-15-freeway/>

Summer Splash Event in Joshua Tree Tomorrow

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 16, 2017

Kick off your summer fun with a 5K splash run/walk in Joshua Tree. The Summer Splash event, set for Saturday, June 17, is co-hosted by the Joshua Tree Parks and Rec Department, Rotary Club, and Morongo Basin Healthcare District. The event at Sunburst Park in Joshua Tree is from 9 to 2, and will include the 5K run/walk, craft and food vendors, live music, a dunk tank, displays by the **County Fire** and Marine Corps, and other kid-friendly activities. The Joshua Tree Community Center has a small water park on-site. For more information, call 760-366-8415.

<http://z1077fm.com/summer-splash-event-in-joshua-tree-tomorrow/>