



# NEWS



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## Sheriff's Aviation rescues a man from Deep Creek Hot Springs

Highland News

Posted: July 13, 2017, 8:38 AM

On Wednesday, July 12, Avery McLemore, 51, of Hesperia was hiking on the trail from Deep Creek Hot Springs to the parking lot at Bowen Ranch and was about two miles from Bowen Ranch when he started having medical problems. He was unable to continue hiking and a call was made to 911 dispatch for assistance. Units from **San Bernardino County Fire**, Sheriff's Victor Valley station and Sheriff's Aviation responded to search for and assist McLemore.

Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40King5 located McLemore on a steep section of the trail. The crew was unable to land near his location due to the terrain. Air Rescue 307 was requested for a hoist rescue due to the distance ground crews would have to hike to reach McLemore and the steep terrain. Air Rescue 307 arrived on scene and hoisted a rescue medic 45 feet down to McLemore's location. McLemore was suffering from heat and respiratory problems and was unable to hike out on his own. McLemore was placed into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter. He was transported to the parking lot at Bowen Ranch and released to County Fire and an AMR ambulance for treatment. He was later transported to a local hospital.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/sheriff-s-aviation-rescues-a-man-from-deep-creek-hot/article\\_545d1e6c-67e1-11e7-8316-8fa718ff1c3c.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-aviation-rescues-a-man-from-deep-creek-hot/article_545d1e6c-67e1-11e7-8316-8fa718ff1c3c.html)

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## **Hesperia Man Rescued from Deep Creek Hot Springs After Suffering Heat-Related Emergency**

24/7 Headline News  
Posted: July 13, 2017

APPLE VALLEY – A 51-year-old Hesperia man required a hoist rescue after becoming ill while hiking on a Deep Creek Hot Springs Trail on Wednesday morning. Avery McLemore was hiking on the trail headed to the Bowen Ranch parking lot, when about two miles from the destination he began having medical problems.

McLemore was unable to continue his hike and called 911 to request assistance. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, deputies from the Victor Valley Station and 40King5 (the Sheriff's helicopter) responded to the scene to search for McLemore. McLemore was quickly located on a steep section of the trail. The crew was unable to land at the location due to the steep terrain.

Air Rescue 307, which is equipped to perform a hoist rescue was requested at the scene. When they arrived they hoisted a medic approximately 45' down to McLemore, who was suffering from heat and breathing-related problems. He was placed into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter to be transported to Bowen Ranch where he was released to San Bernardino and AMR to be transported to the hospital.

<https://247headline.com/hesperia-man-rescued-from-deep-creek-hot-springs-after-suffering-heat-related-emergency/>

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## **Hidden fire near Highland now 70 percent contained; Highway 330 reopens**

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 13, 2017, 7:28 AM

HIGHLAND >> Firefighters made significant progress Thursday on the 34-acre Hidden fire burning in the hills above Highland, with containment increasing to 70 percent by afternoon, officials said.

That's a jump from the morning, when containment lines were in place around 20 percent of the fire, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Highway 330 between Highland and Running Springs, which closed shortly after the fire broke out, reopened Thursday morning. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department urged motorists to drive cautiously, as crews and equipment are still moving through the area.

The fire ignited about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, a mile north of Highland Avenue on the west side of Highway 330. By nightfall, it had scorched 33 acres.

The fire is burning just north of last month's Mart fire, which consumed more than 670 acres before it was contained.

The causes of both fires are under investigation.

Firefighters from San Bernardino National Forest, Cal Fire, **San Bernardino County Fire** and San Manuel Fire Department along with the California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino Police Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department worked together during the firefighting efforts.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170713/hidden-fire-near-highland-now-70-percent-contained-highway-330-reopens>

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## Truck slams into back of Bloomington AM/PM; employee slightly hurt

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 13, 2017, 9:18 AM



A truck smashed into the AM/PM convenience store early Thursday, July 13, 2017, on Valley Boulevard and Cedar Avenue in Bloomington. An employee was slightly hurt. (Google Street View)

A convenience store employee was slightly hurt when a truck smashed into an AM/PM in Bloomington on Thursday morning, fire officials said.

The employee did not require medical attention, said Ryan Vaccaro, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The crash was reported about 7:30 a.m. at the store on Valley Boulevard and Cedar Avenue, according to Fire Department and California Highway Patrol reports.

The truck smashed into the rear of the building, Vaccaro said. It wasn't clear what led to the crash.

San Bernardino County sheriff's officials are investigating.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170713/truck-slams-into-back-of-bloomington-ampm-employee-slightly-hurt>

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## **This year's fire threat is closer to home and you can blame the rain**

Colin Atagi, The Desert Sun

Posted: July 13, 2017, 9:18 AM



The Mart Fire burned the foothills near Highland before it was stopped from burning the homes here. (Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

By all accounts, the Manzanita wildfire is a perfect example of why officials consider this year's fire season more threatening than usual.

The wild fire, which erupted June 26, burned more than 6,000 acres after it was sparked by a car crash at a low elevation in a populated area south of Beaumont. It's the type of scenario officials fear after an extremely wet winter – which is credited for pulling California out of its five-year drought – gave way to excess vegetation that ultimately dried up and became wildfire fuel in our own backyards.

"The game changer this year is ... the rain and snow; we got a lot of it," said LeRoy Westerling, a fire ecologist from the University of California, Merced. "A lot of the fires we've had in California are more like grass and shrub fires."

This year, northern portions of the state received more than a dozen inches of rain in January and February. Parts of the Coachella Valley collected more than five inches during that period, well above the normal two inches.

The excess rain led to blooming flowers and green vegetation that lit up the landscape. But as record-setting temperatures descended on the West Coast, all that vegetation dried up and created fuel that bridged the gap between the lower and higher elevations.

Mountain ranges are no longer the most likely spots for wildfires. Dry vegetation has a heavy presence at lower elevations and has more exposure to the most common cause of fires: People.

The Manzanita fire happened after a Hemet woman lost control of her vehicle and careened off Highway 79. The SUV burst into flames and the fire spread east toward Cabazon.

At 6,309 acres, it was among the largest wildfires in Riverside County but merely one of several hundred to occur across California this year.

"A lot of fires are the result of vehicles," said John Miller, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service. "Yes, there are intentional fires. But there are also those unintentional fires."

Already worse than last year

Cynthia Tenney noticed there had been extra vegetation in the foothills across the street from her Highland home, which is in a residential area barely two miles from Highway 210 and firmly attached to a metropolitan portion of San Bernardino County. On June 27, she was among those evacuated after a 900-acre wildfire broke out.

Tenney said the blaze – dubbed the Mart Fire – was the first fire to happen in the area since 2003 and the third one since she moved into her home in 1978. It produced dark smoke and flames that "moved quickly."

"I was panicked. I was very, very frightened," said Tenney, who added evacuations lasted for about five hours. "It was very stressful."

The Mart Fire was sparked in a drainage area behind a Walmart, said Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. On Tuesday, there was still yellow crime scene tape scattered around the point of origin.

The fire's cause is under investigation, but it was fueled by thick vegetation and strong winds, Martinez said.

It took 24 hours for firefighters to contain the Mart Fire, but Tenney said they remained at the scene for about five days.

The Mart Fire occurred about a week after the Holcomb fire, which began June 19 and burned about 1,500 acres near Big Bear Lake for about a week. The area was also filled with dry vegetation that was the result of this year's rain, Miller said.

"Obviously, (dryness is) a concern for all firefighting agencies," Miller said. "Southern California is a fire-prone environment and, because of that, the approach of fire agencies is to hit fires hard and immediately."

This week, firefighters were busy attacking wildfires north of Sacramento in the Sierra Nevada's grassy foothills. Meanwhile, a pair of blazes burned through dry brush and kept crew members busy on separate ends of Santa Barbara County.

The three fires forced about 7,500 people to evacuate.

On Tuesday, a vehicle's hot exhaust system ignited the Jennings Fire near Interstate 8 in Lakeside, which is about 20 miles east of San Diego. It burned 400 acres and sent smoke into the Coachella Valley after burning through dry brush.

Official Cal Fire records show firefighters responded to 2,905 wildfires through July 9. That was up 28 percent from 2,270 wildfires during the same period last year and above the five-year average of 2,492 fires.

Fires have destroyed 68,129 acres so far this year – up from 30,574 acres through this time last year.

"You can see the huge change in acreages," Cal Fire Capt. Lucas Spelman said. "Absolutely, the grass crop is what's burning right now. That's the big portion of what's causing all this."

Firefighters have been battling flames in high temperatures hovering around 100 degrees, as has been the case for much of the fire season, especially in the Coachella Valley.

From June 1 through July 11 (a 41-day period ) in Palm Springs, 36 days had above-normal temperature and 23 days surpassed 110 degrees.

That puts 2017 just behind 1957 and 1985 for having the hottest period of June 1 through July 11, according to the National Weather Service.

"In third place, that's saying something," said meteorologist Miguel Miller.

The weather factor

This year's rainy conditions ended as suddenly as they came. The wet weather was replaced with high temperatures capable of drying up vegetation and making it flammable within just one or two days, National Weather Service meteorologist Albright said.

Last year, Mark Cochrane, a fire ecologist at South Dakota State University, told The Desert Sun that climate change played a role in fire season, growing by 19 percent from 1979 to 2013. In some western U.S. forests, the season grew by more than 30 days. In parts of North America defined by Mediterranean forests, woodlands and scrub, prime fire conditions persisted nearly 50 days longer in 2013 than they had in 1979.

Higher temperatures help soils and vegetation lose moisture earlier in the spring and stay dry later in the fall, meaning they're flammable for longer periods of the year. Snowpack melts earlier, too, depriving ecosystems of a valuable source of moisture as summer temperatures dry out the landscape.

This year, Westerling stressed climate change is "not a one-and-done" scenario and maintained the biggest factor in this year's wildfire season was the winter rainfall.

There's no telling whether next year will be wet again or as dry as the drought period.

"From a statistical point of view, next year is likely to be somewhere in between," Westerling said.

And even though Northern California is typically cooler than the southern part of the state, Westerling said the threat of wildfire is still there, especially with temperatures in the north climbing over 100 degrees.

"It's still pretty damn hot," he said.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2017/07/13/years-fire-threat-closer-home-and-you-can-blame-rain/435449001/>

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## Lake Gregory Claims Man's Life

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: July 13, 2017, 9:54 AM



The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dive Team suits up and prepares to locate a 45-year-old Wildomar man who attempted to swim across Lake Gregory on July 11.

An apparent attempt to swim from the north shore of Lake Gregory to the south shore resulted in tragedy on Tuesday afternoon when the swimmer disappeared underwater at the midpoint of the lake.

According to a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department press release, the victim's son was the last person to see his 45-year-old father, Wayne Poulo Kizler, a resident of Wildomar.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dive Team was called to the scene, along with Sheriff's Air Rescue 307 and 40King5, which were dispatched at approximately 1:20 p.m. to assist deputies from the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station.

Corporal J. Scalise, the crew chief of AR307, interviewed eye witnesses, including Kizler's son who helped identify the point where his father was last seen. Deputies marked the location with a buoy and an anchor.

Within minutes after Dive Team members were deployed, they located and recovered the victim.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel pronounced him deceased when he was brought onto the shore.

They released Kizler to the custody of the coroner, who had not issued a statement as of press time.

During the recovery process, Lake Gregory was closed, with visitors asked to leave. The recreation area remained closed on Wednesday.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_e113236a-67eb-11e7-af71-2fcc6cfe8d48.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_e113236a-67eb-11e7-af71-2fcc6cfe8d48.html)

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## Lightning Strike Ignites Fire North of Lake Arrowhead

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: July 13, 2017, 9:55 AM



The U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire and the county responded in full force, with multiple helicopters dropping water on the five-acre fire in Maloney Canyon. Maloney Fire (Deep Creek)

Lightning is being blamed for starting a three-acre brush fire on July 9 three miles north of Lake Arrowhead and Deer Lodge Park.

According to fire officials, a bolt struck a hillside during a dry afternoon thunderstorm. Dubbed the Maloney Fire, it was located in Maloney Canyon west of Squints Ranch, near Deep Creek, in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).

In addition to forest service firefighters, Cal Fire and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** (SBCoFD) responded at approximately 3:04 p.m. when calls came in. More than 30 units arrived, and dispatchers also requested a full complement of aircraft.

According to Gerrelaine Alcorido, deputy public information officer for the United States Forest Service (USFS), the initial attack included 200 personnel from all three agencies. The USFS had four aircraft responding, with two helicopters dropping water and two air tankers dropping retardant.

Cal Fire had classified Sunday as a high dispatch day because the weather was hot with low humidity, Cal Fire spokesperson Liz Brown explained. Immediately, the agency provided a full wildland response which, Brown stated, always includes a battalion chief, a helicopter, air attack, five brush engines and two hand crews.

“We can’t afford to say it’s a small fire,” Brown said with regard to the report of a three-acre fire. “There’s no such thing as a small fire, with the grass fuels and the heat we’re having,” she emphasized. Brown added that the forest service, the county and Cal Fire were “all on the same page for the aggressive attack on the fire.”

Brown further explained, “Part of Cal Fire’s mission is to keep 95 percent of all fires at 10 acres or less. The ones that get big are the five percent that we can’t keep under 10 acres. Those may be driven by topography, wind and other factors.”

The three-acre vegetation fire was approached via State Highway 173 to the 3N50 Forest Service Road. After approximately 90 minutes, the rate of spread was held to fewer than five acres, the USFS incident commander told Alcorido.

Ensuring that the fire was out completely and mopping up took another six hours, but State Highway 173 north of Grass Valley Road, which had been closed due to the wildfire, reopened by 6:30 p.m.

Brown said that most Cal Fire personnel were released around 9 p.m., while a couple of hand crews and one or two engines remained on site. Eric Sherwin, public information officer for the SBCoFD, reported that the water tenders out of Fawnskin and Valley Lake were the county's last units to leave the site at 9:15 p.m.

The Maloney Fire was put on patrol status both Monday and Tuesday. Working from the outside and proceeding in, patrolling forest crews made their way in to ensure that no hot spots remained.

Another nearby fire occurred July 10 shortly after midnight on State Highway 18 at mile marker 17, past the Crestline cutoff. Passersby worked to put out the fire. Paid call firefighters from Crestline arrived when it was already under control. The SBCoFD's Crestline crew laid more water down on the fire to ensure that it was completely out.

Lightning caused several small fires over the weekend in other mountain areas, including Big Bear Lake, Barton Flats, Forest Falls, Lake Silverwood and Yucaipa.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_231884f8-67ec-11e7-997c-9713674ab1c7.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_231884f8-67ec-11e7-997c-9713674ab1c7.html)

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## **Man attacked, van set on fire in San Bernardino**

**Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun**

Posted: July 13, 2017, 11:11 AM

SAN BERNARDINO >> Police arrested two men they say attacked another man with a metal object Thursday morning and then set his van on fire.

"The man was possibly living in his van," San Bernardino police Sgt. John Cordillo said of the attack, which took place about 6 a.m. in the 1600 block of East Highland Avenue.

The attackers approached the man in the van and the trio began arguing, Cordillo said.

"They hit him in the head with something metal, then they threw rags into his car and lit it on fire," he said. "Then they hit him in the head again."

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** paramedics took the injured man to a hospital. He is expected to survive.

Officers tracked down the attackers and arrested them on suspicion of attempted murder. Police did not release their names.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170713/man-attacked-van-set-on-fire-in-san-bernardino>

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## Apartment complex blaze leaves 12 displaced Thursday

Daily Press

Posted: July 13, 2017, 12:27 PM



San Bernadino County firefighters battle an apartment fire on Pebble Beach Drive in Victorville CA on Thursday July 13, 2017. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Multiple units at an apartment complex on Pebble Beach Drive caught fire Thursday afternoon.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials responded to reports of a fire at Fairway Manor Apartments, located in the 16100 block of Pebble Beach Drive, which was first reported at 11:53 a.m.

County Fire Captain Jeff Allen said the first units arrived within five minutes and found “heavy fire” in a bottom apartment, one right above it and the attic area.

Steven Padilla said he was driving down Pebble Beach Drive and saw smoke coming from a window in the apartment. He immediately pulled over and ran upstairs to warn residents.

“The people next door didn’t even know what was going on,” Padilla said.

After safely getting those residents out, Padilla said he then went door to door getting everyone else in the complex to safety. Despite initial reports of people trapped inside, Allen said no one was ultimately found inside the apartments.

Pebble Beach Drive was shut down for several hours as authorities worked to contain the fire.

The blaze was extinguished within 25 minutes, according to Allen.

One County Fire firefighter suffered a minor injury from heat exhaustion while combating the blaze, officials said, but no other injuries were reported due to the incident.

Officials said Red Cross was requested to assist 12 residents displaced by the blaze, which remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170713/apartment-complex-blaze-leaves-12-displaced-thursday>

## **Air Rescue 307 rescues a Mission Viejo man**

**BSD Aviation via Highland News**

Posted: July 13, 2017, 2:18 PM

On Wednesday, July 12th, Sheriff's dispatch received a 911 call from Nathan Jang, 24, of Mission Viejo stating he became lost while hiking down from the summit of Mount Baldy.

Deputies from the Fontana Station responded and coordinated a ground search while the Sheriff's desert patrol helicopter, 40King2, responded and began an aerial search for Jang.

While searching the area of Goode Canyon, which is south of the summit, the crew located Jang in steep terrain at the approximate 9000-foot level. The crew attempted to guide Jang back to the main trail but quickly determined Jang was too exhausted to continue. The crew requested the Sheriff's rescue helicopter for a hoist rescue.

Air Rescue 307 responded to the scene and lowered **San Bernardino County Fire** captain Mark Murphy approximately 100 feet down to Jang. Jang was placed into a rescue harness, hoisted up to the helicopter and flown to Cow Canyon Saddle to ground units.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/air-rescue-rescues-a-mission-viejo-man/article\\_c2d919d4-6810-11e7-b60e-5366937d7898.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/air-rescue-rescues-a-mission-viejo-man/article_c2d919d4-6810-11e7-b60e-5366937d7898.html)

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## 12 Displaced Following Apartment Fire in Victorville

Hugo C Valdez, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 13, 2017

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A dozen Victorville residents were displaced Thursday when a fire damaged several apartments.

At 11:53 am, **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to reports of fire ‘with people trapped’ at the Fairway Manor Apartments in the 16100 block of Pebble Beach Drive.

When firefighters arrived, they located heavy fire coming from the first and second floor of the complex. Due to the amount of fire and potential threat, firefighters requested a 2nd alarm response.

According to SB County Fire Captain Jeff Allen, firefighters conducted a quick primary search and found no victims and later followed by a more extensive search. “Those initial reports were determined to be unfounded,” stated Allen.

Dozens of firefighters worked together and quickly to extinguish the fire in approximately 25 minutes.

Allen said the fire was contained to two apartments. However, at least four other adjoining apartments were damaged by the heat and smoke.

The American Red Cross was requested to assist 12 people displaced by the fire.

The fire response included a total of 7 Paramedic Engines, 2 Truck Companies, 2 Chief Officers, 1 Fire Investigator, 1 Paramedic Squad, and 31 County Fire personnel. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/12-displaced-following-apartment-fire-victorville-video/>

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## Firefighter describes July 4th hoist rescue

Terri Hill, Mountaineer Progress

Posted: July 13, 2017

Residents in Wrightwood were witness to a dramatic rescue operation on July 4th. Having first seen a sheriff’s helicopter circling south of Twin Lakes Drive, people in the area then saw a Air Rescue 6 circle the same area. Soon, a rescue was underway for a hiker who had fallen from the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) the day before.

Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Sherwin, of **San Bernardino County Fire** (SBCF) explained the timeline, during a phone interview with the Mountaineer Progress.

On July 3rd, 50-year old Matthew Paulson, of Carpentaria, fell nearly 500 feet while hiking the PCT above Heath Canyon. Paulson was unable to get cell phone reception, and it was getting dark. He took shelter in a bush on the side of the mountain. On July 4th, Paulson made his way up the steep terrain until he had reception, and called for help.

Sherwin explained Sheriff's Patrol, 40 King3 was already in the air, and when Paulson's call was received at about 3:30 p.m., they were dispatched to the area. Air Rescue 306, of the Sheriff/Fire partnership out of San Bernardino International Airport, launched right behind the patrol ship. When the patrol located Paulson, the crew determined a hoist rescue would be necessary, based on the steep terrain.

As Air Rescue 306 approached Paulson's location, they determined with nowhere to land, a "pick-off" maneuver would be necessary. Overcoming changing wind direction, the pilot, Corporal Jon Anderson, would need to hover long enough to allow the crew to lower Sherwin approximately 135 feet to the victim, and bring them both safely back to the ship. According to Sherwin, "From insert to retrieval took five minutes." Asked about triage protocols, Sherwin explained the first step is to get the victim to a safe and stable environment. Once there, paramedics can assess and treat injuries. Paulson was flown approximately 2 miles to an awaiting ambulance and transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Sherwin remarked the department maintains proficiency in technical maneuvers through consistent practice, offering one reason for the successful rescue. Paulson also made, "a series of good decisions," Sherwin pointed out. First, the hiker stayed where he was, after he fell. Paulson could have put himself in more danger by trying to navigate the unfamiliar terrain as the sky became dark. He conserved his cell phone battery, only checking periodically for a signal. The next day, Paulson climbed just far enough to get a signal and call for help. Finally, and as Sherwin stressed, most importantly, "Paulson stayed put." Because he stayed in the same location from which he called 911, the search was short and 40 King3 located him quickly. When Sherwin reached Paulson, he was, "awake and alert, followed directions, and not panicked." The paramedic added, "When a person panics, it increases the risk."

Eric Sherwin has been with the Sheriff/Fire partnership since its inception, in December 2013. He also acts as a Public Information Officer for San Bernardino County Fire.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/newsforjuly132017.html>