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Multi-car traffic collision takes place in Fontana on June 26

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

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A multi-car traffic collision took place on westbound Valley Boulevard at Beech Avenue on June 26. (Contributed photo by Fontana Police Department)

A multi-car traffic accident took place in Fontana on Wednesday afternoon, June 26, according to the Fontana Police Department.

The incident, which occurred on westbound Valley Boulevard at Beech Avenue, was reported shortly after 2 p.m. on the P.D. Facebook page.

The Traffic Unit shut down the roadway while conducting the investigation of the major injury collision. The street was opened to the public two hours later.

No other information was immediately available.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/multi-car-traffic-collision-takes-place-in-fontana-on-june/article_80a65d76-9859-11e9-93e3-b774a95b2c0b.html

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fire tax takes food off tables of San Bernardino County residents

Tom Murphy Red Brennan Group project manager of Redlands, CA, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 26, 2019

On June 11, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted to take six days of food off the tables of county residents — and hand it over to **County Fire**.

According to the California Budget and Policy Center, a family of four in San Bernardino County spends \$773 per month, or \$25.77 per day, to feed itself.

Via a 4-1 vote, county supervisors approved placement of the Fire Prevention Zone Five (FP-5) special tax on the rolls for the next fiscal year. Residents located largely, but not entirely, in the unincorporated areas of the county will pay an additional \$157.26 per year to fund County Fire — six days of meals for a family of four.

Hungry residents may have a chance to get those meals back after a multi-year wait. In response to the outcry from residents affected by the tax, the board modified the motion presented by County Fire. The motion initially called for a 3 percent increase in the FP-5 tax, to \$161.98, in addition to placing the tax on the roll for the next fiscal year. The special tax was to remain on the rolls in perpetuity with the potential for a 3 percent increase each year.

Rather than grant the 3 percent increase, the board held the line at the current fiscal year charge and added two items to the resolution.

The motion, as amended by the board, “Directs the CEO and interim fire chief to explore funding mechanisms to pay for fire and emergency services in San Bernardino County that must be put to voters by Jan. 1, 2021, and return to the board within 90 days to discuss those funding alternatives.” In addition, the motion “directs staff to set a date on which funding for FP-5 will sunset.”

What is FP-5’s

backstory?

In June of 2018, the board approved a course of action to expand Service Zone FP-5. The plan, floated by senior leadership within the county bureaucracy, was to use fire district law and expand FP-5 to include the entire unincorporated area of the county, along with some incorporated areas. Originally approved by 1,022 voters in Helendale, the tax tied to FP-5 is a per parcel special tax. The resulting annexation would yield a \$26.9 million increase to County Fire’s coffers — with the potential to increase at 3 percent per year indefinitely.

Senior county leadership reasoned this scheme could also be accomplished without voter approval. By leveraging a poorly reasoned and overly broad interpretation of *Citizens Association of Sunset Beach v. Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission*, and borrowing a so-called “protest procedure,” the county concocted an approach to impose the tax without approval by residents.

There was, however, an inconvenient truth. Article XIII C, section 2, subsection d, of the Constitution of the State of California states:

No local government may impose, extend, or increase any special tax unless and until that tax is submitted to the electorate and approved by a two-thirds vote.

Affected residents, roused by this blatant attempt to circumvent their Constitutional rights, fought the expansion in both the political and legal arena over the course of the year.

What did county residents actually gain in their effort to assert their rights? The supervisors decided not to extract an additional \$4.72 from county residents. They decided to place an illegal tax on the roll that was imposed in violation of the California Constitution. The board members then “gave” voters their rights by approving an unenforceable promise that would put a County Fire funding mechanism on a ballot by 2021 — two tax years and 36 meals down the road.

A thoughtful skeptic may find little to please, and much for concern in the board of supervisors motion.

EDITOR’S NOTE — A superior court judge ruled that the FP-5 tax was not unconstitutional.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_c6d85bba-9871-11e9-9a47-27baaa58d3f6.html

A passel of thanks for Grubstake Days

Wanda Stadum President and CEO, Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 26, 2019

The Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce is honored for the opportunity to serve as the “central hub” for promoting and marketing, information and assistance to the 13 events and coordinators that put on the 2019 Grubstake Days.

We are especially proud of the volunteer leaders and coordinators of each event of the 69th annual Grubstake Days celebration: Gary Daigneault, Z107.7 Grubstake Days business decorating contest; the chamber of commerce and Elks Lodge 2314, Western kick-off mixer and Emblem Club auction; the Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament at Hawk’s Landing Golf Course and sponsors Pacific Western Bank and Rarick Financial Services; Missy Buchanan, the National Police Rodeo and Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association for the outstanding two-day Grubstake Days Rodeo; the Basin Wide Foundation and the Grubstake Days Carnival Committee led by Tracey Rader, which brought you the Schoeppner carnival and all the adult games — horseshoe tournament, beard contest and tug of war; the **San Bernardino County Fire** Explorers Post 121, pancake breakfast at the Elks Lodge; the Mane Street Stampede, Yucca Valley Equestrian Center, the Friends of Pioneertown, Pioneertown Post Office and the YV Chamber of Commerce for the Pony Express ride with the Star Twirlers dancers; the town of Yucca Valley for the Grubstake 10K/5K run and 2K walk; the Boys & Girls Club for Kids Day games and McMillan Arts Institute and First Class Miners, who brought back the Little Miss and Mister Miner talent contest.

A huge shout-out to over 100 local community businesses and individuals that donated money, time or prizes to make these events happen — we could not have done this event without their help.

Everyone missed having a parade this year and the good news is plans are already underway for our 70th Grubstake “Olde Tymers” Days for 2020. We’ll celebrate our Grubstake Days alumni from the past as grand marshals, so let us know any “Olde Tymers” you may know!

To make this event even bigger and better, we're going to need tons of help, so call us and sign up now to volunteer. You choose the event you want to help and we'll pass your name along to the event coordinators for next year.

The Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce will continue to fulfill its mission statement created by the founding fathers in 1951: "To promote a healthy, thriving business environment; to partner with the public and private sector; to provide leadership for our business community; while enhancing Yucca Valley's quality of life."

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for a great place to live and a great chamber to serve!

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_5e59a1fc-9871-11e9-abcd-3b5300d8f083.html