



NEWS



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Pedestrian struck and killed at intersection of Mojave Drive and Ferndale Road

Kevin Trudgeon, The Daily Press

Posted: October 25, 2017, 9:37 AM



Emergency personnel help a pedestrian who was struck while cross Mojave Drive Tuesday evening. [Submitted photo]

VICTORVILLE — A pedestrian was struck and killed Tuesday evening near the intersection of Mojave Drive and Ferndale Road, authorities said.

Deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department Victorville Station and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to a report of a collision between a vehicle and pedestrian at approximately 7:07 p.m.

According to authorities, deputies determined a black Nissan 200 was traveling east on Mojave near Ferndale when it struck a pedestrian who was crossing Mojave outside of a marked crosswalk.

“The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital by ambulance, where he later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased,” sheriff’s officials said in a statement. “The driver of the Nissan was treated and released at the scene.”

Deputies from the Sheriff’s Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) were requested to conduct the investigation to determine the cause of the collision and Mojave Drive near Ferndale Road was closed until approximately 2:15 a.m.

Anyone with information about the collision is urged to contact Deputy C. DeKeyrel or Deputy A. Awad at the Victorville Sheriff’s Station at 760-241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or visit www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171025/pedestrian-struck-and-killed-at-intersection-of-mojave-drive-and-ferndale-road>

Support or bust

Paola Baker, The Daily Press

Posted: October 24, 2017, 9:58 AM

BARSTOW — Measure J has gained overwhelming support from the community, Barstow firefighters and city officials say, despite what they believe are efforts to sink the measure from the outside.

With less than a month left for the Nov. 7 special election, firefighters with the Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD) and the Barstow Professional Firefighters Association, along with city officials, have been rallying the public to show their support for the half-cent sales tax hike, expected to generate an estimated \$3.8 million per year.

The funds will be used to bolster the financially-strapped Barstow Fire Protection District, which has been struggling with increased retirement and service costs.

Residents would pay an average of \$47 a year, according to city officials, who've touted the measure as a way to both mitigate rising service costs and maintain local control.

"We're seeing an overwhelming level of people who want to keep that same level of service — that local control — if the measure passes," city spokesman Anthony Riley said.

Yet despite the wave of support, Measure J is battling resistance from two groups that both residents and local officials say have no real ties to the region, and may be motivated by other interests.

That resistance came to a head last weekend, when Barstow residents received mailers from the "No On Measure J" campaign urging them to oppose the measure. The mailers addressed Barstow Fire's "bloated retirement costs" and urged voters to pass on the measure as it does nothing to solve the issue.

City councilman Rich Harpole took to his Facebook page last Sunday to sound off on the matter. In a video, he disputes the points the mailer addresses while discussing why local control is the best option.

"This mailer they sent out is absolutely bogus and they're just trying to hit these key buttons, but it's all red herrings," Harpole said. "We need to support Barstow. We know that in the past we've only been able to count on ourselves."

Harpole called out the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Union, or Local 935, for their open opposition to the measure, saying it was "hypocrisy" to point at Barstow's inability to control its spike in retirement costs when the increase was partially caused by County Fire's annexation of other city-run departments.

"The reason retirement costs for Barstow skyrocketed is because County Fire has been gobbling up all the independent agencies that were in the pool Barstow belonged to," Harpole said. "It's no different than the insurance industry — the smaller the pool, the higher the cost."

Local 935 has openly stated their opposition to the measure but has denied it's driven by annexation. They instead claim the campaign paints them in a bad light as it presents residents with an either-or scenario: vote the measure in, or have County Fire take over.

Local 935 also denied the often-repeated notion from both city and Barstow firefighters that the union has donated \$40,000 to the anti-Measure J campaign. This was bolstered by the Inland Empire Taxpayers Association (IETA), who are the main agency behind the counter campaign.

IETA president Chris Mann told the Daily Press the “No on Measure J” campaign has been an independent effort from the agency, which fights for lower taxes throughout the region.

“We think a sales tax will disproportionately affect those who can’t pay higher taxes,” Mann said. “Barstow, in particular, is a city that has a lot of people struggling financially.”

Harpole and other Measure J supporters have painted the measure as the most fair option for residents, with Harpole stating 70 percent of money collected from Measure J will come from travelers. Mann, however, disputed this notion.

“If they’re trying to make the argument that their own residents won’t be affected, then are they saying their residents are going to have to go out of town to shop?” Mann said. “With a sales tax, residents will be affected. They will pay more every time they shop in the city.”

But with BFPD’s dire financial situation, officials argue that costs will increase for residents, no matter what option they pick.

“The fire district has to be funded,” BFPD Fire Chief Jamie Williams said. “It’s just figuring out how to spread it out evenly and fairly through the community. This [measure] is really just giving residents options.” And as Nov. 7 approaches, these options will draw residents into what Harpole called “the most important issue to face our community in a while.”

“Barstow has historically always taken care of itself. We can’t necessarily rely on the county to make the best decisions for us,” Harpole said. “Measure J is the best solution for our community and it’s what we need to do to keep Barstow safe and strong.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171024/support-or-bust>

Fire Jumps Southern California Highway in Rancho Cucamonga

Associated Press

Posted: October 24, 2017



Strong wind conditions caused a brush fire along the 210 Freeway, forcing firefighters to act quickly to put out the flames and restore traffic flow

Fire crews in Southern California are scrambling to contain small fires breaking out in Santa Ana conditions Southern California firefighters scrambled to contain fire outbreaks before the region's withering, gusty Santa Ana winds can whip them into infernos amid a record-breaking fall heat wave.

Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and **San Bernardino County Fire** battled a vegetation fire at the 15/210 freeway sparked by a big rig.

The fire, which started north of the 210, jumped the freeway and was burning toward the south. The California Highway Patrol closed southbound 15 to westbound 210 and the WB 210 was closed east of the 15 freeway.

Brush Fire Jumps Interstate 210 in Rancho Cucamonga

Helicopters carried water drops and ground crews worked to establish fire lines to control the fire.

At 12:15 p.m., Rancho Cucamonga fire officials updated the incident on social media, asking residents to stay away from the area to give firefighters room to work. Fifteen acres had been burned.

As of 2:30 p.m., the forward rate of progress was stopped.

The so-called "Freeway Fire" burned 40 acres and was 80 percent contained as of 7 p.m., according to a tweet the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department. All freeway closures were lifted but motorists were advised to use caution in the area.

Los Angeles fire crews jumped on at least three fires Tuesday morning along the northern edge of the city where gusts are whipping through nearby mountains.

About 50 miles to the east, Riverside County firefighters aided by water-dropping helicopters are fighting a fire that erupted in a lumber yard and spread over 5 acres in Jurupa Valley.

Forecasters say conditions are ripe for the second day of triple-digit heat spreading all the way out to the coastline.

After records fell Monday, some areas saw little relief as the Santa Anas kept temperatures in the 80s and 90s overnight.

<https://www.nbcсандiego.com/news/california/San-Bernardino-County-Fire-Santa-Ana-452819473.html>

Family and pets escape Yucca Valley fire, house uninhabitable

Z107.7 News

Posted: October 24, 2017

A Yucca Valley family and their pets safely escaped from a house fire Monday afternoon. County Fire Battalion Chief Mike Snow said firefighters were called about 2:15 p.m. to a home in the 56800 block of Anaconda Drive. When they arrived, they found heavy smoke and flames showing from an attached two-car garage and began an aggressive attack to confine the blaze to the garage. Snow said that while the family had been able to get out of the house safely on their own, the firefighters had to go into the house to find the dogs and rescue them. They were uninjured. Due to the extent of the damage, the house was deemed unlivable and the Red Cross was called for assistance. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/family-and-pets-escape-yucca-valley-fire-house-a-total-loss/>
