



# NEWS



## News Headlines 05/24 – 28/2019

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## TWO YUCCA VALLEY RESIDENTS KILLED IN TWO TRAFFIC INCIDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 28, 2019



The passenger in this [white] Cadillac had to be freed using the Jaws of Life. All three occupants of the vehicle were taken to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs. The driver of this [red] Subaru later died of her injuries.

San Bernardino County Fire Department photos

A Yucca Valley woman died, and three other people were injured, in a three-vehicle crash in Yucca Valley Monday. Deputy Amanda Thomas said about 3:10 p.m., the driver of a Ford F-150 pick-up truck traveling northbound on Old Woman Springs Road rear-ended a red Subaru Impreza, driven by Sharon Meler, 84, of Yucca Valley, who was preparing to make a left turn. The impact pushed the Subaru into oncoming traffic and it crashed into a white Cadillac CTS, occupied by three people traveling southbound on the highway. Meler was flown to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs where she died from her injuries about two hours later. Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to free the woman in the front passenger seat of the Cadillac; the woman, male driver, and a boy were all taken to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs by ambulance. Two other people received minor injuries but were treated at the scene.

Tavish Stager, 26, of Yucca Valley was killed in a single car crash on an isolated desert road Friday. According to the County Coroner, at 5:22 a.m., officers of the California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel responded to Kelbaker Road near Amboy in response to a single vehicle traffic collision. Upon arrival, the driver of the vehicle, identified as Tavish Toby Stager, was declared dead at the scene by fire department personnel. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-yucca-valley-residents-killed-in-two-traffic-incidents-over-the-weekend/>

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## Woman injured in 60-foot fall near Lytle Creek

Jason Henry, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 27, 2019, 8:23 pm



An injured hiker was hoisted by a sheriff's helicopter crew out of a remote area of Lytle Creek on Monday. (Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A woman suffered significant injuries Monday in a 60-foot fall while climbing a waterfall near Lytle Creek in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Spotty cell phone service and bad terrain delayed first responders' efforts to find the fall victim for more than an hour. Originally, the injured woman was believed to be in a public area of Lytle Creek, but was later

located at a remote waterfall on Middle Fork Creek, according to Capt. Jeremy Kern, spokesman for **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

“At that point, we had started to hike in firefighters,” Kern said. “Luckily, the Sheriff’s Department was able to get air rescue in the area.”

The air rescue team hoisted the woman into the helicopter at about 6:45 p.m. and took her to the trauma center at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Kern could not provide the woman’s current condition or age. Her injuries were considered “significant” and required immediate medical attention, he said.

The woman and her friends were canyoneering, an activity that mixes hiking, climbing, swimming and rappelling.

“They were very well outfitted, they had all the gear and equipment,” Kern said. “They were actually climbing up the waterfall itself in wet suits.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/05/27/woman-injured-in-60-foot-fall-near-lytle-creek/>

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## **Memorial Day services begin at 11 a.m. May 27 at Riverview Cemetery**

**Robin Richards, Needles Desert Star**

Posted: May 26, 2019

NEEDLES — The community unites in appreciation for those who have served and are serving their country, and remembers those who have passed away in Memorial Day services beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, May 27, at Needles’ Riverview Cemetery.

Coordinated once again by Natalie Johnson of Fat Cat in the Hat DJ services, the ceremonies feature prayers, readings, recitations and music in honor of military, police and firefighters. Riverview Cemetery is along East Broadway, U.S. 95 South, just south of the Interstate 40 interchange.

Observances begin with preparation on Decoration Day Friday, May 24. Volunteers gather at the cemetery at 7 a.m. to spruce up the facility and place white crosses and American flags on the graves of veterans. Bring hand tools such as clippers, gas powered weed eaters, etc., garbage bags, and water to stay hydrated; call Cheryl Sallis at the city of Needles, 760-326-2113 ext 115, with any questions.

The program for Memorial Day, subject to any last-minute substitutions, begins with opening prayers by Rev. Janet Hurley of St. John Episcopal Church; presentation of colors by the Fort Mojave Tribal Veterans and Needles Scout Troops 58 and 490; the pledge of allegiance led by Lucas Johnson; and the Star Spangled Banner sung by McKenna Saucedo-Duarte.

Readings, including litanies of deceased military veterans and emergency responders, the Gettysburg Address and In Flanders Fields are to be conducted by Vice-mayor Ed Paget MD, Chair Timothy Williams and Vice-chair Shan Lewis of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, California Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Medina and San Bernardino County Sheriff Department Sgt. Nick Caronna, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Jonathan Diddock. Presentations are to be made by Cap’t. Dan Nelson, Engineer Grant Kovacovich and Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Hashimoto of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department; Norma Jean Williams of the Needles

Cemetery Committee; Phil LeJeune, liaison to Dist. 1 County Supervisor Robert Lovingood; and Kerry Otterstrom of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

Musical presentations include selections by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Band; the playing of Taps by David Courtwright; traditional dance by Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Royalty accompanied by the Rez Life Bird Singers; and a choral group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The audience will join in singing God Bless the USA before Ken Mann of Set Free Ministries offers the benediction.

Volunteers are asked to return to the cemetery at 4 p.m. to help remove the flags and crosses from the graves and pack them away for next year's observance.

[http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles\\_desert\\_star/memorial-day-services-begin-at-a-m-may-at-riverview/article\\_781520e2-8013-11e9-868f-9fa3dd5e8199.html](http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/memorial-day-services-begin-at-a-m-may-at-riverview/article_781520e2-8013-11e9-868f-9fa3dd5e8199.html)

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## **San Bernardino County honors outstanding employees**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 25, 2019



San Bernardino County recently honored outstanding employees from 42 county departments and offices.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors recognized outstanding employees from 42 county departments and offices during a Public Service Recognition Week Award for Excellence ceremony on May 16 at the County Government Center.

The annual event recognizes the work of public servants. Each county department and office selects one of its employees to be honored with an Award for Excellence based on outstanding service to the county and the community. Specific criteria include customer service, initiative and leadership, accomplishments, and work toward achievement of the Countywide Vision.

This year marked the 30th year the county has conducted this national Public Service Recognition Week event. Public employees in the United States and around the world take part in the annual celebration honoring the people who serve as federal, state, and local government employees.

The following employees were recognized as part of Public Service Recognition Week:

Glenda Jackson, Aging and Adult Services/Office of the Public Guardian

Daniel Bickel, Agriculture/Weight and Measures

Henry Martinez, Airports

Justine Rodriguez, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

Daniel Sanchez, Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk

Robert Gordon, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Mary Gurrola, Behavioral Health

Stephny Montgomery, Board of Supervisors

Jo Cruz, Child Support Services

Cassandra McClenton, Children and Family Services

Hillary Steenson-Ray, Children's Network

Andrew Simpson, Clerk of the Board

Monica Lopez, Community Development and Housing

Traci Homan, County Administrative Office

Jacklin Golden, County Counsel

Laura Robles, District Attorney

Matthew Mena, Economic Development

Robert Kittleman, **County Fire** District

Debora Dickerson-Sims, First 5

Stephanie Moore, Fleet Management

Megan Gardner, Human Resources

Shelia Jackson, Human Services Administration

Natalie Campos, Information Services

Amy Claborn, Land Use Services

Ina Feeney, Library

David Myers, Museum

Amy Edwards, Office of Homeless Services

Laura Marquez, Preschool Services

Trina West, Probation

Julie Ettari, Public Defender

Emerita Meily, Public Health

Brian Kloepfer, Public Works

Lisa Brazfield, Purchasing

Steven Clynch, Real Estate Services

Ryan Isom, Regional Parks

Brenda Garcia, Registrar of Voters

Rebecca Suarez, Risk Management

Christina Martin, Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator

Bill Mahaney, Special Districts

Stephanie Maldonado, Transitional Assistance

Darlene Lee, Veterans Affairs

Mariam Chalaby, Workforce Development.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/san-bernardino-county-honors-outstanding-employees/article\\_e316756c-7f0f-11e9-b5fd-e7e0e1c2d0bb.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/san-bernardino-county-honors-outstanding-employees/article_e316756c-7f0f-11e9-b5fd-e7e0e1c2d0bb.html)

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## **Employee killed in accident at Fontana steel-processing plant**

**Brian Rokos, Daily Bulletin**

Posted: May 24, 2019, 9:10 pm

An employee of California Steel Industries in Fontana was killed in an accident there Tuesday, May 21, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health said Friday.

The employee, whose name was not publicly announced, was a materials handler, Cal/OSHA spokesman Frank Polizzi said. The man was using a work table when he became pinned between a belt and a mandrel, which is a cylindrical object against which material can be shaped.

**San Bernardino County firefighters** were called just before 3:30 a.m. to 14000 San Bernardino Avenue and extricated the man from the machinery within minutes of their arrival, spokesman Eric Sherwin said. He was taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, where he died Wednesday, Polizzi said.

“Cal/OSHA is investigating to correct violations of workplace safety regulations,” Polizzi said. The state agency has the power to fine the company depending on the seriousness and cause of the accident. The company can appeal.

California Steel Industries says on its website that it processes steel slab purchased from suppliers. The 450-acre site includes 115 acres in one building.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/05/24/employee-killed-in-accident-at-fontana-steel-processing-plant/>

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## **Person is seriously injured in collision in Fontana on May 23**

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 24, 2019



A two-vehicle collision took place in western Fontana on May 23. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A person was seriously injured in a two-vehicle collision in western Fontana on May 23.

At about 7:50 p.m., the California Highway Patrol and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the incident in the 8000 block of Banana Avenue.

According to a CHP officer, a person driving a blue Honda Civic was driving southbound on Banana and broadsided a black Honda Civic hatchback that was backing out of a driveway, causing the car to roll over.

Emergency medical responders treated a person who was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries.

The CHP is investigating the accident.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/person-is-seriously-injured-in-collision-in-fontana-on-may/article\\_822ed5f2-7e4f-11e9-88f0-0f43ce7c0202.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/person-is-seriously-injured-in-collision-in-fontana-on-may/article_822ed5f2-7e4f-11e9-88f0-0f43ce7c0202.html)

## Crash can't close restaurant

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

Posted: May 24, 2019



Andrea Herrera works to close up a hole punched into the side of a local restaurant by a car early Friday morning, May 24.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — An allegedly drunk driver could not stop Arteaga's Mexican Food, Adobe Road and Buena Vista Drive, from serving customers Friday morning, May 24.

Ian Scott Bearup, 21, of Twentynine Palms, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol following the crash that took out a wall in the northeast corner of the restaurant, near the front door.

While workers put up plywood for a temporary fix, the restaurant remained open, accepting customers through the back door.

Bearup was booked into West Valley Detention Center following a pre-booking health examination at Hi-Desert Medical Center. He was later cited and released and does not have a court appearance scheduled.

According to information released by the Morongo Basin sheriff's station, found a white Kia Rouge which had crashed into the restaurant, at about 1:58 a.m. when they responded to an unknown injury accident.

The vehicle crashed into the northeast corner of the restaurant, causing significant structure damage to the building. Deputies contacted Bearup, the driver, and Ariel Mechado, the passenger in the vehicle.

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to evaluate occupants of the vehicle and determined neither was injured.

Anyone with information related to the investigation is asked to contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Morongo Basin Station at (760) 366-4175. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may contact We-Tip at 1-888-78-CRIME.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/the\\_desert\\_trail/news/article\\_3c1900d2-7e4b-11e9-b92d-cfccb28b016a.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_3c1900d2-7e4b-11e9-b92d-cfccb28b016a.html)