

News Briefs posted on KBAK-TV (CBS) website in Bakersfield, CA

County Supervisors Grant Animal Control \$481,000

-posted by Denny Bulcao



Kern County Animal Control scored a victory with county supervisors today.

The supervisors unanimously voted to approve the agencies' wish list for the upcoming fiscal year.

The director of Kern County Resource Management said this is the most financial support Animal Control has ever requested from county supervisors (nearly a half million) and today, they got it.

Supervisors heard positive feedback from seven community members who attended today's meeting, but some said spay and neuter programs need more improvement than planned.

Animal Control is also in the middle of interviewing for seven staff positions they need to fill, and they plan to make improvements to the shelter as soon as possible.

Frazier Park Living Without Electricity

-posted by Denny Bulcao



Frazier Park residents have been making due without power today as Southern California Edison crews replace power poles and fix electric lines.

Yesterday's fire on the Grapevine knocked out power in Frazier Park, Lebec, and Lake of the Woods.

Southern California Edison crews put at least 11 new poles in place and repaired downed lines.

Edison expects to have power up and running again this evening.

A Southern California Edison phone recording is telling those in Frazier Park, Lebec, and Lake Of The Woods power will be restored by 8 o'clock tonight. Some locals

29 Eyewitness News talked to said--considering all the damage they saw--they expect electricity to be back tomorrow morning at the earliest.

Hurricane Victim Starting Classes At Cal State Bakersfield

-posted by Denny Bulcao



A Sacramento native starting her freshman year of college in New Orleans is forced to come home after Hurricane Katrina destroyed her school. Tomorrow she'll begin classes at Cal State Bakersfield.

Schitara Willis had to flee New Orleans as hurricane Katrina struck.

After a few phone calls, a bus ride, flight and car drive (all within 48 hours), she is ready to go at CSUB.

Willis was just finishing her first week of class as a Political Science/Criminal Justice major at Dillard University in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit.

Willis told Eyewitness 29 News she thinks it will take at least a year to rebuild the college.

Schitara told us she's been in touch with almost all of her friends and, as far as she knows, they're all safe with their families.

Willis is one of four hurricane evacuees already enrolled at Cal State Bakersfield--another seven are on their way.

Bakersfield Church Volunteers Back From Katrina Aid Road Trip

-posted by Denny Bulcao



Members of a local church are back from their trip to Houston where they brought a semi-truck load of supplies and donations to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Volunteers from River Lakes Community Church spent 70 hours on the road--driving to and from Houston to bring goods to hurricane victims and show how much they care.

A week after planning and just five days after leaving, the volunteers returned from Houston a little road weary but with a lot accomplished.

Pastor Chad Vegas said they fed, waited on and just plain talked to hundreds of displaced families from New Orleans, 300 of which were being housed at an elementary school. Houston homeowners are taking in another 500 families.

River Lakes Community Church was working with Second Baptist Church of Houston, which is running the relief effort for FEMA in Houston.

BHS Alum, Father Of 14-Month-Old Killed

-posted by Denny Bulcao



New information tonight about a fatal shooting that occurred near downtown Bakersfield late Saturday night.

27 year old Leland Terrell, Jr. was shot twice and died at his home on Tea Tree court, and today 29 Eyewitness News talked to a few of his family members about their loss.

Leland's family said this was just a get-together--a little going away party with family and friends. Everything was fine until a group of uninvited guests showed up.

The 27-year-old Bakersfield high school graduate lived with his fiancée Legyia Collins and 14-month-old daughter Tyllilia Terrell.

The couple had been together for two and half years and planned on getting married in 2007.

This past weekend, Leland decided to throw a going away party for his future sister-in-law as she prepared to join the Navy.

The get-together turned deadly when a group of uninvited men and boys came in through the side gate and started arguing with those already at the house.

Terrell stopped playing cards to see what was happening, then tried to escort the group off his property as tensions rose.

Police say multiple rounds were fired at Terrell, one striking him in the head.

The former Bakersfield High tight end was pronounced dead at Kern Medical Center shortly after.

Police tell us two men and a juvenile have been arrested in the case: 18 year olds Willie Jackson and John Williams and 17-year-old Miles Griffin are scheduled for arraignment on Wednesday.

Police suspect the men are part of a criminal street gang, but Terrell's family says he was never involved with gangs.

The Bakersfield Police Department is still investigating the case. Those with information are being asked to call detective Fred Calvillo at 326-3504.

Fire Scorches 2500 Acres Of Grapevine, Homes Evacuated

-posted by Denny Bulcao



People evacuate their homes after a brush fire blazes through The Grapevine and shuts down both sides of Interstate 5 today.

Kern County Fire engineer Tony Diffenbaugh said, "It wasn't a hurricane, but today's fire was our own little mess." Thankfully, cooperative firefighting by three different agencies put it out.

At least 2500 acres burned on both sides of Interstate 5. The fire was reported at 12:16 just over the Los Angeles County line near Frazier Park Road and Gorman. From there, fire crews say flames jumped back and forth across the freeway two or three times, growing stronger and more difficult to contain.

By 3:30, cars were being turned away from both sides of The Grapevine and cars already near Fort Tejon were sent to alternate routes.

Nearly 300 Kern County, Los Angeles County, and National Forest Service firefighters rushed more equipment into place, finally getting a hold on the situation after some very tense moments. Flames came within feet of CHP headquarters and the Flying J truck stop and hotel.

Power is out in parts of Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club until Southern California Edison restores power, but evacuees 29 Eyewitness News spoke to remained cool and composed.

There were no injuries in today's fire and as of airtime, only one mobile home and a few cars in the area were destroyed.

People were allowed to return to their homes around 8:15 Saturday night and traffic going in both directions resumed at normal speed.

Two Shafter Girls Abducted -posted by Denny Bulcao



Shafter Police need your help tonight as they try to gather information to find two abducted girls.

Police say an Amber alert was issued early this morning after the children went missing yesterday afternoon.

A Shafter woman is missing two of her three daughters and she's hoping someone knows something that can help bring them home.

Luz Espinoza says her live-in boyfriend of the past 10 years is possibly on his way to Mexico or Texas with the girls.

Shafter Police say the boyfriend, 30-year-old Hugo Aguilar, already had a warrant out for his arrest for drug possession.

Now, a second warrant without bail has been filed because Aguilar allegedly abducted his four-year-old biological daughter Yamile Aguilar and 16-year-old stepdaughter Viridiana Urias.

Aguilar lived in an apartment with Espinoza and the girls on Collard Street in Shafter.

He is described as being five foot five inches tall, 170 pounds with black hair and brown eyes.

Luz Espinoza had 4-year-old Yamile with Aguilar.

"For a while now we've had problems and I told him to leave," Espinoza says. "He said no, when I leave I'm going to take our daughters to Mexico. When I got home from work yesterday their clothes were gone."

Aguilar is driving a gray 1987 Pontiac Grand Am with California license plate number 2ESZ563

If you have any information about this abduction please call the Shafter Police Department at 746-6341.

Cats Rescued From Hart Flat Property

-posted by Denny Bulcao



In a story 29 Eyewitness News has followed from the start, about 50 cats in Hart Flat were rescued today after enduring abusive conditions for over a month.

There was finally a happy ending for 50 or so cats that were left without food, water, and medical attention--this after about 50 cats and a dog had already died on the backwood property.

About 40 cats are lucky enough to be heading to “The Cat House On The Kings” feline rescue shelter in southeast Fresno.

Purebred Cat Rescue in Chicago contacted the sanctuary/rescue/adoption center after receiving a phone call from a concerned neighbor's daughter. Purebred Cat Rescue will pay thousands in medical costs to help the cats recover.

San Diego-based Siamese Cat Rescue is taking eight Siamese cats--eventually they will be adopted too.

Kern County Animal Control has cared for the cats, kittens, and a few dogs every day for two weeks while recording data for their ongoing investigation. The homeowners' son is caring for two horses. Animal Control Director Denise Haynes says a report will be presented to the D.A. to determine if charges need to be filed.

Haynes and Lynea Lattanzio, Director of The Cat House On The Kings, say this is the worst example of animal abuse they have ever seen.