

Many of us view our favorite athletes as gods, omnipotent and invincible. So when we hear them talk about their struggles with confidence,



First Take By Rogelio Olivas, news editor

it comes as a shock. Even imposing and legendary tennis players like Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams have had moments of self-doubt, which makes us realize that they are mere mortals who experience the same emotions we do. Nadal has long been my favorite player. I

admire his fighting spirit, sportsmanship and friendship with longtime rival Roger Federer. In a glorious two-decade-plus career plagued by injuries, the soon-to-be 38-year-old and out-of-form Rafa is on the verge of retirement. If his career had a Hollywood movie ending,

he would win a record-extending 15th French Open singles crown next month, then pair in doubles with his heir-apparent Carlos Alcaraz and win a gold medal for Spain at the Paris summer Olympics. I know this magical ending is unlikely, but a guy can dream, right?

Lotteries

Winning numbers selected Thursday, May 16.

ARIZONA
Fantasy 5 - 10,16,28,37,39
Pick 3 - 7,7,3

CALIFORNIA
Fantasy 5 - 3,8,11,17,39
Afternoon Daily 3 - 3,8,7
Evening Daily 3 - 4,0,9

For more information or past winning numbers, visit the Arizona or California lottery websites.

River Fire reaches 43 acres near Laguna Dam

BY MARA KNAUB
SUN STAFF WRITER

Human-caused wildfire burns along Colorado River

Firefighters stopped forward progress on a wildfire burning along the Colorado River near Laguna Dam on Thursday.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management reported that the blaze, dubbed the River Fire, reached 43 acres Thursday afternoon. It remained an active fire area with firefighters still in the area working the scene.

The fire burned predominantly on private property in Arizona and about 5 acres on Fort Yuma Tribal lands, according to Dolores Garcia, a public information officer for the BLM.

"We do know that this is human-caused and under investigation," Garcia told the Yuma Sun in a phone interview.

No injuries or accidents have been reported. Some evacuations occurred in the surrounding recreation areas, and firefighters cleared older homes and structures, such as outbuildings, on the private property section of the fire earlier on Thursday.

"We checked on them. It didn't look like they were habitable, but we made sure," Garcia said.

While the BLM expected a lot of activity through Thursday, the agency anticipated that firefighters would gain some containment of the fire early in the



MAP COURTESY OF BLM

A MAP SHOWS WHERE THE RIVER Fire burns along the Colorado River near Laguna Dam. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management reported that the wildfire reached 43 acres Thursday afternoon.

evening. However, the agency did not expect the fire to spread "significantly" overnight because some of the vegetation had already burned off during a river fire last year.

"It's essentially right next to and kind of slightly within the river fire from last year in almost

the same location. It's right there next to the Levee Road, on the Arizona side," Garcia said.

"They're expecting most of the movement to be to the south, mostly because that's where it's unburned. Some of the areas to the north and the east were burned last year by the river fire," she explained.

But the BLM expected to have "some good smokes" through Thursday "because some of that area that is unburned is very dense and very thick. And that salt cedar that's through there tends to burn pretty dark, so even now probably people are seeing it pretty significantly," Garcia added.

BLM is asking people to stay out of the immediate area. "That's going to be Laguna Dam, some of that recreation area that's in and around that area, from the date plantation that's there, north along the river. We're gonna ask folks to stay out of that area to allow firefighters to work," she noted.

BLM firefighters and law enforcement will continue to be on scene. However, the operational control of the fire will transition Friday from the BLM to the Arizona Department of Forestry and

Fire Management.

Multiple engines from several sections along the Colorado River, as far as Kingman, were on scene. Other agencies also responded, including the Yuma and Imperial County fire departments, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Fire Department responded as well but has since been released.

BLM urged the public to stay out of the immediate area due to the unpredictability of fire.

"Fire is dynamic and dangerous. If we are unaware of your location or presence and the situation/winds/weather (changes), this could put your resources in harm's way or impact our suppression response as well, putting the firefighters in more danger," Garcia explained in an email.

The agency also warned that the weather is getting warmer and drier and encouraged people to do their part to prevent fires.

"As they are outdoors recreating or enjoying their time outdoors, they should follow the fire restrictions if they're in place. Right now, there's not any, but as we get hotter and drier, there's

a good chance that they could go into place," Garcia said.

"In the meantime, they should still be careful with anything that could cause a spark because it just takes one spark to start a wildfire," she added.

Spark could come from doing work outside that involves cutting, welding and grinding, such as on fences. Grills and campfires could also cause sparks.

"If you have a barbecue or a charcoal grill or if you're doing a campfire out in some of those lake recreation areas, sparks from those can cause a wildfire. If they're not put out properly, they can escape to start wildfires," Garcia noted.

Vehicles parked on grass or brush could also start wildfires. "The underside of a vehicle, whether it be a car, truck or an OHV, can start a wildfire just from how hot the vehicle gets, just those types of things," she said.

"Discarded cigarettes and ash, if they land in the right spot, can start a wildfire. And then along the roadsides, we get a lot of wildfires from people that are dragging like trailer chains, like when they haul a boat or an RV. Any type of dragging metal has the tendency to spark and catch the roadside grasses on fire," Garcia added.



(FROM LEFT) KOFA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS Carlos Prado, Emma Connor, and Jesús Manjarrez at the competition, where they won first place.



(FROM LEFT) KOFA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS Sebastián Linarez, Gabrielle Salcedo, and Savannah Molenaar at the competition, where they won third place.

Kofa economics students earn top-tier scores in Personal Finance Challenge

The first-place team will compete at nationals

BY NICK FENLEY
SUN STAFF WRITER

Two teams of Kofa High School economics students recently competed in the Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE) Personal Finance Challenge at Mesa Community College.

The first-place team was comprised of Carlos Prado, Emma Connor, and Jesús Manjarrez, while the team of Sebastián Linarez, Gabrielle Salcedo, and Savannah Molenaar were the

third-place winners.

The competition involved student-led teams working on a case study of a family, examining factors like monthly income, credit, fiscal responsibilities,

savings, investments, and more to offer financial advice. Last month, they presented their studies to industry experts, and Kofa's teams offered great local representation.

With over 1,100 participants from all across the state in attendance, Kofa economics teacher Lisa Jahn said the students "should be proud of their hard work and dedication."

"It is an amazing accomplishment since this is the first time we have competed," Jahn noted in a YUHSD press release.

Regarding the opportunity, Emma Connor said she

was "shocked and immediately excited" to learn that her team came out on top.

"It was a unique experience," she said. "I'm nervous about nationals because of how far away it is and how close to graduation it is, but I'm excited to represent Kofa, and I'm proud that in our first year doing this we made it this far."

Kofa's first-place team will head to Nebraska to compete in the National Personal Finance Challenge on May 19 and 20.

Driver charged in March fatal crash

Police identify victim who died in accident

BY MARA KNAUB
SUN STAFF WRITER

A driver involved in a March fatal crash has been charged with several counts. The Yuma Police Department took Alexander Trace Ray, 27, into custody on Tuesday.

Police also identified the deceased driver as 29-year-old Ruben Orozco Gonzalez.

He was booked into the Yuma County Detention Center for second-degree homicide, endangerment, aggravated DUI, criminal damage, reckless and aggressive driving.

In an update released Thursday, police reported that the investigation determined that Ray was driving at excessive speeds with a young child in the vehicle. The child was left with a relative before the collision occurred. There were no passengers in either vehicle at the time of the collision.

The crash occurred on March 22, at about 12:40 a.m. Officers responded to an injury collision

in the intersection of East County 16th Street and South Avenue 3E.

The initial investigation revealed Ray, driving a 2022 Tesla, was reportedly traveling eastbound on County 16th Street at a high rate of speed when he allegedly failed to stop at the stop sign at Avenue 3E. The Tesla collided with a 2006 Toyota Scion, driven by Orozco Gonzalez, traveling southbound on Avenue 3E.

Police said that Orozco Gonzalez was ejected from his vehicle and pronounced dead on scene. Ray was extracted from his vehicle and transported to Yuma Regional Medical Center in serious but stable condition.

The Yuma Police Department encourages anyone with any information about this case to call 928-783-4421 or 78-CRIME at 928-782-7463 to remain anonymous.



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KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES PG-13 Fri & Sat (12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:15, 5:15), 6:15, 7:30; Mon to Wed (2:45, 4:15, 5:15), 6:15, 7:30; Thu (2:45, 4:15), 6:15, 7:30
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Free family fun

Kids at Hope Yuma is hosting event Saturday

BY ALEX EBRAHIMI
SUN STAFF WRITER

Kids at Hope Yuma, a local nonprofit providing training and resources to over 50 schools and organizations in Yuma County, is hosting its second annual "Family Fun-Day Saturday."

The free event will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Joe Henry Park. "Last year was our first 'Family Fun-Day' event," said Tim Hardy, chairman of Kids at Hope. "We had over 2,000 students from 70 schools, two states, and two countries attend the event. So we're expecting a big turnout this year."

Free gifts will be given to the first 500 kids to arrive. Free T-shirts, hotdogs, kettle chips, and water will be provided to everybody. Two water slides, one big for the older kids, and one small for the younger kids, will be available to young daredevils of both sizes. And over 15 different local organizations and businesses from Sunset Health to Chile Pepper will have booths set up providing games for the kids and pamphlets for the parents.

"Yuma is an amazing community. Yuma is all about family," said Hardy. "Kids at Hope be-



COURTESY IMAGE

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lieves all kids are capable of success. No exceptions. And that starts at home."

Kids at Hope was first established as a nationwide nonprofit back in 2000. The Yuma Chapter was founded 15 years later and operated under the national umbrella till 2021, when it became its

own nonprofit. All donations to Kids at Hope Yuma stay within the community.

For more information on Kids at Hope Yuma's services, as well as how to donate or volunteer, visit their website: <https://www.kidsathopeyuma.org/index.html>