

USATODAY SENATE BLOCKS GUN MEASURES OFFERED IN WAKE OF ORLANDO SHOOTING PAGE 1B

SUMMER SCORCH

City is just shy of 123-degree record temperature level

COLIN ATAGI THE DESERT SUN

Temperatures in Palm Springs topped out at 122 degrees on Monday, falling one degree shy of the all-time heat record for the city, according to preliminary reports from the

National Weather Service. On July 29, 1995, the city's temperature climbed to 123 degrees, a level also seen the day before and in 1993 and 1979.

The Coachella Valley was one of the hottest regions in the country Monday, along with Death Valley National Park, Needles and Lake Havasu, according to the National Weather Service.

Indio, Palm Springs and Thermal all broke records for high-temperature measurements taken June 20.

Palm Springs' 122-degree high broke the record of 118 degrees set in 1929 and also equaled the all-time hottest day

in June, set June 29, 2013. Indio reached 120 degrees, shattering the record of 116 degrees set in 1929, and temperatures in Thermal climbed to 121, breaking the 118-degree record set in 2008.

A day earlier, all three communities also broke the daily records for June 19. Temperatures reached 119 degrees on Sunday.

But few people may have no-



JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

DESERT WATER AGENCY Area posts water savings

Customers cut back by 39%, surpassing goal

IAN JAMES THE DESERT SUN

May turned out to be a banner month for water conservation in the Palm Springs area, with customers of the Desert Water Agency cutting back by 39 percent and surpassing a state-mandated goal.

During the past year, from June 2015 through May, DWA has reported a cumulative reduction of 26.6 percent in water use as compared to the same months in 2013, which state officials have chosen as a baseline year.

Those cutbacks over the past 12 months have fallen short of the state's conservation target for the agency, which was initially 36 percent and was later adjusted to 32 percent.

Last month's stellar performance, though, indicates that people have made lasting changes to their habits and have continued to dial back water use even as the state has begun to loosen restrictions

'During the recession, everyone learned to be a little bit more budget-savvy, and I think the same is true with wasaid Ashley Metzger, DWA's ter. reach and conservation manager. She said relatively mild weather in May probably helped boost conservation by limiting the quantities of water needed to keep yards green. A bigger factor, she said, is that with higher water use during the warm months of the year, it's

liced the difference from Sun day to Monday unless they looked at a thermometer, meteorologist James Brotherton said.

"You're in one of the hottest towns in the country today," he

Please see HEAT WAVE, 6A

Rodney Jones of Indio escapes the neat at the Paim Desert Aquatic Center on Mo

"You're in one of the hottest towns in the country today. When it's that hot, it's just hot."

Advice

Bridge

Comics

Lottery Movies

JAMES BROTHERTON Meteorologist

Please see WATER, 8A

Challenge raised on Palm Springs hospital's closed meetings

BARRETT NEWKIRK THE DESERT SUN

When Tenet Healthcare took over the hospital in Palm Springs in 1997, a symbiotic relationship emerged between the corporation and the public agency that owns the hospital.

The taxpayer-backed Desert Healthcare District would continue to hold board meetings open to the public, as required by law. Meanwhile, both sides agreed that the law allowed the hospital's governing board to meet in private.

Now almost 20 years later, that arrangement is being challenged.

Working with a prominent attorney who specializes in open government issues, Ezra Kaufman of Palm Desert sent a legal demand to the hospital arguing that its board is subject to California's public records law and the Brown Act, the state law requiring city councils,

school boards and other government bodies to conduct their business within view of the public.

Attorneys for Desert Regional Medical Center, in a response dated June 1, rejected Kaufman's claim saying the hospital's lease was expressly written so that the governing board would not fall under the Brown Act or state Public Records Act. The hospital board includes two members from the health care district board, one less than the number that would automatically require the hospital board to meet in public.

Kaufman said in an email Wednesday he was exploring whether it was feasible to take the issue to court.

Kelly Aviles, Kaufman's attorney, says the section of state law regarding leased hospitals and the Brown Act

No one can deny

Please see HOSPITAL, 6A



New fires erupt in state

New wildfires erupted Monday near Los Angeles and chased people from their suburban homes as an intense heat wave stretching from the West Coast to New Mexico blistered the region. **CALIFORNIA, 7A**





CALIFORNIA LOTTERY

Mega Millions/Friday

Numbers picked	20,23,30,44,59	Meganumber 9
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus mega	0	\$310 million
5 no mega	1	\$316,712
4 plus mega	18	\$2,649
4 no mega	131	\$509
3 plus mega	697	\$47
3 no mega	9,416	\$7
2 plus mega	16,099	\$5
1 plus mega	130,654	\$2
mega only	339,933	\$1
Tuesday's jackpot estimate (drawing: 7:57 p.m.) \$333N		

SuperLotto Plus/Saturday

Numbers picked	8, 13, 17, 19, 39	Meganumber 5
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus mega	0	\$9 million
5 no mega	1	\$35,984
4 plus mega	16	\$1,124
4 no mega	340	\$88
3 plus mega	550	\$49
3 no mega	13,656	\$9
2 plus mega	7,162	\$10
1 plus mega	34,849	\$1
mega only	50,162	\$1
Wodposday's jack	not ostimato (drawir	ag: 7:57 p m)

Wednesday's jackpot estimate (drawing: 7:57 p.m.) \$10M

Powerball/Saturday

Numbers picked	2, 23, 41, 53, 63	Powerball number
·		11
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus powerball	0	\$169 million
5 no powerball	0	\$653,733
4 plus powerball	3	\$11,873
4 no powerball	37	\$481
3 plus powerball	100	\$185
3 no powerball	2,485	\$8
2 plus powerball	2,260	\$8
1 plus powerball	17,789	\$5
Powerball only	43,578	\$4
Wednesday's jackpot estimate		\$184M

Daily 3/Monday

Daily 4/Monday

Numbers picked

Lottery information

Afternoon numbers 8, 1, 7

Match three in order for top prize;

Match four in order for top prize;

Riverside offices: (800) 568-8379 On the Web: www.calottery.com.

combinations for other prizes.

9, 8, 9, 1

combinations for other prizes.

Night numbers 8, 4, 4

Daily Derby/Monday

1st place	05, California	
	Classic	
2nd place	01, Gold Rush	
3rd place	03, Hot Shot	
Race time	1:42.92	
Match winners and time for top prize. Match either for other prizes.		

Fantasy 5/Monday

Numbers picked 7, 9, 12, 20, 27

Match all five for top prize. Match at least three for other prizes.

Wildfires

Continued from 7A

The second was much closer to foothill neighborhoods and brought quick evacuations. Its cause has not been found.

"We immediately had homes under threat," Los Angeles County Deputy Chief John B. Tripp said. But then the fire immediately started burning away from the homes, toward the forest. "That was extremely fortunate for us," he said.

A nighttime change in

Water

Continued from 1A

easier for customers to save by cutting back "more of that discretionary water use."

Changes in landscaping have also helped during the past year, as more people have removed lawns and replaced them with desert landscaping.

Other water agencies in the Coachella Valley also reported substantial water-savings during May, most of them meeting or exceeding conservation targets set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

» Customers of Mission Springs Water District in Desert Hot Springs reduced water use by 24 percent last month, matching their 24percent conservation goal.

» Indio Water Authority reported a reduction of 31 percent in May, surpassing a target of 27 percent.

» Coachella Water Authority reduced water use by 23.1 percent, beating its 20-percent target.

» Customers of Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company, who have ranked among California's higher per-capita water users, cut back by



exceptional drought. Even so, the state's water situation this summer is better than last summer. More snow and rain during the winter and spring pusned up reservoirs' levels. In response, state water regulators decided last month to lift mandatory conservation targets for water districts and instead allow agencies to come up with their own goals.

tainment to more than 50 percent.

Most mandatory evacuations will be lifted Wednesday morning and nearly all by Saturday, authorities said Monday night. About 270 homes and other buildings were threatened by the blaze, which has charred more than 12 square miles since Wednesday.

Another wildfire was growing near Potrero, a small desert town close to the Mexico border. It surged to nearly 3 square miles amid triple-digit temperatures and forced the evacuation of about 75 people from the ranching community about 40 miles southeast of San Diego.

Three firefighters suffered heat-related injuries and were taken to a hospital for evaluations.

Other blazes burned wide swaths across Arizona and New Mexico, where firefighters also faced blistering temperatures.

In central New Mexico, a 28-square-mile fire that erupted last week and destroyed 24 homes in the Manzano Mountains south of Albuquerque was largely uncontained.



Traffic rolls past dry grass at the Mesquite Country Club in Palm Springs last summer.

urban water suppliers

across California will be

37.6 percent, surpassing the goal of 32 percent.

wind direction, however,

could return serious dan-

ger in a hurry, Tripp said.

the region as the heat

surpassed 100 degrees across much of Southern

California well before

noon, while some desert

made progress against a

nearly week-old blaze in

rugged coastal mountains

west of Santa Barbara.

Overnight winds pushed

flames into previously

burned areas, allowing

firefighters to boost con-

cities sizzled in the 120s.

Elsewhere,

peaked.

Officials had warned of extreme fire danger in

Temperatures

crews

able to "self-certify" their » Of the valley's six water suppliers, only the available water supplies Coachella Valley Water and the levels of conser-District, the area's largvation they deem necesest, missed its target in sary. May. It reported using Water agencies have until Wednesday to turn in 28.8 percent less as compared to the same month their "self-certification" in 2013, while its target was 32 percent.

in 2013, while its target was 32 percent. With California in a fifth year of drought, managers of water districts have called for people to keep up their conservation efforts during

Managers of many water agencies had pressed for the state water board to relax or eliminate the mandatory targets.

While the strict targets are now disappearing, Gov. Jerry Brown and top state officials have called for Californians to keep making conservation a way of life. The updated regulations will be in effect through the end of January, and officials say water within 48 hours after rain, or cause runoff by over-watering lawns, among other things.

The board of the Desert Water Agency voted earlier this month to allow outdoor watering on five days a week instead of three, adding Saturdays and Sundays to the previous Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule. The agency allows watering before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on those days.

DWA has also set a goal of continuing to conserve 10 percent to 13 percent below 2013 levels.

Metzger said the agency calculated that goal for "long-term sustainability" based on the area's water use and the amounts of imported water it has been receiving to replenish the aquifer. She said that goal is separate from the conservation standard DWA will be submitting to the state this week.

"It was important to



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760 779-4422 Handyman Plus CA. CONTRACTOR LICENSE #699467 D5-0000404073 they are keeping open the possibility of returning to tougher measures next year if needed.

During the past year, between June 2015 and last month, customers of the Coachella Valley Water District reduced their water use by 25.5 percent below 2013 levels.

CVWD has been charging extra penalty fees when customers fail to meet conservation goals. The district decided to eliminate those fees starting in June in response to the new state regulations. This month, the district's board also voted to raise rates, in part to make up for lost revenues due to conservation.

As the drought rules change, "we still need to be mindful of our water, and we can't go back completely to the way things were," said Heather Engel, the district's director of communication and conservation.

Some water restrictions remain in place. For instance, CVWD's customers still aren't allowed to hose down driveways or sidewalks, wash cars without a shut-off nozzle, our board to make sure that we continue towards long-term sustainability," Metzger said. "We think that our customers will continue to save."

Groundwater levels have declined in large portions of the Coachella Valley over the past several decades, even as the inflows of imported water from the Colorado River have helped partially offset those declines. In recent years, the water table has risen near groundwater recharge ponds in Palm Springs and La Quinta, while the biggest declines in the aquifer have occurred away from those ponds in the middle of the valley.

Metzger said the DWA's goal of continuing to save 10 percent to 13 percent is aimed at achieving a water balance in the long term. The latest numbers, she said, show that people in the area have been embracing a conservation ethic.

Ian James writes about water and the environment for The Desert Sun. Email: ian.james@desert sun.com Twitter: @TDSIanJames

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