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Calimesa approves new fire engines

By KAREN DASILVA
Staff Reporter

What's old is new for the Calimesa Fire Department after the city council approved Monday night a couple of resolutions that allowed the city to purchase used vehicles for its fire staff.

A demonstration 2019 mini-pumper Type 6 fire engine for the cost of \$145,900 and a used Type 3 wildland engine for \$30,000 were unanimously approved on Aug. 5.

"Thirty grand doesn't seem like it's much to spend on a vehicle that you feel will serve us well in the city," said Councilman Larry Smith.

"This was all brought forward to the ad hoc committee," said Mayor Bill Davis before the vote. "It was discussed thoroughly. We went through it and it was explained how we could get away with it and what we needed to do."

Davis was referring to the resolution that allowed the city to amend its budget and waive formal bidding for the demo Type 6 engine, which will replace an old squad, and the used Type 3 engine that will allow the fire department to increase its overall response capabilities.

"It does allow us much more flexibility when we can make those findings," said City Manager Bonnie Johnson, about making certain findings for the used vehicles under the city's purchasing ordinance to allow for the resolution.

Johnson said the purchase of the vehicles, especially the mini-pumper, was needed because the squad was becoming expensive to keep in service.

"Calimesa is currently staffing two apparatus on each

See Calimesa engines, Page 9

Yucaipa High School gets a new field



Final touches are made at Yucaipa High School's new turf before athletes put it to good use.

Photo by Doug Earnest

By RACHAEL M. GUSTUSON
Editor

Yucaipa High School just installed new football turf and it's impressive looking. According to YHS Athletic Director Matt Carpenter, the old track was just over a decade old but it was time to get a new one.

"Yucaipa High School is excited to get new turf in the stadium," said Carpenter. "The previous turf lasted 12 years, when the life expectancy was 10 years. It was evident during the last year of use, that it was time. Many repairs were made over the life of the turf, which is normal, but it was clear that many more were coming, that were much larger, and went deeper into the foundation of

the turf.

Carpenter said recent advances in safety with the new turf made it easy to make a change.

"YHS appreciates YCJUSD support in providing the safest possible playing surface for the school and community teams that use the field," said Carpenter. "Yucaipa was one of the first high schools in the area to have artificial turf, and the technology in both production, and safety has come a long way in that time.

Carpenter was quick to add many of the selling points for the new turf:

- Fewer seams: many of the lines and numbers are able to be fabricated in the factory. Seams are often where tears will happen, so minimal seams

will hopefully mean a longer life for this turf.

- Shock pad: Underneath the turf is a shock pad that should greatly reduce the number of injuries due to impact with the ground. YHS is hopeful that this will minimize the number of concussions in all sports that use the turf.

- Root layer: Built into this particular brand of turf (AstroTurf) is a root layer that most closely mirrors actual grass. With that root layer, the need for the "rubber pellets" that fill in around the blades of grass is greatly reduced. Carpenter is hopeful that this root layer will also minimize the number of non-contact injuries like sprained ankles and knee injuries, as cleats don't go quite as deep into the

infill, and break away easier.

- Cooling: The new infill (pellets) is designed to help with the cooling process of the field, by absorbing water and slowly evaporating it out throughout the day.

Superintendent of Schools Cali Binks said with YHS football season right around the corner, football athletes are looking forward to breaking in the new state-of-the-art turf.

"The field will support our athletes at YHS and in the community," said Binks. "The YHS logo spans 120 feet. We are excited to put it to use. Go Thunderbirds!"

The first football home game at YHS will be against Grand Terrace High on Aug. 30. All home games begin at 7 p.m.