



# NEWS



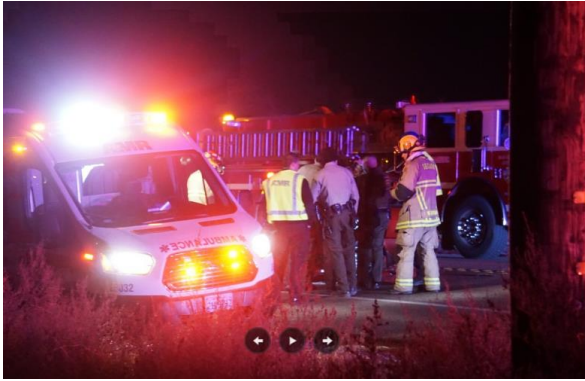
## News Headlines 12/15/2017

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## One Woman Killed in Highway 395 Adelanto Crash with Stater Bros.Truck

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

Posted: December, 15 2017, 8:10 a.m.



**ADELANTO** – At least one woman was killed in a head-on traffic collision on CA-395 Friday. At around 12:28 a.m. deputies and emergency medical personnel responded to the major damage traffic collision on CA-395 between Mojave Drive and Seneca Road.

When they arrived they located a Stater Bros semi-tractor trailer with front end damage and a mangled red or burgundy colored 2002 Honda.

Inside the Honda was an unresponsive woman. Two ambulances were requested along with information about the time it would take for an air ambulance to arrive.

Both ambulances were canceled when the female inside the vehicle was later determined to be deceased. The 59-year-old male driver of the Stater Bros. semi-tractor trailer appeared to suffer minor or no injuries.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team – MAIT responded to the scene to conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the collision.

Highway 395 was shut down to both northbound and southbound traffic from Mojave Drive to Seneca Road.

It is unclear if any others were in the vehicle at the time of the collision, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department will determine if there were any other occupants at the time of extrication.

The closure is expected to remain for approximately 6 hours according to deputies at the scene. No further information is available at this time. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://247headline.com/one-woman-killed-in-highway-395-adelanto-crash-with-stater-bros-truck/>

## A Spark of Love and community support drive Trona Christmas toy donations

Michael Smit, Daily Independent

Posted: December, 15 2017, 3:00 a.m.

TRONA - At the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department Station 57 in Trona, one side of the fire station's garage is filled with fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

The other side is filled with dolls, action figures, skateboards, stuffed animals, footballs, and bicycles. These are just a small portion of the toys raised through Spark of Love in Trona. The toys now await Dec. 22, when Santa Claus will stop by the Trona Fire Department to hand out toys and make Christmas wishes come true.

Paid call firefighters Shawn Dodson and Christina Sanders, as well as Arzell Hale from Searles Valley Minerals, spoke with the Daily Independent on Thursday afternoon, excited to share the news of what Spark of Love has been able to do this year.

Hale said that Searles Valley Minerals has held a luncheon and a dinner event where everyone who came brought a toy for Spark of Love. He said they plan to hold one more before December 22. He noted that though the majority of SVM employees live in Ridgecrest, they really come out to support the community of Trona, where they work.

Sanders noted that the toys on display in the fire station's garage don't even represent all that they have. She said they've still got toys filling up back rooms and even more toys that SVM hasn't delivered yet. She said that they've received donations from a number of sources, but SVM has certainly been the largest donor.

Dodson said that it's been Sanders' first year coordinating the Spark of Love event, and he said that she's been doing a great job.

Spark of Love is a toy donation charity event that happens all throughout San Bernardino, as well as other areas in Southern California. However, it's occasionally left the isolated town of Trona in an awkward spot.

The closest city to Trona is Ridgecrest, which is in Kern County. Sanders said that Marines Toys For Tots Foundation runs in Kern County (Toys For Tots does service Trona and will distribute on Dec. 19 to families whose applications were approved), and Spark of Love runs in San Bernardino.

Dodson pointed out that Trona doesn't have the same advantages as many of the other big cities of Southern California, which have a multitude of large retail stores that can set out donation boxes. Still, he said despite Trona's slim resources, it's a town that comes together.

Dodson and Sanders mentioned one retail chain in town where the local store owners battled against their corporate managers for the right to set out a toy donation box and support their community.

Hale said, "There's a lot of kids in this town that wouldn't have a Christmas if it wasn't for what they're doing here."

"There's limited jobs here," said Sanders. She said +the town has quite a few low income families. She said that their Spark of Love event has registered 170 kids who they'll be donating toys to this year.

It's the first year for Sanders to be leading the Spark of Love event, but she's no stranger to it. On top of working with the program before, she was also born and raised in Trona.

"I've lived here all 35 years of my life," she said. Given her years in the community and the small town feel of Trona, she's able to run Spark of Love a bit differently than it might run in larger cities.

She said that every year she gives out the bikes a bit early because she knows the kids around town who have never received a bike; she sees them walking around town.

Sanders also said that she's often gone to buy jackets for kids she's seen at the schools shivering in the cold because their families couldn't afford winter clothes.

Sanders said that aside from SVM, they've also received donations in both toys and cash from many different organizations, including Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, the Trona Community Chest, Family Dollar, Trona Gem and Mineral Society. She said they also have one helping hand this year: Toys For Tots.

Sanders said that 15 kids from Trona were accepted to receive donations from Toys For Tots, and that Toys For Tots will also be donating extra toys to Trona's Spark of Love.

Before the interview could finish, there was a medical call and Sanders had to race off with sirens blaring. Trona's paid call firefighters, like Sanders and Dodson, are paid per each call they take. Aside from working with the Fire Department, both Sanders and Dodson also have full-time jobs at Searles Valley Minerals.

"That girl, I'll tell you what," Hale said as Sanders drove out to the medical call. "She works at the plant sometimes twelve hours, she's raising two kids as a single mother, and then she works her ass off down here at the Fire Department and Spark of Love. And she's doing a great job."

<http://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/20171215/a8200spark-of-love-and-community-support-drive-trona-christmas-toy-donations>

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## **No change after Measure J recount: Barstow officials say process sheds light on voter registration, ineligible ballots issues**

Paola Baker , VV Daily Press

Posted: December 14, 2017 at 5:45 p.m.

BARSTOW — A recount of the Measure J special election results has been completed, with no change to final election results, city officials said.

The recount request, filed by City Manager Curt Mitchell on Dec. 4, asked San Bernardino County to recount all Measure J ballots by hand after the half-cent sales tax measure — meant to bolster the city's struggling fire district — failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed to pass.

The measure's failure was extremely narrow, with City Clerk JoAnn Cousino stating the city was "short by 30 votes" to make the sales tax a reality. With that in mind, the City Council unanimously approved the recount and all costs associated with it.

Nevertheless, the recount results showed no changes to the final tallies, according to city spokesman Anthony Riley.

“The numbers didn’t move. They didn’t change,” Riley said. “But, it did shed a light on some of the issues we faced with voters heading to the polls.”

These issues, which Assistant City Attorney Matthew Summers called “a variety of community concerns regarding the conduct of that election,” included problems with voter registration, incomplete signatures on ballots, and ballots that were not dropped off to a proper polling location, deeming those ballots ineligible.

Measure J would have imposed a half-cent sales tax throughout the city expected to generate an estimated \$3.8 million a year, with residents paying an average of \$47 a year, according to city officials. The funds were to be earmarked for the BFPD. It was highly touted as a way for residents to maintain local accountability.

Barstow Fire Protection District Fire Chief Jamie Williams, who personally oversaw some of the recount process, said the biggest issue the city faced during this year’s special election was confusion with voter registration.

“There were a few provisional ballots where people didn’t register to vote on time, so when they were turned in, they couldn’t be counted because those voters weren’t registered,” Williams said. “There was a group of votes that couldn’t get counted because they weren’t sent in on time or weren’t signed properly.”

While the final confirmation of election results was “disheartening,” Riley and Williams said they’re striving to look at the defeat as another opportunity.

“I think all of us — city staff, the city clerk’s office, and the fire district — we are going to do what we can to educate the public on voting registration and other such issues,” Williams said.

“I’ve seen past elections won with 25 or fewer votes,” Riley said. “It’s imperative that people realize that at the local level, every vote counts. If anything, it counts even more. I think it’s important people know that and really think about that going into next year.”

And as the new year approaches, Barstow is adamant in its resolve. Williams said the city is ensuring “no stone is left unturned” as it searches for further options to save the fire district.

“There’s talks about going to another election, talks about seeking annexation with [County Fire], and talks about other options,” Williams said. “It’s still too early to tell, but we’ve been working side by side with the City Council to move forward.”

The next City Council meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall. Visit [www.barstowca.org](http://www.barstowca.org) for more information and to watch archived meetings.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171214/no-change-after-measure-j-recount-barstow-officials-say-process-sheds-light-on-voter-registration-ineligible-ballots-issues>

## **San Bernardino vegetation fire — sparked amid red flag warnings — contained Thursday morning**

Stephen Ramirez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin  
Posted: December 14, 2017, 12:00 p.m.

A small vegetation fire near Waterman Avenue and the 10 Freeway that sparked Thursday morning amid a red flag warning that warns of 65 mph wind gusts was stopped at 5 acres, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said.

No injuries were reported, San Bernardino County Fire announced on Twitter. The fire was reported at 8:43 a.m. and was contained at 9:39.

The department said it will perform two to three hours of heavy mop-up duty along the fire line. The cause is still under investigation.

Fire agencies are on alert over the next two days after the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning due to heavy winds expected from Thursday to Friday morning.

Strong winds have helped fuel several Southern California wildfires last week, including the Thomas Fire, which is still burning in Ventura and San Barbara counties.

The Santa Ana winds are expected to slow down Friday afternoon and Saturday, but pick up Sunday and Monday.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/14/small-vegetation-fire-near-san-bernardino-contained-thursday-morning/>

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## **Man surrenders; standoff had shut down San Bernardino intersection, prompts evacuation of Oak Grove Learning Center**

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun  
Posted: December 14, 2017, 9:18 a.m.

Cheers erupted Thursday morning after a man who had been holding a gun to his head in San Bernardino – prompting the evacuation of a nearby school and businesses – surrendered to authorities and was taken into custody.

A woman who identified herself as his mother broke down in tears upon learning that he was safe. She and several family members said that the suspect had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and were trying to get help for him, but haven't been able to find the right kind of support.

In the aftermath of the ordeal, the family bowed their heads in prayer, thanking Jesus for bringing the situation to a peaceful end.

The situation began about 9 a.m. Thursday.

Several witnesses said the situation began when San Bernardino County probation officers tried to contact a man and he fled.

Shortly afterward, authorities closed 40th and E streets.

The Oak Tree Learning Center, a preschool within a block of the scene, was placed on lockdown. An officer was stationed inside.

About 9:40 a.m., the school was told to evacuate. It was unclear where students were brought. About that time, the suspect's family showed up at the scene.

A man had come to the scene asking officers if the person they're speaking with could be his son. "Oh my God," the man said as he clutched a cell phone.

A woman at the scene began pleading to have police allow her to talk to him.

"My son has a problem! I have to tell them he's sick in the head. He has a problem. He's not right right now!" yells a woman who saw a picture of him and says that's her son.

"I can talk to him. I know how to talk to him. You don't know how to talk to him," she screams at a CHP officer at the perimeter of the scene.

Also responding to the situation are the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino Police Department.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/12/14/san-bernardino-intersection-shut-down-for-very-fluid-investigation/>

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## **SBC Fire reminds you to water your Christmas tree**

VVNG Staff, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 14, 2017

VICTOR VALLEY – As decorations continue to be put up, **San Bernardino County Fire** wants to remind you to water you Christmas tree.

When a Christmas tree is cut, more than half its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your tree. Below are a few safety tips and facts on how you can keep your tree alive longer.

- Watering is critical. A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!
- Never let the water level go below the tree's base. Too little water causes resin to form over the cut end of the trunk. Once that happens, the tree stops absorbing water and dries out quickly.
- Indoors, keep the tree away from heating ducts or other heat sources. Keeping the tree away from heating sources will keep the tree from drying. In fact, the lower the temperature the better the tree will do.
- Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.
- Continue to monitor your tree for dryness. Run your fingers across the needles to determine if they are dry and brittle. If the needles break easily or fall in your hand, the tree is dry and should be removed from the house. A well-cared-for tree should normally remain fresh at least three to four weeks before drying to an unacceptable level.

Keeping you tree watered will keep your tree from drying. A dry tree can easily catch fire. U.S. Fire departments responded to an estimated average of 200 home structure fires per year that began with Christmas trees in 2011-2015.

<http://www.vvng.com/sbc-fire-reminds-water-christmas-tree/>