



# NEWS



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## **FIRE DESTROYS VACANT CABIN IN TWENTYNINE PALMS MONDAY MORNING**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM  
Posted: January 22, 2019

Firefighters are investigating a suspicious fire that burned down a vacant cabin in Twentynine Palms Monday morning.

**County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said that firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Wonder Valley, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center were called to the 3700 block of Timothy Avenue about 11:20 a.m.

The cabin was fully involved when firefighters arrived.

Tuttle said the winds, which were estimated at 25 miles per hour, hampered the firefighters' efforts in containing a blaze, but they managed to get it under control in about 30 minutes.

No other structures or vegetation were threatened by the flames.

There was no one at the cabin when firefighters arrived.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-destroys-vacant-cabin-in-twentynine-palms-monday-morning/>

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## **Two homicides occur in San Bernardino during the past week**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News  
Posted: January 21, 2019

Two homicides occurred in San Bernardino last week, according to the San Bernardino Police Department.

On Jan. 14 at about 4:24 p.m., the San Bernardino Police Department's Dispatch Center received a call of a shooting at 632 N. Crescent Avenue.

When officers arrived, they located a gunshot victim down inside a residence. The victim did not survive and was pronounced deceased at the scene by **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel. The victim was identified as Richard Sams, 45.

In a separate incident, on Jan. 18 at about 2:30 p.m., the Dispatch Center received a call of a shooting in the 100 block of W. 9th Street.

When officers arrived, they found the victim, a 31-year-old man, in a vacant field. He was unresponsive and suffering from a gunshot wound. Paramedics arrived and he was pronounced deceased on scene. He has not yet been identified.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/two-homicides-occur-in-san-bernardino-during-the-past-week/article\\_13e5f080-1dc4-11e9-a787-6fbbf6059af3.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/two-homicides-occur-in-san-bernardino-during-the-past-week/article_13e5f080-1dc4-11e9-a787-6fbbf6059af3.html)

## Man found shot to death in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: January 21, 2019



San Bernardino police found a man shot to death Monday, Jan. 14, at home at 632 N. Crescent Drive.

At approximately 4:24 p.m., responded to a call a found the body of Richard Sams, 45. He was pronounced dead by **San Bernardino County fire** personnel.

The Homicide Unit was notified and investigators were called to the scene to conduct their investigation.

The Homicide Unit is asking for the public's assistance with information regarding this incident. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Sawyer at (909)384-5630 or Sergeant Mahan at (909)384-5613.

[https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/man-found-shot-to-death-in-san-bernardino/article\\_ef211a22-1daf-11e9-a394-b350541e125c.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/man-found-shot-to-death-in-san-bernardino/article_ef211a22-1daf-11e9-a394-b350541e125c.html)

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## New American Cancer Society fundraiser matches Inland Empire patients, survivors with heavy machinery

Brian Whitehead, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: January 19, 2019



On Jan. 12, the American Cancer Society hosted the inaugural "Construction vs. Cancer: The Big Dig Inland Empire" fundraiser at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Training Academy. (Courtesy photo)

Young cancer patients and survivors rode giant construction and emergency equipment this month in San Bernardino as part of the American Cancer Society's inaugural "Construction vs. Cancer: The Big Dig Inland Empire" fundraiser.

Introduced for area children with fascinations toward large construction machinery, the three-hour event on Jan. 12 helped raise money for innovative cancer research, free programs and services, and supportive education and prevention efforts.

Construction equipment such as mini excavators, cranes, dozers, scissor lifts and backhoes were ridden by Inland Empire families.

A San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department helicopter, SWAT van and **county fire** truck also served as attractions.

Superheroes Batman and Wonder Woman joined the young cancer patients and survivors at the Sheriff's Training Academy, as did princesses Ariel, Belle and Snow White; mascots from the San Bernardino 66ers, Ontario Reign, Target and Rancho Cucamonga Quakes; and Storm Troopers from the "Star Wars" movies.

The Inland Empire group "Rock Stars of Tomorrow" played a two-hour set.

A number of community partners and construction professionals sponsored the fair.

For more information, visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org) or call 800-227-2345.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/01/19/new-american-cancer-society-fundraiser-matches-inland-empire-patients-survivors-with-heavy-machinery/>

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## **Judge considering request to block county fire tax**

**Martin Estacio, Daily Press**

Posted: January 19, 2019

SAN BERNARDINO — A motion for a preliminary injunction is being considered by a judge in a lawsuit that takes issue with the County Board of Supervisors' approval of a fire service zone tax last year.

The injunction is being sought by plaintiffs opposed to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's expansion of its FP-5 Service Zone and the levying of a \$157.26 tax on all parcels within the zone. The Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 to approve the tax at a Oct. 16 public hearing.

The county has filed a motion of its own, claiming the plaintiffs failed to state a valid legal claim against the tax. At a Jan. 16 hearing, Judge Donald Alvarez allowed both sides to present their arguments and will likely decide on both motions in the coming weeks.

Attorney Sean Wade, who represents the plaintiffs, said the injunction, which would block expansion of the fire zone and implementation of a tax, would be a temporary solution until a permanent one is decided upon in a potential trial.

The plaintiffs are headed by The Red Brennan Group, a nonprofit based in San Diego. The group's website says its mission is to "implement incentives that foster good governance."

Other plaintiffs include community organizations, such as the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association, and residents.

The county's motion, called a demurrer, was filed by Colantuano, Highsmith & Whatley, PC, a law firm hired to represent the supervisors.

County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig told the Board in June additional tax revenue was needed to shore up a nearly \$30 million deficit in the department's budget and to maintain existing fire services.

The Board agreed to consider it at the October meeting, but only after initiating a protest procedure that would require public notices sent to all parcel owners.

If 25 percent opposed it, the expansion would have been put to a public vote. Mailed responses, however, totaled around 3 percent.

Plaintiffs contend the expansion should have been “submitted to the electorate and approved by a two-thirds vote” required by certain California propositions because the levy constitutes a special tax, according to their preliminary injunction motion.

The county has cited a prior California Court of Appeals case that held property owners who are annexed are responsible for paying taxes existing in the original area.

Defendants claim that “courts may not enjoin the collection of taxes to avoid disrupting essential government services,” according to its motion.

Precedent has also favored a “pay first, litigate later rule,” defendants wrote.

Wade told the Daily Press the Court of Appeals case contained facts different from the present one. He said the county’s response to the preliminary injunction motion should be decided on or before a Feb. 5 hearing, during which the demurrer motion will be assessed.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190119/judge-considering-request-to-block-county-fire-tax>

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## **Inland Empire cleans up after storm; burn areas spared from severe damage**

**Rob McMillan, abc7 News**

Posted: January 18, 2019

REDLANDS, Calif. (KABC) -- The day after a series of storms pummeled the Inland Empire, some residents are cleaning up while others are counting their blessings.

A storm drain was clogged at the top of Orange Street in San Bernardino, causing mud to overflow into one resident's yard, filling her pool with mud.

"This is my home," Lorna Davide said. "And I came home to absolute devastation."

Davide lives below a hillside project being constructed by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, in which 42 home sites are planned. The tribe says there are four catch basins that are also being built, but because they're not finished yet, they couldn't handle the rain the storm delivered.

The contractor started pumping water out of the basins, which the tribe says spared a neighborhood to the east from any damage. But so much water was diverted to a nearby creek, that at least one other property was damaged. The creek also overflowed onto Orange Street, prompting a response by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

"My pool is totally destroyed," Davide said. "And not only that, but it's gone down through the pool, and through the riparian corridor. It's devastating."

Firefighters in both Riverside and San Bernardino were also busy responding to calls in the Santa Ana river bottom, where more than two dozen homeless people needed to be rescued. While there were no serious injuries, many of them were trapped on islands surrounded by the moving water.

"It is a frequent occurrence," said Capt. Jason Serrano, with the San Bernardino County Fire Dept. "It happens almost every time that it rains."

In Lake Elsinore, all evacuation orders were lifted on Thursday night.

City leaders were pleased with the response to the storm. They said because of all the preparation that was made in making sure levees and catch basins were ready for the storms, no serious damage occurred - and no one was hurt.

<https://abc7.com/weather/ie-cleans-up-after-storm;-burn-areas-spared-from-severe-damage/5096570/>

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## **Helicopter lands on Phelan road to airlift crash victim**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 18, 2019



Reach helicopter H325 responded to the scene and landed on Phelan Road. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Emergency crews had to extricate a woman who was trapped in a vehicle after a head-on crash on Phelan Road.

The crash was reported on Friday evening at 5:05 p.m. at the intersection of Phelan Road and Smith Road in the city of Phelan.

**San Bernardino County Fire** personnel responded along with CHP and located a van and a blue Mitsubishi Lancer sedan with major damage.

The driver of the van told Victor Valley News he was driving eastbound when the crash occurred.

"I went to get pizza for my kids and was on my way back, when out of nowhere the Nissan swerved into my path and struck the side of van," according to the driver who provided his name as James.

According to San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Bill Mahan, the driver of the blue sedan was treated on-scene for minor injuries.

Officers with the California Highway Patrol shut down Phelan Road for about an hour for an investigation and to land a helicopter on scene.

The female passenger was flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center with major injuries.

The roadway was reopened shortly after 6:00 p.m. and the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/helicopter-lands-on-phenan-road-to-airlift-crash-victim/>

## **EDITORIALS/OPINIONS/LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

### **San Bernardino County is corrupt**

**Mike Sparlin of Victorville, Daily Press**

Posted: January 22, 2019

There is plenty of money in the general fund to pay for the fire tax illegally imposed on the High Desert by three county supervisors who don't live up here and have nothing to do with us. There is also plenty of money to fully fund our Sheriff's Department. Property tax rates are at their highest and the county is flooded with money.

Another good example of waste and mismanagement is the Phelan Community Service District and San Bernardino County. The PPHCSD has put water lines out in the middle of nowhere and purchased millions of dollars of unneeded water rights so land speculators can make a fast buck. All created by San Bernardino County staff. All at the expense of local water users who are paying sky high water rates. As much as a 100 percent rate increase.

July is on the horizon. Will our new board backstab us with even higher rates? Will they run our community service district or continue to allow the paid staff to do as they please?

It's time for all of us in the unincorporated area to take a stand and stop this looting. I feel sorry for anyone who got suckered into purchasing land out here in the Phelan Pinon Hills area. As soon as the economy cools down you will lose big time. All the new zoning is a Ponzi scheme.

There is a good possibility that all this is criminal activity meant to cheat people. We need a forensic audit of our PPHCSD water company to expose what has been done. San Bernardino County needs to be looked into for the zoning, which possibly will never happen. Expect lawsuits by people who have been set up and cheated by San Bernardino County! If you think this is hot air wait until you get your next property tax bill and your new water bill out here in Phelan Pinon Hills in July.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190122/your-letters-1-22-2019>