



NEWS



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MOBILE HOME FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS SUNDAY NIGHT

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: December 26, 2018

The cause of a mobile home fire in Twentynine Palms on Sunday night is under investigation.

According to County fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, **San Bernardino County Fire** units were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 4500 block of Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms at around 9:15 p.m. Sunday night.

The first engine on scene reported a mobile home fully involved in flames, threatening mobile homes on both sides. Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack, keeping the fire contained to only the unit involved.

The fire was knocked down in approximately 10 minutes with no damage to the neighboring homes.

Both engines from the 29 palms station were assisted by engines from Joshua Tree and Combat Center Fire.

No injuries were reported.

<http://z1077fm.com/mobile-home-fire-in-twentynine-palms-sunday-night/>

Dozens Of Vehicles Involved In Pileup On Icy 15 Freeway Near Cajon Pass

Staff Writer, CBS News

Posted: December 25, 2018, 11:59 pm

NEAR HESPERIA (CBSLA) – The northbound 15 Freeway was shut down for hours Christmas morning in Hesperia near the Cajon Pass after a chain-reaction crash involving dozens of vehicles amid icy, snowy conditions.

The chain-reaction collision involving about 40 cars, trucks and big rigs began just after 6:30 a.m. on northbound 15 Freeway, south of Oak Hill Road, according to the California Highway Patrol's incident information page.

By 8:30 a.m., Caltrans reported that the entire northbound side of the freeway was shut down. The panic-stricken scene was caught on cell phone video, as drivers who had already pulled over watched cars sail down the freeway unaware of what lay ahead.

“I ended up crashing into a couple people, I didn't hurt nobody though,” driver Andrew Wheeler said. “The car just went one way, no matter how much you steered, counter-steered, whatever, you just couldn't do anything.”

Video showed vehicles with varying levels of damage, some appearing totaled, others spun out in the roadway and on the shoulder. Several **San Bernardino County Fire** Department engines and ambulances were on scene.

According to CHP, nine people were taken to local hospitals with mild to moderate injuries.

“Cars were just flying and hitting and hitting and hitting, thank God that I'm OK,” driver Yolanda Hernandez said.

The freeway was fully reopened by 10:30 a.m. Some drivers were stuck behind the pileup for up to three hours.

The CHP is working to determine whether some of the drivers involved in the wreck were traveling at safe speeds.

A winter weather advisory is in effect through 10 p.m. Tuesday for mountain systems in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, excluding the Santa Monica Mountains. Two to four inches of snow are expected at elevations above 6,000 feet, with another inch at elevations above 4,000 feet, the National Weather Service reports.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2018/12/25/chain-reaction-wreck-15-freeway-cajon-pass/>

Bicyclist airlifted after hit and run in Hesperia Christmas night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 25, 2018



Emergency personnel prepare the patient for transport to helicopter H325. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A bicyclist was airlifted to a trauma center following a hit-and-run Tuesday night.

It happened on December 25, 2018, at about 6:30 pm, near the Applejack Liquor in the 14300 block of Main Street in Hesperia.

San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to the scene and located a male between the ages of 20-25 years down on the sidewalk with critical injuries.

Firefighters requested County Fire Helicopter H325 to airlift the male to an out of area trauma center with head injuries sustained after he was thrown from his bike approximately 25+ feet.

According to preliminary reports, the bicyclist was riding across Main Street when he was hit by a vehicle that fled the scene.

Information on a possible suspect vehicle was not available at the time of this article.

This is a developing story and details will be updated as they become available.

<https://www.vvng.com/bicyclist-airlifted-after-hit-and-run-in-hesperia-christmas-night/>

County Fire's \$100 card offers on-scene crisis help

Paula Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 24, 2018, 10:55 am



A San Bernardino County Fire battalion chief offers a resident a 'SAVE' gift card after a fire tore through her home. County fire has partnered with a non-profit to provide \$100 gift cards to victims of an emergency right after the incident occurs. [Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department]

Firefighters are often the first on the scene when crisis hits, and now local firefighters can be the first to offer financial help for families looking to rebuild.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department partnered with the California Fire Foundation to create the Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency program, or SAVE. The program offers gift cards for firefighters to give out to residents who have lost property and material possessions in an emergency.

"We can't restore all that they have lost, but a SAVE card can help victims feel less alone during that first 24 hours of the difficult process of recovery," Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said.

The program has all County Fire battalion chiefs carry \$100 Mastercard SAVE gift cards to any incident that threatens "significant property damage." Chiefs can immediately issue the card to any family or residents with losses over 25 percent of the property's total value.

"Our job as firefighters requires that we have a personal investment in the outcome of every call—we want to be there to provide whatever support we can for disaster victims," Hartwig said.

The SAVE cards are funded through a partnership with the California Fire Foundation, a nonprofit that offers support to fallen firefighter families and their communities. The Foundation is still raising funds and seeking additional sponsorships to bring more SAVE cards to more communities and increase the value of the cards.

SAVE is open to all Professional California fire departments. Participating departments must agree to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both a Fire Chief and a local Union President.

"As San Bernardino County firefighters, we're in a unique position to offer a little extra assistance to victims of fire or disaster in the communities we serve," Professional Firefighters Association Local 935 president Jim Grigoli said.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20181224/county-fires-100-card-offers-on-scene-crisis-help>

THREE PEOPLE INJURED IN MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH IN JOSHUA TREE SATURDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News
Posted: December 24, 2018

At least three people were injured in a multi-vehicle crash late Saturday night. About 11:23 p.m., firefighters from Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley were called to the 62400 block of 29 Palms Highway in Joshua Tree where three vehicles had collided.

County fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said that the victims did not need extrication from their vehicles.

They were transported by MBA to area hospitals. The highway was shut down for about 40 minutes while first responders were on the scene.

<http://z1077fm.com/three-people-injured-in-multi-vehicle-crash-in-joshua-tree-saturday/>

Man ejected in crash on 15 Freeway in Victorville, woman critically injured

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News
Posted: December 24, 2018



Two cars are shown in the photo with major damage. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man was ejected after a crash on the 15 Freeway in Victorville on Christmas Eve, and a woman was seriously injured.

The crash was reported on Monday, December 24th, 2018 at 6:53 p.m. on the southbound 15 Freeway between Roy Rogers Drive and Palmdale Road.

San Bernardino County Fire Fighters, AMR, and the California Highway Patrol responded to the scene.

Two vehicles with major damage, an unknown type pickup truck and a 2000 Oldsmobile Alero, were located on the right shoulder. The pick up truck was on its side.

The man who was ejected from the pickup truck was rushed to a hospital and then airlifted to a trauma center.

A woman inside the truck had to be extricated from the crash and then flown to an out-of-area trauma center.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, both vehicles had rolled during the crash.

The Palmdale Road offramp was temporarily closed. No further details were immediately available.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-ejected-in-crash-on-15-freeway-in-victorville-woman-critically-injured/>

Hearing set on lawsuit over fire tax

Martin Estacio, Daily Press

Posted: December 24, 2018, 4:56 am

SAN BERNARDINO—A lawsuit filed against the County in response to a parcel tax approved in October by the Board of Supervisors will go to court next month.

A hearing is scheduled Jan. 16 on a motion for a preliminary injunction to block the expansion of **County Fire's** FP-5 Service Zone and levying of a \$157.26 tax on all affected parcels, which are mostly in unincorporated communities.

The Red Brennan Group, a non-profit based in San Diego, joined by several community groups and residents as plaintiffs, assert that the levy is unconstitutional because it violates provisions set forth in propositions 13, 26, and 218.

According to the complaint, the propositions provide that “no local government may impose, extend, or increase any special tax unless and until that tax is submitted to the electorate and approved by a two-thirds vote.”

The group's contention relies on a special tax approved in 2006 by voters in Helendale where the original FP-5 covered.

The special tax's purpose was to convert the local fire station from paid-call to being fully staffed, 24/7.

Sean Wade, the attorney representing RBG, told the Daily Press the County is attempting to use this rationale to impose a tax on a much wider area.

“Rather than putting it to a vote, they are taking the super small district in Helendale and expanding it across 19,000 square miles,” he said.

The Board of Supervisors, in a 3-2 vote, approved the zone's expansion on Oct. 16 after a marathon meeting/public hearing in which more than 60 residents spoke, mostly in opposition.

County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig first proposed the expansion to the Board in June to address a nearly \$30 million budget shortfall and continue funding existing services.

According to court documents, the County argued the tax imposed in the expansion didn't require a vote because the Fire Protection Law of 1987, which identifies the procedure for expanding a service zone, doesn't require one.

And since a service zone expansion is “akin” to an annexation, annexed “property owners within the newly acquired area are also responsible for the taxes that existed before the expansion,” County counsel wrote.

A representative for San Bernardino County did not respond to a request for comment.

Wade and his clients opposed this argument. He said the County has referred to the parcel tax as a special tax in a resolution and in correspondence. Because they it “labeled” as such, it is required to be approved by a two-thirds vote, he said.

Plaintiffs also rejected a prior court decision cited by the County in solidifying the annexation position.

The Fourth Appellate District court in that case sided with Huntington Beach when taxpayers in the annexed unincorporated community of Sunset Beach sued the city, protesting the imposition of existing taxes.

Wade said Sunset Beach didn't apply. In that case, a city of around 190,000 people was annexing an area with less than a thousand residents.

"We think the situation here is very different. A very small amount of people using that [FP-5] district to oppress thousands and thousands of people," he said.

Chuck Bell, president of the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association, one of the plaintiff parties in the suit, told the Daily Press he felt the expansion was "totally unfair."

As an affected property owner in an unincorporated community, Bell dislike the fact the levy would be applied across the board on all parcels, whether they included a "hotel" or nothing.

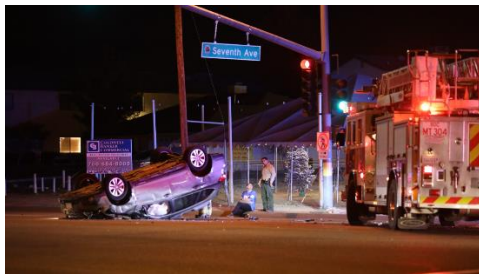
"What's to burn on a vacant parcel with nothing on it but a couple creosote bushes?" he asked.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20181224/hearing-set-on-lawsuit-over-fire-tax>

Eastbound Bear Valley Road closed after car overturns

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 23, 2018



The driver of the overturned car sits at the curb as deputies speak with him. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — An overturned car prompted police to briefly shutdown eastbound traffic on Bear Valley Road Saturday night.

It happened at about 11:34 pm, and involved a 2016 Subaru and a 2015 Honda Civic at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Bear Valley.

The collision between the two vehicles caused the Subaru to overturn and landed on its roof, blocking lanes.

San Bernardino County Fire and American Medical Response (AMR) arrived and evaluated the driver and occupants from the vehicles. No injuries were reported.

Eastbound traffic on Bear Valley Road was detoured onto Seventh Avenue.

The driver of the overturned sedan was administered a field sobriety test at the scene. It's unknown if drugs or alcohol were a factor in the crash.

The official cause of the accident is under investigation by the Hesperia Sheriffs Station.

<https://www.vvng.com/eastbound-bear-valley-road-closed-after-car-overturns/>

Major crash shuts down Highway 18 in Apple Valley

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 22, 2018



A crash shut down eastbound Highway 18 Saturday. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Eastbound lanes of Highway 18 were closed following a major crash Saturday morning.

Firefighters with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District were dispatched to the crash that happened just east of Tao Road on Highway 18 at about 11:20 a.m. Saturday.

Firefighters located two vehicles, a gray 2002 Mitsubishi Montero and a white Acura RLX, both with major damage.

The driver of the grey Mitsubishi was trapped inside his vehicle requiring firefighters to perform extensive extrication, according to Battalion Chief Buddy Peratt with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District.

It took nearly 30 minutes to free the man from the vehicle.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's helicopter (H325) was requested to land at St. Marys Medical Center to transport a critically injured victim to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

A person from the white car was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

<https://www.vvng.com/major-crash-shuts-down-highway-18-in-apple-valley/>

1 dead, 1 critical, 3 firefighters injured in house fire in San Bernardino

Brian Rokos, The Press Enterprise

Posted: December 22, 2018, 7:15 pm



A fire at 946 E. Second Street in San Bernardino on Dec. 22, 2018, killed one resident, critically injured a second and hurt three firefighters, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said. (Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

One resident of a San Bernardino home died, a second was critically injured and three firefighters were hurt when a makeshift carport fell on them Saturday, Dec. 22.

Flames were pouring out of the home at 946 E. Second St. when the first firefighters arrived just after noon, Capt. Steve Tracy said.

Robert Grinnell, 61, who lives down the street, said he heard a female resident screaming that her brothers were still inside. Grinnell said he threw chairs through windows in an attempt to rescue the victims.

(Tracy said people shouldn't try breaking windows in rescue attempts as that only provides fires with more oxygen.)

Grinnell grabbed a garden hose and sprayed water on the flames.

"This fire went through this place quick," Grinnell said.

Two firefighters went into the home and pulled out a man found near the front. He was hospitalized in critical condition. They were soon assisted by a second three-firefighter crew, and they made another sweep of the house.

"As the fire was continuing and the structure was pretty well involved (by flames), we did a secondary search, and unfortunately, we found somebody who succumbed to the fire," Tracy said.

That victim had not been publicly identified as of Saturday night.

Then as three firefighters assessing the home walked up the driveway, the carport, made from heavy timber, fell on them, trapping them, Tracy said. One firefighter suffered what Tracy said were "severe" injuries and the others had minor injuries. They were in stable condition at hospitals, he said.

Tracy said investigators believe the carport was not built to code in how it was attached to the house. He said the construction made it impossible to see that fire had damaged the structure to the point where it could fall.

"It wouldn't have passed a building inspection. It was definitely a contributing factor as to why it collapsed," Tracy said.

There was evidence of other work at the home, which Tracy estimated to be as large as 3,500 square feet with many rooms. There had been several additions to the original home on a lot that he was about 50 yards deep.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/12/22/1-dead-1-critical-3-firefighters-injured-in-house-fire-in-san-bernardino/>

San Bernardino House Fire Leaves 1 Person Dead, 1 Firefighter in Severe Condition; 3 Others Hurt

Kristina Bravo and Chris Wolfe, KTLA 5 News

Posted: December 22, 2:21 pm

A house fire in San Bernardino left one person dead and four others injured, including three firefighters who sustained moderate to severe injuries, authorities said Saturday.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department received a call about the blaze just before noon, Captain Steve Tracy told KTLA.

Footage shows crews responding to the 900 block of East Second Street as smoke rose from the residence.

Bystanders alerted the firefighters about individuals who were inside, Tracy said.

One person was found dead at the scene and another was hospitalized in critical condition, Tracy said.

At some point, the roof collapsed and trapped three firefighters, the captain added.

The three were rescued and taken to the hospital, one in severe condition and two in moderate condition, Tracy said.

The Fire Department described the residence as a single-family home about 3,500 to 4,000 square feet.

The cause remained under investigation.

Officials provided no further information.

<https://ktla.com/2018/12/22/san-bernardino-house-fire-leaves-1-person-dead-1-firefighter-in-severe-condition-3-others-hurt/>

7-car crash slows traffic in Cajon Pass Sunday evening

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 23, 2018



CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) Seven vehicles were involved in a crash on the southbound 15 Freeway Sunday evening.

The crash was reported at 4:38 pm just north of the truck escape ramp between between Oak Hill Road and Highway 138.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a semi truck was also involved in the collision.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department arrived on scene and located the vehicles with minor to moderate damage.

Only four people required treatment for minor injuries.

Commuters should plan for a delay in this area.

<https://www.vvng.com/7-car-crash-slows-traffic-in-cajon-pass-sunday-evening/>

One Person Killed in Head-On Collision on Highway 395

Patti Orr, Mojave Desert News

Posted: December 23, 2018



A red Mercedes rests in the roadway after being involved in a fatal head-on collision. A Grey Sedan sits off the highway after being involved in a head-on collision.

Kramer Junction – One person is dead and several others injured after a two vehicle accident wrecked havoc on Hwy. 395. The incident occurred just before 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2018, approximately 1 mile south of Kramer Junction on Highway 395.

According to the Barstow CHP office, a grey sedan and a red Mercedes SUV were traveling on highway 395 when one of the vehicles attempted to pass the other and both vehicles collided with each other head-on

sending the sedan approximately 10 feet off the roadway. The red Mercedes came to rest on the shoulder of the highway.

Kern County Fire Station #17 and Hall Ambulance out of Boron responded to the scene as well as Barstow CHP and **San Bernardino County Fire Dept.** out of the Adelanto area. The occupant in the Mercedes SUV complained of a leg injury and at this time, it's unclear as to the injuries of the others. Two airship helicopters were reported to have been notified however, they were eventually cancelled.

Fast Trac Towing was notified and responded with 2 tow vehicles in order to remove the wreckage from the scene while CHP provide traffic control around the scene.

Barstow CHP is still investigating the cause of the accident and is asking anyone who witnessed the incident to please contact them at their office during normal business hours.

http://www.desertnews.com/news/article_00147bc4-06ce-11e9-bf3f-3f6302b6e5a8.html

1 dead in Highway 395 crash near Kramer Junction

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 21, 2018

KRAMER JUNCTION, Calif. (VVNG.com) At least one person was killed and several others injured in a two-car crash Friday.

It happened at about 7:21 p.m. on December 21, 2018 on U.S Highway 395 about 1 miles south of Kramer Junction.

San Bernardino County Fire and the California Highway Patrol responded to the scene and located two vehicles with major damage, a red compact SUV and a gray sedan.

One person was declared deceased on scene.

Two helicopters that were initially requested were later cancelled. In all, emergency personnel treated at least 7 people.

Witnesses who called 911 advised one vehicle was trying to pass and went head-on with another vehicle, according to the CHP incident logs.

CHP officials provided traffic control while they investigated the crash.

The cause of the collision is under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/1-dead-in-highway-395-crash-near-kramer-junction/>

6 Camp Pendleton Marines receive medals for saving life of Riverside motorcyclist severely injured near Big Bear

Erika Ritchie, Orange County Register

Posted: December 21, 2018, 11:39 pm

CAMP PENDLETON — Sgt. Devon Espinoza describes how he and five other Camp Pendleton Marines saved the life of a Riverside man severely injured in a motorcycle accident as being in “Marine mode.”

The rider, Floyd McGuirk, 58, was sprawled in the roadway, his right leg partially severed, on SR 330 near Big Bear on Nov. 4. He was in shock, losing blood and drifting in and out of consciousness.

Two motorcyclists with him were frantically waving for help.

Espinoza, 26, a heavy equipment mechanic with the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, was first on scene. He assessed McGuirk’s injuries and directed his fellow Marines into action.

Within three minutes, the group had applied a tourniquet. They kept McGuirk conscious until first responders from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department arrived about 20 minutes later.

Covered in blood, the Marines stayed around to help the emergency personnel by controlling bystanders and traffic, relaying information they had gathered and helping to put McGuirk on a spine board for transport.

Navy and Marine Corps awards

On Friday, Dec. 21, Espinoza, of San Clemente, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in a ceremony at the headquarters of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion.

The five other Marines — Sgt. Kyle Henne, 28, of Amarillo, Texas; Cpl. Mark Dass, 23, of Los Angeles; Cpl. Alex Koeneke, 23, of Redding; Cpl. Alec Leonard, 24, of Niceville, Fla.; and Cpl. Jay Wehrenberg, 22, of Rochester, Minn. — were presented with Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

The medals were given to the Marines as the rest of their battalion stood in formation. Espinoza’s friends and family were also present.

Major Gen. Robert Castellvi, commander of the 1st Marine Division, awarded Espinoza’s medal.

“It’s a great honor for me to be here,” he said. “This reminds me why I love the NCOs (non-commissioned officers) and sergeants. They are the backbone of our Corps. When Sgt. Espinoza got in front of me today, it reminds me of what a Marine NCO is all about.

“What this sergeant did in a split second of seeing a crisis, not just him, but five Marines who were with him, who had no idea that as they were going down a road that day they’d have an opportunity to save a man’s life,” Castellvi said. “You should all be proud of him and you should be proud of each other.”

The Marines, who all work with heavy equipment, are part of a platoon that already has risen to the command’s attention for achievement.

Lt. Col. Michelle Macander, who in June became the first female Marine to be named commander of a ground combat element when she took over the battalion, praised her Marines for their lifesaving actions.

“They came upon a situation and knew they had to help,” Macander said. “I’m impressed but not surprised. That platoon is one of the top performing platoons in the battalion. They’re a tight-knit group. I’m proud of what they did. It shows they’re good citizens in the community.”

Marine mode

The group of Marines had been on leave for the weekend — camping in tents and hiking at Big Bear.

As they headed back toward Camp Pendleton, they came upon the crash. Espinoza, in the lead car, saw McGuirk in the roadway. He recognized the man was in shock. His right leg had been severed due to the force of the motorcycle impact with the guard rail.

“I called back up to my friends and I was able to think about what the Marine Corps has taught me, ” Espinoza said. “I kinda just went into Marine mode and saw that someone needed help and utilized a lot of training we had learned and helped him out. Doing this type of training all the time, it just seemed like secondhand nature.”

As the other Marines arrived, Espinoza talked with McGuirk to keep him conscious. He instructed bystanders to call 911 and at the same time, Espinoza helped the other Marines apply one of their belts as a tourniquet. That helped reduce the flow of blood from the severed leg.

Moments later, an off-duty San Bernardino County Fire employee gave the Marines a proper tourniquet.

After exposing the left leg, the Marines realized it, too, was badly injured. They applied a second tourniquet while Espinoza continued to apply pressure with his knee and tried to calm McGuirk.

Espinoza and the other Marines carefully removed the damaged motorcycle helmet. McGuirk gave them his name and asked what had happened to him. To keep him calm, Espinoza and Wehrenberg downplayed his injuries.

Within three minutes the Marines had McGuirk stabilized and talking.

Each of the Marines credits their military training, especially their combat lifesaving course, for their actions that day.

“The reason none of us felt nervous was that we all had the same training, same energy and all of us are really close friends,” said Wehrenberg. “All of us could just look at each other and figure out what was next. I felt like a puzzle piece of six.”

“In that kind of situation, there’s no time to hesitate,” Leonard added. “We’ve all been trained for combat situations and combat lifesaving and when we all realized someone’s life was at stake that kicked in. We all knew what our parts were. There was no time to waste or this man would lose his life.”

Espinoza said he spoke with McGuirk’s girlfriend last week who said he was doing well.

“I’m happy that Floyd is able to spend the holidays with family, instead of them planning a funeral,” Espinoza said.

<https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2018/12/21/6-camp-pendleton-marines-receive-medals-for-saving-life-of-riverside-motorcyclist-severely-injured-near-big-bear/>