



NEWS



News Headlines 01/29/2019

- JUDGE TO RULE ON FIRE TAX LAWSUIT NEXT WEEK
- Man in grave condition after rollover crash in Grand Terrace
- Grow house fire leads to arrest
- Hesperia man arrested after marijuana grow catches house on fire
- Man dies in hiking accident in San Bernardino National Forest

JUDGE TO RULE ON FIRE TAX LAWSUIT NEXT WEEK

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: January 29, 2019

As soon as February 5, property owners in the in the newly expanded 19,000-square-mile fire protection district, FP-5, may have a decision on the legality of the new and unpopular \$157 per parcel assessment. Reporter Mike Lipsitz has more...

At a hearing earlier this month, San Bernardino Superior Court Judge Donald Alvarez indicated that by February 5 he would provide a written ruling on whether the newly approved \$157 assessment is legitimate.

The date is also the deadline for the county request that the lawsuit be dropped entirely.

Brought by the Red Brennan Group, a San Diego-based non-profit, as well as local community groups, and individuals, the suit is one of two making their way through the courts.

The plaintiffs contend the new law violates the state constitution by imposing as special tax circumventing the required approval by a two-thirds vote of the electorate. They also claim the process to oppose the tax violated equal protections guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

A second lawsuit brought by an individual plaintiff, Paul Austin, also seeks to invalidate the assessment. That case is expected to be heard March 14.

<http://z1077fm.com/judge-to-rule-on-fire-tax-lawsuit-next-week/>

Man in grave condition after rollover crash in Grand Terrace

Robert Gundran, Daily Bulletin

Posted: January 28, 2019, 10:27pm

A freeway off-ramp was temporarily closed in Grand Terrace on Monday night after a crash left one person in grave condition.

California Highway Patrol logs noted that the southbound 215 Freeway off-ramp was closed at Barton Road at about 7:50 p.m. It later reopened.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, said the crash happened on the off-ramp, and was a single-vehicle rollover.

A man was ejected from the vehicle during the crash, and was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton in grave condition, Sherwin said.

The off-ramp reopened at around 10 p.m.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/01/28/man-in-grave-condition-after-rollover-crash-in-grand-terrace/>

Grow house fire leads to arrest

Garret Berghold, Daily Press

Posted: January 28, 2019, 3:54 pm



The inside of the home on Oakwood Avenue in Hesperia being used for a cannabis growing operation, after Saturday's fire. [San Bernardino Sheriff's Department]

HESPERIA — A man was arrested Saturday night after a marijuana grow house on Oakwood Avenue caught fire, authorities said.

Kong Zhang Ni, 45, of Hesperia, was arrested on suspicion of stealing electricity, growing more than six marijuana plants, and arson, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Ni was located and arrested while attempting to flee the fire, the sheriff's department said.

Firefighters arrived at the north Hesperia home at 8:45 p.m. to reports of smoke escaping the attic vents, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**. Firefighters controlled the fire in about 30 minutes. No injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported, county fire said.

Sheriff's department investigators served a search warrant and located 1,175 marijuana plants and growing equipment. Ni did not obtain a business license from the city of Hesperia, nor did he have a cannabis cultivation license from the State of California, the sheriff's department confirmed.

Damage estimates are still being evaluated, County Fire officials said on Monday. The fire is being investigated by the county office of the fire marshal and the sheriff's department.

"It is believed an electrical short caused by the unpermitted electrical wiring caused the fire," said a sheriff's department press release. "The electrical power to the residence was disconnected so the faulty wiring and electrical bypass will not create a further hazard for the public."

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the Sheriff's Gangs/Narcotics Division at (909)387-8400 or NARC-MET@sbcasd.org. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190128/grow-house-fire-leads-to-arrest>

Hesperia man arrested after marijuana grow catches house on fire

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 28, 2019



Indoor marijuana grow with over 1,100 plants is found after fire fighters extinguish a house fire; 1 suspect arrested. (photo: Hesperia Police Department)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Authorities arrested a man caught while attempting to flee from a house fire containing an illegal grow operation, officials said.

It happened at about 9:00 pm, on Saturday, January 26, 2019, when **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a house fire in the 11400 block of Oakwood Avenue in Hesperia.

Firefighters and deputies made entry inside the residence and confirmed it was being used as an illegal marijuana grow operation.

The suspect, Kong Zhang Ni, 45, of Hesperia, was apprehended by sheriff’s deputies as he attempted to flee the fire with his belongings, officials said.

Investigators from the Sheriff’s Gangs/Narcotics Division – Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) served a search warrant and seized 1,175 marijuana plants and discovered electricity was being stolen.

According to a sheriff’s news release, “the location had an indoor marijuana grow operation that used advanced lighting, air conditioning, fans, exhaust blowers, and air filtering systems, which had been used to control the climate inside the residence, as well as the odor of marijuana coming from it.”

Officials said suspects who grow marijuana illicitly will commonly bypass the electrical meter installed by the electrical company. “This is done due to the high amount and cost of electricity needed to operate the marijuana growing equipment.”

An electrical short caused by the unpermitted electrical wiring is believed to have caused the fire.

“The suspect did not obtain a business license from the city of Hesperia, nor did he have a license from the State of California to cultivate cannabis. Personnel from the Hesperia Code Enforcement Division will begin their own investigation,” stated the sheriff’s news release.

The electrical power was disconnected by SCE, and the residence will be “red tagged” as unsafe to occupy.

Kong Zhang Ni was booked at the High Desert Detention Center for PC 498- Utility Theft, HS 11358(c)- Cultivation of Cannabis, over six plants, and PC 452-Arson.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Sheriff’s Gangs/Narcotics Division at (909)387-8400 or NARC-MET@sbcasd.org. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

Man dies in hiking accident in San Bernardino National Forest

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: January 28, 2019

A 56-year-old man died in a hiking accident on the South Fork Trail in the San Bernardino National Forest, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

On Jan. 26 about 4 p.m., Sheriff's Dispatch received a report of the hiker, who had slipped/slid down an ice chute in the area of Jenks Lake. The reporting party was the victim's son, who had to hike about two hours until he had cell reception in order to report the incident.

At about 2:34 a.m. on Jan. 27, the deceased man was located in a ravine by San Gorgonio SAR members, who conducted a hoist recovery of the victim.

----- IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT during the weekend, the Sheriff's Department performed a hoist rescue of an injured hiker.

The crew of Sheriff's Helicopter 40King6 was requested by **San Bernardino County Fire** to assist in the search/rescue of a 35-year-old woman who had fallen down an ice chute while hiking in the area of San Bernardino Peak.

The victim was flown to a trauma center for treatment of her non-life-threatening injuries.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/man-dies-in-hiking-accident-in-san-bernardino-national-forest/article_04c67b66-234a-11e9-a0e0-67f517c00cf2.html