



NEWS



News Headlines 01/23/2019

- Volunteers find Siberian Husky separated from rescued owners on San Gorgonio Mountain
- TWENTYNINE PALMS MAN ACCUSED OF ATTACKING A FIRST RESPONDER
- 1 killed after car attempts to pass semi on Palmdale Road in Phelan

Volunteers find Siberian Husky separated from rescued owners on San Gorgonio Mountain

Eric Licas, Orange County Register

Posted: January 23, 2019, 12:06 am



Volunteer rescuers carry a Siberian Husky named Stella down San Gorgonio Mountain near Angelus Oaks on Tuesday, Jan. 22, after she was separated from her owners, a San Diego couple — one of whom slipped and fell down a steep slope and had to be airlifted away from the mountain the day before. (Photo Courtesy of the Angelus Oaks Volunteer Fire Company)

San Diegans Jennifer Graham, her fiance David Westberg and their Siberian Husky, Stella, struggled to navigate an ice-blanketed stretch of the Forsee Creek Trail, located high up San Gorgonio Mountain, at about 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 21. They were on their way to Jacksaw Creek and about five hours into their journey when panic overcame the dog as her paws sought traction.

“She got spooked and ran off the trail,” said Graham. “David went after him, and that’s when he fell.”

Westberg lost his footing and slid 150 feet down a steep slope until a tree in his path stopped his descent, according to a news release issued by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department on Tuesday.

He and Graham had to be airlifted from the mountainside after Westberg suffered “a few broken ribs, minor internal bleeding, a hurt knee, and a good bump on his head,” wrote Graham in a text message shared by the Angelus Oaks Volunteer Fire Company on its Facebook page.

In all the commotion of the rescue operation, it would be hours until crews realized that Stella had been left behind to fend for herself in a remote environment where temperatures typically dip below freezing overnight.

“The San Gorgonio Wilderness is a special part of Southern California, but we get a lot of rescues,” said Randy Ridges, a resident of the nearby community of Angelus Oaks, located about 8 miles southwest of Big Bear Lake. “In the winter, people need to have the right equipment and experience. It isn’t like hiking in your backyard.”

He said that on Sunday, crews had rescued another hiker and his dog after they slipped off of the San Bernardino Peak Trail, about 7 miles away from where Graham and Westberg had called for help on Monday.

When Ridges learned that the couple’s dog was lost somewhere on the cold mountain range, he immediately spread word on social media in hopes of helping the couple locate and reunite with their pet. He said it wasn’t long before civilians and off-duty rescuers began signing up to take part in the search.

“Everyone involved in the search was a volunteer on their own time,” said Ridges. “They all put their hands up and said ‘I’ll go.’ That’s just the type of people we have in this community.”

The helicopter crew involved in Monday’s rescue operation had reported spotting the Siberian Husky about 1.5 miles from where Westberg fell, said Graham in the fire company’s post. Several local civilians

joined eight off-duty rescuers in two groups from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department in looking for Stella throughout the day on Tuesday, according to Ridges.

After more than a dozen hours spent combing the area surrounding Forsee Creek Trail, a post issued at 2:40 p.m. by the fire company reported that the dog had been found. She had climbed up a rock formation not far from where Westberg had been airlifted, according to Graham.

“Someone’s up there with her right now, but it’s icy,” she said at about 4 p.m. Tuesday. “They’re trying to figure out a safe way to get her down from there, but she should be rescued soon.”

A civilian resident later retrieved Stella by clutching the dog in his arms and performing a controlled slide down a 75-foot slope, said Ridges. She was brought to San Bernardino County Fire Station 98 in Angelus Oaks in good health despite spending a night on a freezing mountainside.

Graham and Westberg were ecstatic to learn their pet had been located, but had to return to San Diego before she was rescued Tuesday evening, according to Ridges. He said they plan to return to Angelus Oaks on Wednesday to reunite with Stella.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/01/23/volunteers-find-siberian-husky-separated-from-rescued-owners-on-san-gorgonio-mountain/>

TWENTYNINE PALMS MAN ACCUSED OF ATTACKING A FIRST RESPONDER

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: January 23, 2019

A Twentynine Palms man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly attacked a firefighter/paramedic.

According to a Sheriff’s report, deputies and paramedics were called to the 6500 block of Oasis Avenue in Twentynine Palms about 6:15 p.m. Saturday for a fight.

A woman said that Troy Plummer, 21, was arguing and had just dragged her out of her car.

She added that he had been high on methamphetamine for days, and then she said he just cut his neck with a knife.

She urged deputies and paramedics to be careful as she said he had attacked a police officer in Arizona.

The Sheriff’s report does not include any details about the attack, but Troy Plummer was arrested for investigation of assault on a paramedic, booked into the West Valley Detention Center, with his bail set at \$50,000.

<http://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-man-accused-of-attacking-a-first-responder/>

1 killed after car attempts to pass semi on Palmdale Road in Phelan

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 22, 2019



One person was killed and four others were injured after a head-on crash on Palmdale Road Tuesday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A passenger of a car that was attempting to pass a semi-truck in Phelan was killed Tuesday night when the vehicle struck a GMC pickup truck head-on.

According to CHP officials, the crash happened at about 7:40 p.m., and involved a dark-colored 2018 Nissan Sentra that was traveling eastbound on Palmdale Road (State Route 18), and a silver 2017 GMC pickup truck that was westbound on Palmdale Road, west of Sheep Creek Road.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel and CHP officers responded and located both vehicles with major damage.

One person inside the Nissan was pronounced deceased and a second person sustained major injuries.

Both directions of Palmdale Road were shut down while a helicopter landed on scene to airlift the critically injured victim to a trauma center.

Three people from inside the GMC pickup truck were transported to various local hospitals with unknown injuries.

“The Nissan was trying to pass a big rig but the GMC truck was there, they both drove into the dirt to try to avoid the head on collision but they both went the same way,” stated Yesenia Wehust, who witnessed the crash along with her husband Jason.

Jason immediately pulled over and began trying to help the injured.

“The driver in the Nissan was stuck and [Jason] got the door open,” Yesenia said.

“There was a German Shepherd and a Yorkie in the truck. The German shepherd took off and the Yorkie had broken legs,” stated Yesenia.

The Victorville CHP is continuing to investigate the official cause of the accident and the identity of the person killed will be released pending notification of next of kin.

<https://www.vvng.com/1-killed-after-car-attempts-to-pass-semi-on-palmdale-road-in-phelan/>