



# NEWS



## News Headlines 12/14/2018

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## Providing a ‘Spark’ this holiday season

Lauren Jennings, The Daily Independent

Posted: December 14, 2018, 12:01 am



Toys gathered outside the San Bernardino County Fire Station in Trona for Spark of Love. – Lauren Jennings/Daily Independent

TRONA – **San Bernardino County Fire** Department Station 57’s driveway was packed full of children’s toys on Thursday afternoon.

There were bicycles, dolls, action figures, skateboards, footballs, soccer balls, and board games, all of which were donated to Spark of Love.

Christina Sanders, Spark of Love’s event coordinator, and her team work year-round coordinating and event planning, trying to get donations for the program.

This year, over 185 children applied, though they are still accepting applications until Dec. 15 and expect to have near 200 applications.

One of the first fundraiser dinners that Sanders held was paid completely out of pocket from the volunteer firefighters because they wanted all of the donations that they received during the dinner to fully go towards gifts for the children.

Sanders was born and raised in Trona, so she knows the community well.

“This is important to me because I know all of these people,” she said, “I know what it is like, and what it means to these kids.”

Sanders works at Searles Valley Minerals and is a volunteer firefighter at Station 57.

Director of Government and Public Affairs at Searles Valley Minerals, Arzell Hale, said, “If it weren’t for this program, and if it wasn’t for the [Searles Valley] plant, these kids may not have a Christmas.”

Searles Valley Minerals raised nearly \$1,500 from vendors this year.

Hale also spoke about how he and his wife of 55 years no longer give gifts to each other, and instead donate that money towards Spark of Love.

“It makes you feel good, knowing you are helping out the community,” he said.

Audrey Skylar also helps in getting donations for Spark of Love by setting up a camping site each year in Trona where half of the camping fees go towards donations.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, children who applied can pick up toys at Station 57, 83732 Trona Rd, at 3 p.m. Santa will be there to help distribute toys and will make a visit to the children who were unable to go to the station, or to those who were unknowingly nominated.

Sparks of Love will be at Walmart, 201 E. Bowman Rd, today from 3-7 p.m. to try to get in some final donations before Dec. 22.

<http://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/20181214/providing-spark-this-holiday-season>

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## **MOTORCYCLIST SUFFERS SEVERE INJURIES, BURNS IN FIERY TWENTYNINE PALMS CRASH THURSDAY**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: December 14, 2018

A motorcyclist suffered severe injuries and burns from a fiery crash in Twentynine Palms Thursday morning.

According to Sheriff's Captain Trevis Newport, Sergeants Mauricio Hurtado and Tyson Niles spotted the man riding his motorcycle east on Highway 62 at a high rate of speed about noon and attempted to catch up to the rider to make a traffic stop.

Before they caught up, the motorcycle rider crashed into the rear of an SUV at the intersection of Adobe Road at a speed estimated to be 100 miles per hour.

**County Fire** Engineer Ryan Vaccaro said the impact of the crash threw the man and his motorcycle about 100 feet; the bike, which burst into flames, landed on top of the rider.

Hurtado and Niles ran and pulled the rider out from under the burning motorcycle.

The highway was shut down in all directions while first responders were on scene.

The rider was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center where his heart stopped, but doctors were able to revive him and he was flown by Mercy Air to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs.

An arrest has not yet been made; the Sheriff's Department will forward the case to the district attorney's office for review.

<http://z1077fm.com/motorcyclist-suffers-severe-injuries-burns-in-fieriy-twentynine-palms-crash-thursday/>

## Bonfire, Hot Dogs & Hot Cocoa with Santa

Angela Yap, Mountain News

Posted: December 13, 2018, 9:00 am



Firefighters Brad McColl, Tyler Ristow (explorer), Aaron Gonzales and Michael Fagundes of San Bernardino County Fire Department cooking the hot dogs. Perfect weather for the annual Fireman's Bonfire at Lake Arrowhead.

It is a tradition for generations of families to attend the annual Firemen's Bonfire at Lake Arrowhead Village.

This year, the weather was perfect. Though it was a little chilly in the air, it was calm and clear, making it ideal for the bonfire. The firemen set up two fires on the parking lot in front of Papagayo's and McDonald's.

In spite of it being a school night, hundreds of families attended the bonfire, enjoyed a complimentary hot dog and hot cocoa.

Firefighters Brad McColl, Aaron Gonzales and Michael Fagundes of **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were busy cooking hot dogs.

"I am from Station 91," said Fagundes, who worked alongside firefighters from other stations, "We have cooked hundreds of hot dogs so far."

On site, several fire engines were on display for families to visit, for young ones to explore and a toy drive to benefit Spark of Love Toy Drive.

After the bonfires were lit, Santa arrived in style in a fire engine. A long line awaited him long before he showed up. A local first grader from Lake Arrowhead Elementary, Jace Chalfant, visited Santa for the first time.

"We are glad Jace finally decided to visit Santa and told Santa what he wanted for Christmas," said Julie Atwood, Jace's grandmother.

Newcomers Brando and Katie Crozier and their 8-month old son, Zaqry, were first-time attendees to this 98th Firemen's Bonfire.

"We moved to Crestline this year from Riverside, we just love the mountains," said Brando, who commutes to work every day to trade off for a quiet life on the mountain.

Well attended, local families and friends enjoyed the bonfire, hot dogs and hot cocoa before the fire was put out.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_ddcaed84-fef6-11e8-8bd0-cb26627bc283.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_ddcaed84-fef6-11e8-8bd0-cb26627bc283.html)