



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/27-30/2017

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## Driver ejected, killed after crashing into parked semi in Victorville

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 29, 2017

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A young man was killed Saturday night after he crashed his vehicle into a parked tractor-trailer.

It happened at about 10:05 p.m., in the 13200 block of Cantina Drive near the intersection of Luna Road and Highway 395 in the city of Victorville.

Witnesses said a Honda sedan was traveling at a high-rate of speed northbound on Cantina Drive when for reasons still under investigation, the driver lost control, sideswiped a vehicle and slammed into the front of a parked tractor-trailer.

The driver of the Honda, described as a male about 20 years of age was ejected from his vehicle.

Terra Porteous-Nelson was driving home as the crash occurred and narrowly avoided being struck by the Honda. As Terra looked back, she could see the wreck and immediately turned around to go back and help. Terra found the young man who had been ejected lying on the ground and performed CPR until first responders arrived.

Despite life-saving measures, **San Bernardino County Firefighters** pronounced the victim deceased at 10:16 p.m., scanner traffic reported.

At this time it's unknown if any other injuries were reported as a result of the violent crash. The Major Accident Investigation Team is handling the investigation and will determine the cause of the collision.

Sheriff's officials are expected to announce additional information later today. Please check back for updates.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-ejected-killed-crashing-parked-semi-victorville/>

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## Homeless woman dies in cave-in

Douglas W. Motley, *Alpenhorn News*

Posted: October 29, 2017



Site near Crestline where the body of an apparently homeless woman was discovered inside a collapsed cavern on October 19. (Photo by Ron Chalfant)

Sheriff's deputies from the Twin Peaks station responded to a report of a human hand protruding from the ground around 7:19 p.m. on Thursday, October 19 in a wooded area near Scenic View Drive and Highland Drive in Crestline.

According to a sheriff's press release, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** received information from an unknown female that a human hand was sticking out of the ground in a cave dug into the hillside near what was described as a glass bottle dump. After directing fire personnel to the location, the female left the scene.

Although the circumstances surrounding the person's death are still under investigation, coroners' officials believe a portion of the cave collapsed and partially buried the deceased person, later identified as Jessica ("Jace") Widner, 32, of Lake Arrowhead. A specialized recovery team was called to the scene to assist in removing the body of the apparently homeless woman from the cavern, which authorities feared could collapse further. Coroner's personnel were able to recover Widner's body around 5 p.m. on Friday.

Comments left on a social media website Monday indicated that the woman who led authorities to the collapsed cavern was a fellow homeless woman who was a friend of Widner. Noting that the pair was probably living at the site, Tara Laning said Widner's friend "went into town to get their hookups and came back and found the cave had collapsed on her."

Sheriff's spokesman Gilbert Flores told *The Alpenhorn News* Tuesday that there are numerous homeless encampments scattered throughout the mountaintop communities in wooded areas that are known to authorities. "There's probably a half-dozen encampments near communities like Crestline, Valley of Enchantment, Blue Jay and Lake Arrowhead."

Noting that many of the bottles at site the where the deceased woman was found appeared to be very old, Flores said, "This was a unique location with bottles dating back to the 1920s that may have been left there by bootleggers. There was no trash there, so it's unlikely that it was an encampment." He said foul play is not suspected at this time, but that the incident is still under investigation by the Coroner.

Sheriff's deputies would like to speak to the woman who made the discovery and led firefighters to the collapsed cavern in order to obtain additional details about the incident. Anyone with information about the

case is urged to contact the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station at (909) 336-0600. Callers wishing to remain anonymous can call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), or leave information at the We-tip website at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

<http://alpenhornnews.com/homeless-woman-dies-in-cavein-p8431-155.htm>

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## **Injured climber gets hoisted out of Holcomb Valley by sheriff's helicopter**

Monica Rodriguez, Daily Bulletin

October 28, 2017, 6:38 PM



A San Bernardino Sheriff helicopter, seen here in a file photo, helped an injured climber to safety Saturday, Oct. 28. (File photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

**HOLCOMB VALLEY >>>** A rock climber who fell in a rugged area of Holcomb Valley got a lift out Saturday, Oct. 28, from a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department helicopter, authorities said.

The man was with a group of rock climbers at the Powder Keg Climbing Area, which is near Big Bear Lake, when he fell, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Firefighters responded around 1:30 p.m., and helped the man who had non-life threatening injuries. But the fall occurred in a remote area making it difficult for a ground ambulance to reach the patient, Sherwin said.

A Sheriff Department's helicopter was called in and it hoisted the man out of the area, Sherwin said.

The climber was taken to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/10/28/injured-climber-gets-hoisted-out-of-holcomb-valley-by-sheriffs-helicopter/>

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## **UPDATE: Crash, spill close Palmdale**

**Paola Baker, Daily Press**

Posted: October 26, 2017, 5:22 PM

**PHELAN** — A section of Palmdale Road was completely shut down after a crash left two people injured and spilled 20 gallons of diesel fuel onto the roadway Thursday afternoon.

Reported at 3:40 p.m near the intersection of Palmdale and Wilson Ranch roads, the crash involved a blue Dodge Stratus headed east on Palmdale Road, and a 2010 Peterbilt tractor-trailer headed the opposite direction.

The vehicles collided head-on, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Michael Mumford.

“For reasons still under investigation, the Dodge Stratus traveled onto the south dirt shoulder twice before going across the eastbound lane and directly into the path of the [tractor-trailer,” Mumford said.

The driver of the Dodge, a 20-year-old Barstow man, suffered major injuries from the impact, prompting officials to request a helicopter to airlift him to a trauma center. His passenger, a 22-year-old Barstow woman, was 27 weeks pregnant and complained of pain, Mumford said.

She was taken to an area hospital for treatment. The driver of the tractor-trailer was uninjured, Mumford said, and no other injuries were reported.

Authorities requested a full closure for the section of Palmdale Road near Wilson Ranch to use the roadway as a landing zone, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

However, the closure was extended after responding personnel discovered a diesel spill. Sherwin said a HazMat team was requested to respond.

“The initial closure was for the helicopter, but then it remained closed to allow for road cleanup and the crash investigation,” Sherwin said.

Mumford said the roadway was closed for 50 minutes, with CHP logs reporting all lanes were open just before 5 p.m.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20171026/update-crash-spill-close-palmdale-road>

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## **Brush Fire behind Scandia Quickly Doused Thursday Afternoon**

**Victor Valley News Group**

Posted: October 26, 2017

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A brush fire that erupted behind Scandia on Mariposa Road in Victorville was quickly doused Thursday afternoon.

At around 3:17 p.m., **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to the 15200 block of Pahute Street for reports of a fire near a homeless camp.

Upon arrival, firefighters located heavy black smoke billowing out of burning brush with flames reaching at least 10 feet high.

Scanner traffic reported that one person was detained for being uncooperative at the scene with a fire investigator. San Bernardino County Fire PIO Eric Sherwin later confirmed that incident was unrelated to the fire.

The fire was contained within 15 minutes and held to approximately one acre. One civilian was treated for smoke inhalation, Sherwin said.

According to Sherwin, the cause of the fire was determined to be accidental.

<https://www.vvng.com/video-brush-fire-behind-scandia-quickly-doused-thursday-afternoon/>