



NEWS



News Headlines 11/20/2020

- Spark of Love: San Bernardino family of 6 receives gifts from toy drive, county firefighters
- Driver killed after crashing into tow truck on 15 freeway offramp in Hesperia
- Desert Heights News, Nov. 20: Before heading to your fire pit, check with the fire station

Spark of Love: San Bernardino family of 6 receives gifts from toy drive, county firefighters

Tony Cabrera, ABC7

Posted: November 20, 2020



SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- Rafael Vidrio and Sandra Cervantes and their four kids took a break from their life at a San Bernardino shelter today to visit a county fire station and receive gifts for Christmas through the Spark of Love toy drive.

"Being here and getting the donations, the toys for the kids, seeing their faces, it's all that matters to us and we really appreciate it, they're overjoyed," said Cervantes.

"Strengthens up the spirit, like makes you stronger man," said Vidrio.

Life without a home is tough - especially during the holidays. They say this gives them something to look forward to.

"They have presents for Christmas under the tree this year," said Cervantes. "It might just be a toy, but it's more than just a toy for them,"

That's one of the many reasons the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department participates every year.

"Without our help, they may not receive anything for Christmas, so we really like doing it as an organization and it's great for the community," said Jason McLaughlin with the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

The department partners with Children's Fund to identify families who need it most.

"We have a great partnership with a lot of organizations, serving children and families and this family today is a family that we've been able to assist and see grow and make progress," said Children's Fund President and CEO Dr. Cid Pinedo.

This is one of many families that has now been given another ray of hope.

"So in the future, when we're able to, we can give back and pay forward," Cervantes said.

Firefighters will also be taking health and safety precautions throughout the process, including a five to seven day quarantine for the toys before they're distributed.

<https://abc7.com/christmas-spark-of-love-toy-drive-charity/8104165/>

Driver killed after crashing into tow truck on 15 freeway offramp in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: November 20, 2020



HESPERIA, CALIF. (VVNG.COM) — The driver of a sedan was killed after crashing into the rear of a tow truck Friday morning.

The collision occurred on the Main Street offramp of the northbound 15 freeway on November 20, 2020, at 9:56 a.m. and involved a white 2004 Acura and tow truck.

San Bernardino County Fire and the California Highway Patrol responded to the collision and pronounced the driver deceased on scene.

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The driver of the tow truck was transported to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The Main Street offramp was shut down on the northbound 15 freeway as CHP officials investigated the collision.

Authorities have not released the name of the deceased driver, pending investigation and notification of next of kin.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-killed-after-crashing-into-tow-truck-on-15-freeway-offramp-in-hesperia/>

Desert Heights News, Nov. 20: Before heading to your fire pit, check with the fire station

Fran Becker, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: November 20, 2020 at 10:20AM



During our mild autumn temperatures, spending an evening enjoying the glow of a fire pit is a tempting activity. S'mores, hot dogs, marshmallows and good company can all be accomplished while still observing recommended social distancing. Seems like the perfect solution to the old adage "killing two birds with one stone." Unfortunately, our area is very dry; our abundant creosotes have transformed from spring green to winter brown and would burn hot and fast if ignited by wind driven sparks or embers.

I was awakened from an early evening catnap in front of the TV last week by the strong smell of smoke and burning wood wafting through the house and even in my momentary groggy state of mind, I'm sure I must have broken some kind of speed record getting outside to investigate! No flames, no glow of fire in the distance, the horses were calm, and everything appeared to be normal. I never did locate the origin of whatever was burning!

Please remember that a burn permit is required to burn anywhere within the county of San Bernardino. All open fires, even seemingly safe fire pits, except for fires fueled solely by natural gas or propane, must be extinguished during red flag or fire weather watch conditions, when local winds exceed 10 mph or when directed by fire department personnel. Presently, there is no burning allowed in any of our six county fire divisions. Before you strike a match, take a moment to check with our local fire department for any up-to-date information.

Although they can boast low mileage and being well maintained, my vehicles are getting up there in age. I like the idea of having the truck for bulky items and the car for slipping easily in and out of those parking spaces that were clearly intended for golf carts! No car payments and a spare when one needs a fix. Then there's the day when both "check engine" lights go off and thanks to the inflated rat population this year, I have no operable vehicles at all.

Critter damage to the wiring in the car has been repaired, yet again, but the jury is still out on the truck. Rather than a new vehicle, I'm thinking an exterminator might be a wiser choice!

On a lighter note, the quail have returned in huge numbers, pudgy and fat, so they must be feeding well in anticipation of the winter months ahead. If I'm outside they gather around my feet until I throw out a few handfuls of seed and if I'm inside they'll come as close as the patio door, peering inside, hoping a free meal will magically appear! These little guys are by far my favorite quirky desert critters and I'm so pleased to have them back.

Thanksgiving is coming up fast and it appears that restrictions on large gatherings might be returning. We seem to be in a constant state of change and adjustment these days. During our upcoming holidays, be thoughtful, stay well and "count your blessings" hugs to all!

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/178430/desert-heights-news-nov-20-before-heading-to-your-fire-pit-check-with-the-fire-station/>