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Saturday, December 14, 2002

## Splashes of pink honors Sara Roja

### A splash of pink honors a former Miss Victorville

By EMILY BERG/Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — An angel who was quick to smile, loved to sing and show off her muscles is how family and friends remember Sara Elizabeth Rojas.

Pink hair and carnations stood out among the mourners who sat in the aisle, stood on the patio looking through windows and overflowed into the mortuary's lobby. Pink was the 17-year-old girl's favorite color and to honor her loved ones streaked their hair. Even the minister got into it, in the middle of the service he was able to find some pink hair dye to add to his hair.

At least 300 family and friends gathered for the former Miss Victorville and Serrano High School basketball player's funeral on Friday at Desert View Mortuary and Memorial Park.



Darrald Bennett / Staff Photographer  
At graveside, pink balloons were released in memory of 17 year-old Sara Rojas Friday afternoon at Desert View memorial Park and Mortuary in Victorville.

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Once Rojas dyed her hair red but it turned out pink, explained Kristina Nolan, her mother.

Nolan said the community support overwhelmed her and she wanted to go door-to-door to thank everyone.

"I also wanted to tell all the kids out there, don't think you're invincible — wear your seat belt," Nolan said in a short interview with the Daily Press.

Rojas died Dec. 5 when she lost control of the Chevrolet Blazer she was driving. It overturned on a Pinon Hills dirt road, ejecting the Adelanto teen — who wasn't wearing her seat belt — and pinning her

underneath. Rojas had two 17-year-old passengers with her who sustained minor injuries.

Sobs, sniffles and a few chuckles filled the chapel as family and friends watched a slide show of Rojas' short life and shared their own memories.

Rojas' uncle, Dan Tate, gave the eulogy and referred to his niece's mischievous goofiness and perpetual endless chatter.

"Sara lived with passion for everyday that said to everyone around her, 'This is a wonderful life,'" Tate said.



Darrald Bennett / Staff Photographer  
Mourners attending Sara Rojas funeral place pink carnations on her pink casket Friday afternoon.




Darrald Bennett / Staff Photographer  
Standing room only, friends of Sara Rojas peak through a window to see the memorial at Desert View Memorial Park and Mortuary Friday morning in Victorville.

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Emily Berg can be reached at  
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Anyone interested in helping the family can make donations to the Sara Rojas trust at Desert Community Bank, 14800 La Paz Drive

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