

Santa Monica Daily Press

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3rd Place: 2, Lucky Star

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Former Ball State University student Andrew Bourne, 23, and his parents filed a lawsuit in September against the school and the manufacturer of its aluminum football goal posts. Bourne suffered a broken leg and vertebrae when, during a raucous end-zone celebration after a 2001 victory over the University of Toledo, students pulled down the goal posts, hitting Bourne.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can pretend to be serious; you can't pretend to be witty."

— Sacha Guitry



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Homeless talks: New plan, same approach

Providers, business leaders and homeless people speak out

(Editor's note: This is the third article in an ongoing series addressing the homeless situation in Santa Monica. Future articles will look at what social services will be provided in the coming year and how effective the laws are that City Hall uses to control the local homeless population.)

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Homelessness — for years the most important and controversial issue for Santa Monica residents and businesses — was at the heart of an hour-long public hearing held late Tuesday in City Hall.

The meeting attracted business leaders, social service providers and homeless people. Some asked officials to do more to help those in need, while others criticized City Hall for not adequately policing the large transient population.

After asking a few targeted questions of the public and city staff, council members accepted a \$1.8 million plan which will continue the social service programs, while improving some areas and encouraging other cities to dedi-

cate more resources to the cause.

Julie Rusk, City Hall's manager of human services, told council members she is proud of the work that's been done to house homeless people over the last year. A total of 10 city-supported agencies placed 460 people into permanent housing, helped employ 682 people and helped a total of 2,700 people, Rusk said.

"This whole system is about getting people into housing," she said, adding that the numbers are particularly strong because two-thirds of homeless people suffer

See PLAN, page 6

Officials accept plan with little comment

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Though there was little discussion between elected officials before the annual report on homelessness was approved Tuesday night, council members asked pointed questions that reflect their individual positions on the divisive issue.

Only five of seven council

See COUNCIL, page 6

SM firefighters save homes, stave off flames

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The wildfires blazing through Southern California have gotten so out of control that the Santa Monica Fire Department has sent an unprecedented amount of resources into the battlegrounds.

Not only are the SMFD's two designated engines that are part of a statewide mutual aid team on the front lines, another crew was called into emergency duty Wednesday afternoon.

"We've never sent three engines before," said Capt. Lee McNett, who returned from the front line on Monday.

SMFD Chief Jim Hone said he

received a call Wednesday for "immediate need for structure and life protection" at the "Old Fire" near Lake Arrowhead. Four additional Santa Monica firefighters joined Beverly Hills, Culver City and the City of Los Angeles engine companies to create what's known as a "Strike Team."

Hone said he deployed off-duty firefighters who are using the department's reserve engine.

"We are now maxed out but still have resources in the city," he said.

The nine local firefighters who were deployed at the outset of the Southern California wildfires spent more than 60 hours battling flames with little or no rest. They were

See SMFD, page 5



Gary Le Vine/Special to the Daily Press

A passerby holds a compress on the back of a bleeding man who was stabbed at the corner of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street by a former co-worker Wednesday.

Man stabbed in back after armed robbery

By Daily Press staff

A man is in serious condition after he was stabbed in the back Wednesday by a former co-worker who attempted to rob him at a business on Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue.

Santa Monica Police arrested Kevin Carriker, 33, of Cerritos, shortly after the 8:30 a.m. incident.

Armed with his description, officers stopped Carriker as he was walking in the 300 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. The victim, who was transported to a local hospital, positively identified Carriker.

The business where the stabbing occurred is unknown.

Carriker, who is a parolee at large from Nevada, has been charged with attempted murder, kidnapping, armed robbery, violating parole and other related charges, police said. He is in custody at the Santa Monica Jail and has no bail because of the parole violation.

A preliminary investigation revealed that Carriker and the victim once worked together. The victim, whose identity is unknown, was treated by Santa Monica Fire paramedics.

Police asked anyone with additional information to call the robbery/homicide unit at (310) 458-8451.

Local jury decides actor's head shot is worth zero

BY DAVE DANFORTH
Daily Press Staff Writer

An actor claiming he deserved a six-figure paycheck for a copy shop's unauthorized use of his photo has been rebuffed by a Santa Monica jury.

Danny Nucci's bid was turned back earlier this month after what

one juror described as a "ridiculous" attempt to compare the value of his head shot, along with others on a postcard, to a national television commercial.

Nucci, 35, currently starring in a new cop television series "10-8," sued CopyMat in Hollywood after the copy shop culled his

See DECISION, page 7

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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate



HOROSCOPE

A must show tonight, Aries



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

You bounce into one of those special years where your words are heard and others respond. You might find this quite refreshing for a change. Express your energy and ideas. If there is something you have always wanted to do, this is the year. You might not be exactly sure about a domestic matter, and might not be for a while. Hang in there until you are sure you have all the facts. If you are single, a relationship blossoms, but do get to know this person carefully. You won't be ready for a live-in situation for a while. If attached, decisions around your domestic life and/or home should be postponed for a year, but talk about them. CAPRICORN chooses you to brainstorm.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Once more you assume a prominent role, though you might not feel like it. Relating to one individual person can make quite a difference in the outcome of a project. In the afternoon, let confusion be. It, too, will straighten itself out. Tonight: A must show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your efforts to draw someone out of his or her shell could make a big difference, though not immediately. A group situation or meeting flows the way you would like. Working as a team once more proves to be successful. Tonight: Look behind the scenes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might feel a bit put down by someone and how he or she deals with you. Or could this be a matter of your confidence? Take a problem to an associate, and you will feel good. Don't listen to all the gossip around. Tonight: Follow the music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You easily could wake up on the wrong side of the bed. Resist taking it out on the poor cat. By the time you race to the office or work, you will feel better. Discussions prove to be more rewarding than anticipated; just don't bring up money right now. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself, especially if you are dragging in the morning. Even the Lion cannot feel great every single moment. Deal with an office conversation involving bringing more work home. Do you really want this? Tonight: Talk to your roommate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Though someone might put you down right now, you're hot stuff. The issue for you is acting that way. You too often put yourself down. Give up the habit, at least for a day. Sorting out confusion at the office could be more than you're up to. Tonight: Find your favorite playmate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Stick to business when others want to turn the conversation in another direction. Your persistence might be necessary to get a work project on target. You also might need to discuss a diet or some other health program. Tonight: Plans change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Speak your mind, and others will respond. Right now, your creativity and input mean a lot to those around you. Check out a fax or news from a distance. What you are hearing might not be exactly as it appears. Tonight: Join a friend at a preferred restaurant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★ Money matters dominate your thoughts right now. Your instincts are right-on, so you do need to follow them, despite some flak. Confusion surrounds talks, so you might say one thing, but someone else hears another. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might have to deal with a grumpy associate as well as some confusion on the money front. Neither will get settled immediately. Your strong suit lies within groups and talking to your trusted adviser. Return messages. Tonight: Swap war stories.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Know when to say little, even if you find yourself in a state of supreme confusion. You will need to sort out what is being said more carefully right now. Fatigue might be stopping you in your tracks. Recognize that your limits will be your strength today. Tonight: Early to bed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your words empower a situation, making others feel that anything is possible. Know what a difference you can make to others. Your instincts might be off about some news. Check out all facts with the greatest care. Tonight: Where your friends are.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averill steve@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Elise De Ford elise@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert DeAmicis Rob@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Money for the bus

By Daily Press staff

Thanks to a new transit plan the City Council authorized Tuesday, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus system soon will be eligible for more money.

Called a "Short Range Transit Plan," the submission to the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will ensure that the Big Blue Bus is up for federal, state, and local transit funds through 2006.

Every year a transit plan must be filed. It is a planning document that includes a forecast of operating expenses and other infrastructure needs — including fleet replacement, facility improvement, and equipment updating.

This information, based upon the current year's financial plan which is approved by the City Council, allows the LACMTA to allocate transit funding. Short range transit plans do not bind City Hall to a specific plan.

During the fiscal year of 2003-2004 the LACMTA estimated the operating budget for the Big Blue Bus at \$37.6 million with transit subsidies at \$23.1 million — 61 percent of the operations budget.

The remaining 39 percent is made up from local operating revenues — a combination of fares, charter, advertising, leasing and special transit services which total \$14.5 million.

The fiscal year 2004-2005 includes an \$18.5 million capital improvement program, covering replacement vehicles and maintenance costs. In 2005-2006, another \$13.5 million will be spent on capital improvements. Approximately \$7.5 million of that is for ongoing expenses. The remaining \$6 million is expected to fund upgrades to the Transit Mall.

From ashes to stardust

By Daily Press staff

To find out how human beings and the world were created, look to the local community college.

"From Stardust to Us," a look at the trail that leads from the unclear cauldron of exploding stars to the atoms that make up our bodies, will be the feature show Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 at Santa Monica College's Friday night astronomy series.

The guest lecture Friday, Nov. 21 will be "In the Heat of the Night." Michelle Thaller of NASA's Space Infrared Telescope Facility will talk about unveiling the hidden secrets of star and galaxy birth.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded at 7 p.m. by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

"The Night Sky Show" and "From Stardust to Us" will be held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. "In the Heat of the Night" will be in room 140 of the science complex, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the double bill, with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Get green with new directory

By Daily Press staff

Copies of the new "Environmental Directory," a guide to environmental services offered by the City of Santa Monica, and local businesses and organizations, are now available.

The directory has been updated for 2003 and provides information on a variety of environmental topics, from recycling pick-up to advice on "green" products.

Visit www.smpd.org to download an electronic version, e-mail dirmaster@santa-monica.org or call (310) 458-2213 to get a printed copy. Copies are also available at the Information Desk in the City Hall lobby.

surf report

Cheese breeze and eddy conditions may chop up the water some more today, but look for a mixture of slowly fading SW swell and a touch of NW windswell.

OUTLOOK: Conditions stay poor into the weekend. A minor S hits Saturday.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

67°

Sunrise: 7:15 a.m.
Sunset: 6:12 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:09	0.7	4:01	-0.6	9:22	6.5	10:14	5.0
SUNDAY	2:43	1.1	3:49	-0.9	8:56	6.7	10:08	4.6
MONDAY	3:17	1.6	4:42	-0.9	9:33	6.8	11:10	4.1
TUESDAY	3:54	2.2	5:42	-0.7	10:15	6.5	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	4:37	2.7	6:53	-0.4	12:28	3.7	(11:04)	6.1
THURSDAY	5:38	3.2	8:14	-0.1	2:13	3.6	12:08	5.6
FRIDAY	7:36	3.4	9:34	0.0	4:01	3.8	1:35	5.1

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica City Council is reviewing an annual report of how well its social service programs have helped the city's growing homeless population become self-sufficient through shelters and work programs. While City Hall contributes \$1.8 million in funding toward the cause, millions more are spent in controlling the anti-social behavior of vagrants, as well as cleaning up after them.

And business owners, residents and tourists say Santa Monica loses out from lost revenue because they shy away from the

area as a result of its vagrant population.

For the past five years, Santa Monica's homeless population has been the top concern among residents, according to a city survey.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Do you feel City Hall's efforts have made a positive difference here? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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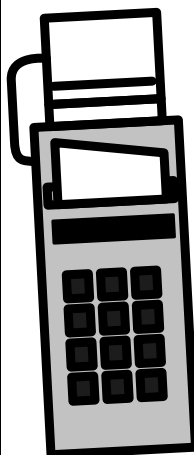
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LETTERS

Good riddance to corporate greed

Editor:

Good-bye to Ralph's, Vons and Albertson's markets.

I'm tired of the grocery strike. I'm also tired of huge profitable corporations refusing to share living wages and benefits with their average employees. I apologize to the striking workers because even if you go back to work, you've lost me as a repeat customer. There are other stores with happy employees who want my business.

Shame on our government's role as one of the top causes of escalating health care costs. Shame on those laws that encourage the increasing discrepancy between the salaries of top corporate executives and the regular, full-time American worker who keeps our nation running smoothly.

Since there are only so many hours in a week, there is a limit to the absolute value of top executives. Every worker deserves the fruits of their labor. I don't think the union bureaucracies care any more than the faceless representatives in Washington, D.C. Do you?

Ed Sharrow
Santa Monica

Reader wants answers from City Hall

Editor:

Is it just me or is the city allowing an awful lot of road construction in the same area at one time? I live just off of Ocean Park Boulevard around 14th Street and the current construction, while I'm sure has good reason to be there, has been expanding, it seems, as well as taking a very long time to complete.

When it originally started, the permit stated completion on Sept. 30 — clearly this didn't happen and the permit was extended to Oct. 21. This permit is still posted and it is well past that date. Now I see similar permits on Cloverfield Boulevard and that they are tearing up Lincoln Boulevard just south of Ocean Park Boulevard as well. Who is in charge of this? I come home in the middle of the day and my whole street is blocked off to where even I, a resident, can't enter. It's very frustrating. Then there is the noise. My fiancé works from home once a week and since this construction started she's been hindered by the noise generated by this project which is clearly past its publicly posted deadline.

My question goes to the City Council, who I believe we should hold responsible for this problem. Who is in charge of this project and how accountable are they being held for going so far past their deadline? Also, is the construction company who has this contract being held accountable for this transgression of time?

Mike Lipsey
Santa Monica

Ditto on kudos to Big Blue Bus

Editor:

In response to Joanne Gamlin's letter, (SMDP, Oct. 28, page 4), she is right on the money in all of her comments in regards to Big Blue Bus.

As a 56-year transit rider (Big Blue Bus, Culver City Bus, MTA and predecessors), and a transit advocate-historian and a member of various transit-rail advocacy and historical groups, I would like to offer additional comments.

I have had occasion to ride Big Blue Bus No. 10 during the current MTA strike to downtown LA (Union Station) and in most instances, my bus was also "sardined."

All of the Big Blue Bus drivers involved with my trips did an outstanding job and one of them got me to Union Station just in time to see and say hello to the president of Amtrak, David Gunn, who was departing Los Angeles on the Southwest Chief.

As Joanne stated, extra buses are being operated on Big Blue Bus Line No. 10 and, in one instance, I boarded a bus in downtown Los Angeles that ran ahead of the usual hourly departure from Union Station (after 7 p.m.). This was extremely helpful, and convenient to me and other riders.

In addition to Big Blue, don't forget the other "munis" currently operating: Culver City Bus, Long Beach Transit, Torrance Bus Lines, Montebello Bus Lines, Gardena Bus Lines, Norwalk Transit, Glendale Beeline, etc. And also, DASH, LADOT (Commuter Express), Foothill Transit and Metrolink.

In the current MTA Strike crisis situation, all of the aforementioned transit and rail operators are doing a yeoman's job of serving the transit riding public.

Ken Ruben
Santa Monica

Push her button, Coulter speaks for all that's right

NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



"Which one is more hated?" screamed the top headline on the AOL home page yesterday, next to head shots of Presidents Bush and Clinton. Underneath them it said this: "Forget about civil discussion. Hatred is hot now in America."

■ Just how hateful has it gotten here in Bushamerica? If AOL, the lowest common denominator for all of us reluctantly obedient Internet patrons, is willing to trumpet the nastiness, you'd have to say this "new American civil war" the right wing pundits have gleefully been declaring is slightly worth noting.

■ Take Ann Coulter. Away. Please. There is no better front person to exemplify the new "hot hatred" in America than the omnipresent "Queen of the Vile" herself. You can't get away from her, she's everywhere. On bestseller lists, on cable news shows, on op-ed pages all over the nation, and now she's an action figure going for a cool \$29.99 plus S&H from a site called talkingpresidents.com, the same folks that brought you the "George W. Bush Top Gun Action Figure," the one that came dressed in the custom-tailored

fighter pilot uniform, remember? When I joked about pulling a string on the Bush figure's back and hearing him speak timeless inspirations like, "I'm embarrassed to be from the same state as the Dixie Chicks," the manufacturers must have been reading the SMDP. Because, sure enough, the new "Ann Coulter Talking Action Figure" has a button you can push to hear her bash liberals 14 times in her own voice, taken from her own diatribes. The ad for the toy invites us to "Listen to her speak," and here's some of what she says when her button is pushed.

■ "Liberals hate America. Even Islamic terrorists don't hate America like liberals do. They don't have the energy. If they had the energy they'd have indoor plumbing by now." Whew, that's quite a toilet full there from the lean mean blonde machine. But who really are the America-haters? Think about it. In case you forget, like all the arrogant right wing talking heads conveniently do, a half-million more Americans voted for Gore, the liberal, than they did for Bush, the conservative. So if your gig is to bash the folks who make up the majority of this country, who's really the America-hater?

■ "Why not go to war for oil, we need oil." Well, now, that's at least getting right to the point. The woman does not beat around the Bush. Or the Cheney. The vice president's Halliburton firm continues to thrive under the billion-dollar contract awarded them — without open bidding —

to rework the battered Iraqi oil fields. Though he told NBC's Meet the Press last month that he has "no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind," a new Congressional Research Service report reveals that Cheney continues to hold a mere 433,333 unexercised stock options in the company, constituting "a clear financial interest" in the giant Texas firm. Yes, Ann, we need oil and we know where to get it and we know who will go to war to get it for us.

■ "Liberals can't just come out and say they want to kill babies." That's true, it's a very tough thing to admit, doesn't look at all good on the resume. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), led the fight last week against a bill which passed through the Senate imposing the first federal ban on an abortion procedure in 30 years. "For the first time in history, a procedure is banned that is considered necessary by physicians," she said. "This is a radical, radical thing that is about to happen." The controversial procedure — "partial birth" abortion — will become illegal as soon as the president signs the bill as he promises to do. This is as divisive, and morally tough an issue as there is out there on the political landscape. But like Sen. Boxer asked, and you have to be able to answer this, Ms. Coulter, "What kind of country would say to half of the population, 'We don't trust you, we think you would choose murder.'?" The lowly name-calling only serves to inflame, and, oh yes, to

sell books. Coulter's "Treason: Liberal Treachery..." still hovers around the top ten of the New York Times bestseller list.

■ "At least when right-wingers rant there's a point." The point must be "do as I say, not as I do." One ranting right-winger, the guy who wrote "The Book of Virtues" of all things, William F. Bennett, Fox News Channel talking head par excellence — has been exposed as a compulsive gambler who's blown more than \$8 million in slot machines over the past few years. Bennett was the Drug Czar under Bush the senior, and I can only imagine the get-togethers with his buddy, fellow ranter and pillar of conservative principle, Rush Limbaugh, who reportedly had some 10,000 illegal pain pills stashed at his Florida mansion when he checked out of his radio show and into rehab. A rejuvenated and once again holier-than-thou Bennett had this to say on a recent Sean Hannity show, "Liberals are liberals because they have doubts on what to think." Well, though it's true I have some serious doubts on what to think about laying a \$20 down on the Eagles this Sunday, there's no doubt what to think of a guy who blows millions of his family's money by obsessively pulling on the one-armed bandits all across America. Dumb-ass comes to mind.

■ Goes for you too, Annie.

(Ron Scott Smith lives on the edge. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com.)

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LOCAL



SMFD crew fighting Stevenson Ranch wildfire

SMFD, from page 1

successful in saving dozens of homes.

McNett, who led Engine No. 3, said the mission was extremely intense. The winds, the heat and the pure physical exhaustion made for a long deployment.

Santa Monica's two engines, which were part of the five-engine strike team, were first deployed on Saturday at about 2:30 a.m. They battled flames in four different areas and had a close call toward the end of their mission when a spot fire ignited next to their engine company.

McNett, along with eight other Santa Monica firefighters and engine companies from Culver City and Beverly Hills, were stationed on Tierra Rejada Road near the Ronald Reagan Library when the fire broke out next to them, giving them only four minutes to deploy.

They immediately went to a nearby ranch house that they earlier had asked the owner to evacuate. As McNett went in to check the home and turn off the utilities so it could be used as a safe zone, he not only found the owner inside, but also five protective dogs.

"As I went in, I actually got bit by a dog and then four pitbulls were backing him up," McNett said. "I had to retreat out of the house."

The man who owned the ranch was "absolutely panicked," because the fire surrounded the area so quickly. McNett said they took the man with them because there was no other safe place for him to go.

When the Santa Monica crew first deployed, they went to the Devalle command post and received orders to protect the city of Piru.

"The immediate need was to protect structures," McNett said, adding each engine can guard about two or three homes at once. "Then we made a stand against the fire."

The first deployment was between Piru Road and Interstate 5. Crews make what's called a "hot lap," which is a quick assessment of the area to determine where to set up hoses and other utilities.

"Then we wait for the fire to come," McNett said. "We stay low, let it go over the top of you and then go fight it."

Each engine has a 500-gallon tank apparatus, a captain and three firefighters. Because it was at the outset and so many fires were burning at one time, the crew had to work around the clock.

"So many of them started at once that there weren't enough resources," McNett said. "If fatigue sets in, we take a break. It's tough and if you do rest, you're on the ground."

Then the winds kicked up in the middle of the night, which kept crews constantly scanning the area for new fires.

The crew made a stand at Highway 26 near Newhall Orchard, watched it go over a hill and into another canyon where they followed the flames into the city of Moorpark near Highway 118. Another stand was made on the 23 Freeway, where crews were successful in stopping flames.

The last deployment was made on Tierra Rejada Road, where crews also were successful in saving structures.

"You deploy where you can do the

most good," McNett said. "It was really challenging and it was really exciting."

Another crew relieved McNett's team on Monday. They are currently battling blazes at Stevenson Ranch in the Santa Clarita Valley and are expected to be out in the field until today.

"The immediate need was to protect structures. Then we made a stand against the fire."

— CAPT. LEE MCNETT
SMFD

The SMFD has several firefighters trained in brush fires and they are assigned to what are called "brush engines" which are part of the strike team. McNett said the crews go around the state every year fighting wildfires, including the 1993 Malibu firestorm that took 300 homes.

McNett said many homes were saved because developers have adhered to regulations that require property around structures to be cleared of brush that is highly burnable.

"They learned that from the Malibu fires," McNett said. "It really helped."

McNett's team has more than 150 years of firefighting experience combined. McNett, who's been a firefighter for 23 years, said rookie firefighter Matt Norris did an excellent job battling his first major wildfire.

"He had a cool head under fire," McNett said. "He's on his way for a successful career."

Crew members during the first deployment were:

Capt. Lee McNett
Engineer Shawn Conniff
Firefighter Matt Norris
Firefighter/paramedic Rob Smith
Capt. George Menta
Engineer Craig Rufi
Firefighter Dan Woelfel
Firefighter Jim Scott
Utility truck: John Hardie

Crew members at Stevenson Ranch:

Capt. Steve Wells
Capt. Manny Torres
Firefighter Daniel Caldwell
Engineer Frank Evaro
Firefighter Jeff Furrows
Firefighter Tim Gilligan
Engineer Dave Saxby
Firefighter Judah Mitchell
Firefighter Jeff Venezia

Crew members at the Old Fire:

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Matt Norris

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LOCAL

City Hall funds 10 nonprofits for homeless people

PLAN, from page 1

from mental illness or substance abuse.

In her report to the City Council, Rusk acknowledged the concerns of residents, who have ranked homelessness as their top concern in random telephone polls for the past five years and have repeatedly brought up the issue in community outreach meetings.

"We continue to hear about the growing concern about the impact of homelessness and some anti-social behavior of homeless people on our streets," she said, adding that Santa Monica's emergency workers also are put to work by the vagrant population.

In 2002, a team of five Santa Monica Police Department officers dedicated to the homeless responded to 770 calls, she said. And between Oct. 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003, paramedics were called out 900 times for incidents related to homeless people. Police officers not part of the special homeless unit also spend much of their time responding to calls related to the homeless.

A handful of homeless people praised the council for its social service programs but asked it to be careful in how it handles the growing homeless population.

"When you're dealing with homeless people, it's better to ask the homeless what they need themselves," said Charles Springer, homeless for nearly seven years, who works with a group of six or seven pushing vending carts on the Third Street Promenade. Springer suggested creating more opportunities for the working home-

"The deranged people are scary when they stand outside your business or your hotel ... But if illegal activity is not occurring, there's nothing that we can do."

— POLICE CHIEF JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
SMPD

less and encouraging other cities to provide more services.

Nicholas Vrataric, executive director of the nonprofit CLARE Foundation and chair of the nonprofit Westside Hunger and Shelter Coalition, spoke to council members, thanking them for continued support and said his agency's goals aren't any different from those of local businesses — to get the homeless off the street.

Though City Hall recently passed three ordinances aimed at limiting the visibility of homelessness downtown, a handful of merchants appeared before the council to voice their concerns and asked that the laws be more strongly enforced.

One law requires groups that hand out food to large groups in area parks to obtain health and event permits so they can be regulated more closely. The second law makes it illegal to sleep in doorways downtown. The third law bans people from sleeping in the bluffs between Palisades Park and the Pacific Coast Highway below.

"The No. 1 issue that resonates with businesses is the homeless issue," said Dr. Mike Gruning, chairman of the board of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

"They are frustrated by the increasing number of homeless. The continuum of care has a limited ability to help just a finite number of individuals. I think we need to start disincentivizing people from coming here."

Sean Waldron, director of security at Casa Del Mar, a beachfront luxury hotel, agrees. He told council members that

many hotel guests have decided not to return to Santa Monica because of the large homeless population.

"The homeless issue ... has become an unbearable situation," he said.

Police Chief James T. Butts Jr., who has been with the SMPD for 12 years, said officers are working vigilantly to enforce the new ordinances, regularly patrolling downtown and the parks, conducting weekly panhandling stings and issuing citations whenever possible. The bottom line, Butts said, is officers are limited by what the law allows.

"The deranged people are scary when they stand outside your business or your hotel," he said. "But if illegal activity is not occurring, there's nothing that we can do."

Councilman Genser pushes for stronger policing of laws

COUNCIL, from page 1

members were present for the report. One of the absent council members, Herb Katz, is on vacation. The other, Councilman Bob Holbrook, left in the middle of the hearing.

Holbrook was the first to ask questions after Julie Rusk, City Hall's director of human services, made her annual presentation to the City Council. He asked Rusk whether the amount of money spent on the homeless — or the number of homeless people in Santa Monica — has been reduced significantly in recent years.

Rusk conceded that neither had, but said homelessness has increased throughout the country and pointed to the high number of people being helped locally.

Holbrook later said that was all he needed to hear.

"I'm fed up with it," Holbrook said. "There wasn't any point in staying after that. It's nine years now and no reduction in the homeless population in Santa Monica. It's not an issue of people not doing their best ... The purpose of the city spending millions of dollars over the years was to get the homeless people off the streets in Santa Monica."

Immediately after Holbrook walked off the dais, City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who called City Hall's programs a "phenomenal success," asked Rusk to reiterate, for emphasis, that 460 homeless people were placed in permanent housing last year.

About 15 people addressed the council during the public hearing, which didn't begin until after 11 p.m. Everyone from business leaders to social service group representatives to homeless people gave their opinions on the issue.

During public testimony, McKeown asked Chamber of Commerce representatives if they had looked into pressuring liquor stores to stop selling alcohol to people who are intoxicated. He said tackling homelessness should be a group effort and any pressure the chamber can apply would help.

"Much effort's been focused on the feeding programs," McKeown later said. "But the complaints we hear don't have to

do with people who've had too much to eat. They're mostly about people who've had too much to drink."

Mayor Richard Bloom, who sits on a regional board of leaders formed to end homelessness in Los Angeles in the next 10 years, asked whether or not the chamber belongs to the nonprofit Westside Hunger and Shelter Coalition. Kathy Dodson, the chamber's executive director, said she didn't know they were eligible for membership and would look into it.

"This is a shame on our country, on our state, on our community. It's something we have to address seriously."

— MAYOR RICHARD BLOOM

City Councilman Ken Genser said the homeless problem isn't caused by the programs but rather by the anti-social behavior of some.

Genser asked City Attorney Marsha Moutrie and Santa Monica Police Department Chief James T. Butts what the obstacles to policing the current laws are, such as keeping people from urinating and defecating in public. Butts said the SMPD does a thorough job of patrolling the streets for violators, but that particular law is difficult to enforce because people don't tend to break it in front of officers.

Neither City Councilman Mike Feinstein nor City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor made many comments during the public hearing.

In the end, the council voted 5-0 to accept the homeless plan and directed city staff to look into ways of educating the public about available resources.

Bloom said Santa Monica's services are an important component of a regional approach to ending homelessness.

"This is a shame on our country, on our state, on our community," he said. "It's something we have to address seriously."

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LOCAL STATE



Phony firefighter arrested

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — A man who apparently wanted to battle Southern California's wildfires was arrested Wednesday for investigation of impersonating a firefighter, authorities said.

Matt Alverson, 44, of Azusa, was stopped by sheriff's deputies in Highland because his van appeared similar to that described in a wanted poster for the arsonist who set the devastating Old Fire, said Robin Haynal, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Alverson was wearing a firefighter's outfit and had some kind of firefighter protection equipment, she said.

"He's obviously not a fireman, so he's not qualified to fight a fire or go into any of those restricted areas," Haynal said. "They're not letting anybody other than fire or police in those areas."

"He said he was affiliated with the Inglewood Fire Department. We found that not to be the case," sheriff's Sgt. Dave Caddell said.

"Reports have it that he was trying to hitch a ride on a fire truck and go up to fight the fire."

Caddell said it doesn't appear that the man is the arsonist sought in connection with the 28,000-acre fire that has burned 800 homes and caused four deaths.

Santa Monica jury awards nothing to actor

DECISION, from page 1

face, along with numerous others, from its computer files to print up 600 postcards to illustrate its work. The shop, which didn't know the identities behind the faces it was using, pulled Nucci's head shot after his publicist had been there to get the shot scanned onto a disc.

"It's unfortunate that someone who's talented would want to make money on something like this," said Joel Citron, CopyMat's lawyer. He said the shop was one of five loosely affiliated copy outlets in Southern California.

Nucci didn't see the CopyMat postcard, mailed to various talent agents in a bid to demonstrate its work, for over a year after its 2001 appearance. But his lawyer, Tom Turner, claimed Nucci sued in order to protect his right to avoid commercial work while his acting career was taking off.

While the jury agreed that CopyMat had violated a 1971 privacy statute signed into law by Gov. Ronald Reagan, it found that Nucci had suffered no loss. After a buyer for the ad agency, Chiat Day, minimized the value of a print headshot on a postcard, the jury decided Nucci didn't require pay for his work. There was little evidence that anyone in the Santa Monica Superior courtroom knew who Danny Nucci was.

The actor's most prominent role until now had been as Leonardo DiCaprio's sidekick in "Titanic." He now commands \$65,000 per episode for the hour-long "10-8," which began this fall. Described as an "edgy humorous take on the L.A. Sheriff's rookies and their trainers," it stars Nucci as a street tough-turned trainee. For the period Sept. 22 to Oct. 5, ratings placed it No. 52, between "Happy Family" and "Life with Bonnie." It had about half the number of viewers as "Law and Order."

"He's not looking for an extra \$50,000," said Turner. "He's making that for each episode."

The 1971 privacy law forbids the "knowing" use of a photograph or likeness without permission. But it's unclear if the language protects a user if it didn't know whose photograph it was using. The jury decided that it did not, according to Lowell Steiger, a juror in the case who happens to be a plaintiff's attorney.

"They were really deluding themselves," Steiger said of Nucci and his lawyer. "It didn't make any sense. How do you compare a postcard going to 600 talent agents to a star getting half a million from a Coke commercial?"

Turner tried to persuade the jury in closing arguments to consider what talent is paid for television programming. He cited a dancer who received \$500,000 for a role in a Coca-Cola commercial, and \$1.9 million for an endorsement ad by a late-night talk show host.

"It's unfortunate that someone who's talented would want to make money on something like this."

— JOEL CITRON
CopyMat's lawyer

Nucci had been paid \$75,000 per episode for guest appearances dating back to 2000, and had also pulled down \$105,000 for a film role. Turner used an expert witness to say that for major print advertising, such talent is priced at about 15-25 percent of film rates.

But Citron, arguing for CopyMat, laughed off the comparison, noting that at the time of the postcard episode Nucci's star "was still rising" and that he'd made \$3,000 per episode on one series and had worked on a film for "scale" — \$248 daily.

"I would be offended if I were on the jury and asked to award these kinds of damages," Citron told jurors. "My client didn't make five cents on this thing." He termed the use of the photo an "honest mistake" made by a CopyMat employee. The shop apologized and cut Nucci's head shot out of its promotional postcard after his lawyer complained.

"I bet if (the) William Morris (talent agency) got one of these babies it never made it past the mail room," Citron argued.

The 1971 law specifies a minimum of \$750 be awarded in such cases. However, Steiger said the jury interpreted the language to mean that the amount was mandated if it decided to award damages at all. In this case, after 90 minutes of deliberation, it settled on nothing.

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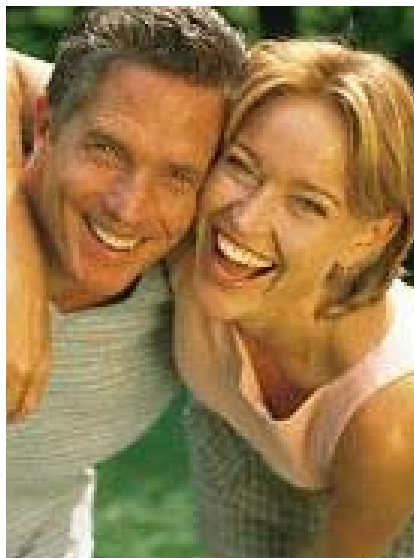
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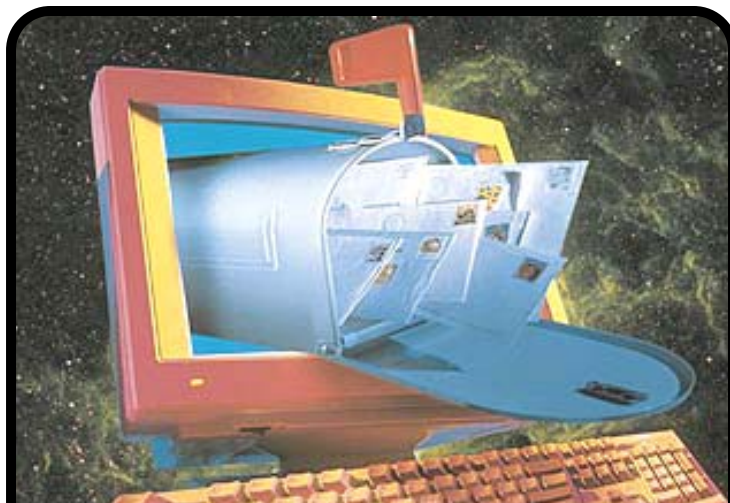
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STATE

Hunt on for those who set devastating SoCal fires

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Even as crews battled Southern California's ferocious and fatal wildfires, investigators were trying to determine who set them.

"Over half of the fires in Southern California are of suspicious origin or definitely arson," said James Wright, chief of fire protection for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

More than 13 fires have started since last week, with eight continuing to burn Wednesday.

No arrests had been made, but federal, state and local investigators said they were making progress. Several people have been detained in connection with the 28,000-acre Old Fire in San Bernardino County that has killed four elderly people who had heart attacks.

Several were released after questioning. On Wednesday, U.S. Forest Service employees on patrol detained a man they believed matched the description on a wanted poster issued by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, said Jerry Moore, a Forest Service special agent.

However, the man was released after being questioned by authorities, said Robin Haynal, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Investigators had not determined whether there was any link between the Old Fire and the Grand Prix Fire, which started near Fontana and had torched 50 homes and 68,000 acres.

Moore also said a man had confessed to starting the Piru fire that burned three homes and nearly 56,000 acres in Ventura County, but the case remain under investigation.

"Anybody can come in and say 'I did it,'" Moore said.

San Diego County authorities, meanwhile, said they are positive a wildfire that has so far killed 12 people and burned more than 1,000 homes was sparked by a lost deer hunter who set a signal blaze.

Sergio Martinez, 33, of West Covina was rescued by a San Diego County sheriff's helicopter on Saturday in the Cleveland National Forest. He was given a misdemeanor citation for setting an unauthorized fire.

The fire was only 50 square yards when he was rescued. The pilot who rescued him, Deputy Dave Weldon, said Martinez initially denied setting the fire but then said, "I'm sorry about all this" and apologized repeatedly.

Arsonists could face federal or state charges, including aggravated arson, which in California carries a 10-years-to-life sentence. They could even face murder charges.

Investigators from various agencies are receiving as many as 100 tips a day from as far north as San Francisco, said Daniel Frias, a fire investigator with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Finding wildfire arsonists can be difficult, he said, because they can set time-delay devices or wait until the coast is clear.

"Usually when we get a good lead, it's because a witness just happened to be driving by," he said.

That happened in the Old Fire near San Bernardino. Witnesses said they saw a man in his 20s in a gray van throw something into the brush and start a fire on Saturday.

A \$60,000 reward was being offered for information leading to the arsonist's capture.

Investigators had no motive for the arsons. In the past, people have set "vanity fires" so they can point them out and appear to be heroes, Frias said. Others have tried to torch houses out of revenge.

Victims of SoCal Wildfires

By The Associated Press

On Wednesday, 20 confirmed deaths had been blamed on Southern California's wildfires.

CEDAR FIRE (San Diego County):

■ Galen Blacklidge, 50, Lakeside.

Died Sunday while trying to escape in her vehicle.

■ Mary Peace, age unknown. Died Sunday on the Barona Indian Reservation.

■ One man found dead Sunday in a motorhome on Muth Valley Road near Moreno; identified by family members as Stephen Shacklett, 55.

■ One man found dead Sunday on Wildcat Canyon Road near Moreno.

■ One woman found dead Sunday on Wildcat Canyon Road near Moreno.

■ One man found dead Monday on Wildcat Canyon Road near Moreno.

■ One woman found dead Monday on Wildcat Canyon Road near Moreno.

■ Three people found found dead Sunday on Lake Vicente Drive near Moreno; identified by neighbors and in published reports as James Shohara, 63, Solange Shohara, 58, and their son, Randy, 22.

■ One person found dead Wednesday in a home on Vista Viejas Road in Alpine.

■ Steven Rucker, 38, a Novato firefighter who was killed Wednesday while trying to save a home near Wynola.

■ Two people who were found dead Wednesday on the Barona Indian Reservation.

PARADISE FIRE (San Diego County):

■ Nancy Morpheus, 51, Valley Center, horse rancher. Killed Sunday as she attempted to drive away from her home on Yellow Brick Road.

■ Ashleigh Roach, 16, Valley Center, student. Killed Sunday when her car was trapped in flames near Hell Hole Canyon.

OLD FIRE (San Bernardino County):

■ James W. McDermith, 70, San Bernardino. Died Saturday when he collapsed as he was evacuating his home.

■ Charles Cunningham, 93, San Bernardino. Died Saturday when he collapsed as he stood in the street watching his home burn.

■ Chad Williams, 70, of Crestline. Died Saturday of a heart attack while evacuating.

■ Gene Knowles, 75, of Big Bear. Died Sunday of a heart attack while evacuating.

STATE



One firefighter killed, three injured in San Diego County

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA

AP National Writer

WYNOLA — Fast-moving flames overtook a four-man fire crew on Wednesday, killing one firefighter and injuring three others as they tried to save a home threatened by the largest blaze in Southern California.

It was the first firefighter death in the outbreak of fires that have ravaged the region this week. Twenty people have now died in the fires, many of them trying to escape the flames.

Steve Rucker, a 38-year-old fire engineer, died while battling the Cedar Fire in San Diego County. The fire has burned more than 230,000 acres and nearly 1,100 homes.

Rucker was part of a fire engine crew from the Novato Fire Protection District, just north of San Francisco, that was trying to save a mountain home near Wynola. The town is a few miles northwest of Julian in eastern San Diego County.

The firefighters were overrun so quickly that they didn't have time to reach their engine and flee, said Fred Batchelor, a state fire marshal. They took refuge in the house they were trying to protect, but one of the firefighters was overcome on the porch.

"It's calm one moment, and the next moment you have an explosive situation," Batchelor said. "In this case, it

flared up and rolled in there and engulfed them."

Off Highway 78 and Orchard Lane near Wynola, yellow police tape cordoned off the area. San Diego County Sheriff's Sgt. Conrad Grayson said the firefighters were overcome about a mile down Orchard Lane.

"It just swept right over them," Grayson said.

"I was hoping we wouldn't have to do this with a firefighter or a deputy," he said as he walked away to meet the coroner.

In San Diego, John Hawkins of the California Department of Forestry struggled to sum up the loss.

"It's a tragic event to the people of San Diego County and it's an example of the American spirit of protecting our assets," he said. "Steven Rucker gave his life today in pursuit of saving someone else's house."

Rucker, an 11-year veteran firefighter, is survived by a wife and two children. Capt. Doug McDonald was burned on 18 percent of his body — mainly to his legs, arms and face — and was in critical condition at the University of California, San Diego Medical Center. He is expected to make a full recovery.

The two other firefighters in the crew, Shawn Kreps and Barrett Smith, were treated for minor burns. Hawkins said they probably would be released Thursday.

Hundreds of firefighters have converged on the Julian

area in the past 24 hours to make a stand against the Cedar Fire. Word of Wednesday's death quickly spread through fire crews.

"We know our job is dangerous," said Jim Venneau, a 31-year-old firefighter who was stationed in downtown Julian. "We know the chances we take when we do these kinds of things. It bothers you. You want to know exactly what happened because you don't want it to happen to you."

Gov. Gray Davis offered his condolences.

"Our hearts go out to his family," Davis said. "Be assured that his family will receive all the benefits that lawfully are due to him because of his heroic service."

In Novato, Fire Chief Jeff Meston prepared to fly south with members of the firefighters' families. He said Rucker was "really one of those firefighters that we all love."

"He's the kind of guy that organizes for the families — the Easter Bunny coming, Santa Claus coming for the kids. A great family man, lives here in Novato. I just spent a bit of time with his wife and of course his family is completely devastated. He was just a great man."

California wildfires at a glance

By The Associated Press

Major Southern California wildfires Wednesday:

TOTALS:

Size: 662,904 acres.

Homes: 2,608 destroyed.

Deaths: 20.

Personnel: 11,917 on major fires.

CEDAR FIRE: (San Diego County)

Size: 251,000 acres.

Homes: 1,483 homes destroyed, including 40 in Poway, 349 in the city of San Diego, and 1,027 in unincorporated county areas. 15 homes damaged, 316 outbuildings destroyed and 10 damaged. Several historic landmarks in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park destroyed.

Deaths: 14, including one firefighter.

Containment: 15 percent. Full containment expected Nov. 5.

Start: Oct. 25 in eastern San Diego County.

Key facts: Burned 33,000 acres inside San Diego city limits, and 100 percent of those acres were contained Wednesday afternoon. Fire was moving northeast Wednesday, threatening Ramona, Pine Hills, Julian, Cuyamaca, Mt. Laguna and Wynola.

Personnel: 3,662 firefighters.

Cause: Authorities believe a hunter set signal fire when he got lost.

PARADISE FIRE: (San Diego County)

Size: 49,800 acres.

Homes: 117 destroyed, 116 outbuildings destroyed.

Deaths: Two.

Containment: 20 percent. Full containment expected Nov. 1 and full control on Nov. 5.

Start: Oct. 26 in Valley Center area near Interstate 15.

Key facts: Mandatory evacuations for Mount Palomar, a community of 10,000 residents. Escondido, Deer Springs and La Jolla threatened.

Personnel: 1,336 firefighters.

Cause: Under investigation.

GRAND PRIX FIRE: (San Bernardino County)

Size: 68,463 acres.

Homes: 50 homes destroyed, 40 damaged. 300 homes and 100 commercial properties threatened. 48 outbuildings destroyed.

Deaths: None.

Containment: 25 percent. Containment expected Oct. 31.

Start: Oct. 21 near San Bernardino National Forest.

Key facts: Mandatory evacuations in Silverwood and Lytle Creek where 200 homes threatened.

Personnel: 1,569 firefighters.

Cause: Arson.

OLD FIRE: (San Bernardino County)

Size: 47,968 acres.

Homes: 850 homes destroyed, including about 300 in the Lake Arrowhead area, 10 commercial buildings destroyed.

Deaths: Four. 3 minor injuries to firefighters.

Containment: 10 percent.

Start: Oct. 25 near San Bernardino National Forest.

Key facts: Mandatory evacuations in Summit Valley, Oak Hills, Silverwood Lake and areas along Highway 38 corridor. Threats to 50,000 homes, 2,000 businesses and 80,000 outbuildings worth \$10 billion in property value.

Personnel: 2,392 firefighters.

Cause: Arson.

PADUA FIRE: (Los Angeles County)

Size: 10,223 acres.

Homes: 59 homes destroyed in Claremont.

Deaths: None.

Containment: 80 percent. Full containment expected Oct. 31.

Start: Flames entered L.A. County on Oct. 25 from Grand Prix fire.

Key facts: Originally part of Grand Prix fire, but separated at county line. Mandatory evacuations of about 50 homes in the Mt. Baldy Village area remained in effect Wednesday. Small part burning in the Angeles National Forest.

Personnel: 488 firefighters.

Cause: Arson related to Grand Prix fire.

SIMI VALLEY: (Ventura, Los Angeles counties)

Size: 105,665 acres.

Homes: 24 destroyed. 74 outbuildings destroyed. Seven homes damaged.

Deaths: None.

Containment: 40 percent. Full containment expected Nov. 4.

Start: Flames entered Simi Valley on Oct. 25 from the Verdale fire.

Key facts: Winds picked up Wednesday afternoon in the Santa Clarita area, pushing flames east toward the Porter Ranch and Canyon County communities. Parts of Interstate 5 intermittently closed. Evacuation lifted for Sunset Point.

Personnel: 1,005 firefighters.

Cause: Under investigation.

PIRU FIRE: (Ventura County)

Size: 55,812 acres.

Homes: Three homes, four outbuildings, and one commercial property destroyed.

Deaths: None. 20 minor injuries.

Containment: 20 percent.

Start: Oct. 23 west of Lake Piru in Ventura County.

Key facts: The fire in Los Padres National Forest was moving north Wednesday night into the rugged terrain of Sespe Wilderness and the Sespe Condor sanctuary. There were no condors in the refuge. The fire also is threatening oil fields and gas lines.

Personnel: 1,465 firefighters.

Cause: Under investigation.

CONTAINED:

MOUNTAIN FIRE: (Riverside County)

Size: 9,742 acres.

Homes: 21 destroyed, including three houses and 18 trailers and mobile units used as residences.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 26 to Oct. 29.

OTAY (DULZURA) FIRE: (San Diego County)

Size: 46,291 acres.

Homes: 1 home, 5 outbuildings, and 11 structures damaged.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 26 to Oct. 28.

CAMP PENDLETON: (San Diego County, also called Roblar No. 2)

Size: 9,000 acres.

Homes: None.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 21 to Oct. 27.

VERDALE FIRE: (Los Angeles County)

Size: 8,680 acres.

Homes: None.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 24 to Oct. 27.

WELLMAN FIRE: (Riverside County)

Size: 100 acres.

Homes: None.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 26 to Oct. 27.

HAPPY FIRE: (Santa Barbara County)

Size: 160 acres.

Homes: None.

Deaths: None.

Burned: Oct. 24 to Oct. 27.



briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

To Our Valued MTA Customers

At press time, MTA mechanics remain on strike. No Metro bus or rail service is operating until further notice, affecting thousands of riders. We greatly regret the disruption this work stoppage is causing and offer these suggestions for alternative transportation:

MTA Lines: Only these Metro Bus lines are operating: 58, 96, 167, 218, 603, 605, 626 and 646.

Other Transit: Many locations can be reached via DASH, Foothill Transit, Big Blue Bus or other local carriers, all of which are operating normally or with expanded hours. All of these transit providers have agreed to accept MTA passes during the strike. For routing, use the Trip Planner at metro.net or call these carriers directly.

All Metrolink trains are operating normally. Metrolink also will accept MTA passes during the strike. In addition, Metrolink is running a "Red Line Special" bus from Union Station to serve downtown LA.

Carpools: Riders can find out about carpools and vanpools near their homes or workplaces by clicking on the "Ridesharing" link at metro.net or by going directly to the RideMatch.Info site.

Introducing Metro School Pool:

Metro is launching a free ridesharing service to help parents team up to get their children to school and back. The effort is being coordinated through local schools. Parents interested should urge their schools to contact Metro Commute Services at 213-922-2811, select option 3.

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WPC/AR 10-30-03

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NATIONAL

U.S. officials are hopeful defector will shed some insight about N. Korea

BY GEORGE GEDDA
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Kim Jong Il has befuddled official Washington since he took office nine years ago on the death of his father, North Korea's Great Leader. American officials hope a defected 81-year-old propagandist can demystify the new Great Leader.

After defecting in 1997, Hwang Jang Yop is making his first visit to Washington. The highest ranking North Korean defector, he had served in such posts as the government's chief ideologue and head of propaganda operations.

Conservative U.S. groups have been eager for Hwang to come to Washington, but until now South Korea has said no because of worries about his security.

Another possible reason, cited by U.S. officials, is that former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung feared that a visit to the United States would set back Kim's efforts to reach out to North Korea.

Soon after Kim stepped down in February, South Korea became more amenable to a Washington visit by Hwang.

American officials and lawmakers will be curious to hear Hwang's thoughts about Kim's decision-making processes. North Korea has frustrated U.S. officials by repeated shifts on whether it is interested in continuing the six-nation process begun last August in Beijing to resolve the stalemate over the North's nuclear weapons program.

As of a few days ago, the North Koreans were saying they were willing to consider a proposal by President Bush to provide Pyongyang with security assurances in exchange for a commitment to disarm. It was a proposal Pyongyang initially dismissed as "laughable."

Hwang's schedule includes meetings with Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, National Security Council officials and with members of the House and Senate foreign affairs committees.

At least two crews from Japanese television news outlets are being flown in from Tokyo to ask Hwang about North Korea's abduction of a number of Japanese citizens a generation ago. They had no access to him in South Korea for security reasons.

The Bush administration is sparing no effort to ensure Hwang's safety. When

word of his visit was disclosed, pro-North Korean groups in South Korea issued death threats. Here, armored cars are being made available for his travels.

In a recent interview with the South Korea's Yonhap news agency, Hwang said the Washington trip was part of his campaign to "save the North Korean people moaning under the dictatorship of Kim Jong Il."

The Bush administration is sparing no effort to ensure Hwang's safety. When word of his visit was disclosed, pro-North Korean groups in South Korea issued death threats.

He envisions the United States as key to the eventual evolution of a democratic North Korea.

Last July, he said Kim told him in 1996 that North Korea had nuclear weapons. The CIA has believed for years that North Korea has one or perhaps two nuclear weapons. More are believed to be on the way.

Under the late Kim Il Sung and later his son, Kim Jong Il, Hwang was one of the regime's most trusted lieutenants, at least superficially.

He wrote in his memoirs about an occasion in which he attended the performance of a dance troupe with Kim Jong Il in the audience. Noting the enthusiasm with which Hwang applauded the performance, a companion asked him: "Are you clapping because you really enjoyed the performance?"

"It doesn't matter," Hwang replied. "Just clap like mad. It's an order."

Hwang is certain to be asked during his travels here about what makes Kim tick.

Jerrold Post, a former political personality profiler for the CIA, believes an obsession Kim has for Western movies may be influencing his governing style.

"To what degree is his view of the West shaped by Hollywood?" Post asks. "To what degree have the movies he loves influenced his actions? And finally, is he now writing, directing and starring in some grand epic he thinks of as 'North Korea: the Movie'?"

Reno wells contain uranium

By The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — More than a dozen wells at an old open pit copper mine in northern Nevada tested positive in 1984 for what conservationists say are "very high" levels of uranium, according to newly revealed documents that have raised pollution concerns.

Uranium levels were up to 40 times higher than current legal limits, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted regulations in 2000 limiting uranium to 30 micrograms per liter of water.

"Nobody knows if that went into the groundwater," said Tom Myers, executive director of the Great Basin Mine Watch in Reno, who provided AP with the documents.

The radioactivity was so great in one waste pond at the Anaconda Copper Co.'s mine 55 miles southeast of Reno that the company entered a venture in the 1970s to attempt to extract and process uranium from the wastes for profit, the documents show. The venture never materialized.

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

Two U.S. soldiers die as U.S. Abrams tank blown up

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two American soldiers were killed when their Abrams battle tank was damaged by resistance fighters, as the number of attacks on coalition forces jumped to 33 a day in the past week, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The latest deaths bring to 117 the number of American soldiers killed in combat in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major fighting on May 1, according to Department of Defense figures. A total of 114 U.S. soldiers died in the active combat phase, which began March 20.

Meanwhile, seven Ukrainian troops were wounded in the first ambush of a multinational unit in the Polish sector south of Baghdad, coalition officials said.

In Baghdad, Col. William Darley said the average number of anti-U.S. attacks had reached 33 a day in the past week. This is more than a 50 percent increase over levels of early September. By mid-October that number, reported by the U.S. command here, had reached about 26 a day.

The Abrams tank was disabled when it was struck by a land mine or a roadside bomb Tuesday night during a patrol near Balad, 45 miles north of Baghdad, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division. A third crewman was evacuated to a U.S. hospital in

Germany, she said.

It was the first M1 Abrams main battle tank destroyed since the end of major combat May 1, military officials said. During the active combat phase, several of the 68-ton vehicles — the mainstay of the U.S. Army's armored forces — were disabled in combat.

The latest attacks, including a nighttime mortar barrage in Baghdad, followed a day of violence in which insurgents targeted American forces and Iraqis who work with the occupation authorities. U.S. officials also announced that Baghdad's Deputy Mayor Faris Abdul Razzaq al-Assam was killed Sunday in a drive-by shooting.

On Wednesday, Baghdad police commander Maj. Gen. Hassan al-Obeid announced new measures, including additional 24-hour checkpoints and special patrols, to heighten security in the capital, according to coalition-run Iraqi television.

The proliferation of attacks on Iraqis allied with the occupation bodes ill for attempts by the U.S.-led authorities to persuade more Iraqis to join in administering the country and play a greater role in providing security. Resistance forces have targeted several prominent figures, including Aquila al-Hashimi, a member of the Governing Council, who was fatally shot Sept. 20.

In Geneva, the international Red Cross

said it would cut back on its international staff in Iraq, but remain in the country for the sake of the Iraqi people following Monday's suicide bombing on its Baghdad headquarters. The relief organization has about 30 international staffers in Iraq and about 600 Iraqi employees.

The Red Cross made its announcement a day after Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned the organization's president to urge the agency to stay in Iraq.

The aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres on Wednesday also pulled out part of its staff from Iraq for security reasons, the organization said.

At Camp Babylon, a spokesman for the multinational division said the attack on the Ukrainians occurred when two of their armored personnel carriers rolled over land mines near Suwayrah about 40 miles southeast of Baghdad.

After the vehicles were disabled, unidentified gunmen opened fire on the disembarked soldiers, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

About 1,650 Ukrainians are serving in the Polish-led stabilization force patrolling central and southern Iraq.

In Baghdad, half a dozen mortar rounds exploded late Tuesday in an upscale Jadriya neighborhood across the Tigris River from the U.S.-led coalition headquarters but caused no damage or casualties, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

One landed in a field close to a palace once occupied by one of Saddam Hussein's daughters, now a headquarters for the U.S. civil-military affairs command. Another struck Baghdad University's College of Physical Education, damaging the wall of an enclosed volleyball court. There were no casualties in the shelling.

In Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, insurgents fired late Tuesday on the south gate at the main U.S. military base there. At least one American soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was wounded, witnesses said. A patrol was sent out to search for the assailants, who fled after firing on the troops from a nearby rooftop.

And a U.S. military convoy was attacked Tuesday night by small arms fire in the northern city of Mosul, the military said. There were no casualties. On Wednesday, an improvised explosive device went off near another U.S. convoy in the same area without causing any damage.

In Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, witnesses said an explosive device intended for U.S. troops detonated Wednesday as a civilian car was passing by, seriously injuring the driver.

(Associated Press correspondents Katarina Kratovac in Tikrit and Mariam Fam in Mosul contributed to this report.)



WORLD BRIEFLY

Afghanistan's 'most evil place' ambushed

By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The mountainous region where two CIA operatives were killed on the Pakistani border often sees the heaviest combat in the country, treacherous ground for al-Qaida marauders that the U.S. military calls "the most evil place in Afghanistan."

The CIA said Tuesday that William Carlson, 43, of Southern Pines, N.C., and Christopher Glenn Mueller, 32, of San Diego were ambushed and killed Saturday near the village in Shkin in Paktika province while "tracking terrorists."

Both were veterans of military special operations forces, the agency said, who were working for the CIA's Directorate of Operations that conducts clandestine intelligence-gathering and covert operations.

The ambush happened on the same day and in the same area as a six-hour firefight where U.S.-led coalition forces and Afghan militia killed 18 fighters. Six Afghan militia were wounded in the fighting, where coalition warplanes and helicopters were called in for airstrikes.

The attackers in that Saturday battle belonged to the al-Qaida terror network, U.S. military spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said Wednesday.

Bush: 'World is more free and at peace'

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush offered a broad defense of his foreign policy and said his message that "the world is more peaceful and more free under my leadership" will be a prominent theme of his bid for a second White House term.

In a Rose Garden news conference Tuesday with reporters, the president asserted, however, that his re-election campaign had not yet begun, even though the Bush-Cheney team has raised more than \$83 million, much of it through personal appearances by Bush at 27 fund-raisers

across the country over more than five months.

"I will defend my record at the appropriate time, and look forward to it," Bush said. "I'll say that the world is more peaceful and more free under my leadership, and America is more secure."

The president was heading out of town Wednesday for an extended stay at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, which he was using as a base to take care of political business — his own and others' — during several side trips.

Feds go with status quo

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Borrowers may be able to enjoy near rock-bottom short-term interest rates well into next year as Federal Reserve policy-makers stay the course, waiting to raise them until it's clear the economy's recent strength is real, economists say.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues decided Tuesday to hold a major short-term rate at a 45-year low of 1 percent and suggested it could stay there "for a considerable period."

Economists viewed that as meaning the Fed probably would leave short-term rates unchanged at its last meeting of the year on Dec. 9 as well as into much of 2004.

"The Fed does not want to disrupt the economic recovery, which is now apparently gaining momentum," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management. "The economic story in their minds is by no means yet written and they want to be sure growth is on a significant and sustained path," she said.

In terms of changing rates, the Fed's next move probably will be an increase once it is clear the economy is flying again, analysts say.

Death row inmates re-sentenced

By The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Supreme Court has re-sentenced three death row inmates to life in

prison because judges, not juries, had decided they deserved to be executed for their murders.

The decisions affecting inmates Antonio Richardson, Andre Morrow and Keith Smith follow a ruling last year by the U.S. Supreme Court that the constitutional right to a trial by jury also applies to death sentences.

In a June decision, the state Supreme Court said it would apply the federal decision retroactively to inmates on Missouri's death row.

In three separate orders Tuesday, the court said juries in each case had failed to find every fact required by state law as a prerequisite to the death sentence before judges took over the sentencing job.

Before Tuesday, the court already had re-sentenced two other convicted killers to life in prison because judges had imposed their death sentences after juries deadlocked on the appropriate punishment.

U.S. looks to Iraqis for info on fighters

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States will recruit more Iraqis to gather information about opposition fighters and may increase security measures to protect troops, President Bush said as he outlined ways the military was switching tactics to deal with a rise in deadly attacks.

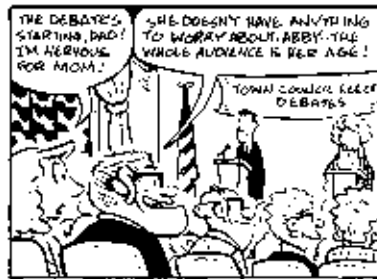
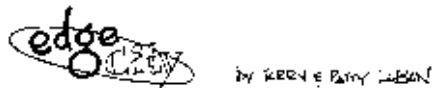
"We're constantly looking at the enemy and adjusting," the president said at a Rose Garden news conference Tuesday. "Iraq is dangerous, and it's dangerous because terrorists want us to leave, and we're not leaving."

Bush and Pentagon officials said Americans may install more security barriers and take other measures to "harden" potential targets after suicide bombings killed more than three dozen people in Baghdad on Monday. More importantly, the United States will step up its efforts to involve Iraqis in the hunt for Saddam Hussein loyalists and foreign fighters, Bush said.

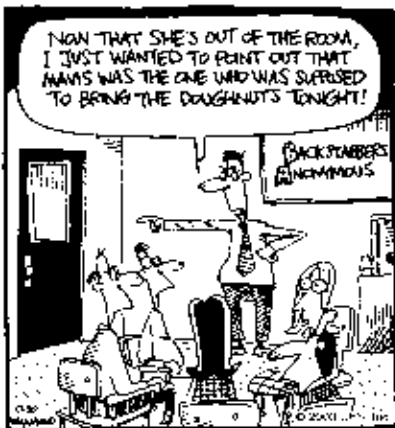
"We've got to make sure that not only we harden targets, but that we get actionable intelligence to intercept the missions before they begin," the president said. "That means more Iraqis involved in the intelligence-gathering systems in their country so that they are active participants in securing the country from further harm."

DID YOU KNOW?: In World War II Army slang for an Army Donkey was G.I. Moe.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson**Reality Check**

By Dave Whammond

**Natural Selection**

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**CROSSWORD**

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ACROSS

- 1 Beat at the board
6 Hayek of "Frida"
11 With 30-Across, Popeye's girl
12 Saw
13 Copy
14 Elizabeth Dole's nickname
15 George and T.S.
17 Play part
19 Howl
20 Make lace
23 Icy dessert
25 In — (aligned)
26 Pressure test
28 Peruse
29 Interact
30 See

DOWN

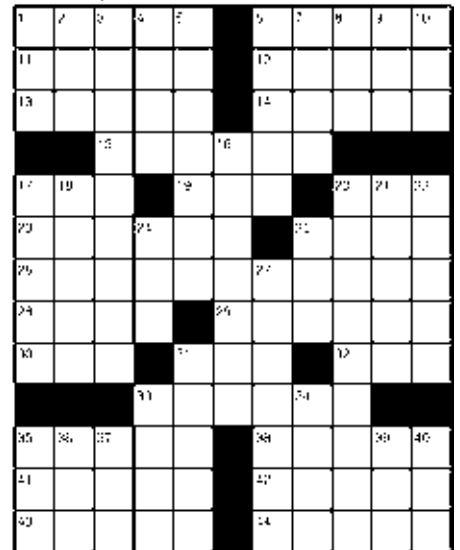
- 1 Dad's male
2 Boxing great
3 Racing event
4 Diabolical
5 Sound unit
6 Filled with four-letter words
7 Line of symmetry
8 Cap
9 Like 1960s fashions
10 Writer Tan
16 Muffin base
17 Elroy's dog



Yesterday's answer

- 18 Actor surprise
Haim 34 Writer
20 Experiments Ferber
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Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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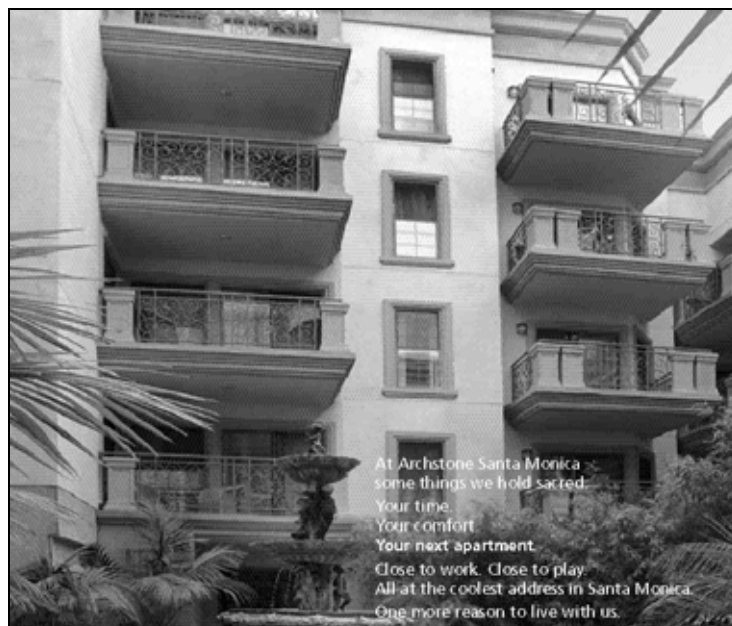
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2003

EVENTS

Learn from a Tibetan Buddhist

Tsewang Rinpoche, known as His Holiness the 17th Karmapa, defected from the Chinese-held Tibet in January 2000. Now, he will be accompanied by one of his biographers/translators, Michele Martin, as he speaks about his experiences and philosophy at the Senior Rec Center from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, call (310) 451-4368. 1450 Ocean Ave.

Last day for poster contest

Today is the last day to submit entries for the Twilight Dance Series poster design contest. The winning design will be elected by the residents of Santa Monica via mail and will be serve as the official poster for the 20th annual Twilight Dance Series which will take place on the Pier next summer. Over 50,000 posters and flyers will be in circulation, so the contest provides a great chance to expose your artwork. All entries are due at the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation office no later than 5 p.m. For contest rules, entry forms and design requirements, visit www.twilightdance.org or call (310) 458-8901.

Georgian Hotel - 70th anniversary gala fundraiser

The famous art deco landmark, The Georgian Hotel, celebrates its 70th anniversary with a dinner, cocktail reception and special guest speeches. The event will benefit the Ocean Park Community Center. The dinner costs \$125 and will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by the cocktail reception which costs \$50. For more information, call (310)

822-5041.

Halloween Puppet Show

The Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library presents puppets Woody and friends in a spooky and fun puppet show for ages 4 and up. The free show begins at 3:30 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 450-0443. 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

Family holiday bazaar

This weekend, peruse a vast selection of gifts, jewelry, boutique items, plants, baked goods, attic treasures, stationary, clothing, children items and household goods. This bazaar will support Habitat for Humanity and is sponsored by Mission and Youth Groups. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 and is open to the public. Also, there will be a Scottish Meat Pie Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. which costs \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Free parking will be available in the underground parking structure located on the north side of Arizona, between Ocean and Second with a validation stamp obtained at the church's Desk. First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Second St.

CULTURE

A Hansel and Gretel Halloween

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents a light, sing-along musical that takes the audiences through the mysterious Black Forest. Suitable for all ages, this play is written and directed by Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie. Birthday parties are available. Tickets for kids 12 & under cost \$9;

adults \$10; they are available at (310) 394-9779 ext. 2. Showings Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage, 1211 Fourth Street

The Other Shoe: Original Short American Plays

On Saturday and Sunday, the Edgemar Center for the arts will present this compilation of musical and comedic plays. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$20. Reservations can be made at (310) 392-7327. Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main Street (310) 656-0483

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gintirini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight, the Temple Bar presents the Night of the Living Dub with Great Stone Soundsystem and the following: Team Scrub at 9:30 p.m., Isoujahs at 10:30 p.m., and Freeformer at 11:30 p.m. 7. 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310) 393-6611

14 Below

An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. Tonight 14 Below features Bluesquare at 8:30 p.m., Green Room at 9:30 p.m., Hottie Knockers at 10:30 p.m. and Sibil at 11:30 p.m. 1348 14th St., (310) 451-5040

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Bubba Ho-Tep R - 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8, 10:15 p.m.
The Singing Detective R - 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.
Wonderland R - 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 p.m.
Station Agent R - 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Elephant R - 4:45, 7, 9:30 p.m.
Pieces of April PG-13 - 5, 7:30, 9:45 p.m.

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Kill Bill Vol. 1 R - 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 3:15, 5, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20 p.m.
Lost in Translation R - 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m.
Mystic River R - 12, 12:45 p.m., 3:50, 6:30, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
In the Cut - 12, 2, 4, 7, 10:30 p.m.
Intolerable Cruelty PG-13 - 2:10, 4:30, 7:35, 10:05 p.m.
Scary Movie 3 PG-13 - 1:30, 3:30, 4:40, 5:40, 7:55, 9:45, 10:15 p.m.
School of Rock PG-13 - 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre R - 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 p.m.
Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 - 1:50, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.

MANN CRITERION & THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Beyond Borders R - 12:50, 4:10, 7:40, 10:40 p.m.
Good Boy! PG - 12, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20 p.m.
Radio PG-13 - 11:40 a.m., 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 9:40, 10:20 p.m.
Runaway Jury PG-13 - 1, 1:30, 4, 4:20, 7, 7:30, 9:50, 10:30 p.m.
Veronica Guerin R - 11:10 a.m., 10 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Annie Lennox goes deep into Tolkien's trilogy for song

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Annie Lennox is taking a trip to Middle-earth.

The former Eurythmics singer will perform the theme song for "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final chapter in the mammoth screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy about mythical hobbits, elves, wizards, dwarves and humans in a battle of good against evil.

The soundtrack, due out Nov. 25, will feature highlights from Howard Shore's score and Lennox's song "Into the West."

"It has been a fascinating experience to be a very small part of this vast jigsaw puzzle entitled 'The Lord of the Rings,'" Lennox said. "The dedication and commitment to the project is awesome in every way."

Shot simultaneously by director Peter Jackson, the films starring Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Cate Blanchett and Liv Tyler have been released one a year since 2001.

"The Return of the King" opens Dec. 17.

■ **LONDON** — Television chef Jamie Oliver dressed down to receive a royal commendation from Queen Elizabeth II, declining to wear a tie for the big event.

"I like ties but I prefer not to wear one when I'm nervous. They said wear whatever you're comfortable in," Oliver said Wednesday, moments after he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire, or MBE.

The queen beamed at the "Naked Chef" star as she pinned his award on the lapel of his brown Paul Smith suit during the ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

A fellow recipient, fashion designer Alexander

McQueen, was less impressed.

"I think Jamie should at least have worn a tie today," said the 34-year-old McQueen, who wore a kilt and tartan sash to be named CBE, Commander of the British Empire. "Whether ties are in or out, it just looks better."

There's no strict dress code for the royal ceremony, but most men wear a top hat and tails or their Sunday-best suits.

Oliver and McQueen were among several Britons named in the queen's birthday honors list in June. Others granted honors of varying rank included actor Roger Moore, actress Helen Mirren, chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall and The Body Shop founder Anita Roddick. There are a series of ceremonies throughout the year to bestow the honors, largely selected by the government.

"I thought I was a bit too young to receive an honor," said the 28-year-old Oliver, who was recognized for his services to the hospitality industry.

Oliver set up a charity to train 15 disadvantaged young people each year as chefs at his London restaurant, Fifteen. His efforts have been made into a successful TV program.

McQueen was named for services to the fashion industry.

■ **PITTSBURGH** — A federal judge ruled that Tommy Chong's prison sentence for conspiracy to sell drug paraphernalia would likely stand and refused to release him from jail pending an appeal.

The 65-year-old actor and comedian, best-known for his portrayal of a drug-addled ne'er-do-well in the Cheech and Chong movies, pleaded guilty to conspiracy last spring in federal court and was sentenced to nine months in prison.

He reported Oct. 8 to begin serving his prison term. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Arthur Schwab was dated Thursday.

Prosecutors said Chong grew wealthy by glamorizing drug use and trivializing law enforcement in his films. He used his celebrity to promote his business with mail orders for bongos and other drug paraphernalia, prosecutors said.

Agents seized thousands of bongos and pipes when they raided his business, Nice Dreams Enterprises, Inc.

■ **LAS VEGAS** — Casino developer Steve Wynn is selling one the "season's sexiest" paintings next week at a Christie's auction.

Wynn will sell "Nu couche" by Amedeo Modigliani on Nov. 4 in New York City.

The 1917 masterpiece is "one of the finest examples from a group of fewer than 30 nudes painted between 1916 and 1920," the auction house said.

The November issue of Art & Auction says, "this languid nude is surely the season's sexiest offering. It may also be the most expensive."

Christie's estimates Wynn's nude could fetch from \$20 million to \$25 million. A similar Modigliani nude brought a record \$16.7 million at Sotheby's New York in 1999.

The auction house didn't say when Wynn bought the painting or how much he paid for it. Wynn was unavailable for immediate comment.

The painting is one of several in a collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European masterpieces displayed at a gallery in the former Desert Inn resort, where Wynn is building a new casino-hotel.

The evening auction, featuring 44 works of art, is expected to bring \$125.8 million, Christie's said.

DID YOU KNOW?: Annie Lennox holds the record for the most Brit awards (8).



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