

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

5, 34, 11, 32, 3

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 4, 1

Evening picks: 4, 4, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 1, Gold Rush

Race Time: 1:46.23



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

In an August story about the driving record of U.S. Rep. Bill Janklow of South Dakota (who had just killed a motorcyclist in a collision), the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported that Janklow's defense (that he had to swerve to avoid another vehicle) was the same one he had used for each of three previous collisions (one swerve was for an animal, not a vehicle), and that in none of the four instances was there any corroborating evidence of the other vehicle or animal.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Some men are so macho they'll get you pregnant just to kill a rabbit."

— Maureen Murphy



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Ex-cop is free after admitting tryst with teen

54-year-old had sexual relationship with fellow police officer's daughter

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A retired Santa Monica police officer was sentenced to one year in jail this week for engaging in a sexual relationship with a teenage girl, then released the following day.

Gregory McElveen, 54, pleaded no contest in Van Nuys Superior Court to two counts of oral copulation, two counts of penetration with a foreign object and one count of performing a lewd act upon a child.

McElveen faced a maximum sentence of five years in state prison, but Judge Michael Hoff sentenced him Tuesday to one year in prison and five years' probation, ordering him to register as a sex offender and stay away from the 15-year-old victim.

Because McElveen had been in police custody since

See GUILTY, page 5

Couple injured in crash sleepless in Santa Monica

BY LEE RAJSICH

Special to the Daily Press

Lynne Carter, 70, and her husband, Lacey, 84, have been visiting Santa Monica for years. But they never intended to remain for more than seven months.

The Massachusetts couple were among the 80 people injured in the Farmers Market accident of July 16, and have been unable to travel as a result. In the meantime, they have been in and out of hospitals, rehabilitation centers and assisted-living facilities. Most recently, they have been staying at the Westwood Plaza Retirement Hotel at 2228 Westwood Blvd., but have to leave today. They are left without a place to stay and no real means of getting back to their hometown of Province.

The two are hopeful that someone locally will be able to lend a helping hand and provide accommodations for them, but so far they haven't found anyone.

"We're not picky, we'll take anything we can get," said Lynne Carter, who was not directly struck by the Buick Le Sabre driven by 86-year-old Russell Weller, that crashed into the bustling marketplace that fateful summer day. Lynne Carter sus-

tained minor injuries diving out of the way of the approaching car, and continues to

See STUCK, page 5



Lee Rajsich/Special to the Daily Press
Lacey (left) and Lynne Carter, victims of the Farmers Market accident on July 16, prepare to leave their care home, though their destination is still unknown.

Youth is served



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Mothers show off their children's costumes in front of judges at PAL-LOWEEN, a benefit for the Santa Monica Police Department's Police Activities League on Halloween night. The annual event, which attracted hundreds of kids, parents and community members, was staged at the Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport.

Man posing as cop pats down area teens

By Daily Press staff

A man posing as a Santa Monica Police officer picked up a pair of area high school students Thursday morning, drove them to a residential neighborhood, and searched them "under their clothing" before releasing them, according to SMPD officials. The victims, whose names are being withheld, were not physically harmed during the incident.

Police are warning area residents to be on the lookout for the 30- to 40-year-old male purporting to be a local police officer, reminding Santa Monicans that SMPD patrol cars are white with a blue stripe. The suspect's car was black and white with what appeared to be law enforcement markings and equipment. Police suspect an actual law enforcement vehicle may have been utilized in the kidnapping.

The investigation is ongoing.

The pair of students, both 16, were accosted by the culprit while walking along the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday. The man posing as a cop then ordered the two into his car before driving off to search them in a more secluded section of the city. He released them roughly 20 minutes later.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male of medium build, with black hair, brown eyes and poor skin texture. Witnesses recall he was wearing a black "bomber"-style jacket, black pants and black boots.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is urged to call the Santa Monica Police Department at 310-458-8491.

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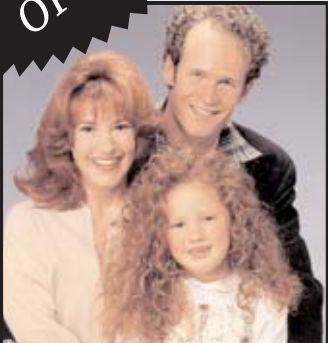


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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

Happy Birthday, Saturday, November 1, 2003

You will often be preoccupied by family matters. You display an unusual ability to talk about what you want and feel. Others listen and rally around your cause, no matter what it might be. You will be a cheerleader of sorts to your immediate universe. Others will seek you out for encouragement and direction. Network and expand your immediate circle of friends, both professional and personal. Opportunity comes in many forms, especially through real estate. You exhibit unusual allure, drawing others and helping you get your way. If you are single, you will have many suitors in your life. The issue will be choosing the right one. Remember, this is a unique year, so don't think you will always have it like this. If you are attached, your relationship blossoms, especially if you, as a team, realize a special hope or desire. AQUARIUS can be an albatross.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Say what you feel, and make plans that suit you. Split and take a day off with a friend to enjoy the foliage. By getting away, you gain a new perspective. Pick apples, or stop and drink some hot cider. Go with adventure. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Stay on top of a changing situation that could involve an older parent whom you care about. Allow more fun and creativity into your relationship. Work with differences in a positive manner. Together, you can be quite a team. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your ability to read between the lines allows you to flex more with a friend or loved one. A cozy day at home might be right up your alley. Others express their feelings in a way you can hear. Allow more playfulness in. Tonight: Go exotic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Add more friendship to a personal relationship. Speak your mind and talk about what you need and want. Somehow, together you make it possible. Enjoy the level of unpredictability in your life. Tonight: Go for togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Survey all the possible plans and invitations. It seems as if your dance card is filled. You might want to handle something personal first. Do that and then decide. You could opt for a romp with a close loved one. Tonight: Surprises happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Think about a friendship or commitment before you enter into it. Though you might be optimistic about it right now, you could change your mind later. You are changing, perhaps more than you realize. Express your playfulness. Tonight: Just make it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your sense of fun and humor comes out with a child or loved one. You need to have a household discussion about finances before you plunge out the door. You don't want a scene while you're out and about. Create firm boundaries. Tonight: Romp spontaneously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Make calls now to those at a distance. How you perceive a situation could change substantially after you hear friends' and relatives' news. Do something special for someone you care about. You even might surprise yourself at how giving you can be. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your popularity could easily dictate your day, unless you made a firm commitment with someone you care about. You need to follow through. You might be able to revamp your plans. Tonight: Open up more to those around you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You need to deal with an unhappy person in your immediate environment. Together you can iron out the problem if you so wish. You do a reversal and take another look at a money/partnership matter. Think positively. Tonight: A friend surprises you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your personality melts barriers and you feel good just being you. Laughter earmarks what might be going on with a close partner. Recognize that this person could be quite stiff at first. Help this person break down his or her defenses. Tonight: Let go as only you can!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take your time dealing with someone who might not be as cheerful as you. Understanding takes you a long way. Attempt to walk in this person's footsteps, and you'll gain incredible insight. Be more fun. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep, if possible.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bus driver strike nearing end of the road

By Daily Press staff

It appears the MTA bus strike is on the verge of being settled.

Negotiators for Teamsters Local 572 have finalized a tentative, three-year agreement between First Transit, Inc., and 250 bus operators who service 12 MTA city routes.

The agreement was reached at about 10 p.m. on Thursday with the help of federal mediator Juan Carlos Gonzalez. Commissioner Gonzalez had been brought in to help broker an agreement between the two sides after nearly five months of impasse.

"We have reached an agreement that we feel we can take back to our members," said Rick Middleton, secretary-treasurer for Teamsters Local 572. "Although we are recommending passage, it is our members who will have a final say on whether it is accepted."

The operators went on strike on Oct. 15 over substandard wages and proper health benefits contributions. If the contract is approved by the membership on Sunday, 12 MTA routes could be up and running by Monday.

Teamster negotiators and representatives for First Transit have mutually agreed to refrain from divulging specific details of the contract. In the meantime, strike captains and Teamster business agents will assist in contacting bus operators with specific details on the tentative agreement.

The negotiating committee for the 250 drivers is recommending passage of the tentative agreement, but the final decision will rest with the membership during Sunday's vote at Local 572's headquarters in Carson.

Teamsters Local 572 represents more than 11,500 men and women throughout Southern California.

Chamber celebration toasts the hiring of new teachers

By Daily Press staff

The local chamber of commerce celebrated education last week Hollywood-style.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce held its ninth annual Education Celebration at the Le Merigot Hotel and Spa. The chamber was a prominent supporter of the passage of "Measure S" in June's election, which enabled the Santa Monica/Malibu School District to hire new educators.

The education celebration featured comedian and TV personality John Larroquette. A four-time Emmy winner for "Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series," Larroquette is best known to television audiences as Assistant District Attorney Dan Fielding, a role he played on NBC's "Night Court."

In his latest TV role in "Happy Family," he plays an exasperated dentist and father whose newly adult children can't seem to grasp the concept of leaving the family nest. Larroquette welcomed all of the new teachers and administrators with entertaining stories of his own school teachers and the impact they had on his life and career.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has long been committed to making the city a life-long learning community. By actively promoting and encouraging businesses to support and participate in the educational system, the chamber is helping to make the connection between academic studies and real-world applications.

"The education celebration is a great way to introduce new educators to the leaders in our business community," said Kathryn Dodson, executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "The event provides a unique opportunity where teachers and business people can create an important dialogue for sharing ideas about education and the workplace, while acknowledging the many ways in which teachers make a difference and shape the lives of our children — the leaders of tomorrow."

Through the support of US Bank and chamber members, more than 150 educators from public and private schools, pre-K through Santa Monica College, attended last week's event.

The Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1925, advocates and represents business interests and issues affecting the community.

surf report

A new S swell continues to build through the day. Many spots see 2-3' surf, but conditions are chopped up.

OUTLOOK: S swell backs off on Sunday.

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

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 5:07 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:46	3.2	10:38	0.0	5:03	4.2	3:14	4.8
SUNDAY	11:07	2.6	11:29	0.1	5:43	4.6	4:37	4.8
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:02	1.9	6:15	5.0	5:40	4.8
TUESDAY	12:08	0.3	12:45	1.4	6:42	5.3	6:31	4.8
WEDNESDAY	12:41	0.5	1:22	0.9	7:06	5.5	7:15	4.7
THURSDAY	1:09	0.8	1:55	0.5	7:28	5.7	7:55	4.5
FRIDAY	1:33	1.2	2:27	0.2	7:48	5.8	8:32	4.3

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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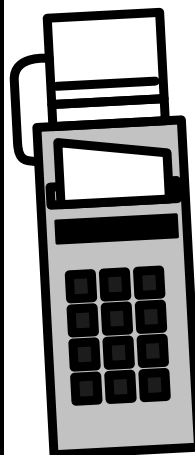
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LETTERS

Hopefully, phoenix will rise from ashes

Editor:

The fiery dragon rears its ugly head and devours everything in its path, turning this way and that, confounding the firefighters and everyone else. It is just an unbelievable sight to behold. It is both threatening and awesome, and the feelings of empathy that I feel for the victims is indescribable. My heart cries for the land, the people, the animals and birds, and I am struck by the extreme heroism of all the firefighters who are giving their all to slay the dragon. How can one really put into words the deep pain and suffering one feels when one is not even directly affected? My heart hurts. My body hurts. My eyes tear with the realization of the devastation to our land, the people, the animals and birds, and I can only hope that the phoenix will rise from the ashes. It is because ordinary words fail to describe the feelings of despair that I resort to mythology. I can't begin to extend my thanks and gratitude to the firefighters — for their extreme heroism in the face of such a wild beast. I just want them all to know that I hold them all close to my heart, and they are not forgotten for their heroism. They are among the best of humanity.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Drunks should stay tanked in jail

Editor:

I noticed the City Council agenda for Oct. 28 mentions a "sobering center." I first got word of a proposed drunk tank, or sobering center, on June 26, when Capt. Bruce Davis addressed the Chamber of Commerce with the idea of installing a drunk tank at the CLARE facility on Ninth Street and Pico Boulevard. The plan was to reduce police-paramedic costs by placing chronic public drunks into a residential facility on my street instead of taking them to jail.

I was appalled.

It doesn't make it any more palatable that these are chronic public drunks, not simply someone who has never done this before, but someone who repeatedly gets drunk in public.

"Public drunks are a danger to the community," Davis said.

In bold print on the fact sheet that he handed out, Davis stresses that "public drunks are a danger to the community." Yet, he proposes putting all of those public drunks into my neighborhood, with absolutely no security measures to ensure the safety of our homes and families. Is our street not part of the "community"?

Now I read that the homeless services review will address public inebriation:

"Staff, from several city departments, will assess the viability of services to address public inebriation and related community concerns. Proponents of a sobering center concept suggest that it could help homeless people with substance abuse problems access recovery and other services needed to facilitate a transition to housing and self-sufficiency, while reducing the time that police and paramedics spend

on homeless calls. Staff will research the impact of public inebriates in Santa Monica as well as best practices, possible funding sources for addressing the issue and site locations that minimize community impacts."

Wasn't the sobering center aimed at chronic public inebriates? A plan to keep them out of jail and rescue them, at least for a couple hours, so they could suddenly embrace sobriety?

How did we get from there to the homeless? Are the plans now aimed at not only those who are drunk, but those who are homeless as well? Isn't that a big leap?

We have a beautiful new facility to house the Santa Monica police and fire departments. Our new jail, with an ample-sized drunk tank exists inside the new facility, in addition to safe, padded cells. This seems a far better location than dumping all of Santa Monica's addicts into a residential neighborhood.

To make an informed decision about the viability of a sobering center, I urge you to review the Isla Vista Board of Supervisors' decision against placing a sobering center in Isla Vista.

Kathryn Morea
Santa Monica



Playing video games for pay doesn't make it healthy



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

It's not going to be easy for me, but I have to change my attitude about video games. For years, I've railed against them, thinking that they were a waste of time for kids. I felt they were addictive, antisocial and an unhealthy escape from the real world. In other words, I was a fuddy-duddy. I couldn't imagine what positive effect playing violent games for hours and hours could possibly have. But I've seen the light. There are now professional video game leagues which annually pay out more than \$1 million in prize money.

The pro video game circuit operates much like professional tennis, without the participant actually having to get sweaty. There are qualifying rounds, spectators and prizes of thousands of dollars. So if your kids are at their computers for hours, obsessively playing mindless games, they

might actually be preparing for a career. (I know I shouldn't call them "mindless," but it's a hard habit to break).

The fact that I never would have guessed that playing video games could lead to a career started me thinking that maybe there are other adolescent activities that I don't particularly care for that might someday earn kids big tournament bucks.

"Slamming The Bedroom Door" might make a popular sport. The winner would be judged on how loud his or her slam is — with bonus points if the slam comes for no apparent reason.

In another sport, the youngster mumbles something that would be inaudible to the most sensitive canine, and then when the parent can't understand it, the kid wheels around, saying, "Are you deaf?"

Thousands of parents could be their kids' partners on the "Eye-Rolling" circuit. The kid rolls his or her eyes in an exaggerated fashion right after the parent says something offensive, like "Hello."

Maybe there's a way of turning "Sleeping All Day" or "Ignoring The Ringing Phone Because It's Not My Line" into cash.

Or ... I have to stop this. Some of my

earlier negative feelings about video games must be lingering within me because I sense I'm being a bit sarcastic.

But it's hard for me. Intellectually, I know we should encourage our kids' interests and passions, even if we don't understand them. I should bite my tongue when I'm tempted to say that exercising in the fresh air is more valuable to kids than exercising those fingers on the keyboard or mouse. What if Einstein's dad had said, "Forget it, Al. That doesn't make any sense to me." Did little Larry Olivier's mom say, "Stop playacting, and study something practical?" Did Dr. Phil's folks advise him, "You'll be better off if you just mind your own business?"

22-year-old champion Jonathan Wendell made more than \$50,000 playing video games last year. I guess that means I have to accept that this is a legitimate pursuit.

Or do I? Just because a few people are starting to make money doing this, doesn't mean it's the best activity for kids, does it? People make money doing all kinds of things that we wouldn't necessarily want our children to choose as careers.

So I've seen the light once again. I

don't have to change my old attitude about video games after all. It's OK for me to refrain from embracing obsessive video game-playing. There's no reason for me to feel guilty because I believe it's better for a kid to toss a real ball around with another kid than it is for him to be in his room by himself, tossing a virtual grenade at a cyber city.

In other words, it's OK for me to be a fuddy-duddy about this. That's a relief, because I generally feel more comfortable when I engage in fuddy-duddism. However, I'm also practical. If they're giving out tens of thousands of dollars in prize money, maybe playing these games wouldn't make such a bad summer job for kids. As long as they'd still have time to toss a ball around.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

LOCAL



Convicted ex-cop threw himself on mercy of court

GUILTY, from page 1

his Feb. 26 arrest and earned time credits for good behavior, he was freed the very next day.

The ordeal capped a drawn-out effort by McElveen to stay out of state prison, where his status as a former peace officer and convicted sex offender would have made him a likely target by his fellow inmates. As a result of Hoff's sentence,

McElveen served his entire time behind bars in a county jail.

Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the LA District Attorney's Office, said McElveen would have been protected in state prison, where prosecutors had wanted to send him.

"We objected to him getting probation," she said. "We thought he deserved to be in state prison."

A year in county jail is considered a

probation sentence because it can often be served through house arrest or in a halfway house, partially due to overcrowded prisons.

McElveen, who retired in May of 1999, served with the department for 19 years. He began a 10-month sexual relationship with the 15-year-old daughter of another SMPD officer in August of 2000.

Attorney Andrew Stein did not return calls seeking comment. Stein has said in the past that he wanted to keep McElveen out of state prison, where he would have stayed separate from the general population, except during the "intake" period, which can take between 30 and 90 days.

Though McElveen agreed in March to plead guilty to one count of performing a lewd act upon a child and serve one year in state prison, Stein, who took over the case from a public defender just before McElveen was to be sentenced in April, asked a judge to let McElveen withdraw his plea.

After having the case continued several times, Stein orchestrated having a battery of psychological and physical tests performed on McElveen. The tests took 90 days, during which time McElveen remained in protective custody in county jail.

The plea hearing and sentencing was originally scheduled for September, but Stein successfully postponed it four more times, often sending a stand-in attorney to appear before the court, officials said.

On Tuesday, McElveen abandoned his earlier plea agreement, pleaded no contest to all five counts against him and threw himself on the mercy of the court, Robison said.

Because his good behavior credits reduced McElveen's sentence by one day for each two days served, McElveen had served his entire sentence, plus two additional days, and was released the following day.

Judge Hoff declined to comment on the case.

Road home to Massachusetts has been long, painful ordeal

STUCK, from page 1

struggle with an impaired left hand today.

Between the two, Lacey Carter suffered the more serious injuries, as Weller's car unsuspectingly struck him from behind, leaving him with leg and breathing injuries. He's confined to a wheelchair.

"I'm not sure whether it will be one month or a couple of months," said Lynne Carter on Friday.

"The healing has been very slow."

The couple has been under the medical care and counsel of Dr. Linda Behar, the program manager at WISE Senior Services at 1527 Fourth St. Behar has been an enormous help, according to Lynne Carter. Lacey Carter is just now beginning to walk again.

Along with help from a daughter in South Dakota, the couple has been paying for medical care with funds from Social Security and the Farmers Market Victim's Assistance Fund, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation created by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Lynne and Lacey Carter arrived in Santa Monica for an extended vacation in March, staying at the Hi-Santa Monica Hostel at 1436 Second St. They were scheduled to return to Massachusetts the day after the accident.

"I wanted some tangerines," said Lynne Carter, a lover of outdoor markets.

With just 20 minutes remaining before the market was scheduled to close, the Carters headed over from their hostel in search of some fruit. They were separated from each other by about five stands when

Weller's car came crashing through the marketplace. Lynne Carter recalls first hearing the collapsing of market stands. Then she began to hear the screams.

Turning around, Lynne Carter faced where her husband had been standing, only to see a speeding car coming directly towards her.

Her first instinct told her to run away from the car, but she opted to dive out of its way and under a nearby table.

"I knew I couldn't outrun him," recalls Lynne Carter. "I knew it wasn't a good thing to do."

Lacey Carter, unfortunately, didn't have the liberty of making any decisions. Weller's car struck him from behind, knocking him unconscious instantly.

When medics arrived, the two were rushed to the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center. For the next 18 days, while Lacey Carter remained in ICU, Lynne Carter slept on a couch in the hospital's waiting room.

Neither Lynne nor Lacey Carter, both retired social workers, hold Weller entirely responsible for the accident. They feel the city of Santa Monica should shoulder much of the responsibility for not providing adequate barricades.

"There should be barriers and detours for traffic or the market should be relocated," said Lacey Carter.

Since the accident, Lynne Carter has actually returned to the market on several occasions.

"A lot of the trauma was gone," she said Friday, "but I still look around all the time."

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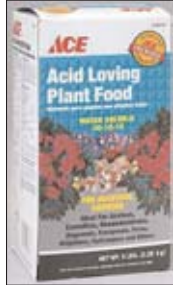
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STATE

Fires also destroy homes of those who are down, out

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Noreen Day is having a lousy year. Her house was foreclosed on in the spring. The trailer she moved into was demolished over the summer by the landlord. In the fall, she received a 30-day eviction notice at the home she was living in.

Then, just days before she was supposed to be out, wildfires raging through her Crestline community forced her to leave early.

Now, for all she knows, the home is

gone, destroyed by the flames.

"Why am I laughing?" she said at an emergency evacuation shelter this week. "What else can I do?"

Nearby, her friends chuckle sympathetically and then start telling similar stories of living in grinding poverty even before the fires broke out — sleeping in sheds, having no health care, surviving on welfare.

Across Southern California, the wildfires have destroyed million-dollar estates and vacation homes. But the flames have also devoured shacks, cabins and trailers. Many of those who lost everything did not have much to begin with.

Of the major regions aflame in Southern California, the areas around San Bernardino are the poorest. The poverty rate is around 20 percent. In the city of San Bernardino, where thousands were evacuated, 32 percent of the residents receive some type of welfare.

"A lot of people have more than just the fire to contend with," said Julie Alvarez, who works with the San Bernardino County Victim Services unit. "For some folks, this evacuation has just exacerbated their problems."

Venita Ballew, who owns a mobile home in the Valley of Enchantment neighborhood in Crestline, said she's trying not to panic over financial worries.

"We don't have insurance," she said. "If our place burns, we're totally out of luck."

The San Bernardino area was not always so poverty-stricken. In recent years, however, it has lost major employers such as Kaiser Steel, Norton Air Force Base and the Santa Fe Railroad switching yard.

"Times were already tough here," said Mark Shepherd, who works with local Democratic Congressman Joe Baca. "The majority of the people being displaced didn't have a lot of resources to begin with."

Day, 42, made it out of the mountains with just the clothes on her back. Firefighters have not yet allowed evacuees to return to the mountain because the fires still pose a threat.

"A lot of people are poor in my neighborhood," she said. "We live in the welfare slum on the mountain."

The fire was not even the last of her troubles. After she was evacuated, law enforcement agents checking her identification found she was wanted on forgery charges and took her to jail. She was later released and hitchhiked to a Red Cross center, where she got food and a blanket.

"If they're staying at this evacuation center, they're likely indigent, without insurance or resources," said Dawn Robins, a therapist volunteering at an evacuation center in San Bernardino.

Philip Bullington, 48, was evacuated from his home in the mountains Saturday and has been sleeping in a parking lot outside a disaster relief center at Sultana High School in Hesperia.

Bullington said he was not in good shape even before he was evacuated.

"I didn't have anything — maybe 30 or 40 cents in my pocket," he said. "I was working at my landlord's house when the order came to evacuate."

Dressed in donated clothes, he is spending his days minding his pile of belongings — a blanket, a pair of boots, jeans and a bag of pretzels.

Even for those in more stable financial positions, getting evacuated has been a big setback.

California county is planning ways to help fire victims vote

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — One of the counties hardest hit by this week's wildfires is trying to make it easy for displaced residents to vote in next Tuesday's elections. San Bernardino County, where more than 160,000 acres and 900 homes

were destroyed when the home of one poll inspector burned in Claremont, said Grace Chavez, spokeswoman for the county registrar of voters office in Norwalk.

She said those materials were replaced and that polling places would remain the same. Los Angeles County has almost 1.6 million voters registered for Tuesday's election.

"To our knowledge, we have not had any voters displaced," Chavez said. In Riverside County, early voting will be extended through Monday at a shopping center in Palm Desert, where some evacuees sought refuge from the Mountain Fire. It burned 9,742 acres and destroyed 21 homes.

In Ventura County, the Piru and Simi Valley fires did not affect areas where most local voting will take place on Tuesday, said Gene Browning, a program administrator for the county elections division. The emergency polling places in San Bernardino County will be open every day except Sunday. Trout said ballots cast by displaced voters would be sealed and counted with absentee and provisional ballots that are submitted on or before Election Day.

There are no statewide initiatives or races Tuesday. The biggest race in California is in San Francisco, where voters will pick a replacement for Willie Brown, who is leaving office after two four-year terms.

In Los Angeles County, some balloting supplies

burned, has opened five emergency polling places in schools and community centers, which fire victims can use through Tuesday.

"We know some polling places burned, and we know some poll workers lost homes," said Stephen Trout, San Bernardino County assistant registrar of voters. "We know there are some places people can't go because of mandatory evacuations."

County Registrar of Voters Scott Kanopasek said he did not have legal authority to postpone the election, which will involve school and water districts, city councils and local initiatives.

Local elections also are scheduled Tuesday in several other counties affected by Southern California's series of wildfires — Los Angeles, Riverside and Ventura counties. San Diego, home to the largest and deadliest fire, did not have elections scheduled.

There are no statewide initiatives or races Tuesday. The biggest race in California is in San Francisco, where voters will pick a replacement for Willie Brown, who is leaving office after two four-year terms.

In Los Angeles County, some balloting supplies

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STATE



Firefighters draw the line with assist from weather

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

BIG BEAR LAKE — Hundreds of firefighters who have been racing flames for days in Southern California's mountain resorts used a break in the weather Friday to begin bulldozing 30 miles of fire lines around populated areas in case heat and hot winds return as expected next week.

"We've got a sleeping giant out there," Forest Service spokeswoman Sue Exline said.

Some 15,000 people have been evacuated from Big Bear Lake, a resort town northeast of Los Angeles that's the only major community still threatened after a week of wildfires in Southern California.

The blazes killed 20 people, including one firefighter, destroyed more than 2,800 homes and burned nearly 750,000 acres.

The fog and cool temperatures that arrived Thursday helped firefighters make progress against the two fires that accounted for about 90 percent of the lost homes and all but two of the deaths.

The Old Fire had scorched nearly 70,000 acres and moved to within 10 miles of Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains after destroying an estimated 350 homes Wednesday in Cedar Glen. The blaze was 25 percent contained.

"The fire is just creeping around, not making these big runs that we had seen," Exline said.

Crews and contractors were cutting firebreaks in heavy brush as close as 50 yards to some homes as a last line of defense. The communities being targeted were located around the lake.

Forecasters said the heat and hot winds that drove the flames in recent days could return early next week.

"This is an opportunity," Exline said. "We can get in there in the next 48 hours to fight the fire on our own terms, without the forces of the weather."

Meanwhile, the 275,000-acre Cedar Fire — the largest individual blaze in California history — was 65 percent contained after burning for six days in the mountains northeast of San Diego.

Firefighters said the threat had eased against Julian, a popular weekend getaway known for its vineyards and apple orchards.

"If I was a betting man, which I'm not, I'd say the town is pretty safe — safe from burning but not safe to come back in," said Sgt. Steven Wood, who was supervising the Sheriff's Department's Julian station.

In all seven fires were still burning across four counties. Winds have carried smoke from the fires as far north and east as the Great Plains and Great Lakes regions, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which has used Earth-orbiting satellites to track the plumes.

While thousands had evacuated the Big Bear area, a few people stayed behind to protect their property.

Kelly Bragdon sat at the bar at the Log Cabin Restaurant Thursday night, sipping a beer and watching television news reports of flames blazing through the forest.

"I've got too much to lose to leave here," Bragdon said. "I don't think we're jeopardizing anybody's lives but our own, just trying to save what we've got, everything we've worked for."

Craig Brewster, owner the Robinhood Resort hotel just off Big Bear Lake, stayed in town and opened up his place for firefighters.

"It's a ghost town right now, strange," he said. "It's a weird feeling. We'd typically be getting ready for trick-or-treaters."

Brewster said he was packed and ready immediately if the fire blows into town.

Ellen Bechtol, 43, looked to the dark clouds over the mountains and hoped the cooler weather would tame the raging fire.

Bechtol and her family were evacuated from nearby Running Springs on Sunday and have been living at the evacuation center at the San Bernardino Airport waiting for word about when they can return.

"I have no idea about what's going on up there. The last I heard, there's still some fire going toward Running Springs," she said. "You hear so many conflicting stories."

Standing in line for American Red Cross vouchers, she said she was worried about her home but hadn't started thinking about the fire aftermath.

"To sit here and worry about tomorrow is going to stress me out too much," she said. "It could be definitely worse, but I believe God will take care of us."

Officials were deciding how to eventually return refugees to their homes.

"Bringing these people back up can be just as complicated as getting them down," Big Bear City Fire Department Chief Dana VanLuven said.

In all, nearly 13,000 firefighters and support personnel were fighting what Gov. Gray Davis said may be the worst and costliest disaster California has ever faced.

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and met — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Saturday, November 1st

**12 noon at the Nevada County Democratic Women's Club
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Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

By Russ Wallace

By Russ Wallace



by KERN & PATRICK LEBLANC



By Dave Whammond



By Dave Coverly



By THOMAS JOSEPH

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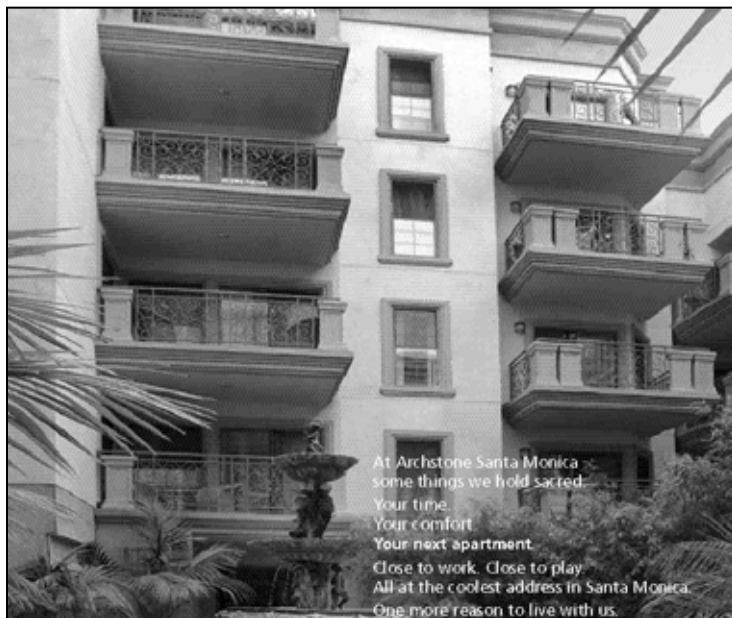
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Quinn's empire falls: Actor busted for drunk driving

By The Associated Press

■ **WATERVILLE, Maine** — Aidan Quinn, one of the stars of HBO's upcoming film "Empire Falls," has been charged with drunken driving.

Quinn, 44, was driving his rental car erratically this week when he was stopped on Kennedy Memorial Drive, police said.

His blood alcohol level exceeded Maine's limit of 0.08 percent, police said. Police didn't release an exact blood alcohol level.

Quinn, who lives in Englewood, N.J., was released on bail and is due for arraignment Nov. 19 in Waterville District Court, the Bangor Daily News reported.

HBO's adaptation of "Empire Falls," which is filming around Waterville and Skowhegan, is based on Richard Russo's Pulitzer Prize-winning book about a Maine mill town struggling through the shutdown of its factory. Quinn plays David, who owns a gym.

The cast of "Empire Falls" also includes Paul Newman, Ed Harris, Helen Hunt, Joanne Woodward, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Robin Wright Penn.

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Police were called out to control a crowd of unhappy concertgoers after Marilyn Manson, the featured attraction at a "Freakers Ball" event, ended his show early when fans pushed down a barrier.

The concert started Thursday afternoon, and Manson's group was the last of six acts to perform. Kansas City police Capt. Robert Zimmerman said about 12,000 people were in attendance.

Ambulances were at the scene, but apparently there were only a few minor injuries.

According to accounts from concertgoers at the Kansas City International Raceway, a security fence between the fans and the stage was pushed down twice and after the second time, the Manson band left the stage.

Some fans rushed toward the stage, upset that the concert had been cut short. Zimmerman said some

threw bottles at off-duty police officers who had been hired to provide security.

"The crowd became unruly," he said. "We ended up calling in what we call a field force. It involved approximately 100 officers."

Concertgoer Rodney Borden said crews began taking down the band's equipment after the fence went down a second time and the musicians walked off.

"Everybody started just getting all freaked out," he said. "Cops were trying to get everybody out of there, and people were just fighting back. They wouldn't do what they got to do, just leave."

Some fans said irritant sprays were directed at them as police took action to control the crowd.

■ **PASADENA** — Scott Weiland, lead singer for the Stone Temple Pilots, has been ordered by a court official to immediately report to a live-in drug detoxification center and spend six months in a residential drug rehabilitation program.

Weiland was charged Wednesday with a misdemeanor count of driving under the influence stemming from his arrest the day before in Hollywood.

Superior Court Commissioner Collette Serio said Weiland, 36, can spend four hours out of the residential facility for 10 days in November so he can finish an album.

Weiland will be taken to the recording studio by an off-duty officer and will be tested for drugs immediately upon his return, Serio said.

The commissioner also banned Weiland from driving a vehicle.

Weiland was sentenced to three years' probation in August after pleading no contest to one count of possessing heroin.

He also had a prior drug arrest and was jailed in 1999 after he violated probation and didn't complete drug rehabilitation programs.

Weiland also is the frontman for Velvet Revolver, which features three former Guns N' Roses members.

The band is expected to release an album next year.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Justin Timberlake is adding sports to his musical resume.

The 22-year-old singer will write the theme music for ABC Sports' NBA coverage and will star in the network's NBA promotional campaign, "Can't Get Enough."

ABC also announced this week that Timberlake will work as a special correspondent on the NBA.

"This provides a unique integration of sports and entertainment, and Justin's interest and enthusiasm not only in the NBA, but in all sports, should help provide our broadcasts with a new, fresh approach," said Michael Pearl, senior vice president and executive producer of ABC Sports.

Timberlake appeared on TNT's "Inside the NBA" with Magic Johnson, and has taken part in the NBA All-Star weekend the past two years.

ABC begins its second season of NBA coverage with a Christmas Day doubleheader.

■ **LAS VEGAS** — Plus-size model Mia Tyler wed Papa Roach drummer David Buckner in front of thousands of people during an Aerosmith concert at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Tyler, 24, and Buckner, 27, tied the knot Saturday on stage, according to an MGM Grand hotel official. A marriage license for the couple was filed at the Clark County Recorder's Office.

Her father, Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler, reportedly told the audience: "Hey Vegas, I need a favor, my daughter wants to get married tonight. Can I get a witness?"

MGM Grand spokesman Scott Ghertrier said Thursday that casino photographers weren't allowed to take photos of the event.

It's the first marriage for both, according to People magazine's Nov. 10 issue.



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