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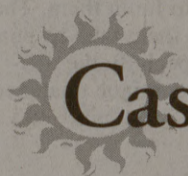
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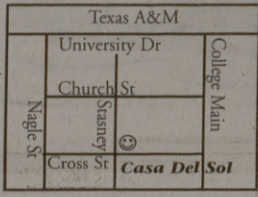


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Sixteen-year-old **Matt Sheehan** from Helotes, Texas, removes his arrows from a target during the 4-H State Archery Tournament on Saturday. The three-day tournament was held at A&M's Riverside Campus.

Wildfire may get easier to fight

By Arthur H. Rotstein
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUMMERHAVEN, Ariz. — The uncontrolled wildfire that destroyed more than 250 homes in this mountaintop community moved on a course Sunday that would take it into an area where terrain and lighter vegetation will make it easier to fight, fire officials said.

However, crews didn't know how soon they would be able to attack the fire in that area, and the blaze's growth in other

forested areas was still creating difficulties.

"This fire's going to be here for a while and it's going to be very large," said Jeff Whitney, deputy commander of the team battling the fire.

The fire had burned across more than 8,800 acres in the mountains northeast of Tucson and was only about 5 percent contained Sunday. Firefighters don't expect to totally control it for a few weeks.

The blaze was fueled by pine forest ravaged by years of drought and a beetle infestation and driven by wind gusting to 60 mph as it roared through Summerhaven on Thursday. The flames soon spread across the top of 9,157-foot Mount Lemmon and headed down the north slope.

Firefighters focused their efforts Sunday on an area around a University of Arizona observatory and a group of radio

and television towers, and a ridge where they hoped to stop the fire before it advanced on scattered homes.

"This fire's going to be here a while and it's going to be very large."

— Jeff Whitney
firefighter

Three towers had already been lost.

Whitney said the fire had charred a half-circle around the observatory. Crews planned to light backfires by Monday to close the circle, depriving the fire of the fuel it would need to move into the observatory complex.

Crews also planned backburns to clear vegetation along the ridge, where they were making a stand between the flames and homes southeast of Summerhaven.

Whitney said officials evacuated a camp that had been scheduled to host 250 people beginning Sunday. The camp was about three miles from the fire's northern edge.

The cause of the fire, which began Tuesday, remained under investigation. Investigators were expected to survey the fire's starting point on Monday.

The community of Summerhaven had about 100 year-round residents but its population grows during the summer and weekends as Tucson residents drive up the mountain to escape the desert heat.

On the Net:
National Interagency Fire Center: <http://www.nifc.gov/>

Sex abuse reforms are working, but major work still lies ahead

By Richard N. Ostling
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — America's Roman Catholic bishops face a critical six months ahead in which a series of reports will either support their claim that sex abuse reforms are on track or provide ammunition to their increasingly vocal critics.

"The bishops are more hopeful. I think we feel more confident. I think we're beginning to get a handle on it," Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a weekend interview as the group's semiannual meeting adjourned.

Across town, however, members of a clergy abuse victims' group attending their own national conference said they doubted the bishops' claims.

More than two dozen members of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests took to the microphone during the meeting to describe their own ordeals and the betrayal they felt in the church's response.

The bishops' future credibility in the eyes of the U.S. laity — 66.4 million strong — will depend heavily on the National Review Board, an independent monitoring panel of prominent lay Catholics, and two investigations the board is supervising: a statistical survey of abuse cases and an audit of how each U.S. diocese is complying with reform policies.

The board plans to issue a progress report to the Catholic population after its next meeting, July 28-29 in Chicago.

Around the end of the year, the board also will produce a major document on the causes of the sex abuse crisis that has roiled the church for the past year and a half.

The crisis began last year with evidence that church leaders in Boston had shuffled abusive priests from parish to parish rather than remove them. Since then, at least 325 U.S. priests have resigned or been dismissed from their duties.

The bishops' image was shaken further last week when former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating resigned as the review board's chairman amid strong criticism over his remarks compar-

ing some church leaders to the Mafia.

One dispute that precipitated Keating's remarks — the participation of some dioceses in the survey — has since been resolved, the bishops said. Gregory, bishop of Belleville, Ill., insisted in an interview that his colleagues are all ready to participate.

"Are the bishops on board? Yes. Are they proceeding? Yes. With sincere commitment? Yes," he said.

The board's upcoming reports will rely on the bishops' cooperation and self-reporting, which has some skeptics concerned.

"If bishops don't share information with their lay people, journalists, civil lawyers, grand juries and prosecutors — and some or many don't — how can we hope they will share it with a stranger sent by the National Review Board?" said SNAP's national director, David Clohessy.

During SNAP's national meeting, the 200 delegates created their own platform that, among other things, tells victims to "insist on full public disclosure by church officials" and urges bishops to meet with abuse victims.

On Sunday, members of SNAP held signs and posters of children's faces and marched outside the Archdiocese of St. Louis' Cathedral Basilica, handing leaflets to parishioners leaving Mass. The message: They can no longer wait for bishops to do the right thing. They support each other and invite other victims to join them and find healing.

"My faith is in God, not the men in leadership," said Barbara Blaine, 46, of Chicago, the founder of SNAP. "We are being church to one another. We're doing what the bishops should have done."

A year ago, the national bishops' conference spoke of ongoing dialogue with victims. But since then, SNAP and The Linkup, another national victims' group, have had no meetings with Gregory or with the hierarchy's special committee on abuse, headed by Archbishop Harry Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Flynn and Gregory said contacts are now most appropriate between individual bishops and victims on the local level.

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