

The Texas A&M University Libraries needs student and faculty volunteers for web site usability study in late November. Prizes and refreshments. Contact Jeff Stark at jkstark@tamu.edu or 845-8157 by November 14th

an interactive discussion series with a spiritual perspective

Medical Miracles: Does prayer play a part?
7:00pm
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TONIGHT!

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4:00pm in Koldus 110
Tomorrow, October 29

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BY R. DELUNA

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BY JOSH DARWIN

Crazy Jake
By M. Mouse

PUM POZ
BY: WILL LLOYD

Wildfires
Continued from page 1

The ... firefighters are the true heroes. They're risking their lives in order to save people's lives," Schwarzenegger said.

Across Southern California, the sun glowed red and smoke stung the eyes and lungs. Airport baggage handlers wore masks against the smoke and the ash dropping across the landscape.

"My eyes are burning right now something terrible," said 74-year-old Maury Glantz in San Diego, holding a towel over his mouth and nose. "I have to get out."

Even the primates at the San Diego Zoo went indoors to escape the misery. "Their lungs are built like ours so they can be affected by the smoke," said zoo spokeswoman Yadira Galindo.

Many of those who died in the wildfires ignored evacuation orders and were caught by flames because they waited until the last minute to flee, Sheriff Bill Kolender said.

"When you are asked to leave, do it immediately," he said. "Do not wait."

San Diego Fire Chief Jeff Bowman said he was worried that three fires that incinerated 585 homes in San Diego County would merge into a super fire, pushing already strained resources to the breaking point.

"This morning, however, we feel very good because the weather has worked with us and

not against us," he said.

A 90,000-acre wildfire that straddles the Los Angeles-Ventura county line began moving slowly toward million-dollar mansions in a gated community in Los Angeles. California Department of Forestry Battalion Chief Thomas Foley said that in a "worst-case scenario," the blaze could spread all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Some hotspots flared Monday, but authorities said the winds that had driven the flames erratically for days appeared to be easing.

Los Angeles Fire Chief William Bamattre said firefighters were seizing the opportunity to finally go on the attack after being on the defensive for days.

However, gusts of up to 45 mph were still possible in canyons, and homes throughout the region remained in danger because of high temperatures, low humidity and millions of dead trees from an infestation of bark beetles.

A state of emergency was declared in the four stricken counties, where the fires had laid waste to entire blocks of homes, closed major highways, shuttered schools, disrupted air travel nationwide and sent people running for their lives.

People were urged to stay indoors because of the smoky air, and hospitals treated a number of people who complained of breathing trouble.

"You could almost smell the smoke and you could almost

taste fire," said Leilani Baker, 46, of San Diego. She was sitting at a bus stop, her shoulders covered with ash.

Nine people were killed by the so-called Cedar Fire, California's largest blaze at 150,000 acres. The fire was ignited Saturday near the mountain town of Julian when a lost hunter set off a signal fire, authorities said. The hunter may face charges.

In San Bernardino County, a blaze called the Old Fire has destroyed more than 450 homes. On Monday, the flames jumped a road and moved into the heavily forested small town of Crestline.

A major fire burning closer to Los Angeles is believed to have been started by arsonists.

"Those who start these fires are no better than domestic terrorists and should be dealt with as such," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley.

The arsonists "have no idea how many lives they've ruined," said Trisha Mitchell, standing amid the debris that was once her childhood home in San Bernardino.

Days after running for her life from a fire that ripped through her San Bernardino neighborhood, Pati Wecker returned home in the Del Rosa area to find the only thing left standing of her house was an archway.

Across the street, a park with green grass and trees was untouched.

Memorial
Continued from page 1

the Aggie spirit.

"Each of these students etched a place in the landscape of our hearts," Josefy said. "The memorial will be a place where we can realize just how precious life is."

The design chosen for the Bonfire Memorial was an international competition that consisted of two stages and a judge that decided which design was the best. The first stage, open to anyone 18 years of age or older, resulted in four finalists. Stage two included a jury of professionals in landscape architecture, architecture, fine arts, planning and engineering, as well as selected representatives of the University who chose the best design.

The idea for the memorial came shortly after the 1999 collapse, Rosser said.

"We knew it was the right thing to do," he said. "We need to remember and memorialize these individuals."

A design by Overland Partners, Inc. of San Antonio, led by Bob Shemwell, Class of 1982, was the firm chosen.

Josefy said the design is impressive and symbolic.

"Overland Partners really put a lot of thought into this," he said. "It's incredible."

The memorial is not only for the 12 Aggies who died, Rosser said. At the center of the ring will be 27 stones placed to recognize the 27 students who were injured in the collapse.

Vice President of Administration Charles Sippel said the memorial is expected to cost around \$5 million. The memorial will not be funded by the state, but rather from general use fees or authorized tuition.

NEWS IN BRIEF
Soyuz space capsule lands in Kazakhstan

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (AP) — A Soyuz space capsule carrying an American, a Russian and a Spaniard landed safely Tuesday in the wide-open steppes of Kazakhstan, Russian Mission Control said.

The 3.5-hour trip descent to Earth was only the second time that a U.S. astronaut has come home in a Russian craft and landed on foreign soil. Since the disintegration of the space shuttle Columbia in February put NASA manned space flights on hold, the Russian Soyuz capsules have been the linchpin of the space station program.

Officials at Mission Control outside Moscow and others waiting in Kazakhstan for the landing were pleased that the wild ride of the last Soyuz descent in May, which ended with the American and Russian crew going some 250 miles off-course due to a computer error, was avoided.

The three on Tuesday's homeward-bound trip were American Ed Lu and Russian Yuri Malenchenko, who flew to the space station nearly six months ago in the same Soyuz, and Spaniard Pedro Duque, who arrived at the station eight days ago on a different capsule.

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University, Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: news@thebattalion.net; Web site: http://www.thebattalion.net

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