

# Land Empire

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Central Valley Edition  
Rialto, Colton, Grand Terrace  
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## 'Mystery' rescuer at fire knows all about life-and-death battles

**By JOE BRIDGMAN**  
Sun Staff Writer  
FONTANA — One of the men who helped rescue a 16-year-old girl from a burning apartment here Thursday has a special regard for life. He's been fighting cancer for the last six years.  
In the 24 hours following the early morning blaze at 1733 Maryland Ave., Bud Patane remained a bit of a mystery man, since neither fire officials nor other witnesses had learned his name.  
All they knew for certain was that he had risked his own life to save someone else's. On Friday, Patane's wife volunteered his identity, and he talked about the fire.

The cancer "has made me more aware of other people's problems, and that's probably why I got involved yesterday," Patane said.  
"You know, you think your own problems are so big until you see someone else's problem, like what happened yesterday. Those people probably lost everything they had."  
Sheri Schroeder, 16, and Raymond Bettie, 22, remained in fair condition Friday at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where they were being treated for smoke inhalation after being carried unconscious from the burning apartment. Patane, a 45-year-old Fontana resident, was riding his bicycle along Maryland

Avenue about 6:30 a.m. Thursday when he saw three other men already turning garden hoses on the smoking duplex.  
He joined them, but no one knew whether anyone was inside.  
While two of them ran around the outside of the apartment to the rear, he took one of the hoses and entered the front door. As he crouched by the thick smoke of the living room and bowed down the flames he heard yells from the others, who had broken in the windows of the rear bedrooms and found Schroeder.  
"I really loathered me when I heard him yell 'There's someone in here.' I just got a sick feeling all over, just an instantaneous feeling of 'Oh no,'" Patane said. He

dropped the hose, ran into the rear bed room and helped lift Schroeder through the open window.  
Then he looked into the next bedroom, where he saw a cat that had died from the smoke. Bettie was lying unconscious on the carpet in that room, but Patane isn't certain whether he saw him or not.  
Firefighters had arrived by this time, and they crawled into the apartment and brought Bettie out on a stretcher. Patane left by the same way he had come, through the front door.  
He headed to his home a few blocks away, changed his clothes and went to work in San Bernardino, where he is a

purchaser for an electrical firm.  
Patane is modest about what happened and reluctant to take credit, although authorities are convinced that Schroeder and Bettie would not have survived very many minutes in the apartment.  
"I just happened to be at a certain place at a certain time, and happened to be able to help someone help someone else," he said. His wife, Ruth, calls him "low-key."  
"It's in pain all the time but you'd never know it. He said, 'I'm alive — I can deal with the pain.'" Mrs. Patane  
See RESCUE/B2

## Norton will fly aid to Honduras

**By JOHN WHITEHAR**  
Sun Staff Writer  
SAN BERNARDINO — Nearly 10 tons of donated medical supplies will be loaded next week on jet transports at Norton Air Force Base for a special flight to war-torn Honduras, officials said Friday.

The medical supplies, including surplus hospital beds, an operating table, a dental chair, water trucks, generators, bandages and other hospital equipment, were collected by two Southern California humanitarian relief organizations and are to be delivered to civilian medical centers in Honduras, officials said.

The destination is Pomerola military base in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.  
Under provisions of new legislation, Air Force transport jets can be used to deliver humanitarian relief goods when there is space available on the aircraft.

Norton AFB spokesman Capt. Gary Jacobs said officials were planning to send empty C-141B transports to Honduras to pick up some Air Force civil engineers sent there earlier to build a military camp. Because of the new legislation, the transports can be filled with the medical supplies on the trip to Honduras.

The medical supplies have been collected by World Opportunities International of Hollywood and COAD International of San Diego. Both are non-profit private agencies that provide medical services and supplies to Third World countries.

John Martin, founder and president of COAD International, said his group works in conjunction with the Department of Plastic Surgery at the University of California at San Diego and with Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. In the past, the organization has sent volunteer plastic surgeons.  
See NORTON/B2



**Smoothing out the bumps**  
Teamwork is the order of the day for San Bernardino city employees, from left, Maurice McKnight, Jesse Lizarraga and Gorro Marquez, as they prepare new sidewalks at a city project at Sixth Street and Arrowhead Avenue.

## Storm may pack some heavy rains

**By JOHN WHITEHAR**  
Sun Staff Writer  
SAN BERNARDINO — Weather forecasters say a weekend storm carrying rain and possibly snow could throw a blanket over Norton's comet-viewing parties planned Sunday morning.

Forecasters are saying there's a 40 percent chance of rain. The storm could dump as much as a half-inch of rain on the San Bernardino Valley and 1 to 2 inches on the mountains today and tomorrow, the National Weather Service reported.  
Snow may fall in the mountains above 4,000 feet today, and the snow level may drop to 4,000 feet by Sunday morning, forecasters said.

Ron Hamilton, National Weather Service forecaster in Riverside, said the rain probably will begin late today and continue at times through Sunday.  
He said a low-pressure system forming off the coast of Central California is moving to Southern California and bringing rain clouds with it.

Apparently undaunted by the bleak weather predictions, hundreds of Halley's comet-seekers began jamming John's Tree National Monument early Friday. A public comet viewing party is scheduled Sunday morning at a turnout between Belle and White Tank campsgrounds, said Bill Truendell, the park's chief naturalist.

He predicted all of the park's campsites would be full by Friday evening and that more than 10,000 people will use the park this weekend. People are driving to the remote park near Twenty-nine Palms to view the comet because of the nighttime darkness and the clear skies there, he said.

Because of the comet viewing, park officials are allowing as many people as possible into the  
See STORM/B2

## Baldwin Lake park proposal facing ax

**By BILL ROGERS**  
Sun Staff Writer  
SAN BERNARDINO — The county's long-stalled plan to develop a regional park on the east shore of Baldwin Lake in the Big Bear area may finally be abandoned Monday by the county Board of Supervisors.

The Baldwin Lake park concept, first proposed in 1969, is now being crowded out by the pressures of residential development in the area.  
And officials say they have

come to the realization that the money it would take to acquire the additional land needed for the park might better be spent on recreational development closer to urban centers rather than in the Big Bear environment that, in itself, is practically a park.

The supervisors will be asked during their 10 a.m. session Monday to authorize the sale of about 100 acres at the east shore site, consisting of hundreds of tiny lots the county acquired over a period of about 12 years. The property acquisitions ground to a halt

about five years ago.  
Desert Mountain Supervisor John Joyner, favoring the abandonment, said Friday a key problem is that the county's holdings at the site are scattered, and some homes have been built in recent years among them, greatly increasing potential purchase costs and difficulties for the county if it attempted to acquire the additional 100 acres needed.

Joyner said consideration is being given to reserving a small part of the holdings for development of an equestrian center or com-

munity park that might be built and operated by the Big Bear Valley Park District. He said the idea of an equestrian center stems from the proximity of the Pacific Crest Trail.

In addition, he suggested, some proceeds from the sale of the land could be used to purchase and preserve a bald eagle habitat on Baldwin Lake's south shore.  
The benefits of those two proposals alone would more than justify abandonment of the regional  
See PARK/B2

## Peace march hits Nevada in high spirit

**By CHUCK MUELLER**  
Sun Staff Writer  
After spending a month crossing San Bernardino County, the Great Peace March has reached the Nevada state line.

With spirits high, about 400 marchers pitched their tents Friday night near Whiskey Pete's Casino, 10 feet inside the Silver State. They plan to reach Las Vegas on Monday.

"We'll need \$100,000 to get us from Las Vegas to St. George, Utah," said Carole Schmidt, finance chairman for the group. "That will provide us daily expenses of \$2,600 mainly for food and fuel while walking and will buy needed equipment."

She said the group needs a reliable truck tractor to pull six trailers, and also needs a sanitation pump-out unit, water truck, and shower van.  
"We're still negotiating for a kitchen trailer, and are making payments for 30 portable toilets," Schmidt said.

The marchers, on their own since the March 14 collapse of their PRO Peace troupe, hope to raise funds in Las Vegas and in the Los Angeles area, where supporters are aiding their cause.  
Schmidt said the marchers' bank account is down to \$17,000, excluding cash deposits made since Monday.  
"We hate to live on the edge, and want to be able to project into the future," she said. "And we would like to add marchers. There are people in every city along the  
See MARCH/B2



**\$100,000 smiles**  
Fontana resident Mike Brown used \$20 in card game winnings for California Lottery tickets and turned his stake into a \$100,000 instant winner. Brown and his wife, Liz, shown with daughters Kristie, 13, left, and Heather, 6, hope to buy land in the Fontana area, build a custom home and move from their current residence at 14115 Ceres. And they want to give some money to the church. "As far as it happens on Easter Sunday, it's a blessing, and we want to give some of it back," Mike Brown said. The chances of getting a \$100,000 instant winner ticket are slightly better than one in a million, lottery officials said. Of the 350 million tickets being issued in the lottery's current Game No. 5, only 365 are instant \$100,000 winners.

## 5 arrested, 4 sought in prostitution case

**By MARK LUNDAHL**  
Sun Staff Writer  
SAN BERNARDINO — Five of nine people charged in an alleged prostitution conspiracy ring were arrested Friday, including the former campaign manager of Sheriff Floyd Trelwell.

Sheriff's investigators said they were still seeking four suspects, including a former honorary sheriff's deputy and an owner of massage parlors in Bloomington and Adelanto that are suspected fronts for prostitution activity.  
Garry Brown, 35, who was chairman of Trelwell's 1982 election campaign, surrendered Friday morning in a San Bernardino Municipal Court.

A \$25,000 arrest warrant had been issued against Brown. But Municipal Court Judge Betty Richl released Brown without bail after a deputy district attorney conceded Brown had been cooperative with investigators and was not likely to flee the area.

Four other suspects were arrested at their homes early Friday. They were identified as Kay Jennings of La Verne; Jeri Lynn Johnson, 37, of Fontana; Kimberly Dullen, 35, of San Bernardino; and Mary Alice Austin of Fontana.  
Deputy District Attorney David Whitton said Jennings was the bookkeeper for the massage parlors and former wife of the owner. He said Johnson was a teacher for massage parlor employees and part-time manager of the Bloomington operation. Both were being held in San Bernardino County Jail on \$75,000 bail.

See ARRESTS/B2