

# Redlands Daily Facts

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REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

25 Cents (Includes CA Sales Tax)

## around Redlands

### Eat for McKinley

Want to help students at McKinley Elementary School and have supper at the same time? The Chick-fil-A restaurant in Citrus Plaza will host a fundraiser 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. today. Proceeds will benefit students at McKinley, whose PTA worked with Chick-fil-A on the fundraiser. The restaurant is at 27520 W. Lugonia Ave.

### One more 'Song'

LifeHouse Theater has added one more performance of "A Song in My Heart" to this weekend's schedule. The musical production telling the stories of some of the great Christian hymns will be presented 2:15 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, and 2:15 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 3 to 11. Tickets are \$1 more the day of the performance. For information, call (909) 335-3037, ext. 21.

### Day for Kids

A Day for Kids is coming up this month. The Kiwanis Club of Redlands and the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands will the annual Day for Kids Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Boys & Girls Club's Dennis Hansberger Clubhouse, 1251 Clay St., Redlands. The free event, from noon to 4 p.m., will include games, food and fun activities "to encourage adults and children to share in relationship-building activities that create positive and memorable experiences."

Local bands and dance groups will entertain, and there will be book readings and free books, a play zone for toddlers and complimentary fingerprinting, among other activities. The event is open to the public.

### Food and wine

Want to eat, drink and raise money for scholarships? Make reservations for this year's Love of Food and Wine Dinner, a fundraiser for the Citrograph Scholarship Fund. The five-course dinner at Farm Artisan Food, with wines from Merryvale Vineyards of Napa Valley, is Sunday, Sept. 27.

Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at Citrograph Printing Co., 113 E. State St., Redlands. For more information, call (909) 792-3901.

### Advice for students

Religion columnist Gregory Elder, a teacher and Catholic priest, writes advice for high school and college students this week.

Read what he says about the value of education, how to succeed in school and why clothes matter on **Our Town**, **Page A5**.

### Story times

The A.K. Smiley Public Library offers story times for young children every Thursday morning. Tiny Tot Story Time is 10 a.m. and features rhymes, songs and stories for toddlers ages 2 to 3.

Preschool story time for ages 4 to 6 follows at 10:30 a.m. The A.K. Smiley Public Library is at 125 W. Vine St., Redlands.



## SEEDS Back to the basics

GREEN THUMB | B10

## FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

Citrus Valley girls' volleyball, REV girls' tennis

SPORTS | B1



AL CUIZON/Staff photographer

Firefighter Doug Dreager from Cal Fire in Santa Cruz monitors a flare up after the Pendleton Fire ripped through a section of Avenue E in Yucaipa on Tuesday.

# Governor visits fire site

### Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declares State of Emergency, pitches public safety tax

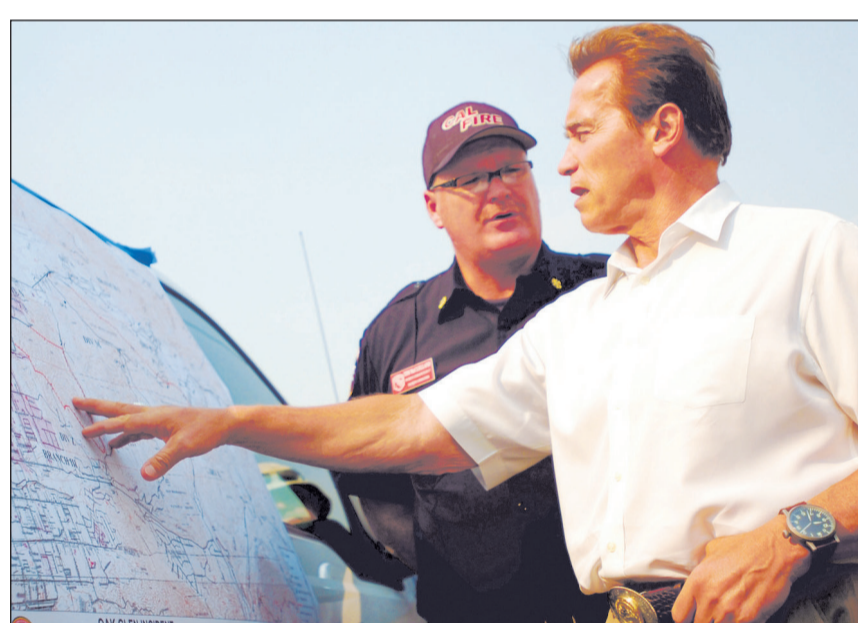
By STACIA GLENN and ANDREW EDWARDS  
Staff Writers

YUCAIPA — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared that a state of emergency exists in San Bernardino County during a Tuesday morning visit near the scenes of the Pendleton and Oak Glen fires.

The declaration enables San Bernardino County officials to recover firefighting costs from the state.

The governor met with Cal Fire director Del Walters for a briefing and watched as a helitanker filled up at Yucaipa Regional Park. He also made use of the occasion for a bully pulpit moment and pleaded for the Legislature to pass the Emergency Response Initiative.

"We are doing everything that we can in See **FIRE** | Page A4



AL CUIZON/Staff photographer

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is briefed on the Oak Glen III fire and the Pendleton Fire by Cal Fire Incident Commander Tim McClelland at the fire Command Post at Yucaipa Regional Park on Tuesday.

# Firefighters try to gain upper hand on fires

By STACIA GLENN  
Staff Writer

Evacuation holdouts watched in horror Tuesday morning as strong winds whipped a two-day fire into the ridges above Avenue E and flames barreled toward dozens of hilltop homes.

The Pendleton Fire in Yucaipa, which

firefighters struggled to get a handle on overnight, quickly ballooned from 300 to 860 acres. Officials at 11 a.m. ordered hundreds more to evacuate from the Fremont and Wildwood Canyon areas, bringing the total to 1,100 homes.

But by 8 p.m., all evacuations from the two blazes in the area were downgraded from mandatory to recom-

mended. Sheriff's officials said only those with proof of residency would be allowed past the roadblocks.

Hot spots continued to flare up Tuesday on Pisgah Peak, but the Oak Glen III Fire was 60 percent contained at 1,012 acres. Although the Pendleton Fire gained more ground, containment was

See **BLAZE** | Page A4

# ESRI assists in fire fight

By JOY JUEDES  
Staff Writer

Environmental Systems Research Institute is pitching in to help fight the wildfires.

Tom Patterson, wildland fire specialist for Redlands-based ESRI, went to the Station Fire in the Los Angeles area on Sunday and has been at the Oak Glen Fire since Monday.

"I walked into the GIS unit at the Station Fire and said, 'I'm from ESRI and I'm here to help,' and they said, 'Thank God!'" Patterson said Tuesday by phone from the Oak Glen incident command post.

ESRI donates its services when wildfires occur. Experts like Patterson gather information for maps, bring heavy-duty printers, called plotters, and upgrade software.

"Yesterday (Tom) got a list of needs for the Station Fire," said Russ Johnson, ESRI's public safety manager. "He went to the Oak Glen Fire and they asked if he would assist in producing maps, we produced them."

"Tom is out there today — we're anticipating more requests today for software, information for maps."

Besides Patterson, Johnson said ESRI has people on standby, ready to help.

Patterson had a busy 24 hours, starting Monday afternoon. He had to prepare maps for a meeting, with the added challenge of the fire's speed and capriciousness.

"The perimeter has been so rapidly and dynamically moving — yesterday they were having a hard time because it kept changing," said Johnson, a former fire chief.

Then Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger decided to drop by.

"We had three GIS specialists working the night shift, a major briefing we had to be ready for and then the governor showed up and we had to make additional apps for him," Patterson said. "But we did it."

See **ESRI** | Page A4

# City Council approves salary changes

By JESSE B. GILL  
Staff Writer

REDLANDS — The City Council approved a salary resolution that includes a pay raise that the city's firefighters are trying to give up.

The resolution includes pay increases for police and firefighters meant to bring both groups to the median level of other police and firefighters in the region. The increases are written into the labor

contracts for both groups.

The council approved the salary resolution Tuesday with a vote of 4-1. Councilman Mick Gallagher was the lone dissenter, saying he wouldn't support the resolution until the Redlands Professional Firefighters Association reached an agreement with the city regarding the raise.

The RPPFA is trying to defer the raise.

"We are trying to forego a salary enhancement that was negotiated

four years ago," said RPPFA President Bill Conway.

The pay increase for the firefighters adds up to a \$601,317 cost to the general budget during the 2009-2010 fiscal, according to the city staff report.

In February, the RPPFA offered to defer the median pay increase. The union proposed to forego increases totalling about \$1.7 million over a three-year period.

The RPPFA offered to defer the pay

increase and asked for the creation of an added pay scale step for employees who have 25 years of service with the Fire Department. If granted, the added step would give the employees a 10-percent raise.

The city has not accepted the RPPFA's proposal. And the union isn't happy about it.

"We are trying to provide the city with significant and immediate budgetary relief to no avail," Conway

See **SALARY** | Page A4

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### Inside

- Lottery A2
- Yesterdays A2
- Local news A3
- Obituaries A4
- Our Town A5
- Opinion A9
- Sports B1
- Annie's Mailbox B2
- TV grid B2
- Horoscopes B2
- Comics B3
- Games/Crossword B3
- Health B4
- Classified B6
- Weather B8
- Green thumb B10

### Happy birthday



### Nellie Paton, 100

Nellie Pearl Ziegler Paton turns 100 today. She was born to Charles and Pearl Ziegler in Calcutta, Ohio, and lived 60 years in New Brighton, Pa., where she married Mancel R. Paton and had a son, Mancel C. "Pat" Paton. They moved to Redlands in 1969 to live next door to their son and daughter-in-law Ruth and grandchildren. Her husband died in 1994, her son in 2007. Nellie now lives with Ruth. She is celebrating her birthday at home with Ruth; granddaughter Anne Bachman and husband Bob of Angelus Oaks; great-grandchildren David and Laura Bachman of Redlands, Brian Bachman and fiancée Allison Okihiro of Glendale; grandson Alan Paton and wife Pam of Walnut; great-grandchildren Erik, Mark and Tori Paton of Walnut; and caregivers Carrie and Patty.

### Weather



■ Forecast: Sunny  
**High 101 Low 68**

Air quality: 159, unhealthy

Today's weather drawing by **Brandon Park**, age 10, Janna St. Clair's fourth-grade class, Redlands Adventist Academy, Redlands

■ Get weather updates: [www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/weather](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/weather)

