

HALLOWEEN PARADE



Above | Graham Simons, 2, rides through Painted Post during Thursday's parade. Right | Parade walkers wave to watchers.



Photos by Eric Wensel The Leader

Wildfire death toll may rise

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT**
 Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO | Four charred bodies were found Thursday in an apparent migrant camp burned by one of the wildfires raging across Southern California, authorities said Thursday.

If the fire was responsible for the deaths — which authorities said was not immediately certain — it would mean seven people have died in the flames that have consumed about 750 square miles and at least 1,800 homes since the weekend.

Border Patrol agents on routine patrol found the bodies in a wooded area near Barrett Junction, just east of San Diego and along the Mexican border, agency spokeswoman Gloria Chavez said. The area is near a major corridor for illegal immigrants who often walk hours or even days to cross into the United States from Mexico.

Authorities said they discovered the bodies Thursday afternoon but did not know how long ago the victims died.

"They could have been out there a while," said Paul Parker, a spokesman for the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elliott Wery, upper right, looks on after returning home for the first time Thursday in Poway, Calif.

San Diego County medical examiner's office. They were tentatively identified as three men and one woman.

The area was burned by the Harris Fire, which straddles the Mexican border. That was the same fire that claimed the life of 52-year-old Tecate man who refused to leave his house when the area was evacuated Sunday.

The other two people killed directly by the wildfires also died in San Diego County, the hardest-hit of seven counties

where fires were burning.

Despite the deaths, there were hopeful signs Thursday. Firefighters took advantage of calmer winds and cooler temperatures to launch an aerial assault on several stubborn blazes.

Mandatory evacuation orders were lifted for most residential areas of San Diego. Shelters emptied at a rapid rate, and residents in some neighborhoods returned to their streets, many lined with the wreckage of melted cars.

SCHIP

Continued from 1A

Liberal groups continue to run attack ads against Republicans siding with Bush on the issue, which many Democrats consider a winner for their party.

Democratic leaders said changes to the bill, which would add \$35 billion to the State Children's Health Insurance Program, had addressed critics' concerns about participation by adults, illegal immigrants and families able to afford health insurance. But GOP leaders called the changes insignificant and politically motivated.

The decade-old health program is aimed at families that do not qualify for Medicaid but are too poor to afford medical insurance. As with the bill Bush vetoed, the revised measure would add \$35 billion over five years, financed by a 61-cent increase in the federal excise tax on a pack of cigarettes.

Under the revisions, the program would exclude families earning more than three times the federal poverty rate. Low-income childless adults, which some states cover,

would be phased out in one year. And states would have to be more rigorous in checking the validity of applicants' Social Security numbers, an effort to exclude illegal immigrants.

House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, likened the revisions to "window-dressing rather than substantive changes."

However, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the legislation "has the support of the American people."

Before Thursday's vote, the White House announced that Bush would veto the revised bill because it does too little to enroll low-income families ahead of those somewhat better off, and because it would cost more than the earlier bill.

Democrats said it would cost more because it would cover more low-income children, the program's chief goal. The program now covers 6 million children, and the bill would enroll another 4 million if it becomes law.

Also prior to Thursday's vote, a letter to Bush signed by Kuhl and other Republicans said they would approve a bill that, among

other things, sought a cost increase of \$20 billion over five years.

On Oct. 18 the House voted 273-156 to override Bush's veto, 13 votes short of a two-thirds majority. Forty-four Republicans joined 229 Democrats in voting to override.

Democrats and their GOP allies this week targeted 38 House Republicans who voted to sustain Bush's veto and later outlined their concerns in a letter. The revised bill addressed those concerns, Pelosi said.

But Republicans were angry that Pelosi insisted on a vote Thursday, rather than giving lawmakers more time to study the bill and seek GOP converts.

"Bringing the bill up today, with no time to even read it, is either a terrible mistake or an intentional partisan maneuver," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., who supported the vetoed bill.

Pelosi said the House needed to act this week "because this fits into our legislative calendar." If Republicans support the health program's expansion, she said, "they won't be looking for an excuse to oppose this bill."

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



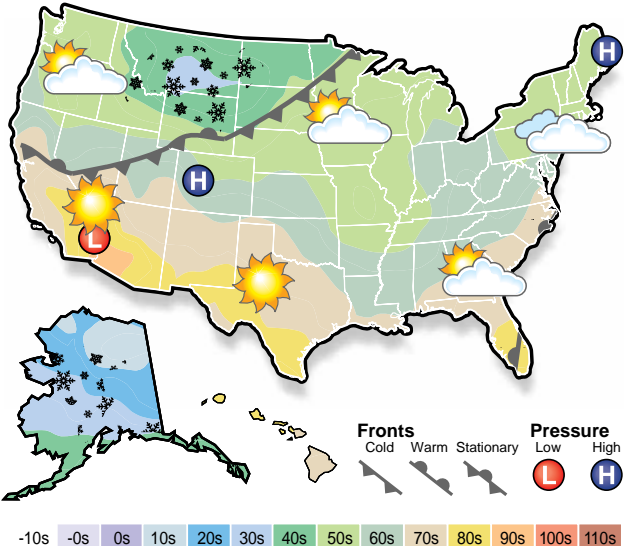
WETM 18 Storm Team
 Chief Meteorologist Scott Mayer
 Meteorologist Jbe Pasquarelli
 Meteorologist Matthew Szejwka



Today Cloudy, afternoon showers High 58 Low 38	Saturday M. cloudy, showers or rain, breezy High 62 Low 49	Sunday P. sunny, winds diminish High 52 Low 38	Monday M. sunny, cool, patchy morning frost High 54 Low 30	Tuesday M. sunny High 54 Low 32	Wednesday M. sunny High 58 Low 36	Thursday P. cloudy, sct. showers High 52 Low 37

National forecast

Forecast highs for Friday, Oct. 26



NEW YORK

Today will be partly sunny in the morning with a 50 percent chance of rain in the afternoon and highs in the upper 50s.

Tonight will see rain with lows around 50.

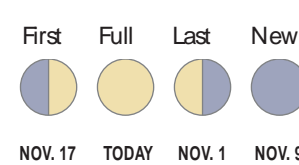
Saturday will see rain with highs in the mid-60s.

Saturday night will see rain early in the evening, turning mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and lows around 40.

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1859, New York City had its earliest substantial snow of record as four inches blanketed the city.

MOON PHASES



SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	7:33
Sunset today	6:10
Sunrise Saturday	7:35
Sunset Saturday	6:09

TEACHER

Continued from 1A

Stiker said she reported the charge against Fazzary to the New York State Education Department as soon as she became aware of it.

DEBATE

Continued from 1A

"I'm deeply concerned about where this city is going to be 30 years from now," Reed said. "I want to make sure that when I look my children in the eyes I know I have done everything I can to make sure they have the opportunity when they grow up to call Corning their home."

Both candidates each spoke for about eight minutes before fielding questions from attendees. Coccho, 63, has served one term as mayor. Reed, 35, is an attorney who is running for public office for the first time.

During his address, Coccho called himself an accessible mayor and a responsible leader who builds relationships with residents and fellow politicians.

"I put the people first," Coccho said. "The record will show in the two years that I have been mayor not once has anyone referred to us as the comic council."

Reed disagreed, claiming relationships with local, state and federal officials have suffered during Coccho's two years in office. The statement was in reference to Coccho's snub of state Sen. George Winner at the opening of a downtown theater and his support of Democrat Eric Massa over U.S. Rep. John R. Randy Kuhl Jr. in last year's

Fazzary is not only at risk of losing his job because of his guilty plea, but also losing his teaching certification.

According to the New York State United Teachers union, a

teacher's certificate may be revoked by the state for conviction of a crime or an act indicating a lack of good moral character. By law, a hearing is required before the certificate can be revoked.

congressional race.

"We need to heal relationships with leaders in Bath, Albany and Washington," Reed said. "We need those relationships because when we fight for resources we need friends at those levels of government."

Reed was also critical of the City Council raising taxes an additional 3 percent this year to pay for road repairs.

"That's old politics to constantly raise taxes to fund work," Reed said. "We need to look at alternative funding measures."

Coccho said the council's decision to address ailing road conditions was the right thing to do.

Both candidates voiced support for the city manager form of government.

"In the past two years we have enhanced the relationship between the city manager and the council," Coccho said. "He has stayed here more than twice as long as the average city manager stay so we must be doing something right."

Reed said maintaining the city manager form of government is one of the primary reasons he decided to run for the office.

"We need a professional to fight for us to get those valuable resources our community needs," Reed said.

more women have been involved in politics since he took office than ever before.

"We have broken that barrier," Coccho said. "There are more ladies on boards and commissions than ever before."

Both candidates agreed state government is dysfunctional but offered different reasons as to why. Coccho said "there are too many lawyers in Albany making decisions," a statement to which Reed took exception.

"The real problem is career politicians," Reed said. "Politicians like you."

Reed said he is a strong supporter of consolidated services, would target dilapidated properties to reduce blight and try to eliminate the partisanship that has plagued the council during the past two years.

"We need to deal with the troubled properties before citing properties because of chipped paint," Reed said.

Coccho said he is opposed to targeted code enforcement. Both candidates asked for residents support in the upcoming Nov. 6 general election.

Reed said the city benefits by an informed electorate who go to the polls.

"This politician is going to say I hope you vote for me and if you don't, don't vote period," Coccho said.