



U.S. FOREST Service firefighters monitor a plume from the Line fire above Highway 38 on Monday in San Bernardino National Forest.

SoCal blazes spread in high heat

Line fire in Inland Empire grows to 23,600 acres in 4 days and is 3% contained.

BY HANNAH FRY,
SUMMER LIN
AND JOSEPH SERNA

Megan Vasquez, who lives in the Crestline area, had an overnight bag with her medication and other essentials packed just in case she needed to leave her home quickly as the Line fire raged through the San Bernardino Mountains.

On Saturday, the 59-year-old was driving through town when she saw an orange glow as flames scorched the hills in the distance, and a huge cloud rose.

"It looked exactly like a nuclear warhead had been set off in the mountains," she said. "It was a giant mushroom with compact billowy clouds and crazy smoke rings around it on the plume coming up."

As mountain residents remain on guard, firefighting crews in Southern California continued to battle out-of-control wildfires Monday that have scorched thousands of acres in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties and forced residents to flee their homes amid record-breaking heat.

The Line fire in San Bernardino County grew to 23,600 acres in four days and was 3% contained Monday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. In L.A. County, the Bridge fire quickly chewed up more than 1,200 acres by Monday and had Angeles National Forest visitors and some local residents fleeing the flames. The fire was completely uncontained Monday morning.

In Orange County, the Airport fire grew to nearly 300 acres in the Trabuco Canyon area in less than two hours Monday afternoon, triggering evacuations.

[See Wildfires, A12]

LAPD union leader target of complaints

Department has three probes related to Det. Jamie McBride's security company.

BY LIBOR JANY
AND RICHARD WINTON

When Los Angeles Police Officer Brady Lamas was relieved of duty in 2022 for allegedly sharing nude photos

of a fellow cop — his wife at the time — he reportedly found a lifeline with a private company named Watermark Security Inc.

Started by Jamie McBride, an LAPD detective and director for the union representing most rank-and-file officers, Watermark has earned a reputation in law enforcement circles for offering a soft landing to cops who face disciplinary action.

McBride promised good pay, reportedly telling officers suspended or fired from their departments over various allegations of misconduct that it would be "like they were making" up to \$40 an hour as guards for businesses and celebrities around L.A. County and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For many officers feeling the pinch of being out of work for weeks or months at a time, the offer of a steady

paycheck seemed too good to pass up. They also trusted the word of McBride, who has made a name for himself nationally as an outspoken — and controversial — advocate for officers who believe they've been railroaded by their departments.

But after working for Watermark, a former employee wrote in an email to LAPD leadership that McBride was denying workers overtime pay and lunch

breaks — while enriching himself at the expense of the same aggrieved officers he claimed to support.

Ten other ex-Watermark employees echoed those allegations in interviews with The Times. The former employee who emailed the Los Angeles Police Department also alleged in the complaint that McBride was defrauding clients including Target and Walgreens "in the form

[See McBride, A9]

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

A dream debate worth hearing

The questions the moderators should ask Harris and Trump, both skilled dodgers.

DOYLE McMANUS

Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have both shown themselves skilled at avoiding questions they don't want to answer. The former president does it by burying questions under a barrage of unrelated assertions, many of them false. The vice president does it the old-fashioned way, by taking refuge in vague talking points.

If they succeed at dodging and weaving their way through Tuesday's debate, it will be a real loss for voters — especially the undecided voters in swing states who will decide the election.

The 90-minute session is probably the only time Americans will see the two nominees on one stage. On the surface, it will be an argument about competing policies — but underneath, an equally important test of

[See McManus, A7]



COLUMN ONE

Archer takes last shot at Paralympic gold

Matt Stutzman, a legend in the sport, made Paris his swan song



ALEX DAVIDSON Getty Images

PARA ARCHER Matt Stutzman takes aim during a match at the Paris Paralympics. Stutzman taught himself archery using his feet.

BY DAVID WHARTON

No one would hire him. Not one store or business in his small Iowa town would take a chance on a young man born without arms.

"My wife was the one doing all the work and I felt like I wasn't doing my part," he recalls. "I felt bad."

So Matt Stutzman bought a bow and some arrows. This made sense to him if only because he had grown up on a farm, tagging along with his dad and brothers on hunting trips. It seemed like a way to put food on the table.

"I really had no idea how I was going to shoot," he says. "I Googled 'How to teach an armless man to shoot a bow' and found nothing."

[See Archer, A5]

JAMES EARL JONES, 1931 – 2024

From Lear to Darth Vader, acting legend voiced them all

BY JILL LEOVY
AND ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO

Oscar-nominated actor James Earl Jones, who stuttered as a child, then burst forth to become one of America's most recognized and articulate voices, has died.

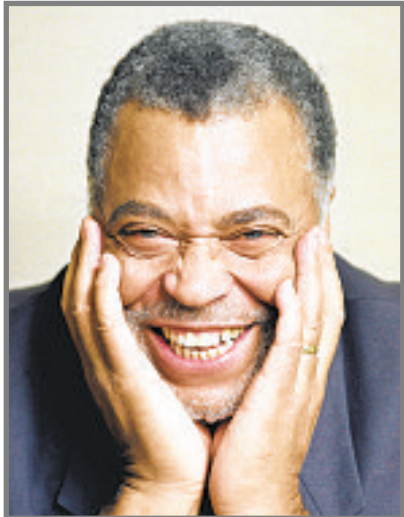
Jones died Monday morning at his home in New York, his longtime agent Barry McPherson confirmed in a statement shared with The Times. A cause of death was not revealed. He was 93.

"That booming voice. That quiet strength. The kindness that he radiated," Kevin Costner, Jones' "Field of Dreams" co-star, wrote on Instagram in tribute.

Costner added: "Only he could bring that kind of magic to a movie about baseball and a corn field in Iowa. I'm grateful to have been a witness to him making that magic happen."

"There will never be another of his particular combination of graces," actor and TV host LeVar Burton said in a tribute shared on X (formerly Twitter).

[See Jones, A12]



BOB GALBRAITH Associated Press

MASTER CRAFTSMAN

James Earl Jones, in 1990, was known for voice and presence.

Warehouse bill has many critics

Effort to regulate development of the facilities has generated a wide range of opposition. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Hobbled Rams frustrate Lions

Despite injuries, the team hangs tough with Detroit, which beats its former quarterback again. **SPORTS, B10**

What? No football game?

The Walt Disney Co. blackout of ESPN stretches into its ninth day for DirecTV customers. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Sunny and cooler. L.A. Basin: 89/63. **B6**

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