



JOSH HANER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

"There was no turning the gas off. There was just running," said a resident of the Journey's End mobile home park, above, in Santa Rosa, Calif., of a wildfire's arrival.

In California, Residents Flee Walls of Flame

This article is by Thomas Fuller, Richard Pérez-Peña and Jonah Engel Bromwich.

NAPA, Calif. — With roads still blocked by the police and fires still raging across broad swaths of Northern California, Matt Lenzi hiked through smoke-choked vineyards and waded the Napa River to reach the home his father lived in for 53 years. In its place, he found only blackened debris, blackened earth, and ash.

"Every piece of vegetation was gone," said Mr. Lenzi on Tuesday, after going back in the vain hope of finding the pet cat that his father, Carl Lenzi, who is in his 80s, left behind when he fled for his life. "Even the barbecue melted, and that's built to take heat."

The fires ravaging California's wine country since Sunday night — part of an outbreak of blazes stretching almost the entire length of the state — continued to burn out of control Tuesday, as the toll rose to at least 17 people confirmed dead, hundreds hospitalized, and an estimated 2,000 buildings destroyed or damaged. But state and local officials warned that with many people still missing and unaccounted for, and some areas still out of reach of emergency crews, those figures are almost certain to rise.

The two biggest and most destructive fires consumed more than 52,000 acres in Napa and Sonoma Counties, propelled on Sunday night and Monday by 50-mile-per-hour winds and threatening cities that included Santa Rosa, Napa and Calistoga. The winds

Continued on Page A12

WINE COUNTRY The fires destroyed several wineries and threatened harvests. PAGE A12

Big-Name Actresses Say They Were Harassed by Weinstein

By JODI KANTOR and RACHEL ABRAMS

When Gwyneth Paltrow was 22 years old, she got a role that would take her from actress to star: The film producer Harvey Weinstein hired her for the lead in the Jane Austen adaptation "Emma." Before shooting began, he summoned her to his suite at the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel for a work meeting that began uneventfully.

It ended with Mr. Weinstein placing his hands on her and suggesting they head to the bedroom for massages, she said.

"I was a kid, I was signed up, I was petrified," she said in an interview, publicly disclosing that she was sexually harassed by the man who ignited her career and later helped her win an Academy

Award.

She refused his advances, she said, and confided in Brad Pitt, her boyfriend at the time. Mr. Pitt confronted Mr. Weinstein, and soon after, the producer warned her not to tell anyone else about his coming on. "I thought he was going to fire me," she said.

Rosanna Arquette, a star of "Pulp Fiction," has a similar account of Mr. Weinstein's behavior, as does Judith Godrèche, a leading French actress. So does Angelina Jolie, who said that during the release of "Playing by Heart" in the late 1990s, he made unwanted advances on her in a hotel room, which she rejected.

Continued on Page A14

Medical Crisis in Puerto Rico: The Whole Island Is Critical'

By FRANCES ROBLES

CAGUAS, P.R. — Harry Figueroa, a teacher who went a week without the oxygen that helped him breathe, died here last week at 58. His body went unrefrigerated for so long that the funeral director could not embalm his badly decomposed corpse.

Miguel Bastardo Beroa's kidneys are failing. His physicians at the intensive care unit at Doctors Hospital in Carolina are treating him for a bacterial disease that he probably caught in floodwaters contaminated with animal urine.

José L. Cruz wakes up in the middle of the night three times a week to secure a spot in line for dialysis. His treatment hours have been cut back to save fuel for the generators that power the center.

"Because of the electricity situation, a lot of people died, and are still dying," said Mr. Figueroa's daughter, Lisandra, 30. "You can't get sick now."

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Maria tore through Puerto Rico, many sick people across the island remain in mortal peril. The government's announcements each morning about the recovery effort are often upbeat, but beyond them are hidden emergencies. Seriously ill dialysis patients across Puerto Rico have seen their treatment hours reduced by 25 percent because the centers still lack a steady supply of diesel to run their generators. Less than

Continued on Page A13

Scrutiny of Decorated Detective Raises Specter of Lying as Routine



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Prosecutors say Detective Kevin Desormeau, leaving New York State Supreme Court in April, made up facts to justify arrests.

By JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

Detective Kevin Desormeau received a medal for valor, after a shootout in Queens. And he seemed to have a sixth sense for finding drugs and guns. In a decade on the force, he had made, by his own count, 350 arrests.

He was regarded as courageous, cunning and tireless. His supervisors within the New York Police Department heaped on such praise that in their telling he sounded half comic-book hero.

But prosecutors now say Detective Desormeau, 34, struggled with one aspect of police work: telling the truth. After relying on Detective Desormeau's word in hundreds of cases, prosecutors no longer believe him credible. In two cases, prosecutors have accused Detective Desormeau and his partner of making up crucial de-

tails when arresting people, even testifying about criminal activity that may never have occurred. They have said they are reviewing some of his old cases, though how many is not clear.

The two detectives were indicted this year, adding to the body of evidence that police perjury and half-truths remain a persistent problem for the New York Police Department. And as more arrests and confrontations are being recorded, evidence of police falsehoods is more apparent.

The issue of false or misleading statements by the police has, on a national level, been intertwined with the issue of excessive force and the debate over whether officers are too quick to shoot people,

Continued on Page A20

GLOBAL ANXIETY OVER FALSE DATA BY STEEL MAKER

BLOW TO JAPAN'S IMAGE

Manufacturers Scramble to Inspect Products for Potential Hazards

By JONATHAN SOBLE
and NEAL E. BOUDETTE

TOKYO — Big manufacturers of cars, aircraft and bullet trains have long relied on Kobe Steel to provide raw materials for their products, making the steel maker a crucial, if largely invisible, pillar of the Japanese economy.

Now, Kobe Steel has acknowledged falsifying data about the quality of aluminum and copper it sold, setting off a scandal that is reverberating through the global supply chain and casting a new shadow over the country's reputation for precision manufacturing.

The fallout has the potential to spread to hundreds of companies. Big multinationals, including automakers like Toyota Motor, General Motors and Ford, as well as aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, are investigating.

The companies are trying to determine if substandard materials were used in their products and, if so, whether they present safety hazards. It is a daunting task, since multinationals source from various suppliers and producers.

The scandal hits a tender spot



ISSEI KATO/REUTERS
Kobe Steel said workers had altered inspection certificates.

for Japan. The country relies on its reputation for quality manufacturing as a selling point over China and other countries that offer cheaper alternatives. But its reputation has been marred by a series of problems at some of Japan's biggest manufacturers.

Last week, Nissan Motor said unqualified staff members had carried out inspections at its factories, prompting the carmaker to recall 1.2 million vehicles, though it was not clear if the quality of the vehicles had been affected. Mitsubishi Motors and Suzuki Motor both admitted last year that they had been exaggerating the fuel economy of their vehicles by cheating on tests.

Perhaps the biggest blow to Japan's reputation for quality has come from Takata, the airbag maker that was at the center of the largest auto safety recall in history, involving tens of millions of vehicles. Its faulty airbags have been blamed for more than a dozen deaths. Takata declared bankruptcy in June.

Toshiaki Oguchi, director of Governance for Owners Japan, a corporate watchdog, said that Japanese companies were generally diligent about quality, but that when cheating occurred — be-

Continued on Page A10

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

More Confusion on Secession

Catalonia's leader made a perplexing speech in which he seemed to declare independence from Spain, before suspending that decision to allow for more "dialogue" with Madrid.

PAGE A4

A Face of War Runs for Office

Joseph Duo, below, a one-time child soldier and general, put down his weapons and went back to school when peace came to Liberia. Now he's trying his hand at politics.

PAGE A8



NEW YORK A19-21

Sparks Fly at Mayoral Debate

Mayor Bill de Blasio withstood a barrage of barbs from his Republican and independent rivals in the first general debate of the mayoral race.

PAGE A21

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

"All the News
That's Fit to