

TIMES AT A GLANCE

Transit tax weighed

A Metropolitan Transportation Commission committee tells its staff to study tax options to fund transit and roads **4A**

U.S. budget progress

President Reagan and congressional negotiators reach preliminary agreement on a 1986 budget compromise **6A**

Lottery prizes set

Top prize winners in California's first two lottery games will take home jackpots of \$2 million and \$3 million **11A**



Gov. Deukmejian defends the handling of tainted food problems

— **15C**

Bishop Tutu stops mob

South Africa's Bishop Desmond Tutu wades into a mob of angry blacks to save a man from being burned to death **17A**

A's hold off Red Sox

Playing a familiar script, the A's stop a potential tying run in the ninth and win 5-4 in Oakland **1C**

Regrets for Stockman

Members of the financial community are sorry David Stockman is leaving the Reagan administration **11C**

WEATHER

Variable high clouds. Highs 85 to 95. Lows in the low 60s. Afternoon winds to 25 mph. Fair tonight. High in Concord Wednesday was 100, low, 74. Sunset tonight: 8:35; sunrise Friday: 5:56. More weather, 5D.



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ContraCostaTimes

Vol. 75 No. 41 Thursday, July 11, 1985



Serving Central Contra Costa County

52 Pages 25 Cents

Los Gatos fire 50% contained

Unexpected rain helps firefighters

The Associated Press

Flames continued to rage across the tinder-dry ridges of the Santa Cruz Mountains on Wednesday as rain and cooler temperatures allowed sooty firefighters to contain half of a 13,800-acre blaze that kept 4,500 people from their homes.

The 1,553 firefighters working to stem the fire in the area of Los Gatos and the Lexington Reservoir gained 50 percent containment Wednesday night, according to Dick Maulvin of the California Division of Forestry.

They were aided by overcast skies and about 20 minutes of unexpected rain that fell over the fire area Wednesday afternoon.

"The fire has been less active, enabling us to get our crews in closer," said CDF spokesman Jim Bliss. "We're taking advantage of the weather and throwing everything we have at the fire."

The partial victory was not without cost. Maulvin said 63 firefighters have been injured since the fire, probably caused by an arsonist,

Bliss cautioned that the fire could take up to two weeks to put out.

Elsewhere in the West, lightning crackled down in 1,000 locations, sending the largest force of U.S. firefighters ever gathered scrambling in new directions.

"We are experiencing lightning, with about 1,000 strikes scattered all over the West about a half hour ago," said Bill Bishop, spokesman for the Boise Interagency Fire Center in Idaho. "There's a likelihood that a few of those strikes did (start fires)."

About 17,000 firefighters were on the lines Wednesday, including about 2,000 from east of the Mississippi River and 800 who arrived from Alaska early Wednesday. Half the Alaskans were assigned to Idaho fires and half to California fires, said Scott Brayton, another spokesman in Boise.

The group made up the largest force of firefighters ever assembled in the United States, Brayton said. "They were assembled in the short-

