

# \$5,000 Reward Offered in Spate of Brush Fires

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ing that confidential information, Fountain mailed the doctor a "ransom" note that contained a newspaper article about legislation to impose fines and incarcerate physicians who carry the AIDS virus.

Canyon.

## Infected Mosquitoes Are Being Wiped Out

Officials said Wednesday that they are winning the battle against mosquitoes infected with the St. Louis encephalitis virus at the Santa Fe Dam Park in Irwindale.

About 500 mosquitoes were trapped Monday night, compared with 25,000 caught last week, said Terry Dipple, San Gabriel Valley Mosquito Abatement District chairman. Water flowing from the Morris Dam, where the county is sluicing silt and debris, and from the Colorado River had formed pools behind the Santa Fe Dam, providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes, Dipple said. The district hired a contractor last week to spray and trap the mosquitoes.

County officials alerted the public after encephalitis antibodies were found in 13 test chickens at the park. The virus can cause inflammation of the brain and spinal cord and possibly death.

## Council OKs Negotiations Between Developer, CRA

The City Council on Wednesday approved an exclusive negotiating deal with a developer proposing a \$300-million complex in Hollywood, which redevelopment officials hope will be a cornerstone of the area revitalization effort.

The council voted 10 to 1 to allow the Community Redevelopment Agency and developer Melvin Simon & Associates to begin 90 days of negotiations on details of the project, including possible public subsidies. The project became controversial after the CRA proposed giving the developer as much as \$48 million in public funds, but a City Council committee later insisted that the negotiations start over with no guarantees.

Plans call for the Hollywood Promenade project to wrap around Mann's Chinese Theatre and include more than 1 million square feet of shops, restaurants, nightclubs, a theater and offices.

## Guilty Plea Entered in Extortion of Doctor

A former Harvard University student pleaded guilty to attempted extortion Wednesday for demanding \$10,000 in hush money from an AIDS-infected doctor. John Michael Fountain entered his plea at a pretrial conference in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, he faces a maximum 16-month prison term. A second count of sending a threatening letter for extortion is expected to be dismissed at his Jan. 9 sentencing, prosecutors said.

The 21-year-old West Hollywood resident had been working part time for an accounting firm that reportedly has several clients who are believed to have tested HIV-positive, authorities said. Us-

## \$5,000 Reward Offered in Spate of Brush Fires

The Board of Supervisors is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist believed responsible for recent fires in Glendale, Griffith Park and Pasadena.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich said investigators believe an arsonist is at work because of "the suspicious nature of the fires." Monday's blazes burned at Bradley Street and New York Drive in Pasadena, and blackened 20 acres near Griffith Park Drive.

The series of fires began Oct. 2, when flames destroyed a house in Chevy Chase