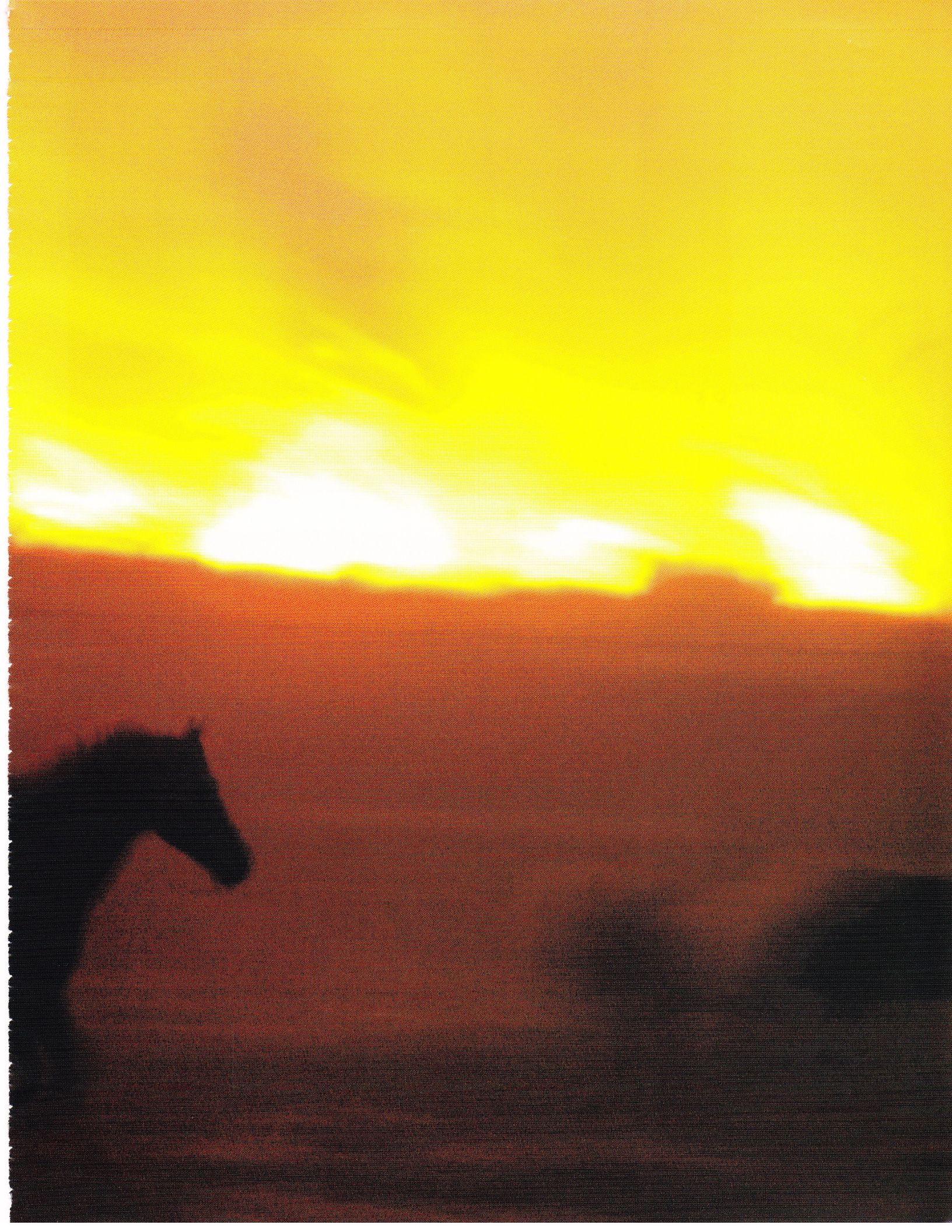


A horse raced inside a ring as
the fire approached Descanso.
PHOTO BY K.C. ALFRED



As the Cedar fire advanced toward Descanso, horse owners watched and worried.

PHOTO BY K.C. ALFRED



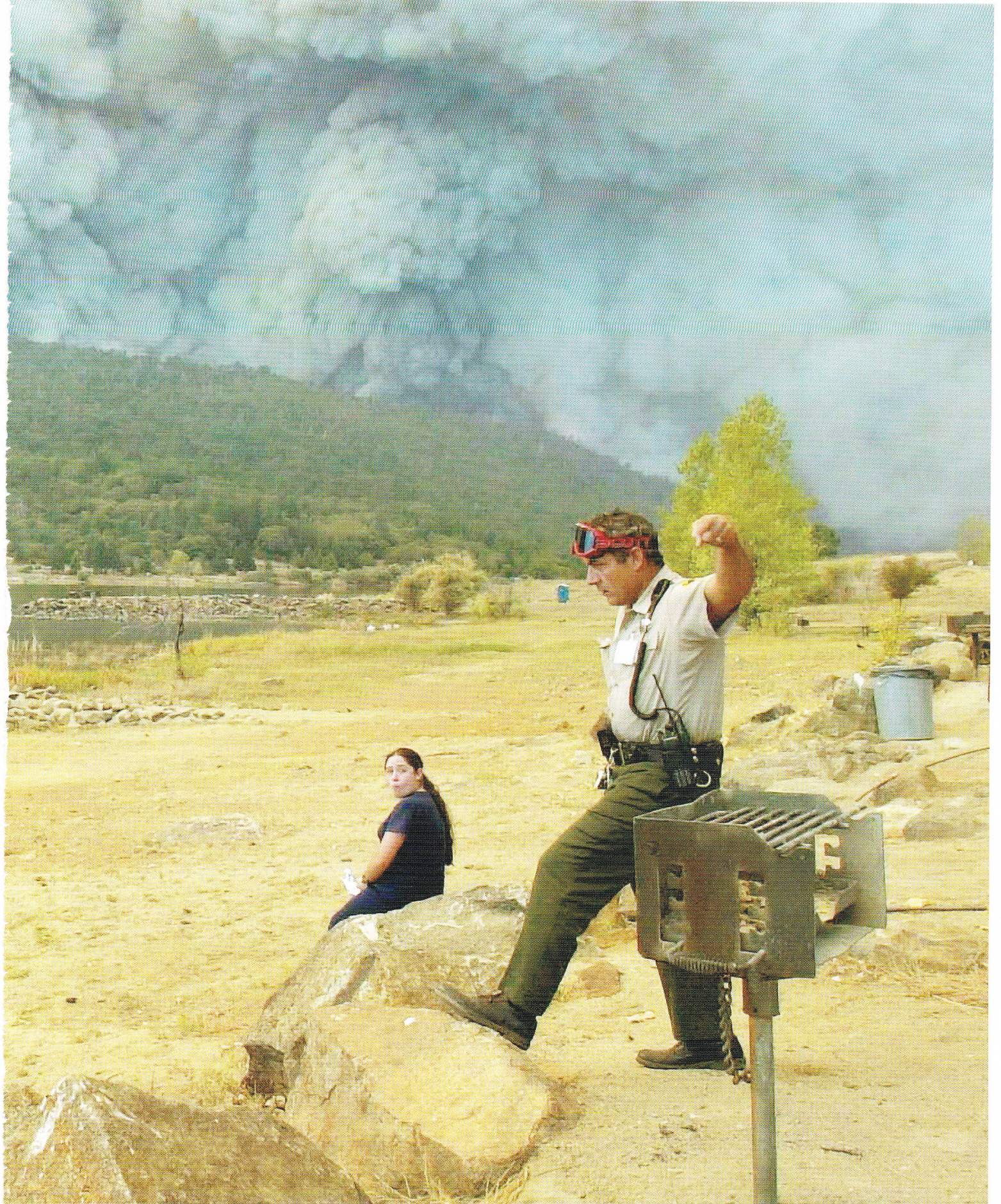
Border Patrol agents and volunteers tried to get a horse into a trailer as fire approached. **PHOTO BY K.C. ALFRED**



Flames ignited trees at the southern end of Lake Cuyamaca as the fire raged toward Julian.
PHOTO BY JOHN GASTALDO



San Diego County sheriff's Deputy Clinton Hensley (right) told the Garcia de Alva family they had to evacuate Lake Cuyamaca's Chambers Park because of the advancing fire. **PHOTO BY JOHN GASTALDO**





Julian resident Leticia Newhouse tied some of her possessions to the roof of her car before she evacuated around midday.

PHOTO BY JOHN GASTALDO



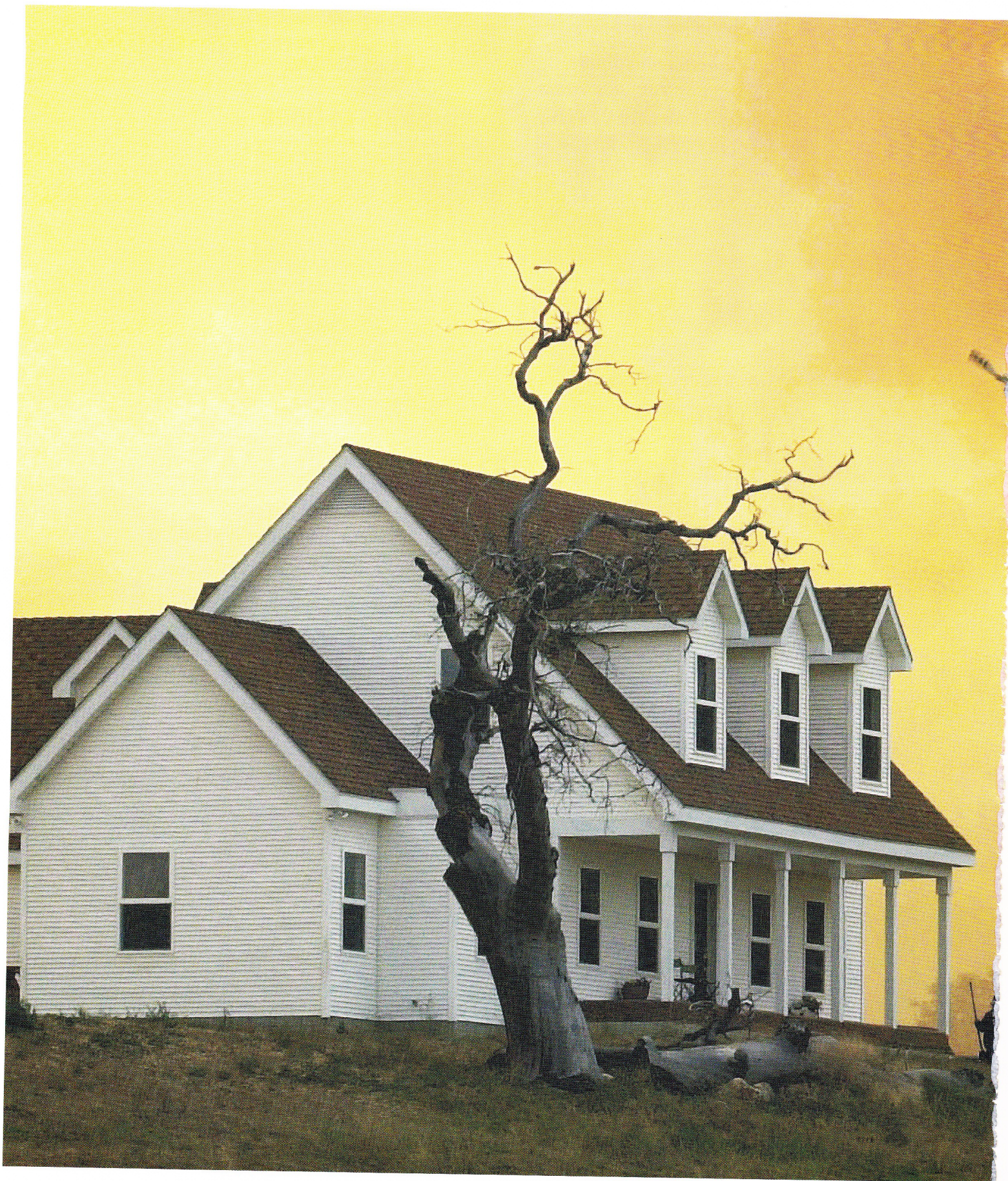
Fremont firefighters rushed to spray water on part of a backfire lit on Hoskings Ranch Road near the Cleveland National Forest. **PHOTO BY JOHN GASTALDO**



The following days

Julian had survived, but Steven Rucker, a Novato firefighter defending the historic mountain town, died. The remaining days of the Cedar and Paradise fires were filled with triumphs and sadness. Firefighters' efforts moved from defending structures to defeating the fire, but they paused to remember their fallen comrade. And, with the Paradise fire still burning, Ashleigh Roach was memorialized by the Valley Center firefighters she had befriended. With the fires nearing containment, communities began to turn their focus to recovery and rebuilding.





A California Department of Forestry helicopter crew gathered a load of water from a pond near a house on the outskirts of Julian on Oct. 29 under a cloud of smoke from fire that flared up on a nearby hill. **PHOTO BY PEGGY PEATTIE**





Three Santa Fe Springs firefighters grabbed some sleep on a bench in Julian after a long night fighting fire in Julian and Wynola during which they saved dozens of homes and businesses.

**PHOTO BY
PEGGY PEATTIE**

California Department of Forestry firefighter Pat Walker trained a hose from a fire engine on a home in Kentwood in the Pines, a neighborhood in Julian.

**PHOTO BY
JOHN GASTALDO**





A dead forked-horn buck lay on a scorched hillside in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park after fire raged through the popular outdoor recreation area, which is expected to remain closed for at least a year.

**PHOTO BY
JOHN GIBBINS**



Amber Ward of Whispering Pines collected her family's belongings from their campsite at the Red Cross evacuation center at Borrego Springs High School after being told to move indoors due to worsening air conditions.

PHOTO BY EARNIE GRAFTON



San Diego County sheriff's Deputies Eric Francis and Suzanne Fiske tried to coax a wayward mule that was refusing to get into a horse trailer on Farmer Road in Julian.

PHOTO BY JOHN GASTALDO



Tanya Clark, an inmate assigned to Puerto La Cruz Fire Crew 3, hiked in to cut a fire line along the edge of the fire east of Ramona. **PHOTO BY JOHN GIBBINS**

An impromptu memorial for firefighter Steven Rucker emerged outside his firehouse in Novato.

**PHOTO BY
GEORGE NIKITIN,
ASSOCIATED PRESS**



As fire burned along the Lusardi Truck Trail, California Department of Forestry firefighters observed a moment of silence in memory of Novato firefighter Steven Rucker, who died Oct. 29 fighting the Cedar fire in Wynola, near Julian.

PHOTO BY DAN TREVAN





Naomi Laine, 17, cried during a church service by Emmanuel Christian Church in Harbison Canyon, which was held in a nearby home because the church was destroyed. An estimated one-third of the church's 90 members lost homes in the Cedar fire.

PHOTO BY NANCEE E. LEWIS

A large photo of Ashleigh Roach sat next to a Celtic cross of flowers at the memorial service held for her Oct. 30 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Ashleigh was one of two people to die in the Paradise fire.

PHOTO BY PEGGY PEATTIE



A hearse carried the body of Novato firefighter Steven Rucker down a line of firefighters and fire engines at Gillespie Field on Nov. 3 before the casket was put on a plane. **PHOTO BY K.C. ALFRED**





El Cajon firefighter Dave Truttmann, engineer Craig Johnston and Capt. Ted Kakuris saluted from an overpass as the procession for Novato firefighter Steven Rucker headed toward Gillespie Field. **PHOTO BY K.C. ALFRED**

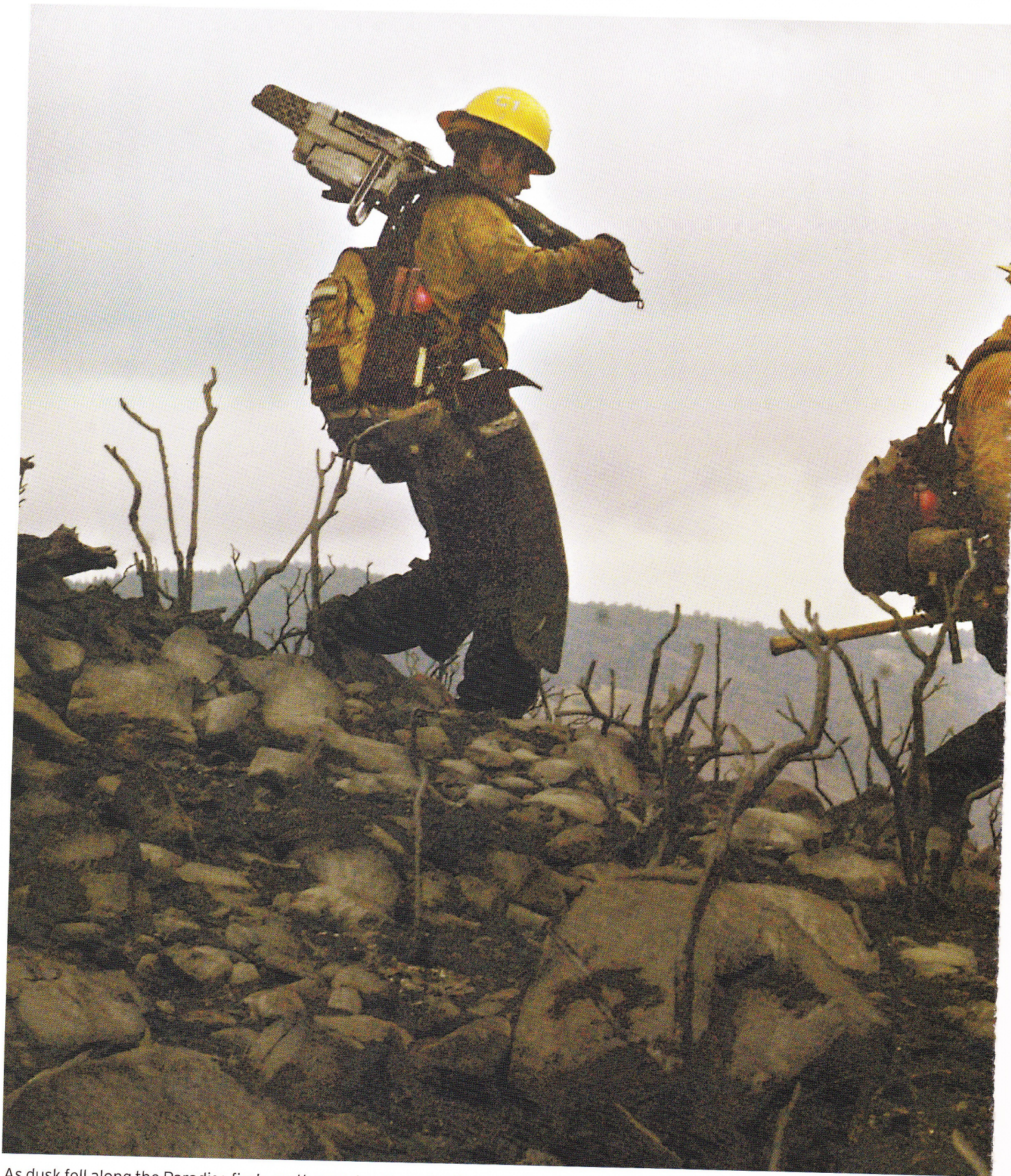
Pallbearers carried the casket of Novato firefighter Steven Rucker from a California Air National Guard C-130 plane at the Santa Rosa airport.

PHOTO BY DAN TREVAN





Firefighter Charles Kott, a member of the Texas Canyon Hotshots, kept an eye on a backfire near Palomar Mountain. **PHOTO BY DAN TREVAN**



As dusk fell along the Paradise fire's northern edge, three firefighters from the Bear Divide Hotshots based in Santa Clarita descended the ridge near the Lusardi Truck Trail on their way to another night at base camp in Valley Center.

PHOTO BY DAN TREVAN



IN MEMORIAM

GALEN BLACKLIDGE, 50

Wildcat Canyon Road

CHRISTY-ANNE SEILER DAVIS, 42

Alpine

GARY EDWARD DOWNS, 50

Wildcat Canyon Road

NANCY MORPHEW, 51

Valley Center

JOHN PACK, 28

QUYNH YEN CHAU PACK, 28

Wildcat Canyon Road

MARY LYNNE PEACE, 54

Wildcat Canyon Road

ASHLEIGH ROACH, 16

Valley Center

STEVEN RUCKER, 38

Novato

STEPHEN SHACKLETT, 55

Lake View Hills Estates

JAMES SHO HAR A, 63

SOLANGE SHO HAR A, 58

RANDY SHO HAR A, 32

Lake View Hills Estates

ROBIN SLOAN, 45

JENNIFER SLOAN, 17

Wildcat Canyon Road

RALPH WESTLY, 77

Wildcat Canyon Road



An offering basket lay on the floor of St. Louise de Marillac Roman Catholic Church in Crest.
PHOTO BY PEGGY PEATTIE



