



CRAIG MILLER/Times Advocate

ESCONDIDO — Two police officers went into a burning house Friday looking for a little girl who wasn't there.

About 12:30 p.m., dispatchers received a 911 call about a fire at 1434 S. Maple St., officials said. The callers said there may have been children

trapped inside.

Officers John Johnson and Jim Walters were only a few blocks away and arrived in minutes, Johnson said.

"We went in thinking there was a little girl inside," he said.

The officers encountered a

Please see FIRE, A2 >

Mystery witness son of charges

THE LATEST ON THE CASE

Developments Friday in the O.J. Simpson case:

■ **MYSTERY WITNESS:** The defense suggested a mystery witness could exonerate O.J. Simpson, and demanded all prosecution reports on the person. A source told The Associated Press the witness was a burglar who said he heard a woman scream and two white men run from Nicole Brown Simpson's condo the night of the killings. Police met with the man at the murder scene Friday.

■ **TRIAL DATE:** Superior Court Judge Lance Ito set Simpson's trial for Sept. 20. Late Friday, he issued an order changing that to Sept. 19, saying the date had been miscalculated.

■ **COWLING'S CASE:** A judge ordered the return of \$250,000 bail posted by Al "A.C." Cowling, who helped Simpson flee the day murder charges were filed against him. Prosecutors said more investigation is needed before they make a decision on whether to charge Cowling.

■ **HEISMAN STOLEN:** Simpson's 1968 Heisman Trophy and No. 32 Trojan football jersey have been stolen from the display lobby of University of Southern California's Heritage Hall.

Associated Press

Hemet man files claim against cops in Escondido

JONATHAN HELLER/Times Advocate

ESCONDIDO — A 65-year-old cancer patient claims city police officers broke his back and held him face down in a puddle of his own blood when they arrested him in May.

Marion Hodgson of Hemet has filed a claim against the city, seeking unspecified damages in the May 9 incident at Tommy's Automotive, 541 N. Quince St.

Neither city officials nor police would comment on the claim, which is the first step toward filing a civil lawsuit. A City Council hearing on the matter has not yet been scheduled.

A 17-page arrest report filed at the Escondido Police Department

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TIMES ADVOCATE

CONTINUED FROM A1

MIN CHAVIS

NAACP head ends for payoff

NAACP Executive Director Minerva Chavis promised to use as much \$100 in NAACP funds a former employee used him of sexual intent, and is now being reengaged, already under the leadership of the fabled organization to the settlement the knowledge of his directors, The News and The Baltimore reported today.

"It is a moral fraud," Ember Marc Stepp of told The Times.

Lawyers denied all harassment alleged said the woman the out-of-court set by threatening to Chavis' reputation to allegations.

IP attorney Abbey also said Chavis fulfill his promise to woman a job paying \$80,000 a year because wasn't qualified.

CISNEROS

ng secretary by former lover

man who had an affair Henry Cisneros, the secretary of housing and development, filed a suit against him Friday for fraud and breach of

Medlar's lawsuit said he has stopped making monthly payments part of a verbal agreement they reached in

ros and Medlar had a affair when he was San Antonio in the 80s, according to the

CLAIM: Man says cops were rough

ment gives this account of the incident:

Hodgson was trying to get a refund for a defective tractor engine he had purchased. At one point, during an argument with the store owner, he reached into his pocket and took out the receipt. He also took out a small gun — from the same pocket — and placed both on the counter.

The store owner became frightened and called the police. Hodgson left the store, where he encountered police officers arriving on the scene.

The police ordered Hodgson to place his hands where they could see them, but Hodgson did not immediately obey.

Officers believed Hodgson was being willfully uncooperative. They removed the gun from his back pocket, but then Hodgson refused to allow himself to be handcuffed.

Officers wrestled Hodgson to the ground and handcuffed him. He tried to get up several times and was repeatedly forced down.

At one point, Hodgson complained that he couldn't breathe and asked officers to get his inhaler from his truck. An officer said he searched unsuccessfully for the inhaler, but did find a box of .22-caliber bullets on the front seat.

Hodgson's attorney, Edward M. Fox, of Los Angeles, said Hodgson carried the gun with him around his farm and used it to shoot wild dogs. He did not intentionally bring the gun to

the store, Fox said.

Fox also said that Hodgson was not being disobedient — he was partially deaf and could not hear or understand the officers' instructions.

Hodgson was left disfigured from cancer surgery in which an eye, eye socket and part of his cheek bone were removed. When he was thrown down, he landed on the good side of his face, which began to bleed heavily, Fox said.

Hodgson was only trying to get his face away from the puddle of blood, not attempting to flee, Fox said.

"He couldn't breathe," Fox said.

Hodgson's back was broken in the scuffle, and he suffered cuts and bruises to his face, Fox said.

"You just can't do that to somebody, especially somebody in his condition," Fox said.

Hodgson is in physical therapy for the back injury, Fox said.

The police report does not mention a broken back.

Police arrested him on suspicion of attempted robbery, resisting arrest and carrying a concealed weapon. Fox said his client was charged only with carrying a concealed weapon, for which Hodgson was sentenced to 18 months probation.

Hodgson is claiming excessive force, assault, battery, negligence, negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment and negligent supervision.

FIRE: Causes damage, but no injuries

wall of smoke and heat, and so they came back outside, where they were told the girl was away at kindergarten.

A 4-year-old boy and his 17-year-old uncle escaped unharmed after the boy apparently started the blaze while playing with matches. Fire Capt.

Johnson said.

The blaze was confined to the bedroom and a hallway, but the home sustained smoke damage throughout, officials said.

Damage estimates were set at \$15,000 to the structure and \$2,500 to contents.

The American Red Cross