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ANDY HOUGHTON of Casa Colina Hospital in Pomona visits what's left of the Olympic Stadium in Sarajevo, now a graveyard for victims of the civil war.

Sarajevo hope

Wheelchair sports advocate views devastation of war and survivors' courage in former Yugoslavian capital

Story by Steve Scauzillo, Staff Writer ■ Photos by Paul Prewitt

POMONA — Andy Houghton knew his nine-day trip through Bosnia would involve more than just handing out basketballs and organizing wheelchair sports.

As he guided his wheelchair up a dirt path around the remains of the Sarajevo's Olympic Stadium, he thought his eyes deceived him. The site of the 1984 Winter Games now was a permanent graveyard for thousands of victims of the brutal, multi-ethnic war in Bosnia.

"The 1996 Opening Ceremonies were coming up and to see that — now a massive cemetery — where people once came from



ALOFT in a C-119 military transport, Houghton awaits arrival in Bosnia.

all around the world to celebrate one of the greatest sports events of the world," said Houghton, pausing to collect his thoughts.

"This is the reality of this place," he finished.

Houghton, a 29-year-old athlete and the director of wheelchair sports programs at Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation in Pomona said the race to bring Bosnian war victims with disabilities into a better life has just begun.

Along with a relief group from Charleston, S.C., called PeaceWorks, Houghton visited rehabilitation hospitals in Tuzla and Sarajevo, holding wheelchair basketball

Please turn to WAR / A5



A BOMBED building in Sarajevo forms the backdrop for Houghton's meeting with children from a nearby hospital, promoting wheelchair basketball.

Bombed scarred shattered statue

By Steven K...
STAFF WRITER

WALNUT — Survivors evacuated their homes Wednesday following a fire when a Diamond Bar fire brought an explosion, officials said.

For their safety, the station at the temporary command set up at the Walnut station. Sgt. Jim Davis said.

"As soon as it became a hazard, it became a hazard," he said.

Twenty people were transferred to the Sheriff's station. Davis also had Davis said.

Calls were made to the Sheriff's department center in Walnut, he said.

The area is surrounded by the station as the Sheriff's office unit transferred to the station where it was of, Deputy Galt said.

No other people were evacuated during the explosion. The man who was injured in the explosion refused to give his name.

He found the station enclosed in a tent at the Alameda center at Golden Gate and Brea Canyon. Gerald Wright said.

Thinking it was a box, he brought it to the station where he opened it. He brought it to the station where he opened it. Wright said.

Deputies searched the area where it was found and found no other people.

Bringing the station was said. Davis said. "If it was an explosion, it was an explosion and call us

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WAR

Bosnians respond to access issue

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clinics with help from Boston Celtics assistant coach John Jennings.

Houghton, who is planning a return trip to Bosnia next summer, was both overwhelmed by the devastation and uplifted by the resiliency of the people.

He visited the memorial at a Tuzla market where 71 children died in a Serb attack last year. His friendship with a 21-year-old paraplegic named Farouk gave him promise that conditions can improve.

Farouk, who keeps a copy of the CNN footage of the sniper shooting that severed his spinal cord, has begun organizing a wheelchair basketball league in Sarajevo and is getting his apartment retrofitted. Houghton, who came back Tuesday, is already making plans to bring him to Pomona to teach him about wheelchair sports.

Victims of the civil war have now become prisoners in the primitive hospitals, unable to move into mainstream life because the city lacks wheelchair access. Many cannot rejoin families who live in high-rise apartments with nonworking elevators.

As the city of Sarajevo begins to rebuild, Houghton impressed upon the International Rescue Committee and other officials to incorporate handicapped access into the plans.

He knows they still have a way to go.

Houghton attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new, concrete ramp added to the city's post office. But he pointed out the builder forgot the curb cut.



Photo by Paul Prewitt

ANDY HOUGHTON greets a Muslim child who lost a leg in the civil war on the streets of Sarajevo.

Victims of the civil war have now become prisoners in the primitive hospitals, unable to move into mainstream life because the city lacks wheelchair access.



Photo by Paul Prewitt

YOUNGSTERS from the School for Traumatized Children bridged the language gap with Andy Houghton.

Duarte negotiating for trash contract

City plans meetings with four haulers, expects to reach an agreement by August

DUARTE — The City Council has initiated negotiations for the city's trash contract, officials said Wednesday.

City staff will be meeting with Browning-Ferris Industries, Eurrtec Waste Industries, Waste Management, and Zakara Recycling Services in hopes

of reaching an agreement with one next month, said Assistant City Manager Mike Yelton.

The haulers are the finalists in a seven-month open bidding process for contracts in Bradbury and Duarte. Bradbury authorized negotiations with the four companies last week.

The contractor selected would replace Newco Waste Systems Inc., of Riverside. Duarte's contract expires Nov. 1.

Originally, the bidding process included Monrovia and Arcadia. Newco declined to submit a bid because it challenged Monrovia's claim that its con-

tract expired on July 1, 1996. That city dropped out of the bidding in March after a judge ruled the contract doesn't end until the year 2000.

Arcadia dropped out soon after and reach an agreement with Newco last week for an eight-year contract extension.

County officials still investigating Azusa chemical fire

AZUSA — A chemical fire gutted a 40-foot storage container on the lot of Osco Oil and Solvent Co. late Tuesday in Azusa

Footballer dies

Schlottach meals be

By Steven Ko
STAFF WRITER

WALNUT — Schlottach, a well-known fondly known "Lady" for the Walnut football team, cancer. She was

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For more Schlottach, a teered her tim ery pre-game school, Princ said.

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As donations officials will h Schlottach's money should said.

"We hope it ing fund," Gunn

Schlottach is husband, Jack Alan, 25, Brian fer, 19.

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Tracy Murra to spe at bar

ALTADENA ball star a native Tra one-time U who now NBA's Wa lets, will sp ipants and the sports the Altada day Advent a banquet