

## **DISASTER FILM TO DEBUT**

**By Lauren Crecelius, Staff Writer**

City TV premiered its new documentary “Peril and Perseverance: A History of Disasters in Santa Barbara” on Thanksgiving night, featuring a special addition about the Tea Fire.

The hour-long documentary about Santa Barbara disasters was slated to air Nov. 15, but with the Tea Fire still blazing, it was held so information about the latest disaster could be included. The station did not circulate a news release about the Thanksgiving air date so the people interviewed in the documentary would have semi-exclusive knowledge of the show, producer Christy Zwicke said.

“We didn’t do a media blast because it was more for the people we interviewed,” Zwicke said. The documentary, which is dedicated to Tea Fire survivors, documents Santa Barbara’s history of fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, toxic spills and even tsunamis. Amongst various accounts from disaster experts and survivors are featured interviews with survivors of the 1925 Earthquake, local historian Neal Graffy, survivors of the Sycamore Canyon Fire as well as survivors of the Tea Fire.

Zwicke said filming began in September but when the Tea Fire hit the crew conducted more interviews. “And we definitely didn’t want to air it without including Tea Fire,” she said. Santa Barbara historian Neil Graffy said he has been in many City TV documentaries, though his focus in “Peril and Perseverance” was on some of the floods and the earthquake. “(A documentary) brings history to as many people as possible and a documentary is a great way for people to sit down, relax and see history unfold,” Graffy said. “Peril and Perseverance” will air on Sundays: Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 8 PM on City TV Channel 18.



*Courtesy photos*

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