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# Star-News

Midweek Edition

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The Star-News Wednesday, May 22, 1996 47 Cents Plus Tax

## Officials warn of snakes

By Yvette Urrea  
Staff Writer

It's snake season and South Bay residents need to be wary of any chance encounters, according to local animal control and fire department officials.

While there have been no reported snake bites in the South Bay this season, officials stressed that the key to avoiding being bitten is to take precautions and react appropriately if residents encounter a snake.

Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District Capt. Scott Walker said the unseasonable hot weather in San Diego could contribute to more encounters because the snakes like to either bask in the sun or cool off in the shade.

"This year has been very active so far," he said in regard to calls the fire department has received to remove snakes from resident's back yards.

Walker said the department goes out on very few snake bites altogether. But firefighters have gone out on at least 12 calls to remove a snake from someone's home or business already this season.

He said Bonitans especially stand a better chance of a snake encounter because the city is more rural and many homes interface with wilderness area. Humans are encroaching on their land, Walker said.

Meanwhile Chula Vista Fire Department Capt. Rod Hastie said it appears to be a very average season in Chula Vista. Certainly, he said, the city is more urban but there are some homes that are built along canyons, and that is where a resident might encounter a snake.

Walker said of the snake bites victims firefighters have helped, the bite has usually happened when the victim stepped right on or right next to a snake or were trying to catch it.

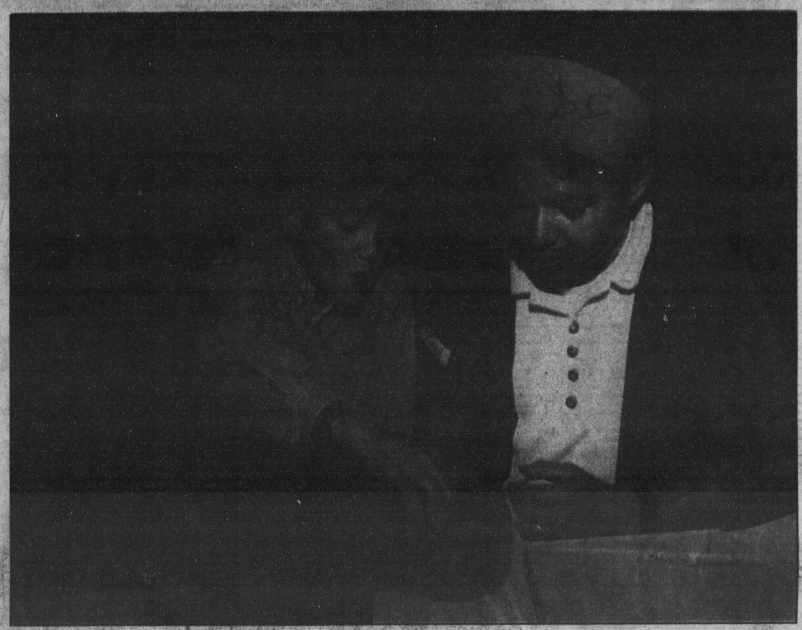
Snakes are active throughout the year but are less active in winter, according to Lt. Heidi Burke of the Department of Animal Control's South County Shelter in Bonita.

Durke said she has not noticed an increase in the calls the shelter receives to remove snakes, but said there are more rattlesnakes out at this time of year because there are new rattlesnake babies.

She said even though baby snakes' venom is the same potency as adult snakes, the babies

Please see Snakes: A-5

## Math, Science and Beyond



Jafet Fajer, a third grader at Discovery Elementary School in Chula Vista, and Chula Vista High School student Jorga Alfredo Lara balance paper clips and an egg during the "Math, Science and Beyond" family afternoon program.

Staff photo by Ion Mee

## 'Johns' cited in NC

By Theresa Delia  
Staff Writer

Six men were arrested in National City for solicitation of prostitution during a Police Department sting. The sting was set up to curb the activity along the Roosevelt Avenue area.

Those arrested were Nathan Thomas, Wayne Vandenberg, Peter Tapia, Richard Bell, Clarence French and Russel Varney. Each was issued a citation and released with a date to appear in court.

The sweep was conducted by six officers, Lanny Roark, Damian Torres, Pat Kelley, Graham Young, Levi Hart and Laura Morabe, a decoy on loan from the harbor police.

Morabe, dressed in revealing clothes, stood on a street corner and approached men. She asked them if there was anything they wanted. Some individuals allegedly asked for one or more sex acts. They agreed on a price and went back to the motel room, which was arranged with the motel owner's permission.

In the room, three police officers waited in a darkened bathroom for the signal from the decoy. They jumped out of the bathroom and arrested the suspect.

The whole time, Morabe was wired up with a microphone. Her movements were constantly monitored by not only the officers in the room, but also by two marked units and Hart, the officer waiting in a van outside the motel.

"The wire is totally for her own protection," Roark said. He said it is necessary to keep in contact with the decoy in case anyone tries to hurt her.

The first man Morabe approached didn't have enough money. He said he was going to the automated teller machine to get more.

One suspect allegedly agreed on a price of \$40. He asked her several times if she were a cop. She told him she wasn't. He and Morabe then went back to the hotel room. After giving the officers a code, the arrest was made.

The tedious process of taking information, fingerprinting and photographing the subject then took place.

Roark said the charge is a misdemeanor. If convicted, the

Please see Arrests: A-4

## City volunteers honored by Chula Vista

By Yvette Urrea  
Staff Writer

Every Wednesday, Chula Vista retirees Don and Penny Berridge head over to the Norman Park Senior Center where they spend the better part of their day volunteering.

Similarly, on Thursdays, 20-year-old Leslie Cowlings shows up at the Chula Vista Animal Shelter and works for about six hours without pay.

It is an experience all three say gives them a sense of purpose and feeling of being needed.

Mayor Shirley Horton recently thanked city volunteers in a ceremony to honor the many people who give their time and service to various areas in the city.

More than 200 people showed up at the Norman Park Senior Center, but according to training coordinator Toni McKean, the

city has closer to 1,000 volunteers.

This is including everyone from soccer coaches to board commissioners to literacy tutors to office volunteers, she said. Among these are also volunteers who work for the Senior Volunteer Patrol, Citizens Adversity Support Team (CAST), the Chula Vista Nature Center, the animal shelter, the libraries, city departments, the Chula Vista Literacy Team and the historical museum.

McKean said the city volunteers can be anyone from a high school student to retirees and even professionals who can offer a special skill.

"In many cases (these volunteers) are absolutely vital to performing services that we need done but can't hire people to do," McKean said.

The Berridges have lived in



Chula Vista Mayor Shirley Horton congratulates (left to right) Noreen Grant, Lucy Davison, Paula Marin and Erna Lenihan.

Chula Vista for 30 years. Don worked as an accounting manager for 32 years at Rohr and

Penny worked in finances for the Sweetwater Union High School Please see Volunteers: A-4

## Conjoined twins delivered at a Chula Vista hospital to Mexican parents

By Yvette Urrea  
Staff Writer

Obstetrician Jorge Arce, who delivered a Tijuana woman's conjoined twins at Scripps Memorial Hospital Chula Vista, said despite all the excitement in the community about the birth, it was a trouble-free operation.

The incidence of conjoined twins is 1 in 30,000 to 100,000, according to medical books. Arce said what makes the birth exciting to the community is that (conjoined twins) are not common.

The twin boys, who have not

been named yet, were born a few weeks premature by Caesarean section last Thursday afternoon to Andrea and Roman Moreno. They are joined at the sternum and share a liver, Arce said. The infants were immediately transferred to UCSD Medical Center's Infant Special Care Center in Hillcrest. Moreno remained at Scripps Chula Vista until Sunday when she was discharged.

Friday, UCSD Medical Center officials said the twins were in stable condition and would be fully assessed by physicians to de-

termine whether they can be successfully separated.

Preliminary tests showed that they only shared a liver and had separate organs. Arce said this could be a favorable prognosis for separation because the liver can regenerate tissue.

"A good medical opinion cannot determine if conjoined twins occur only that in a separation of cells," he said. "The medical books, he said, say that 21 percent of conjoined twins share a liver and their prognosis for separation is good. In a study done

in 1976, 19 of 22 sets of twins were successfully separated.

He said Moreno was referred to him by one of his patients, who is a relative of hers. Moreno, 24, came to see him for the first time when she was 6 1/2 months along in the pregnancy. He said she had already been diagnosed by Tijuana doctors as having conjoined twins.

Moreno, he said, wanted a second opinion about where she should try to deliver the twins because Tijuana doctors had told

her they might need to send her to Mexico City where better medical technology is available.

"From a human point of view, she wants to have the best skills she can for the babies," Arce said.


He said he ran his own tests to confirm the original diagnosis and determined that the babies were progressing well. They were healthy, with no other obvious complications, and were normal size.

Recently, he said, Children's Hospital had offered to send a

medical team to Tijuana to deliver the babies for her. He said he was seeing her on a weekly basis because of her high-risk pregnancy and was in the middle of telling her about this option when she began to go into premature labor.

"I knew that they were healthy babies, a good size and I felt very confident with doing the operation here. We have a first class facility and support staff," Arce said. "Everything went smoothly, no complications."

Legendary Cash & Hardware Davidsons Driveaway





# South Bay's economic outlook is brighter than most areas

San Diego County is widely considered to be in its best economic shape of the last five years. Employment is up. Building-related industries are busy for a change. The South Bay is poised to share in the bounty. Never has the future of the South Bay seemed brighter, with the ARCO Training Center in place, an amphitheater planned, major transportation improvements ready to go, high-tech industry taking root, retail chains opening new stores almost weekly, and residential and

## Editorial

commercial growth expected to continue with the annexation of Otay Ranch lands. Even Rohr, which has downsized in recent years, is hiring again.

It's a good time to live and work in San Diego County. It's an even better time to be alive in the South Bay.

# District to observe anniversary

Thousands of students, teachers, parents and other residents of the National School District will gather at Kimball Park on Saturday, June 1, to celebrate what two teachers and 17 students started in a small gabletopped building on National Avenue a little more than 125 years ago.

Actually, the opening of the Rancho de la Nacion School District on Jan. 4, 1871, was not the first public education event in National City.

Sarah Kimball and Mary Copeland had been teaching a handful of students in the community since 1868, nearly three years earlier. However, the 1871 date places what is now the National School District as the second oldest of San Diego County's 43 school districts.

Obviously, much has changed in a century and a quarter. Today, the district has grown to 6,300 students being taught by 240 teachers in 10 K-6 schools.

Over the decades, National School District has become recognized throughout the nation for its leadership in bilingual education, early intervention, preschool education, child nutrition



George CAMERON National Superintendent

programs, and our widely-acclaimed "Parents as Teachers" program.

There is much for which our schools can take pride, and that's what June 1 is all about. The 125th anniversary extravaganza will be an all-day occasion for our schools to celebrate our history and, just as important, who we are and what we're accomplishing today.

Each school will have an opportunity to showcase its student work and highlight our efforts in writing, math, science and technology.

In addition, 10 of our community partner agencies — including the MAAC Project, New Beginnings Family Resources Center, Committee to Reclaim Our Neighborhoods, National City Family Clinic, Paradise Valley Hospital, National City Chamber of Commerce, Children's Hospital, Girl Scouts, Sweetwater Kiwanis Club and the Rancho de la Nacion Optimist Club — each will have an informational and display booth.

A highlight of the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. event will be a free book giveaway sponsored by the

National City Public Library as part of its Reading Is Fundamental program.

Each student will be given a coupon by his or her classroom teacher to bring to the event and redeem for a free book. During the day, there will be band and brass ensembles, chorus concerts, Ballet Folklorico dancing exhibitions, technology demonstrations, chess club challenges, and a wide variety of international food booths, sponsored by the parent groups from each school.

Our National City Parks and Recreation Department will also be on hand to coordinate youth activities as well as the National City Police and Fire Departments.

The June 1 extravaganza will be a memorable event. Our schools have much to be proud of in terms of academic achievement and cultural diversity. The pride we have extends well beyond the boundaries of our school district and needs to be shared throughout the community.

All who are participating promise to make June 1 a wonderful celebration of 125 years of rich history and a bright future ahead. Everybody who wants to see a success story in quality public education and talk to the teachers, students, staff and parents who've made it happen is invited to join us at Kimball Park that day. We think you'll be glad you did.

Cameron is superintendent of the National School District.

# Volunteers

Continued from page A-1

District. They have been volunteering for four years.

Penny is the treasurer for the Chula Vista Senior Club at Norman Park and a trip guide. Don also works as a trip guide and wherever he is needed.

"When you're a senior, you have to have something to do. I like people and being around them," Don said. Penny said, "It's so much fun."

Cowling, who is learning disabled, said besides getting job experience at the animal shelter, she enjoys being around everyone there.

provement in her spirit. When she first started working there she was quiet and withdrawn and now she is outgoing and confident, he said.

Egt. Buddy Magor of police administrative services, said the 85 Senior Volunteer Patrol members and the 66 CAST members are a tremendous help to police. Patrol members assist in traffic control operations and CAST members provide emotional support to victims.

City Clerk Beverly Authel said the praises of one of her volunteers, Earl Goris, who is inputting data from the city's manual legislative history onto a computer system. Currently the information is on 5-by-8 index cards. Those date back to 1911 when the city was first established. As a result of this project, she said, they will now be able to do a computer search instead.

"He's wonderful, we just adore him," she said.

# Arrests

Continued from page A-1

offenders can get probation, a fine and may be required to go to an AIDS awareness class. He said those with a prior conviction are automatically required to spend 45 days in custody. With two prior convictions, incarceration goes up to 90 days.

Another suspect was staying at the same motel a few doors down and didn't let Morabe even get to the parking lot before he approached her. Within seconds, they were back in the room and another arrest was made.

"(Morabe) doesn't look like the typical hooker," Hart said.

A steady stream of men drove past her. Within seconds, they were back in the room and another arrest was made.

For those who got away, the marked unit went after them but they aren't charged but a field interview is conducted. If any hookers turned up hurt and a

# Resident against noise pans

I am a longtime resident of the Bonita/South Bay area and a longtime golfer. In recent months I have become more aware of ongoing negotiations between the city of Chula Vista and a private corporation which is trying to, figuratively, buy our municipal golf course.

Up until now, this action has only been a little-known fact to many of my fellow golfers, who can see this as a simple plot to convert a community-owned recreation facility into a profit operation, which no longer benefits the community it was intended to serve, much like Torrey Pines has become.

I am appalled that the City Council has the audacity to think that the people of our community would knowingly want this to occur. The council, except for Scott Alevis, is proposing to allow a hotel be built on site and that it would first priority over 1,500 other times per month, as well as control over other aspects of the facility. Instead of the course benefiting the community, it will be tied up in a money-making corporation, which will increase the cater to out-of-town visitors rather than the community members it belongs to.

It seems ironic that I read *The Star-News* and see Mayor Shirley Horton has an article saying that city is committed to investing in recreation, plugging all the good things they are doing, but, by the way, she forgets to tell us about their efforts to give our golf course away.

I guess it is politics as usual, only tell the public what is beneficial to your image. Well, I am not buying into this charade. I would like more of the community to see this for what it is and to write your councilmen to let them know we don't want them giving up our facilities to make a buck. Today it may be the golf course, but tomorrow it could be our parks and picnic facilities, or our jogging and horse trails, or any one of our other public treasures that we enjoy and benefit from.

Mark Blakey Bonita

# Tax increases should not be for libraries

For the record, I am against the one-quarter-cent increase in our sales tax rate proposed by the Republican-dominated county Board of Supervisors. Actually I thought the Republicans' mantra for lower taxes, or maybe that is just corporate taxes? Here are some of my reasons I am against this ballot measure.

This body of government claims this increase is for only five years. Government has never in my memory kept its word about enacting a tax voluntarily once it is started.

In my opinion, libraries should go the same route as any other public entities such as Little League and Girls Clubs, the homeless shelters, the Salvation Army, etc., and that is by private contributions, block grants and fund raisers, but not special tax programs.

As far as I can see, building bigger libraries will not affect a better job of educating our children. I believe we have adequate facilities now.

The timing is wrong. This is just the wrong time to ask the public to cough up more taxes with gas prices skyrocketing, unemployment as high as it is and the state of the economy in general.

Finally, and this may offend some people, but why would people be so stupid as to take food out of their own families' mouths, take clothes off their own fami-

description matches the interview, the information will help later.

Roark said the area has a reputation. People come from all parts of the county because they know they can get hookers very easily.

The last suspect arrested knocked on the door while the one before him was still being processed. He walked outside, was brought in and then arrested.

"It's not the act itself that is so bad," Roark said. "It's everything that goes with it. It's the drugs, the acts of violence, ruined marriages, disease."

Roark said the city just doesn't have the manpower to combat this problem all the time because there is no special team that deals with this. These officers are regular patrol officers on a special assignment.

# Letters

The letters to the editor and columns on this page represent the views of the authors and not necessarily *The Star-News*.

The views of the *Star-News* are presented in the editorials.

We welcome comments on these Opinion pages. Call us at 427-3000.

lies' backs and, in general, do with less to build new libraries, or even refurbish old ones? This will not solve any problems whatsoever. Pouring more money into new buildings is not the answer.

I can think of at least a dozen other ways this projected \$300 million could be put to a better use if people were so inclined to do with less by voting for higher taxes.

The average American pays more now in taxes than they spend for clothing, food and shelter combined. The bottom line is, don't be stupid. Reject this endless stream of tax increases. Remember you have the power!

Darryl Gorham National City

# Reader wants end of special-interest pull

On Tuesday, May 14, hours of Chula Vista City Council time were devoted to the Otay Ranch/Baldwin Company's Special planning Area (SPA) Plan for a couple of high-density developments, euphemistically called villages. How a rabbit warren that has a density of 23 units per acre can be referred to as a village defies logic, if not reason.

Amazingly, Baldwin wasn't droning about the virtues of this monstrous high-density plan that allows this private, nearly bankrupt, company to recoup some of its losses, it was the city staff. This strange, completely biased system that the city of Chula Vista practices when considering land use matters completely ignores the citizens and what they may think about the future of the city.

In this long and shamefully one-sided session, not once were the citizens represented by the city staff. Not one minute of staff time was devoted to the taxpayers and what they might think about cramming thousands of people from out of town onto microscopic squares of land, like the tenements in New York City with a fresh coat of paint and no rats, yet.

Ask yourselves citizens, how is it possible for the City Council to represent you and I on such an important matter if all they hear is an unbroken litany of support for this special interest project from the city staff who are, theoretically, paid servants of the people? It is simply impossible.

The members of the City Council should not have to be reminded of their duties and responsibilities to the citizens. Regrettably, the council has consistently demonstrated a fundamental lack of appreciation of the finer points of representative government, and have fallen into the habit of listening to big-buck special interests and ignoring the voters.

This fall, voters will have the opportunity to sort through a fresh slate of candidates for two City Council seats. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the voters selected some real representatives and

the city government were returned to the people? If that happens, perhaps the next project might be recapturing the Planning Department who now works for various special interests — full time — and can no longer pronounce the words citizen or voter.

Tom Davis Chula Vista

# Warship leakage will endanger children

I hope *The Star-News* will cover in detail the plan to home-base three nuclear warships in San Diego Bay. I see nothing in the local papers about it, yet on April 9, at a meeting of the Coronado City Council, members were informed about the proposal, by the party in interest of course, and the following week those members voted to endorse it!

What does it mean to have nuclear shipyard in San Diego Bay? For one thing it means that any accidental leakage of radiation will be carried over Coronado, National City and Barrio Logan by prevailing winds, 87 percent of the time from the northwest.

Toxic materials emissions will endanger those most vulnerable — the children.

Routine emissions of radioactive cooling waters are discharged into the ocean by all nuclear ships, and local fish are eaten by San Diegans. In 1990, tests were run on local San Diego Bay fish and elevated levels of radioactivity were found in them. Since 1990, further testing has been done on fish here.

Another danger inherent in acceptance of a nuclear home-base is that many more facilities will be constructed for storage and treatment of nuclear waste, and according to plans afloat, the new construction will be within yards of an active earthquake fault!

This project will only succeed if the residents of San Diego and environs remain silent. It is imperative that our collective voice is heard to combat this new threat to our lovely city. So, write to the Coronado Council members and explain to them the dangers inherent in their decision, and collect their responses. Letters to our representatives in Congress, to Senator Boxer and to the White House should open debate on the subject.

We have to tell the nuclear industry that their product is not welcome in our Bay — we are too aware of the dangers.

Veronica E. Sissons Chula Vista

# District's error leads to teams' elimination

In the Chula Vista area we had two soccer teams compete in the California Youth Soccer Association-South State Cup. Both the South Bay Warriors and the Chula Vista Golden Hawks won their games in the semi-finals. Both teams were notified that they were disqualified due to a paperwork error at the district level.

This is not fair to the boys or their families, that traveled as far away as Bakerfield to play. The mistake was made at the district level of CYSA-S. They should own up to their mistakes and let the two winning teams play, not the third and fourth place teams. The team the South Bay Warriors defeated 7-0-1 are now the State Cup champions.

Donna Gomez Chula Vista

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