

Phoenix's only poison control center reports shortage of antivenin

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MESA — There's a shortage of snakebite antivenin at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, the Phoenix area's only poison control center.

The center has 12 bottles of the snake bite serum left.

"Which might be enough to treat one patient," said Dr. Steven Curry, director of medical toxicology at Good Samaritan. "No one knows when (more) is going to be forthcoming."

The average snake bite victim needs between 12 and 20 doses.

Antivenin neutralizes toxins from venomous snakebites.

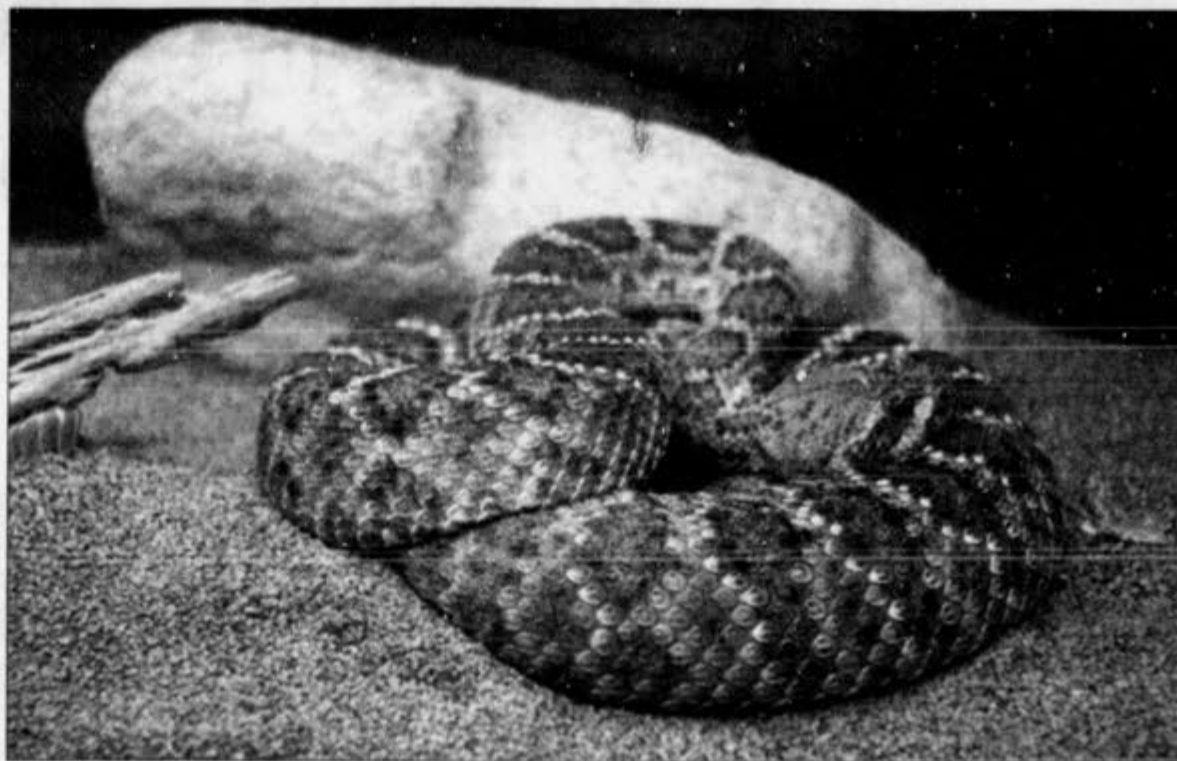
Good Samaritan can and will still treat snakebite victims, but without the antivenin, patients

will suffer more pain and illness, require a longer hospital stay and possibly need blood transfusions, Curry said.

About 70 patients a year are treated at Good Samaritan for snakebites. Most of them occur during the coming months of September and October when rattlesnakes increase their hunting activity before hibernation.

Curry said last week alone, five people were treated for snake bites.

The Pennsylvania-based Wyeth Ayerst Laboratories stopped producing antivenin in July 2000. Another company, Protherics, began making a snake bite serum after Wyeth's announcement.



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A THICK-BODIED WESTERN Diamondback rattlesnake is shown at the Bureau of Land Management local field office in Yuma recently. A shortage of snakebite antivenin supplies at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, the Phoenix area's only poison control center, has officials worried. Good Samaritan can still treat snakebite victims, but without the antivenin, officials say patients will suffer more pain and illness. About 70 patients a year are treated at Good Samaritan for snakebites.

Obituary

David Patrick Connors "Boston"

David Patrick Connors, 24, passed away on August 7, 2001 in Phoenix AZ. He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts on March 5, 1977.

David is survived by his Mother, Ruth Davis; Brother Daniel Davis, Sisters Crystal Connors and Sherry Connors, Niece Raelynn Connors and Nephew Dylan Hadrick.

He was preceded in death by his father James Edward Connors Jr.

Visitation will be at Kamman Mortuary, 795 W. 28th St. on Friday August 17, 2001 from 2:00pm to 3:00 pm.

Funeral services will be at East Cocopah Reservation in Somerton Az. on Friday, August 17, 2001 from 3:00pm to 5:00 am.

Pallbearers will consist of family and friends.

Final resting place will be at the East Cocopah Reservation.



DAVID CONNORS

FUNERAL NOTICES

Isidoro Alfonso Lopez

Isidoro Alfonso Lopez, of Somerton, died Aug. 11, 2001, at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

An agricultural laborer, he was born May 30, 1938, in Mexico.

A wake will be held from 5 to 11 p.m., with a rosary at 7, today at Immaculate Heart of Mary in

Somerton. Funeral services will be 8:30 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary, with burial in Desert Lawn Memorial Park.

Arrangements are being handled by Kamman Mortuary.

Michael B. Meyer

Michael B. Meyer, of Yuma, died Aug. 13, 2001, near Yuma.

A Yuma County sheriff's deputy, he was born Dec. 10, 1960, in Phoenix.

Visitation will be noon to 8 p.m., Monday, at Johnson Mortuary. Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Tuesday, at Yuma Civic and Convention Center.

Burial will be in Desert Lawn Memorial Park.

Police remind motorists to stay off flooded streets

The current monsoon weather is prompting the Yuma Police Department to remind motorists to stay away from streets flooded by rains.

Cars and trucks that pass through flooded streets and roadways create wakes that wash up into houses along the streets, creating damage, police say.

Following heavy rains, city of Yuma work crews put up barricades blocking off portions of roads and streets that are under water, but police say some motorists remove or drive around the barricades.

As part of the city's storm

response program, police are responsible for making sure motorists comply with regulatory signs posted alongside the barricades.

Under state law, motorists who drive around barricades can be cited for failing to obey traffic control devices, said police Sgt. John Nozar. The typical fine for that citation is \$106.20, according to Yuma Municipal Court.

And depending on the circumstances, motorists can be charged with criminal damage if the wakes they create flood homes or businesses, he added.

Children hit by paint balls in Phoenix

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — Two children walking to school were hit in the face Wednesday by paint balls fired from a passing vehicle, police said.

The children, a 5-year-old

girl attending kindergarten and her 7-year-old cousin, a second-grader, escaped serious injury but were left with black and blue bruises, police said.

Either could have been blinded if hit in an eye, police added.

CANDIDATES

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"totally." She said the city is following a community mandate from several years ago that said riverfront development had been studied enough and it was time to do something about it.

Kretzer said he thought there should be more competitive bidding on some of the projects.

One area that Kretzer strongly disagreed with his two fellow candidates on was the issue of sharing funds with religious schools to develop athletic fields and recreation projects for the community and the school districts.

In particular, Kretzer said, he opposes the city's plan to give

\$1.3 million to Yuma Catholic High School to develop an athletic complex that would be used by both the school and the city for the next 30 years.

Kretzer said partnering with public schools is obviously the best use of resources. However, he suggested the city should try to find ways to partner with the county on such things because there are plenty of county residents who need better recreational facilities, too.

Young said she thought sharing with schools is an "excellent way of doubling your money" and Nelson agreed.

The candidates were also asked if they knew what happened to the insurance money the city got for the old Yuma

Arts Center after it burned down.

Nelson said he couldn't answer where the money was or why it hasn't been turned over for reuse but Young explained that the money was still on deposit with the city and would be used to help refurbish several buildings around the old Yuma Theater for a fine arts center.

Kretzer didn't comment directly on the insurance money but did complain that the city bought the old United Building next to Yuma Theater to house a cable access program for the public but never followed through on its plans.

T.M. Shultz can be reached at tshultz@yumasun.com or 539-6852.

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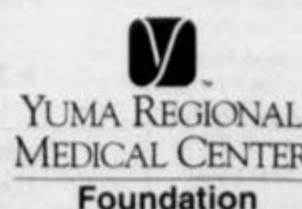


More than 60 teachers attended from a diverse background. We had teachers from public and private schools, home-school educators, teachers from the college level and adult education, and people from both Yuma and Imperial County and the State of Sonora, Mexico.



Thanks to all our NIE teachers!

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