

High court sidesteps Yarbrough

From Register and AP reports
The state Supreme Court Thursday denied a hearing to prison inmate Terry Yarbrough and his Napa lawyer, J. Roland Wagner, on the issue of whether Wagner must represent Yarbrough for free.

The court's refusal, in spite of requests by the State Bar and California Trial Lawyers Association, leaves intact a lower-court ruling that Wagner work without pay.

The hearing petition revolves around the controversial state-wide issue of whether lawyers must in some cases represent poor people without pay.

Yarbrough is serving 17 years to life in prison for the 1981 murder of Keith Cantrell after an argument in a Napa bar.

Yarbrough was sued by Cantrell's family and chose Wagner, his lawyer in the criminal case, to defend him in the civil suit after other local attorneys rejected a judge's requests.

"I think they're absolutely avoiding a problem and it's not going to go away," Wagner said Friday.

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125th Year No. 53 Saturday, October 31, 1987 35 Cents

Napa council eyes self-help housing plan

BY DOUG ERNST
Register Staff Writer

The price of new houses could go up — and down — Tuesday, depending on how the Napa City Council decides two issues.

As many as 31 renters who can't afford to buy houses will get a chance to build their own homes through a self-help housing program if the Napa City Council sells five acres on Kilburn Avenue Tuesday.

But the council also is scheduled to consider a new development tax that would require subdivision developers — and home-buyers — to pay an additional \$2,000 to \$2,500 per house.

The council meeting begins at 7:15 p.m. at City Hall, Second and School streets.

The "sweat-equity" home ownership program involves the pending sale five acres on Kilburn Avenue, southwest of Westwood School, to the Housing Association for Napa Development, a nonprofit organization.

The sale price has been a subject of closed-door council meetings and behind-the-scenes negotiations since May 1987.

The city identified the parcel as appropriate for low- and moderate-priced housing in 1978 and purchased

the five acres southwest of Westwood School for \$278,000 in 1980.

John Dannewitz, the city's finance director, said the city bought the land with \$163,000 in general fund money and another \$115,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

The CDBG money was allocated on the condition that the property be "resold to a private developer (and) utilized for development of low- and moderate-income housing."

According to a recent appraisal, the property today is worth \$475,000 to \$575,000, Dannewitz said.

"The question is, how much the council wants to write down the cost" of the property, according to City Manager David Finigan.

First mortgages on the 31 new houses would be financed by the California Housing Finance Agency, according to Karen Elliott, executive director of HAND.

Elliott said renters whose earnings total 80 percent of the median income for the region would be allowed to apply — through HAND — for second mortgages on a self-help house.

"Payments will be as low or lower

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A Halloween welcome

Bob and Cindy Fluken of 386 Franklin St., Napa, set up decorations in their front yard to welcome witches, ghosts, goblins and other trick or treaters to their house

tonight. Helping the Flukens are their children, Linsey, 4, and Neil, 9. The scary scene includes a witch on the roof of the second story of the restored Victorian, a

graveyard, eerie lights and even a hand — trying to get out of the coffin. Frightening music completes the scene. (Register photo by Al Francis)

No payment, no expansion in AmCan

By LIBBY LANE
Register Staff Writer

It's going to cost property owners in the Green Island area of American Canyon some money to install sewer facilities but if they don't they won't be able to develop their land or expand their businesses.

Just what the sewer project will entail, how much it will cost and how each property owner will be assessed will be the focus of a meeting Monday at 3 p.m. at the county Administration Building, 1195 Third St., Napa.

All people who own property in the 370-acre area south of Green Island Road and west of state Route 29 are invited to attend.

In addition to Napa County staff, the financial consultant, bond counsel and engineers for the proposed assessment district and subsequent project will be there to answer questions.

The assessment district, which must be approved by the Board of Supervisors, is being proposed as a way to repay bonds will be sold to raise the project's \$2.8 million cost.

The largest property owner in the area is Raja Development of Napa, owner of the 166-acre Green Island Industrial Park, said Dave Dickson of the county administrator's office. The remaining acreage is owned by 19 other people or businesses.

Installing a sewer system in the area, which is now served by septic

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Tuesday election featuring 2 races

By MELISSA PEABODY
Register Staff Writer

There will be only two electoral races in Napa County this year — one for a county school board seat in Trustee Area 3, Napa, and one for two seats on the Circle Oaks Water District Board.

Napa County residents living in those districts can vote any time between 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Running for the Area 3 school seat representing Alta Heights, Coombsville and part of central Napa are Jack C. Barlow, 64; and George McIntosh, 75.

The name of former board member Linda B. Young will also be on the ballot.

She resigned from the race shortly after filing election papers, however, because a planned family move would take her out of the trustee area.

Competing for two seats on the three-member Circle Oaks Water District board are Bill Garrison, 48; Michael C. Fincken, 28; and Timothy B. Williams, 27.

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Cable channels change

By LIBBY LANE
Register Staff Writer

Napa cable television subscribers can expect some channel changes by the end of 1987, but it will be several years before they get as many channels as American Canyon.

Viacom Cablevision will drop KFCB Channel 42, offering religious programs like the 700 Club; and KCRA Channel 3, an NBC affiliate in Sacramento, at the end of December, said manager Terry Dillon.

In their stead, Viacom will offer Nickelodeon, specializing in children and family programs; and USA Network, a station originating in New York with a format similar to SuperStation WTBS, said Dillon.

American Canyon subscribers, to whom cable only became available several months ago, can now choose from 30 channels, compared to the 26 offered in Napa.

Cable isn't available to all Ameri-

can Canyon residents, said Dillon, but he expects Las Casitas Mobile-home Park on Broadway to have cable by the end of the year.

Viacom is negotiating with other mobilehome parks on American Canyon Road, Dillon said.

Bringing service to the south county community cost Viacom about \$575,000 and entailed installing 18 miles of cable.

The channel lineup in American Canyon doesn't include KFCB or KCRA, giving those customers six channels Napaans don't have: Lifetime health and fitness programs; CNN's Headline News; Video Hits One music video; the Classic Movie Channel; KCSM Channel 60, a public broadcasting station; and C-Span.

Napa subscribers can only get C-Span, offering government affairs programming and frequent gavel-to-gavel coverage of critical Congressional hearings, from 11 p.m. to 7

a.m. on 5B, the community access station.

Napa subscribers can't hope for additional changes before the end of 1989 or the beginning of 1991, and then only if the city renews its franchise agreement.

Viacom's agreement with the city expires in 1991.

It's not likely that the company would invest \$4.75 million, the estimated cost of making the Napa system as large as American Canyon's, if it isn't going to get another 20-year contract, said Dillon.

Although it's too early to say what additional channels would be offered when and if the Napa system is expanded, Dillon said there are a number of possibilities:

- C-Span full-time.
- Discovery, science and nature.
- A&E, arts and entertainment.
- Any of the channels available in American Canyon.

Leak hospitalizes 250

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — Refinery workers labored today to empty a tank of acid that released a cloud of poisonous gas, seriously injuring 66 people, sending 184 more to hospitals and chasing 3,000 from their homes.

The leak began late Friday afternoon at the sprawling Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery, when a crane dropped a piece of heavy equipment, shearing off a pipe leading into a tank containing hydrofluoric acid, company officials said.

The acid vaporized, releasing a steamlike cloud over this Galveston Bay city southeast of Houston, according to Marathon spokesman Ira Winsten.

People were evacuated from a 52-block area around the refinery, said George Stapleton, Texas City director of emergency preparedness.

"I'd say 90 percent of them got out when we asked," he said. "A few of

them wouldn't leave. We just told them, 'Good luck.'"

Workers, at one point using ladder trucks, sprayed water over the vapor cloud to try to keep it from spreading, officials said.

The cloud dispersed overnight and Winsten, noting it was cool and there was no wind, said he doubted if much more gas was released.

Workers were emptying the tank into trucks this morning to take the acid to another refinery, Winsten said.

Before emptying it, workers cooled the leaking tank with water and neutralized the acid with soda ash and lime, Marathon officials said.

Winsten said earlier he did not know how much acid was in the tank, which has a capacity of 650 55-gallon drums.

AMI-Danforth Hospital treated 203 people, spokeswoman Beverly Boase

said today. Sixty-six of those patients were admitted and were in serious condition today, including one person who had been in critical condition with severe lung problems earlier. One hundred and thirty-seven others were treated for minor injuries and released.

Mainland Center Hospital reported treating 45 to 50 people for minor injuries.

Hydrofluoric acid is poisonous if inhaled, drops the amount of oxygen in the blood and causes skin, eye and throat irritation, authorities said.

Police barricaded the evacuated area in this town of 41,000, and canceled the Texas City High School homecoming football game Friday night as precautions.

"We realize we've evacuated a much larger area than we may have needed to, but we'd rather be safe," Mayor Emmett Lowry said.

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