

A1 Final

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Relative wants body exhumed PAGE A5



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Arizona Daily Star

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FINALE

The frights of spring

As temperatures rise, nasty creatures start stirring. Accompanying spring are Africanized bees, rattlesnakes, scorpions...



One of two rattlesnakes discovered behind the Northwest Side home of John Frisco is coiled inside a concrete block. Frisco found the snakes while he was removing trash from his property. Northwest Fire/Rescue Department personnel removed the rattlers.

By Dale Quinn

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN

The wonderful things of spring: the scent of a Tombstone rose, the burst of Mexican poppies on Pecosito Peak and a cool breeze across an Arizona porch. The not-so-wonderful things of spring: the buzz of the killer bees swimming around those spring flowers, the rat-

tle of a coiled diamondback as you hike the trail to the peak and the welt left behind by the bite of the black widow that's been nesting in your front-porch rocker.

Warmer days ahead means it's time to watch out for critters best left undisturbed.

AFRICANIZED BEES



When to watch out: Africanized bees, which swarm and sting as often as their European counterparts, are active year-round, but especially during warm spring months when flowers are blooming. Sting signs: The sting causes pain and swelling. When the bee stings, its stinger remains in the wound. Avoidance strategy: When Africanized bees feel their hive is threatened, they attack in swarms of thousands. If you're attacked, get indoors or inside a car or run away. Do not fight back to avoid stings. Do not use repellents, but don't jump in water. They'll wait for you.

SCORPIONS



When to watch out: Like rattlesnakes, scorpions like the heat and come out when it's between 70 and 90 degrees. Sting signs: People often encounter tar scorpions, small and spined-colored. Its sting is potentially life-threatening. The sting causes pain, though not necessarily severe. But then it spreads away from the sting with an inflammation and redness sensation. Avoidance strategy: Close windows and doors at night and remove clutter from around your house and yard, so they have fewer places to hide. They like to hide under pieces of wood.

BLACK WIDOW AND BROWN SPIDERS



When to watch out: They follow their prey into warm weather and especially like dark corners. Bite signs: For black widows — pain around the bite, sometimes muscle pain and cramping. For brown spiders — people don't usually feel the bite, but eventually a dark spot surrounded by a light halo appears. Then the venom spreads to the skin, forming an ulcer. Medical attention is needed because of the tissue damage. Avoidance strategy: Clear out the clutter around your house. Scorpions and spiders like dark corners.

RATTLESNAKES



When to watch out: Rattlesnakes are most active between March and October when the temperature is between 70 and 90 degrees. Sting signs: They depend on the amount of poison that enters the body. But people who get bitten usually feel intense pain. Avoidance strategy: Stay aware of your surroundings, especially in rocky or brushy areas where the snakes like to hang out. Only contact the Fire Department for snake removal when the snake poses an immediate threat. Otherwise leave it alone.

WHOM TO CALL

If you think you're having an unusual or life-threatening reaction to a bite or sting, call 911. If you feel an uninfected sting, pinch or bite while outdoors, especially on

an arm or face, you may have been bitten or stung. Call Arizona Pesticide Control at 1-800-222-3222 and someone will help identify what may have gotten you bit

ting or your symptoms. All information provided by Craig Kavan, the general curator of living collections at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum.

5-year-old boy dies; mother is arrested

Official: Son got deadly dose of 12 Tylenol PMs from mom

By Dale Quinn and Alexis Halcochea

Before he died, 5-year-old Brandon Williams was fit, sleep-inducing medicine twice a day.

His mother, Diane L. Marsh, 28, would sometimes tie him up or plunge his feet into scalding water to discipline him, a sheriff's official said.

On Wednesday night, Brandon died after his mother gave him a lethal dose of 12 Tylenol PMs when he complained of having flu symptoms, the official said.

Marsh and two people who lived with her in the 5800 block of North Silver Stream Way, near West River Road and North La Cholla Boulevard, were arrested Thursday in connection with his death.

Marsh — the second Tucson parent charged in connection with the death of a child this month — told detectives she gave Brandon the sleep aids about 7 p.m.



Diane Marsh: mother arrested along with two other suspects

See BRANDON, A7

On StarNet: Find more crime stories at azstar.net/crime

UFOs flew over Phoenix in '97, Symington says

By Tom Beal

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Former Gov. Fife Symington says now that those strange lights that appeared over Phoenix a decade ago were from another world and that he had a close encounter with an alien craft on March 13, 1997.

"I'm a pilot and I know just about every machine that flies. It was bigger than anything that I've ever seen. It remains a great mystery. Other people see it, responsible people," Symington said Thursday. "I don't know why people would ridicule it."

Symington, who was in his second term as governor of Arizona during the Phoenix Lights incident, recently told a UFO investigator making a documentary that he had kept quiet about his personal close encounter because he didn't want to invite the ridicule.

He repeated his story Thursday on CNN, saying the craft he saw was "anomalous. It just left otherworldly. In your gut, you could just tell it was otherworldly."

The governor didn't let on at the time, instead posing fun at the whole thing. He hosted a press conference a few months after the mass sightings to announce that his Department of Public Safety had arrested the culprit responsible — a very tall, humped creature brought before the media in handcuffs.

He then announced the creature to reveal his

See SYMINGTON, A7

OV water-connection fees may soon cost thousands of dollars

By Danielle Sotomanti

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Oro Valley, which already has the second highest building fees in the county, is moving to dramatically raise the cost of connecting to the town water systems, potentially adding another nearly \$3,000 to the price of a typical home there.

On Wednesday the Town Council narrowly approved a notice of

intent to increase fees for processing Central Arizona Project water and delivering it to the town more than \$400, from \$800 to \$4,000 for the most common size residential connection.

Commercial development would be even harder: hit. Fees for the smallest new single commercial connection would go from \$2,000 to \$63,760. Connecting to a mega 4-

inch line would increase from \$3,000 to \$200,000. The council also voted to raise the water system development impact fee from \$1,774 to \$2,507 — a 41.4 percent increase — for a standard residential connection.

The council's 43 vote does not set the proposed rates in stone. But it starts a process leading up to a June 6 public hearing, and an anti-

pending June 30 final vote. If the new rates are approved, they would take effect on Sept. 18.

The council can still choose to adopt lower — but not higher — rates.

See ORO VALLEY A7

On StarNet: Find more news from Oro Valley at northwest.azstar.net

WEATHER, C14 Cool: 60% chance of rain. High 63 / Low 48. Includes a barcode and issue information.

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