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TODAY'S Local news

Serving the communities of Carlsbad, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos and Vista

Sunday

Carlsbad
Escondido
Oceanside
San Marcos
Vista

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A COPLEY NEWSPAPER

LOCAL



Summer cleanup continues despite the heat.

A3

SPORTS



Only die-hard skaters braved heat at Escondido contest.

A8

BUSINESS



San Marcos wine importer raves about Riesling.

A10

LIFESTYLE



Escondido man creates self-help CD for Marines.

B1

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Misael Lopez snacks on canned peaches on a recent Sunday in Carlsbad. He left his wife and two children behind in Mexico to find work in the U.S. Christian Calabria | christian@tnews.net

'They need our help'

Couple answers moral call to assist migrant workers

By Joanna Smiley | joanna@tnews.net

Monica Velasquez spent a recent Sunday scooping canned peaches into Styrofoam bowls. She lined up bottles of Gatorade and placed them in plastic bags on a white folding table. She read *El Latino* newspaper out loud.

Monica and her husband Victor, both 26, of Escondido, drove out to a dirt road in Carlsbad and provided bare necessities to illegal immigrants. They are the only two Latino volunteers amid a slew of church groups and activists from a migrant outreach project.

Victor, who was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, crossed into the United States. At 20, he joined the Marine Corps and became an American citizen. Monica is a full-time student at Cal State San Marcos.

Despite the heated debate surrounding immigration issues in the U.S., the couple refuses to turn a blind eye.

"All these guys know is work, work, work," said Victor, handing out a clean napkin to a man in a hooded sweat-shirt. "I can identify with them, as a Mexican-American. I know how hard it must be to be them right now." Many of the migrants are men between 18 and 30; a few are over 40. Most began working when they were 13 years old. More than half are married with wives and children in Mexico to whom they speak twice a month, if they're lucky.

"I tell the older guys they should be retired by now," Monica said with a laugh.

In Spanish, she shouted, "Does anyone want any more peaches? Last call



Monica Velasquez, 26, of Escondido, volunteers to help migrant farmworkers every Sunday with her husband, Victor.

North County's burgeoning Latino population

- Carlsbad** — 13 percent (12,275 of 95,146 residents)
- Escondido** — 42 percent (59,866 of 141,350)
- Oceanside** — 33 percent (57,823 of 175,085)
- San Marcos** — 38 percent (27,612 of 73,054)
- Vista** — 41 percent (39,050 of 94,109)

Source: SANDAG 2005 demographics report



The workers live in the fields without electricity or running water.

for peaches." The men hurried over to her. Their eating options during the week are either food trucks or quick trips to a convenience store.

"These guys don't have sunscreen, that's why their skin is so cracked. They don't even have eyeglasses or the simple stuff that we take for granted," Monica said. "They get embarrassed sometimes because I'm a woman, but I try to ask them if

they need toiletry necessities, like shaving cream."

Most of the men live under plastic tarps without electricity or running water. They work in the flower and strawberry fields in Carlsbad, earning in one day what they say would be a week's pay in Mexico. They send most of their wages to their families south

Help A4 >

Vista adult business law could get revamped

More explicit ordinance would add 'adult novelties' to regulated items

By José A. López | jose@tnews.net

VISTA — The Vista Planning Commission on Tuesday will consider a more explicit ordinance to regulate adult businesses.

In June, the Vista City Council adopted an urgency ordinance imposing a moratorium on the opening or expansion of stores that sell adult-oriented materials. The adoption took place as a Vista businesswoman prepared to open a Deja Vu Love Boutique in a shopping center along State Route 78.

Melissa Kurbis said she was attracted to the center at 2130 Industrial Court because of its prime location.

"When we were looking at purchasing the building we did our due diligence," Kurbis said. "We were totally

Adult A3

Vista Planning Commission meeting

WHEN 7 p.m. Tuesday
WHERE Council chamber, 1 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista

Shelter the animal love with event

Community continues support humane society fire destroyed original

By Darcy Leigh Richardson | darcyl@tnews.net

ESCONDIDO — The Escor Humane Society hosted a Saturday to thank the community for fostering it back to life after off Bear Valley Parkway was in a Jan. 20, 2001, fire.

According to Sally Costello, director of Escondido's shelter, the fire claimed the lives of 115 animals. She and her staff were rescued and nursed back to health. The cause of the fire, which also destroyed the original building, was never announced.

The humane society is located at 3450 E. Valley Parkway, approximately 400 feet from the new site and it's

have seven acres and is planning for expansion. Costello said she opened the new adoption center out