

NEW LIFE FOR PREMATURE INFANTS

By Kathie Brockman

March 23 was chosen by the American Society of Neonatologists for the National Neonatal Awareness Week. During this week, neonatal intensive care units are open to the public, and the staff members undertake various activities to help the public understand the needs of premature infants.

The American Society of Neonatologists is a professional organization of neonatologists who care for premature infants. The society is composed of neonatologists from all over the United States. The society's purpose is to advance the science and practice of neonatology. The society's members are committed to the highest standards of care for premature infants.

Neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) are specialized units in hospitals that care for premature infants. These units are equipped with the latest technology to help premature infants survive. Neonatologists are specialists who care for premature infants. They work closely with other healthcare professionals to provide the best possible care for these vulnerable babies.

Neonatal intensive care units are essential for the survival of premature infants. These units provide a controlled environment where premature infants can receive the specialized care they need. Neonatologists monitor the infants closely and adjust their care as needed. This specialized care helps premature infants gain weight and develop normally.

babies born prematurely. The best way to help premature babies survive is to provide them with the best possible care. This care includes monitoring their breathing, keeping them warm, and providing them with the nutrients they need to grow.

Doctors determine whether or not to administer the drug by testing fluid drawn from the amniotic sac surrounding the unborn child in one of the lungs at an early stage of pregnancy. High frequency sound waves picture, taken immediately, shows what the amniotic fluid looks like and whether it contains the drug. The doctor then decides whether to administer the drug.

Many of the greatest advances in neonatal care have come from nurses' expectations. A lot of research has been done to improve the care of premature infants. Nurses play a crucial role in this care, providing the infants with the attention and care they need to thrive.

Neonatal intensive care units are constantly evolving. As medical technology advances, these units become more sophisticated. This allows for better care of premature infants and increases their chances of survival. The dedication of neonatologists and nurses is essential to these advancements.

Consumers Get No Help in Rash Of Cases Where Builder Took The Money And Ran.

LAST SUMMER, Pa. Zayas decided to add a swimming pool to their home in Lake Forest. Through a real estate subcontractor, they found owners, they contracted with Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools of Tustin to build the 10 by 20 foot addition, complete with jacuzzi and patio, for an \$3800 price tag.

That was \$500 to \$1000 cheaper than other quotes, the Zayas report. The company was assured that the pool company would take only a month to complete. Financing was obtained through the Zayas' personal bank account, complete with interest and penalty, for which the Zayas paid \$3400.

Days passed and no other workers showed up. The Zayas insisted on the company, then they complained to them. Ten days later, workers again showed up on the site and, for \$4875, they gained the hole. After that the Zayas never again saw another worker from Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools.

Pat Zayas repeatedly called the company office, but no one answered the telephone. She then called the company salesman, who had just returned from a trip. He called her back a few days later to inform her that he had discovered he had become unemployed during his trip that the office appeared to be in the process of closing down, and that he also couldn't find anyone from the company. A subcontractor called shortly thereafter to report that Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools had gone out of business.

The subcontractor hole in the Zayas' backyard turned out to be only one of many in a recent Inco-company bankruptcy scandal that left 200 Orange County homeowners with unfinished swimming pools — and most without any money left. The Contractors' State License Board finally did file the lawsuit against the Orange County pool builders, Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools, Blue Lagoon Pools and Seacrest Pools, both of Orange; Halfday Pools; Garden Grove, and California Sea Dolphin Pools of Riverside. All have ceased operations, at least under those names.

"We don't have a cash flow," explains one subcontractor. "We live from week to week. And we expect to be paid for the work we do. We don't get it from the company, we have to get it from the homeowner." The Zayas swimming pool ended up costing an additional \$1000 to complete, bringing the price up to \$13,500.

"Tustin-Inc. just didn't charge enough for a living profit," says another pool builder who took over some of the Tustin-Inc. projects.

According to the California Civil Code, a contractor who fails to complete the total contract price for excavation and steel work, up to another 40 percent for general contracting, leaving the 20 percent balance for coping and siding, the Zayas had already paid up \$8075 through the financing, presumably leaving \$4725 of work to be completed. But of the \$12-20 billings, industry estimates place the actual subcontractor costs at 60 percent, which would leave the pool builder with a 30-30-10 balance, or 10 percent of the total contract price, for financing.

Explanations for the disappearing money describe the practice as one of "floating jobs" — if one job finishes difficult, perhaps due to "a rain" or "non-builder may divert funds to any job (another homeowner) in order to maintain the difficult sites. Any diverging jobs system of shifting funds can result in a shoddy effort for each the pool builder and the homeowner.

But the first money pool holders attributed failures to a combination of factors. Last year's spring rains supposedly caused damage and delay in finishing the pools and a concrete shortage allegedly escalated expenses which the builders were "forced to absorb." Post-mortem analysis also may have contributed to a lack of communication between the builders and the homeowners and to the ultimate failures.

The Zayas filed complaints with both the Better Business Bureau and the Contractors' State License Board, but nothing tangible resulted from either agency. Allegedly, the Zayas had inquired of BBB about Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools but were told no prior complaints had been filed. But both agencies advise Pat Zayas to send in copies of the paperwork and tell her the matter would be investigated.

provided no satisfaction," says Pat Zayas all, and to date the reports show no result.

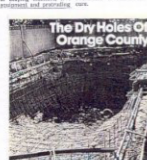
There are no provisions that for the consumer? The dry hole affair demonstrates that there is very little. "We can do anything once a contractor is in the business," says Lyle Lister of the BBB. She reports the bureau did receive numerous complaints on Tustin-Inc. Custom Pools, but after receiving nine written complaints of the same nature during the same time period on the same company, the bureau could not investigate the company from the public — pending contact with the business. Inquiries were told no information was available on the contractor at the time.

Mar says that the bureau requires no replies to their own review inquiries on the matter, but after receiving nine written complaints of the same nature during the same time period on the same company, the bureau could not investigate the company from the public — pending contact with the business. Inquiries were told no information was available on the contractor at the time.

How then can consumers check into the reliability and honesty of a pool contractor before they pay out their hard-earned money? "Ask the representative to submit the names of three or four clients whom they have worked for within the past six months," says CSLB's Eames. "Ask to meet these people about whether the work was satisfactory, if the company was responsible, and so on."

"That's like letters of reference," notes a contractor. "If you ask someone for references, you know you're not going to provide you with bad ones." Pat Zayas agrees. "From what I know now, if anyone is going to build anything, I'll recommend looking in the phone book and calling a subcontractor. From each company, and asking him to recommend a builder. He knows who pays the bills and who does not lie."

But what about a subcontractor who has never worked for a particular builder? How does that subcontractor determine the reliability of the company? It seems money talks — 40 percent down on the job's price is good enough reason to



The Dry Holes of Orange County

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How to burglar-proof your home

By Kathie Brockman

My car — or rather the conspicuous absence of a — was the tip-off; the police later learned. Instead of parking it in the usual spot in front of my home, I had left it in another's care while I was away.

"True, I had taken 'just in case' steps to protect my house from burglary, but they were minor. My neighbor had collected my mail and assumed my newspaper subscription. Since my windows were free of shrubbery, anyone looking around would be easily spotted. I returned home myself. And, in any case, burglary was something that happened to the news to others — not to me. I had thought until I viewed the diary of my neighbor's notes, open drawers and fallen furniture which I had to rush inside to enter my home.



THE REALIZATION WAS FRIGHTENING. Burglars had tipped me on several occasions, but I had never noticed, gone through my intimate belongings, and then stolen cherished valuables which I can never replace. They also knew what I looked like and that I lived alone. My three "burglary myths" — it had to happen to me, they're committing a crime who only do it to perform a specific crime, and prevention is costly — were shattered the hard way.

The truth is, anyone can be a target for burglars, who often walk right in and help themselves. Burglary is the number one crime. It is defined in California as the entering of any structure with the intent to commit petty theft (under \$400), grand theft or any other felony. It is considered a crime against property, as opposed to robbery, which is defined as "Robbed theft from a person by use of force or fear."

Burglary statistics represent a comparatively low 1 percent of the 223,700 population. But burglary is the nation's, and possibly

Actually we have very few of these fast-paced burglars, you see, and I am a former insurance underwriter who is now a volunteer crime prevention specialist at the Kenfield substa.