By Scott M. Ward

"I plan on being a really big artist," Norbert Garcia says. "That's why I want to be a part of art history.

Grandioso words from a 19-year-old with one semester of art school under his belt. But take a peek into Garcia's world, and what he's accomplished thus far, and a place in the annals of the art world seems like a conceivable destination.

In October, Garcia was named the Emerging Artist of the Year by the League of United Latin American Citizens' Tucson chapter. "At the time, he was in the midst of his first semester on scholarship at the California College of Arts in Oakland. Over the past few months he's kept busy working at the Tucson Museum of Art building exhibits, a highly sought-after position for much older aspiring artists. He has also occasionally plays substitute teacher across the museum's courtyard at his former high school, where he critiques students' work.

Garcia's dedication to his craft, along with his natural skill set, separate him from many of his peers. It has also alienated him from them. He believes his art school classmates, who seek to use their degrees in a professional capacity outside the art world, are pragmatic – it's just not his avenue of choice.

"I'm hoping art has a practicality," Garcia says. "Passion for art today stands in stark contrast to his attitude a few years ago. As an underclassman at Tucson High School, he immersed himself not in history but in social politics – who did what and when. It wasn't until he was kicked out of Tucson High for poor grades that Garcia found his calling. At Art Works Academy, an alternative school for kids with a passion for art, he met the man, Simon Donovan, who would become his mentor. "I didn't consider art as a career until I met Simon," Garcia says.

Donovan characterizes Garcia as a "fearless" individual, savvy beyond his years and pleasing to be around. "He has self-discipline, which is rare in a teenager," Donovan says. Donovan marvels at how knowl-

Norbert Garcia, 19, works on one of his paintings, though his usual art consists of large found object sculptures. Garcia said that much of his previous works "focused on the absence of people."

"Wander' Mobile Clinic Back In Town

By Lauren Miller

Like any doctor's office, Dequenesh clinic has bright, cobalt blue exam rooms and shiny modern equipment. It also has a red Ford cab and gets three miles to the gallon.

After a nine-month hiatus, and thanks to a new partnership with the Primavera Foundation, the Dequenesh mobile clinic can once again roll in and open its doors to provide free medical services to South side residents.

"Consider us primary care, anything you'd take your mom, dad, brother, sister or kids to see the doctor for," said Deanna Lewis, Dequenesh medical director.

Starting this month, the nonprofit clinic will offer first-class-first-serve medical care outside Primavera's women's homeless shelter, Casa Paloma, 620 W. Williams St., every other Saturday. No insurance or proof of residency is needed, and patients can visit for anything from backaches to diabetes treatment. Established in January 2006, Dequenesh originally worked with the clinic's "vea página 6"

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Por 250 por ciento por encima de la línea de pobreza pueden hacer sus imuestos gratis por medio del programa Voluntario Impuestos de Ingresos (VITA-Asistencia Voluntaria de los Impuestos de Ingresos). *vea página 2

A photo of the Dequenesh mobile clinic

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By Monica Galan

Serrano’s taxes at Pima Community College’s Eastside Adult Learning Center, 1630 S. Alvernon Way.

19-Year-Old Finds Focus in Art

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Free Help Filing Taxes from VITA Volunteers

By Ernesto Romero

Citizens whose income is up to 250 percent above the poverty line can file their taxes for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA will help taxpayers meet the April 17 IRS federal deadline. VITA has locations all over Tucson, including on the South Side.

VITA’s 250-percent threshold means that for every four people in a family, household annual income is $50,000 or less. For every six people in a family, household annual income is $67,000 or less.

VITA can answer legal questions associated with taxes, tax preparation fees and how to file for payer for previous years. Installment plans are also available for citizens who can’t pay tax-preparation fees.

There are Spanish speakers at each VITA site. Listed below are the locations close to South Tucson, as well as their operating hours. Call 881-1794 for more information.

**Where to Go**

El Rio Neighborhood Center
1390 W. Speedway Blvd.
March 4–7:30 p.m., Wednesdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Closed March 27 and 28

El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
101 W. Irvington Road
Wednesdays 5–8 p.m.
Frondays and Saturdays
9 a.m.–noon

Quincie Douglas Library
1585 E. 39th St.
Saturdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Pima Community College
401 N. Bonita Ave.
Saturdays 9 a.m.–noon

Closed March 17

Pio Decimo Center
848 S. Seventh Ave.
Mondays and Wednesdays
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Quincie Douglas Library
1585 E. 39th St.
Wednesdays 9 a.m.–noon

**VITA Ofrece Ayuda con los Impuestos**

Por Ernesto Romero

Tradicundo por Anders Peterson

*Por James Larranaga*

**Grant Gives Immigrants Art, Science Exposure**

By James Larranaga

Community behavioral health clinic La Frontera recently received a grant of $25,000 to program to take immigrant families to various art and science venues in Tucson. About 70 students at Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School awarded the grant to La Frontera’s Prevention Team. The school worked with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, which did a walk-a-thon to match the funds the students raised.

“VITA is one of the most mean- ingful grants we’ve ever had,” said Jeanine Chapelle, La Frontera pre- vention services supervisor. “How often is that a chance to provide these opportunities to other kids?”

The grant will help fund La Frontera’s Family Passages pro- gram, which serves people who were born in a foreign country and have only recently come to live in Tucson, Chapelle said.

The program will take the fami- lies to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Tucson Children’s Museum and the Flandrau Planetarium. Other venues are still being determined.

“About 50 immigrant families will participate in the program, said Jacquelyn Villa-Baze, a prevention services family education specialist, and as far as Russia.

“That little grant that we got is a nice bonus that we can use to take them out to learn about resources in the city,” Villa-Baze said.

La Frontera usa Subvención para Ayudar a Inmigrantes

By James Larranaga

La clínica comunitaria de salud con- ductual La Frontera recientemente recibió una subvención de dólares 2,490 para un programa que lleva a las familias inmigrantes a varios lugares de arte y ciencia en Tucson.

Por menos de 70 estudiantes de la escuela secundaria Billy Lane Lauffer premieron la contribución al Prevención Team (Equipo de Prevención) de La Frontera. La escuela trabajó con la Asociación de Fundraising Profesionales (Asociación de Profesionales de la Recolección de Fondos), lo cual real- izó un ‘walkathon’ que combinó con los fondos que los estudiantes recolestaron.

“Eso es una de las contribuciones más significativas que hemos tenido,” dijo Jeanine Chapelle, supervisora de servicios de prevención, añadiendo que las familias viven en regiones tan cercanas como América Central y tan lejos como Rusia.

“Esa pequeña contribución que recibimos será una buena bonifi- cación que podemos usar para lle-
Love of Baseball Drives Busy Sunnyside Coach

By Monica Galan

At 6:50 a.m., Jimmy Rosthenhausler begins his workday at Kino Sports Complex.

For the next eight hours, he trims, mows and waters fields at Tucson Electric Park Stadium to get them ready for Major League Baseball players in town. All the while, he supervises a 15-man crew.

Then he drives the short distance to Sunnyside High School for another teamwork exercise, 3:30 p.m. baseball practice. In the afternoon, he says he’s “at the top of his game.”

Rosthenhausler retires his gardening tools for a bucket of baseballs as the Tucson coach.

His love for the game keeps his heart in tune with the sport year round.

“I wouldn’t trade places with anyone,” says Rosthenhausler, 46. “It can be exhausting, but I love it.”

Rosthenhausler spends his weekdays as the trades maintenance supervisor for the Kino Sports Complex, as he and his crew are responsible for the main field—now in use for MLB’s annual spring training in Tucson—12 practice fields and three practice infields.

Even on his weekends off, Rosthenhausler doesn’t take a break from the sport. Instead, he coaches mandatory practices for his Sunnyside team on Saturday mornings.

“He puts a lot of his time and effort into his team,” says freshman Joanna Brown, Sunnyside’s team manager.

The dedication has paid off—in 16 years leading the baseball team, Rosthenhausler, who also coaches freshman basketball, has never had a losing season.

“It takes it seriously,” Brown says.

The Tucson native has been playing baseball almost all his life, “since I could walk.”

In the winter, he supervises a 15-man crew, most of whom are from Tucson schools, Mission View Elementary, 2800 S. Eighth Ave., and Tucson schools, Mission View High School.

Rosthenhausler is seen as a father figure to some members of his freshman team at Sunnyside. During practices, shouts of “Hustle it up” and “I can’t have a good team unless you’re willing to help me” echo across Sunnyside’s field.

“It’s truly sad when there’s 15 kids on the team, and there’s only four parents out there,” Rosthenhausler says. “I think we can help them in that regard.”

Rosthenhausler carries a picture of his oldest son, Jimmy, Jr. in his Sunnyside baseball cap every day. Jimmy Jr. died in October 1992 at age 12 when he was hit by a drunk driver while crossing the street on his way home.

“I think I’ve had a lot of bad experiences where I can teach them,” Rosthenhausler says. “I tell every kid that’s played for me, if they’re ever in trouble, to call me.”

Mario Ruiz and Sergio Ortiz, former Rosthenhausler pupils who are on this year’s Sunnyside junior-varsity team, both say their old coach has helped them before.

“Jimmy supports you a lot,” says Ruiz, 15. “If we ever needed his help, we can call him.”

“Not only is he a good coach, but he’s pretty good friend,” Ortiz says.

While quality baseball playing is most important, Rosthenhausler never fails to stress to his players the importance of academics.

According to Tucson regulations and Rosthenhausler’s personal rules, players must have at least a C average to practice and participate in games.

“He’s trying to prepare us for life after baseball,” says Ortiz, 15, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average.

Rosthenhausler says he can’t wait until both his and the professional baseball seasons are in full swing.

“I was brought into baseball, and there’s something new everyday,” he says.

Smaller TUSD Classes Enhancing Literacy Skills

By Lauren Ory

In the window of Krista Boreson’s kindergarten classroom hangs some of her student’s work.

“My aim is A+P.R.T.L.” wrote one student next to a drawing of a fuzzy, pink caterpillar.

The written word, wrote another, next to a drawing of a little black fly.

The writings are examples of the early literacy skills that the Tucson Unified School District is working to improve among its youngest students.

Since 2005, TUSD has reduced its kindergarten and most first-grade classes to no more than 18 students. In February, the TUSD school board approved $2.1 million to hire 46 teachers to complete the first-grade class-size reduction. Eventually, the district plans to limit all classes through third grade to 18 students.

Parents were invited to TUSD schools this week to register their children for kindergarten and to show up parents who think their children should come to their school, said Mission View Elementary principal Heidi Aranda.

Small class sizes and improved reading instruction are a part of Mission View’s and other TUSD schools’ efforts this year.

Two years ago, two South Tucson schools, Mission View Elementary, 2000 E. Eighth Ave., and Ochoa Elementary, 101 W. 25th St., each added an additional kindergarten class to reduce their class sizes. Last August, Mission View also added an additional first-grade classroom, and this August, Ochoa will receive another first grade teacher to reduce class sizes to 18 students.

In 2005, TUSD also began administering the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test. Students are tested at the beginning, middle and end of the school year in areas such as letter naming, phonemic awareness, comprehension and vocabulary.

The test is part of the district’s plan to meet state standards to make sure kindergarten and first-grade students are developing the literacy skills they need to become emerging readers, Redondo said.

“It’s a way for us to know how the kids are doing in these areas,” Redondo said. “This year we’re 100 percent comfortable with it, and we’ve really been able to analyze the data, and it shows us it’s working.”

Redondo said students at Mission View are divided into groups based on the level they’re at determined by the test. Each group receives specific “intervention” instruction for a half-hour each day on areas they need improvement in, Redondo said.

Toussell also said the progress of her class’ learning was “phenomenal” last year, due to the more specific instruction based on the test and the smaller class size.

This year, her students are still progressing well, she said, although her class is larger. Mission View thought enrollment would decrease and the fourth kindergarten class was eliminated. Although the kindergarten classes began the year with no more than 18 students, kindergartens enrollment increased in November, Redondo said.

Toussell now has 21 students, and the other two kindergarten classes have 23 and 22 students.

“It’s harder to give them the help they need,” Toussell said.

The school will add an additional kindergarten class next year if needed to reduce the class sizes back to an 18-to-one ratio and if the schools’ funding allows, Redondo said.
Ride the ‘gravy train’ to treasures at Gerson’s

By Tom Knauer

Every year, Jerry and Carol McGillicuddy abandon their retirement haven in Michigan and trudge through Ron Gerson’s windy, dust-ridden lot 2,000 miles away, just to check out his latest batch of gravy.

But Gerson’s product isn’t the stuff of greasy off-ramp diners or flea market tents. It’s the splattered boards, rust-gazed stoves and other candidates for the scrap heap that Gerson has offered cheap to curious homeowners, artists and junk collectors alike over the last 21 years.

“The rustier and more used, the more we like,” Carol says. Ron Gerson’s Used Building Materials, 1811 S. Park Ave., offers about 10,000 items in 1,600 categories, from countertops and air conditioners to the smallest pins and needles.

Many items are roughly grouped together and easy to identify, but visitors are sure to find mixes of practical opposites, like a bowling pin resting in the crown of a propane tank.

Gerson’s has gotten its goods through countless telephone calls and in-person visits. When items — say, a dozen two-by-fours salvaged from a razed home — sound interesting, Gerson either invites the seller to come by and dump them off, or he or one of his five employees drives out to fetch them.

Whatever comes in takes a spot in Gerson’s two-and-a-half-acre property, which sits in the open air. Its only barrier from the elements is a basketball court-sized strip of corrugated metal — propped up by rusty beams along the perimeter — that houses many of Gerson’s weather-sensitive items, such as doors, windows and chandeliers.

At first glance, the lot, wrapped in chain-link fence and topped with barbed wire, resembles pirate outposts from films like “Mad Max” and “Waterworld.”

Manager Jim O’Grady isn’t shy about playing down the lots’ aesthetics.

“That was where all the money was — we’d call it the ‘gravy,’” Gerson says. “I thought, ‘Why can’t I just buy the stuff?’”

Customers range from college students to retirees. O’Grady says. General contractors and homeowners frequently call the lot or stop in to buy and sell, and many people come by just to look around.

The McGillicuddys visit Gerson’s to scope out items that might make clever home furnishings. They stopped by on a recent Friday alongside Carol’s daughter, Shannon Lukas, and Shannon’s husband, Rick, both of whom live in Oro Valley. Shannon shuffled through a stack of fences, while Carol eyed a sheet of arched tin she says she’d once seen used to panel an interior wall of a home.

Retired truck driver Amando Gonzales, a regular customer who lives in South Tucson, says the lot features prices lower than what he could get for new items. But more important, it offers aged and rustic variations.

On a recent visit, he pointed at a pile of six or seven fireplace covers to illustrate. Some were long and shrouded in honeycomb screening; others were rounded with wide gaps between warthog teeth. Each item wore a coat of orange-red rust.

“You have different things you won’t find other places,” Gonzales says.

Gerson’s also caters to the artistic. O’Grady recalled when students from the University of Arizona photography department called about using the lot for a project of their own.

“They says they needed a place for shadows,” O’Grady says. “We said, ‘The whole place is yours.’”

After some quiet deliberation, Shannon made her choice: a cut of pink fencing with thick, prism-like rails. By the chips in the paint and the faint scrubs of dirt along the bottom, it appeared the piece once kept stray dogs from wandering onto someone’s front yard.

Shannon has more ambitious plans for it. “I never would have used it,” Rick says, “but then she found it and thought it could serve as the headboard to our bed.”

Ron Gerson relaxes in a claw-foot bathtub. Gerson said the tub would probably be bought within two weeks.

Getting it Cheap at Gerson’s

Ron Gerson’s Used Building Materials offers approximately 10,000 items of varying shapes, sizes and utilities. Here’s how a few random selections compared in price to their new counterparts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Gerson’s</th>
<th>Competitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$349 (Home Depot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathtub</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$306.79 (Home Depot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$114.75 (Home Depot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog travel cage, small</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15.99 (Petco)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Refrigerator**

**Bathtub**

**Toilet**

**Dog travel cage, small**

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**Ron Gerson**

Ron Gerson relaxes in a claw-foot bathtub. Gerson said the tub would probably be bought within two weeks.
Child-care Centers Struggle to Meet Rising Costs

By Abbey Hood

Piled high in front of Sherry Bolinger are papers on top of papers with budget projections, scratched notes and brainstormed ideas about how she can continue to go on, pay her staff and provide three good meals for 101 children at her child-care center. Those three meals are crucial for Bolinger’s low-income clientele.

“A mother said if we stopped serving dinner her child would go hungry,” said Bolinger, executive director of Tucson Nursery Schools and Child Care Centers Inc., 2385 S. Plumer Ave.

Child-care centers like Bolinger’s rely on state subsidies for low-income families who bring their children to her day care center. But state subsidy rates have not kept up with the increased costs of providing care, and her staff and families and their day-care providers facing shortfalls at the end of every month.

In 2006, the average cost for full-time child care in Arizona was $26 a day for a child ages 3 to 5 and $25 a day for a full-time, school-age child, according to an Arizona Department of Economic Security market rate survey.

The DES will subsidize only up to $22 of the daily cost of child care for parents who qualify for subsidies. The parents or the center must pay the difference.

The DES subsidy rates are based on 75 percent of the cost of child care in the year 2000. Since then, the operating costs of child care in Arizona have risen 35 percent, while the subsidy rates have remained the same.

A non-profit center sponsored by Child and Family Resources, Tucson Nursery Schools and Child Care Centers Inc. receives 80 percent of its income from DES subsidies and the rest from grants and private donations.

By the end of 2006, the center, established in 1946, was one of 18 child care centers in South Tucson. It is one of the only centers in Tucson that has not closed its doors to subsidized care. Its daily charge matches the DES subsidy rate.

Bolinger fears that if she were to increase the daily rate, most parents could not afford to pay the difference. For a family of five children the increase can be a $100 a day, or $400 a month.

“If it were to happen where families needed to make up the difference,” she said, “they would probably pull their children out and leave them with their cold-sitting older or a younger down the street. It is a hardship on the family to have them make up the difference.”

So Bolinger struggles to make ends meet every month. While her center is partially supported by donations, Bolinger said parents are more likely to donate toys than cash.

Tucson Nursery Schools and Child Care Centers Inc. is not the only child-care center in South Tucson that relies on state subsidies for low-income families. Its tariff diaria equiva a la tasa de ayuda de DES.

Bolinger teme que si ella aumentara la tarifa diaria, la mayoría de los padres no podrán pagar la diferencia. Para una familia con 5 niños el aumento sería de 100 dólares semestrales, o 400 dólares mensuales.

Si las familias ganaran lo que compensan la diferencia, dijo Bolinger, “las familias probablemente tendrían que sacar a sus hijos y dejarlos con un hermano mayor de 11 años o algún otro tipo de cuidado. Pero en ese problema grave para estas familias tener que compensar la diferencia. Entonces Bolinger lucha para cubrir los pagos cada mes. Aunque su centro sea parcialmente apoyado por donaciones, Bolinger dice que es más probable que la gente regale juguetes que dinero en efectivo.

El 90 por ciento de los centros de cuidado de niños se afrontan con carencias al final de cada mes.

En el 2006, el promedio del costo de cuidado de niños completo en Arizona era 26 dólares diarios para niños de 3 a 5 años y 25 dólares diarios para niños de edad de escuela primaria, según una encuesta de tasas de Arizona Department of Economic Security (Departamento de Seguridad Económica de Arizona). Este departamento, DES, ayudará solamente con 22 dólares diarios para el cuidado de niños de edades de 3 a 5 años.

Los padres o el centro deberán pagar la diferencia. La tarifa diaria de los centros de cuidado de niños en el Sur de Arizona es muy alta. El centro cobra una tarifa diaria más alta que la ayuda de 22 dólares dejando que los padres paguen la diferencia.

Fierro dijo que Uno Hecho Realidad ha perdido estudiantes porque los padres no podían pagar lo que DES no pudo proporcionar.

“Los padres intentan cubrir sus costos, pero no pueden ganar más dinero porque están pagando más por el cuidado de sus hijos por lo que no pueden aumentar sus tarifas,” dijo Fierro, que lleva 17 años cuidando a niños, dejando que DES siempre ha estado un poco atrasado en términos de la cantidad de dinero en su centro.

La falta de fondos adecuados de DES ha causado que varios empleados dejen el trabajo, haciendo más difícil que los centros proporcionen servicios de alta calidad. Los centros no pueden pagar a los maestros de desarrollo infantil el mismo salario que otras instituciones como escuelas públicas.

“In el cuidado de niños, los maestros no reciben los mismos beneficios,” dijo Diane Fellows, la directora de los programas de entrenamiento en Recursos para Niños y Familias. “Estamos tratando de darles los mismos beneficios, pero se nos hace difícil porque los subsidios son muy bajos.”

Fierro dijo que muchos empleados del centro dejan sus puestos. Ella envía a maestros para recibir certificación, y muchos se van inmediatamente para buscar trabajos que paguen más.

“Batallamos cada día,” dijo Fierro. “Centros de cuidado de niños como el de Fierro y Bolinger apoyan un aumento en la ayuda de DES para servicios de cuidado de niños en Arizona.

Fierro y Bolinger son dos de los que han estado apoyando a la representante demócrata del Sur de Arizona, Linda Lopez. Lopez ha logrado incluir un aumento en el presupuesto del estado para el envejecimiento del personal de los programas de cuidado infantil en la próxima temporada de sesiones legislativas.

Si el dinero no es Awarded, el aumento de deficiencia de ayudas de DES Fund,传动会对secondary school deportes will update the current subsidy rate to the cost of children care in 2004.

Those three meals are crucial for Fierro’s and Bolinger’s advocates for an increase in DES subsidy rates for child-care services in Arizona.

Those three meals are crucial for Fierro’s and Bolinger’s advocates for an increase in DES subsidy rates for child-care services in Arizona. Their effort has been championed by Democratic state Rep. Linda Lopez. Lopez held a town hall meeting early last month to announce a proposed bill to increase the proportion of DES funding. The bill would update the current subsidy rate to the cost of child-care in 2004.

Those three meals are crucial for Fierro’s and Bolinger’s advocates for an increase in DES subsidy rates for child-care services in Arizona.

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Pricey HPV Vaccine Available in South Tucson

By Alexis Savlov

The world’s first vaccine for four types of human papillomavirus, HPV, is now available at some local medical facilities, but it carries a high price tag.

Gardasil, produced by Merck & Co., guards against cervical cancer. It was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June.

The vaccination consists of three injections given over a six-month period. Each injection costs between $120-$200, not including the cost of the office visit.

“Obviously, without insurance, the vaccine just isn’t cost-effective,” said Gina Marra, administrative assistant from Associates in Women’s Health Care in Tucson.

Associates, 2325 N. Wyatt Drive, and eight branch clinics of El Rio Community Health Care in Tucson.

South Tucson health clinic Clinica Amistad, 1631 S. 10th Ave., and parked the 13-foot clinic near Interstate 10 and Ajo Blvd.

But in June 2006, the City of Tucson sold that land to Golden Eagle Distributors, Inc., leaving the clinic without a place to park. Storage space was found in Sahuarita, but high gas prices and a lack of a place to park from there to South Tucson made commutes impossible.

“IT’s difficult when you have such a great asset and it’s not getting any use,” Lewis said. “We were getting antsy with the clinic out to pasture.”

The clinic provides two renovated examination rooms as well as state-of-the-art equipment. Volunteers range from physician assistants to nursing students. Lewis said the mobile clinic is just like a regular’s doctors office except that “it has wheels and is a little smaller.”

Dequanesh also hopes to bring the clinic to Primavera’s 10th Street location within the year.

The Pima County Immunization Clinic only offers the vaccine to children ages 11-18. Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona will carry the vaccine in a few months.

Even locations that have Gardasil will be slow to help patients from its considerable bill. El Rio OB/GYN Associates, 225 W. Ivington Road., does not presently offer a financial plan for the vaccine and likely won’t for at least two years, said a clinic representative, who went by Alice and would not give her last name.

“We hope the vaccine becomes more accessible in the years to come because it will truly help so many,” Marra said.

Regardless of the vaccine, health-care providers recommend women get yearly Pap smears, which tests for cervical and uterine cancer and is available at women’s clinics and most other medical facilities.

What is Gardasil?

Gardasil is an effective vaccine for women to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV). The four types of HPV the new vaccine protects against are accountable for 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases and 90 percent of all genital warts in men and women, according to Merck & Co., the vaccine’s manufacturer.

For more information about Gardasil, and to receive the vaccine, call Associates in Women’s Health Care at 795-0771 or El Rio Community Health Centers at 792-8980.

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is the name of a group of viruses that includes more than 100 strains, 30 of which are sexually transmitted, according to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. They can infect the genital area of men and women, including the skin of the penis, the vulva (the area outside the vagina) the anus, and the linings of the vagina, cervix, or rectum. The disease is spread by skin-to-skin contact through vaginal, anal and oral sex.

Approximately 20 million people are currently infected with HPV, and about 6.2 million get a new infection each year, according to the CDC. It is estimated that 50 percent of people who are sexually active have been infected with some form of HPV, and by age 50, 80 percent of women will acquire at least one type of HPV. Gardasil is an effective vaccine for the most common forms of HPV.

What is Gardasil? Gardasil is an effective vaccine for women to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV). The four types of HPV the new vaccine protects against are accountable for 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases and 90 percent of all genital warts in men and women, according to Merck & Co., the vaccine’s manufacturer.

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Legislators Introduce Bill for Cesar Chavez Day

By Colin Moore

As a soft-spoken, humble man, Cesar Chavez lived as a thundertous monument to the civil and worker rights movements. But only California and Texas officially honor his contributions to society. Some representatives hope that Arizona is next.

The Arizona Legislature recently introduced a bill that would declare every fourth Monday of March Cesar Chavez Day. The bill is currently in both the rules and judiciary committees, awaiting passage.

Currently, however, it is not on any upcoming agenda. "I think he deserves it," said South Tucson resident Joe Garcia, 53. "He needs to be recognized for his work."

Chavez began his journey in 1952 as an organizer for the Community Services Organization, a Latino civil rights group. He later left the CSO and co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, today United Farm Workers, with Dolores Huerta.

In March 1966, Chavez and the NFWA organized a strike that took California grapepickers on a demonstration walk from the fields in Delano through the San Joaquin Valley to New York. "The pilgrimage we make symbolizes the long historical road we have traveled in this valley and the long road we have yet to travel," Chavez wrote in "The Plan of Delano," a manifesto read to the farmworkers every evening during the journey. "In those walks there was always a spirit of inclusion," said Lydia R. Otero, an assistant professor of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona, who participated in walks with Chavez. "He made everyone feel important in those marches. ... Many times he'd walk through and talk with the people in line to ensure that we felt that we were part of the process of working toward improving the situation for workers."

Chavez recognized and stood up against the exploitation of all workers in the United States, saying that the country's economic system had been created to "cater to the greed of callous men" and to ignore workers' needs. George C. Gallegos, owner of Azteca Ink, 2111 S. Sixth Ave., said, "The backbone of this country is, and has always been, the working class."

Gallegos said a classic example of workclass exploitation in the United States was the treatment of Chinese railroad workers during the late 1800s. "In June 1968, Chavez addressed the plight of Chinese labor in a meeting at the Calvary Episcopal Church in New York."

One of Chavez's main concerns was that the migrant workers from Mexico were being used as tools to disrupt and dismantle organized U.S. labor strikes, especially those involving grape farming. In his efforts to create safer working environments for field workers, Chavez exposed the dangers of pesticide use. These efforts helped not only workers but also consumers.

South Tucson resident Ruben Castro, 50, said that he is proud when he thinks of the contributions Chavez made to the United States and is especially grateful for the role Chavez played in removing harmful pesticides. "I had to stop the use of the poisonous chemicals. Chavez underwent a water-only fast and organized a national boycott on the sale of grapes in the United States during the 1980s. Castro compared Chavez to the Mexican revolutionary Francisco "Pancho" Villa.

Both men fought against forces who tried to keep the poor as slaves, Castro said. "We are all human," Castro said.

The idea of creating alliances across ethnic and partisan lines is an "important concept right now," Otero said, adding that part of what made Chavez special was his ability to establish those alliances.

If the United States continues down its current path of social division, "we are never going to have a united voice, or a united front, in terms of the issues that are facing us," she said.

"Cesar died, and there is a whole generation of young people who aren't going to meet Cesar," Otero added. "They need to know that this was an important man, not just for Chicanos and Chicanas, but for all of us in this nation who are seeking justice and fair working conditions for people."

State Gives Drexel Elementary School's Arts Day 'A+' 

By Katie Braw

707 elementary-school students. 62 teachers and staff members. 69 artists and performers. 1 long day.

Calling it an extravaganza might be an understatement.

Still, the Drexel Elementary School Arts Day Extravaganza, in Tucson, A+ Exemplary Program on Jan. 31, Drexel, 801 E. Drexel Road, was one of seven schools across the state to receive the award.

"Every year we say we're not going to do it again, but then we do it anyways," said Lude Pressey, a retired teacher and former counselor at Drexel who coordinates the annual event.

The program scheduled this year for Thursday, features local artists and performers who work in 30-minute shifts to share with students.

Students are scheduled to see 10 performers from a database to check for availability, student-age preferences and talents.

Once she determined who would visit the school, the mind boggling scheduling for the day began. Drexel puts up two outdoor stages, and throughout the day there are 10 half-hour performances, going on at all times.

Pressy says that pre-planning for this year's event in October by contacting more than 150 artists and performers from a database to check for availability, student-age preferences and talents.

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assesst. The service caters to low- and middle-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. Assistance for the entire commune will occur in the library’s large meet- room from 9-12 p.m. Call 791-4627 for more information.

Bilingual Family Story Time March 19
The Sam Lona-South Tucson Library, 1607 S. Sixth Ave., will be holding this event to give families a chance to talk and enjoy a good book presented in various languages. This is an excellent experience for monolin- gual and bilingual children of all ages. This event is free for all ages and will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. Call 791-4791 for more information.

Santa Rosa Neighborhood Center “Go Green” March 17
The Santa Rosa Neighborhood Center is sponsoring “Go Green,” a family event to promote environmental awareness and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. Hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones and refreshments will be available. Demonstrations and field activities for the whole family. This free event will be from 12-3 p.m. at Santa Rosa Park, 1055 S. 10th Ave. Call 791-4589 for more information.

Computer Tutoring Class March 19
Private computer tutoring classes will be available in one-hour private sessions with a librarian or librarian associate on Monday mornings. Call Thursday afternoons at Valentia Branch Library, 202 W. Valentia Road. The session will cover using a mouse, e-mail, the Internet, Microsoft Word and more. Tell the tutors what you want to learn, and they will teach you in the privacy of a study room. The class is offered in both English and Spanish beginning at 10 a.m. Sign up at the library front desk or call 791-4531.

Fourth Avenue Street Fair March 23-25
A good time for the entire family! This three-day event features 400 arts-and-crafts booths, 35 food vendors, three stages, street musi- cians, jugglers and other performers. With a wide range of handmade works and a variety of ethnic foods on hand, this free outdoor event exemplifies Tucson’s creative and cul- tural spirits. A hands-on-art area for children includes rock climbing, face painting, chair massages and balloons. The street fair is from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. between Ninth Street and University Boulevard, along Fourth Avenue. Call the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association at 624-5004 for more information.

La Exhibición de los Santos, Virgenes y Ángeles Del 20 de enero al 29 de abril
Pinturas de los santos, virgenes y ángeles de América del Sur de la Colección Thoma, de 1600-1825, serán protagonistas de una exposición en el Tucson Museum of Art (Museo de Arte de Tucson), ubicada en 140 N. Main Ave. La Exhibición examina las escuelas diversas de pintura que a través del tiempo, están desarrollando durante el siglo, el extremo. Vareniéntico Espiritual del Perú. El costo de la entrada general es de 8 dollars, 6 dólares para mayores de 60 años, 3 dólares para estudiantes de 13 años en adelante, de 12 años y menores entran gratis. El museo está abierto diariamente con excepción de los lunes. Para más información llame al 624-2333.

Santa Rosa Neighborhood Center (Centro Vecindario Santa Rosa) “Ande Verde” 17 de marzo
El Centro Vecindario Santa Rosa está patrocinando “Ande Verde,” un evento familiar para promover la conciencia del medio ambiente celebrando el Día de San Patricio. Salchichas, dulce de algodón, rapsa- dos y refrescos estarán disponibles. Durante la tarde actividades al aire libre, con premios darán lugar durante el día. Este evento gratuito será de las 12 a las 3 p.m. en el Parque Santa Rosa, 1055 S. 10th Ave. Para más información llame al 791-4589.

Clases Particulares de computación 19 de marzo
Clases particulares privadas de la informática estarán disponibles en sesiones de una hora con instrucciones individuales, y ellos le enseñarán en la privacidad de un cuarto de estudio. La clase se ofrecerá en inglés y español comenzando a las 10 a.m. Inscríbete en el escritorio principal o llame al 791-4531.

Fiesta callejera primaveral de Fourth Avenue 23-25 de marzo
¡Pásenla bien con la familia! Este evento de tres días presentará 400 puestos de artes y oficios, 35 vendedores de comida, tres escene- narios, músicos, malabaristas y mucho más. Con una amplia gama de obras hechas a mano y una variedad de comidas étnicas, este evento gratuito al aire libre ejemplifica los espíritus creativos y creativos de Tucson. Las áreas prácticas para niños incluyen escalar en rocos, pintadas de caras, sillas de masaje y globos. Esta feria será de las 10 a.m. y las 6:00 p.m. largo el Día de 4ta. Avenue entre Ninth Street and University Boulevard. Para más información contacte a Fourth Avenue Association (La Asociación Comercial de la Cuarta Avenida) al 624-5004.

Ayuda con los Impuestos-AARP (Asociación Americana de Personas Jubiladas) 15 de marzo
Obtenga ayuda con sus impuestos en la bib- lioteca Murphy-Wallace en S. Wilmot Rd., a la preparación de solicitud gratuita de impuestos por medio de los voluntarios. Este servicio es para todos los contribuyentes de impuestos de bajos y medios ingresos, es- pecialmente a los mayores de 60 años. Ayuda para toda la comunidad se ofrecerá a cabo en la sala de reuniones de la biblioteca de las 9 a las 12 del mediodía Para más información llame al 791-4627.

Hora de Cuentos para Familias Bilingües 15 de marzo
La biblioteca Sam-Lena-Sur, ubicada en 1607 S. Sixth Ave., presentará este evento para dar a las familias la oportunidad de leer y disfrutar un buen libro presentado en varios idiomas. Esta es una experiencia excelente para niños monolingües y niñas de todas las edades. Este evento es gratuito para cada edad y se llevará a cabo de las 10:30 a.m.11:30 a.m. Por más información llame al 791-4791.

Fiesta Desfile de Modas y Recaudación de Fondos 10 de marzo
Pima County/Tucson Women’s Commission (El Condado Pima/Comisión de Mujeres de Tucson) estará ofreciendo el Día Internacional de Mujeres la Fiesta del Desfile de Modas y Recaudación de Fondos desde el mediodía hasta las 2:30 p.m. en la plaza La Placita, ubicada en 110 S. Church Ave. Los fondos que se recaudarán serán destinados al Condado Pima/Comisión de Mujeres de Tucson y Adelante, Nuestro Futuro. En exhibiciones de la diseñadora Juliana Queiroga y un invitado especial. Baile brasileño, la diseñadora brasileña Juliana Queiroga y un invitado especial. Comida y bebidas peruanas gratuitas serán ofrecidas y un regalo ‘Toque de Pasión’ será dado a las familias. Para más información llame al 624-8318.