Immigration Supporters Fill Tucson Streets; Protest Potential Legislation

By Jessie Mandel and Laura Paull

Tucson community members rallied around Armory Park Monday to protest the immigration laws that congress is considering passing, specifically House Bill 4437. Voices echoed across the park as protesters shouted, “No somos uno! No somos 100! Somos millones quentanos bien!”

Tucson Police estimated more than 15,000 local students, parents, faculty and community members showed up to flood the streets. They said protesters were well behaved and they peacefully marched shouting, “We Are America; Somos Parte de la Solución (We are Part of the Solution).”

Some protesters held American flags, while others waved Mexican flags or banners, some of which stated, “We’ll March Today and Vote Tomorrow.” “We are Part of the Solution,” or “Fair Legalization of All Workers.”

“We are just trying to stop the anti-immigrant legislations from becoming laws,” said Elvia Colores, a junior at Pueblo High School. “We are protesting, because we want a comprehensive immigration reform to be created so that legislators can define a fair citizen protection act and apply it to all the nations citizens.”

Protests occurred coast-to-coast and immigrants, families and friends protested possible legislation aimed at making illegal immigration a felony, one of many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators. If HB4437 passes, it would force many possible laws currently being discussed by government legislators.

“Buenos Aires”

Algunos voluntarios llenando los tanques de agua en el Refugio Nacional de vida animal “Buenos Aires”

Help Available to Offset Cost of Tucson’s Garbage Fees

By Zach Colick

Even as the controversy continues to swirl around Tucson’s new garbage fee, the City Council recently approved an assistance program to alleviate the cost of the new fee for low-income families. The program begins July 1 and will reduce the $14 fee to $2, said Tucson Councilwoman Carol West, who supported the new fee but also supports the reduction for low-income people.

“There will be an insert in customers’ May utility bill outlining the program and describing how to apply, according to a press release.

The program will be managed by the city’s Environmental Services Department and approved customers will receive the discount for one year, at which time they will need to reapply. The council approved the program for one year only, so it will have to be renewed continually.

The city has always had a waiver set aside for low-income individuals, but the new program is more convenient. It allows people to apply annually instead of monthly and by mail instead of in person downtown, which became “cumbersome” for many, West said.

“The system before wasn’t as user friendly,” she said. “This makes it more available to folks.”

Only five percent of the eligible

Ayuda Humanitaria, Agua en el Desierto

Por Adam Gaub

Traducido por Angelica Rodenbeck

El grupo espera en el frío, se acurrucan entre todos, solo esperan a que el sol salga para seguir su jornada. En la parte trasera de sus vehículos, se visualiza una inmensa cantidad de agua, que tan solo alcanzara para la mitad de la larga jornada por seguir. A los primeros rayos de luz que se alcanzan a volublar de las montañas, este grupo sale a continuar su larga marcha hacia los bebederos deserticos arizonenses.

“Ellos” son en realidad, camionetas acondicionados para cargar grandes cantidades de agua, cuentan con una camara y cargan alrededor de 100 galones de agua los cuales son distribuidos para abastecer los “bebederos” los cuales están localizados en el desierto arizonense; en estos “bebederos” hay un tanque el cual se llenara a glia por estos grupos humanitarios con el agua que llevan en sus camionetas, esto para ayudar a los inmigrantes en su larga caminata al cruzar la frontera.

Estas camionetas son usadas por la asociación civil “Grupos Humanitarios Fronterizos,” este grupo fue fundado hace seis años, para ser más preciso el 11 de junio del 2000 fue fundado por el reverendo Robin Hoover, quien es el padre de la Iglesia Cristiana localizada en el 740 al Este de Speedway Boulevard, donde precisamente las oficinas de este grupo humanoitario fronterizo se encuentran.

Además del agua, estas camionetas llevan voluntarios, organizados en grupos de dos o tres por camioneta y se dirigen a diferentes lugares. Marzo 11, el frío helaba la piel, la lluvia caía en sus caras pero aun así estas camionetas empezaron su jornada por la mañana, el gran número de inmigrantes a aumentando dramaticamente.

“Estaban en el desierto (marzo 8), y habia inmigrantes por todos lados,” dijo Sue Ann Goodman, una de las dirigentes del grupo humanitario fronterizos, quien en algunas ocasiones a ayudado a llenar los tanques de agua, parte de su labor organizadora de el voluntariado.

Así es, habia muchos inmigrantes esa mañana, parados al lado del camino, algunos tratando de subir a las camionetas, otros cruzando por medio del desierto cerca del pequeño poblado de Sasabe, Arizona. Algunos inmigrantes estaban tan solo a algunos pocos metros de las camionetas de la parulla fronteriza, quienes estaban listos para detener a algunos inmigrantes, cuando la camioneta del grupo voluntario fronterizo se detuvo cerca de los oficiales.

Al volante se encontraba Bob Hutchinson, su compañera de ese día era Chuck Ashley, y un matrimonio, Bryan y Lorenza Meadows, todos miembros de la Iglesia St. Cyril’s. Los cuatro llegaron esa mañana a los sitios designados por el grupo humanoitario fronterizo, los cuales estaban llenos de bebederos, para estos inmigrantes, y los cuales se encuentran distribuidos en el refugio nacional de vida animal llamado “Buenos Aires.”

Hutchinson y Ashley quienes han estado en miles de estas jornadas para...
Nuevo Centro Comercial por Abrirse

Por Sarah Stanton
Translado por Angelica Rodenbeck

Para el próximo verano, los residentes de Tucson que viven en la parte sur-este de la ciudad, podrán disfrutar de una buena película e irse de compras, todo en un mismo lugar.

El pasado mes de Febrero, la cadena de salas cinematográficas “Harkins” anunció los planes de abrir un cine que cuente con 18 salas cerca de la Interestatal 19 e Irvington; a lado del centro comercial, ya existente, “Wongpoin,” localizado en el 1299 W. Irvington.

Además de la sala de cine, el centro comercial, al cual se le dará otro nombre “Tucson Spectrum,” expandirá el área designada para los comercios; de 500,000 a 1 milión de pies cuadrados; esto de acuerdo a Trey Eakin, vicepresidente del grupo empresarial “Barclay,” grupo empresarial que está a cargo del proyecto.

Eakin dijo que cadenas comerciales como JC Penny, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy y Shoe Pavilion, están programadas para abrir sus puertas a lado de las tiendas ya existentes; como Target, Home Depot, PetSmart y Office Max.

Las mejoras que se están haciendo al centro comercial lo harán el centro comercial al aire libre más grande del sur de Arizona, Eakin señaló.

Jackle Faubus, directora de mercadotecnia de la compañía “Heakins,” mencionó que dicha compañía está muy emocionada de hacer su primera incursión en la comunidad Tucsonense.

“Toda la comunidad Tucsonense ha recibido muy bien el proyecto,” Faubus señaló, y también dijo entre ver que este nuevo centro será el primero de muchos por abrirse aquí en Tucson.

Faubus también comentó que la compañía “Harkins” por muchos años, había buscado incursionar en el mercado Tucsonense antes de iniciar el proyecto.

“Esta oportunidad se dio como anillo al dedo,” dijo Faubus.

Eakin dijo que los comercios y los cines le darán un nuevo enfoque al lado sur de la ciudad.

“Lo más importante que hay que mencionar es que esta zona de la ciudad, la cual ha sido abandonada por muchos años, se le dará los servicios que necesita,” Eakin señaló.

Eakin también señaló que la compañía “Heakins” decidió dar marcha al proyecto cuando los estudios realizados demostraron que esta área se vería beneficiada al incrementar las tiendas comerciales.

No sólo los residentes del área se verán beneficiados de los cines y las tiendas; hay muchos clientes que vienen desde México, Green Valley y otros pueblos del sur de Arizona. Eakin mencionó.

Cerca del 10 al 20 por ciento de la clientela viene de México, por lo tanto tenemos que tomar en cuenta las necesidades de ellos, Eakin señaló.

Familias con niños pequeños, disfrutarán de la ventaja que el cine ofrece; ya que hay una sala de juegos para niños, donde los padres pagarán $6 por que les cuiden a sus hijos y ellos podrían disfrutar cómodamente de la película.

“Los niños se divierten como locos; hay una única queja que hemos tenido es que los chiquitines NO quieren irse del área de juego cuando sus padres los recogen,” dijo Faubus, los pequeños hacen manualidades y ven películas durante el tiempo que están allí.

A pesar de que es muy pronto para pronosticar, Eakin dijo que el mall, y su construcción, tal vez proveerá con mas de 1,000 empleos de medio tiempo y tiempo completo.

Eakin, dijo que la construcción empezará en el tercer trimestre de este año, y que todas las tiendas comerciales que ya existen permanecerán abiertas durante la construcción.

Borderlands Celebra 20 Años de Showcasing Chicano Culture

By Kate Kernemer

After 20 years of producing ony shows the broad history of Chicano Hispano history and culture, Borderlands Theater isn’t showing any signs of slowing down.

Tucson’s Borderlands Theater, founded in 1986, has produced plays based on Latino and Chicano heritage reflecting the diversity of Southwest culture. It is now celebrating its 20-year anniversary with three plays left before the end of the season.


“Conjunto,” playing from April 20 to 30, is about the depressed economy of World War II and focuses on California farm workers of Mexican and Filipino descent. They work for a Japanese-American man named Min, whose mail-order bride develops a friendship and eventually a love for a Mexican worker. Together, the couple searches for common ground and discover their love while Min is held in an internment camp.

“Conjunto” is directed by Los Angeles native Armando Molina who has worked with the company before. Workman said.

The three leads in “Conjunto” are Celeste Den playing Shoko, Blake Kubisi playing Min, and Robert Encila playing Genovevo.

For this particular play Borderlands needed actors of Asian descent. Since Tucson has a small Asian population, the company went to Los Angeles and held auditions. Workman said.

Another play, “Desír/el Deseo,” by Victor Hugo Rascón Banda runs from May 31 to June 11.

In both English and Spanish, the play addresses the scrutiny that comes when love mixes with age, culture and class differences.

When a middle-aged American college professor, Susan and her young working-class Latin American lover Victor fall in love the problems come to life.

“Earthquake Chica,” by Anne García-Romero is playing from June 14 to 25. It is a comedy about Esmeralda, a wild and goofy Latina and Sam Reyes who is a socially-challenged accountant. They fall in love and are faced with racism and Chicano cultural heritage while sharing a life together.

Borderlands Theater is always looking to broaden its audience. In their work, “We always try to find new audiences,” Workman said.

For schedules, locations and to reserve tickets, call the Borderlands Theater office at 882-7406. Tickets are $10.75 to $18.75 with various discounts available.

More information can be found at http://www.borderlandstheater.org

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South Tucson’s Bilingual Newspaper

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Free Home Repairs Available for Elderly

Non-profit corporation provides two separate programs to aid eligible elderly homeowners with modifications

By Lexi Bush

Elderly homeowners in Pima County struggling to maintain a safe and livable residence, now may receive help getting their homes back into top shape.

The Pima Council on Aging, a private, non-profit corporation, is offering the Major and Minor Home Repair Programs for eligible clients.

The two programs, the Major and Minor Home Repair Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Elderly Home Repair Program, offer repairs and disability modifications to address safety and health risks facing elderly homeowners.

Homeowners eligible for the programs must be 60 years old by July 1, reside within non-tribal areas of Pima County, be in economic and/or social need, and at risk of safety or health hazards. Renters and those who have previously been assisted by the major program are not eligible.

“Our eligibility requirements because it is the law, and we need to identify the people with the greatest needs,” said Diana Edwards, the program director of the Pima Council on Aging.

For major repairs, grants are available for up to $4,000 and for minor repairs, homeowners can receive grants for up to $750. If costs exceed these limits, recipients can reduce the planned work or pay the difference with their own funds. Additionally, donations can be used to help with costs. When applicants are selected, home repairs begin July 1, 2006 and end June 30, 2007, according to a press release.

“We do many different types of repairs for homes that are sometimes two, three, or four generations old,” said Tom Ingram, project supervisor for the City of Tucson Community Development Division.

Repairs include restoring roofs and structural components of the home, improving heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical systems, and installing disability modifications such as wheelchair ramps and grab bars, said Scott Coverdale, director of Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona.

“These are not emergency repair programs and only deal with health and safety hazards,” Edwards said. Overall maintenance and cosmetic work such as plastering, painting, yard work and fixing appliances cannot be covered by the program, but are referred to volunteer groups such as Southwest Gas and the Rotary Club, Edwards said.

Additionally, appliances such as refrigerators and televisions cannot be purchased, and additions to the home including garages and bedrooms cannot be built.

Homeowners are selected for the repair programs depending on a variety of criteria, Edwards said. Community volunteers and staff look over each application and use a rating system to target those in the greatest social and economic need. Applicants’ income, home property value, disabilities, and their expenses in areas such as medication or caring for grandchildren are all taken into account, she said.

“Although we do repairs all over Tucson, the majority are in the west and southwest areas,” Ingram said.

Last year, approximately 600 people applied for the programs, and about 40 to 50 were chosen, Edwards said. Homeowners can apply for both programs at the same time, and must provide information such as age, income, medical conditions, monthly mortgage payments, and what types of repairs are needed. Additionally, those who live in mobile homes or have very little income were put in different ward offices, Ingram said.

About 350 applications were sent out March 31 for those who requested them, and 600 more were put in different ward offices.

Applications and information packets for the programs are available in English and Spanish through the Pima Council on Aging, and must be received by April 30. Late applications are not accepted. Completed applications must be turned in by person or through the mail.

Application process and overview of the programs, call (520) 790-7262, ext. 5081 or visit http://www.pcoa.org/.

Hispanic Breast Cancer Rates on the Rise

By Elise Jackman

While cancer is the third leading cause of death among Hispanics, it is the lack of proper screening that increases mortality rates from some cancers among Mexican-American women, said Francisco Garcia, OB/GYN and associate professor at the University of Arizona.

According to the American Cancer Society Web site, Hispanic women are less likely to have routine cervix and breast examinations than non-Hispanic women. The death rate from cervical cancer among Hispanic women is 40 percent higher than non-Hispanic women, according to the American Cancer Society Web site.

Only 38 percent of Hispanic women aged 40 and over have had a Pap smear, one of the screening procedures that detects breast cancer at its earliest stage. This lack of preventative health care could contribute to the fact that even though Hispanics are more likely to have late stages of cancer compared to non-Hispanic women, breast cancer is the leading cause of death by cancer for Hispanic women, according to the Intercultural Cancer Council.

This disparity occurs most commonly in states along the United States-Mexico border for a variety of reasons, Garcia said, where more than 25 percent of the population is Hispanic.

Income plays a large role in whether or not women receive cancer screenings, Garcia said.

Without proper clinics, doctors or resources, many women are not able to get proper testing. Even women who have access to facilities may not be able to afford the tests. The Yuma Project showed that for every $100 increase in income, there was a 10 percent increase in utilization of tests that screen for cancer.

Of the women interviewed in the study, 98 percent of non-Hispanic women said they have health insurance compared to only 47 percent of Mexican-born Hispanic women. This could be another factor contributing to the lack of cancer screening, Garcia said.

Education also plays a role in the increase of breast and cervical cancer among women. Therefore, more effort is going towards increasing awareness in the Southern Arizona community. For example, the Arizona Cancer Center recently developed the Comprehensive Cancer Control Disparities Committee, a program that recently received a $40,000 grant to increase public awareness by providing training workshops, lectures, and other public events. The program works in collaboration with other organizations such as the Intercultural Cancer Council. The Cancer Center is creating a separate chapter that focuses on disparities in hopes of reducing cancer among Arizonans, said Maria Tirado, their partnership program coordinator.

“We know there is a great need for cancer information and education and we are confident that through collaborations and partnerships we can reduce the burden of cancer,” Tirado said.

To increase cancer screening among Hispanic women, there need to be more clinics near the United States-Mexico border, culturally-competent healthcare providers, and increased access to resources and educational material. More information about cancer diagnosis, prevention and treatment can be found by calling 1-800-4-CANCER. Information specialists are available who speak English and Spanish.
El grupo humanitario fronterizo tiene cuatro bebederos instalados a lo largo del desierto; la patrulla fronteriza lo permite para una razón muy importante, Hutchinson menciona. "Hay un acuerdo hablado de la Patrulla fronteriza de NO esperar a los inmigrantes en los bebederos para capturarios," señaló. Hoover sostuvo lo que Hutchinson mencionó, al indicar que la patrulla fronteriza está mejor dejando los bebederos en paz, y enfocándose mejor a los caminos, con los cuales los inmigrantes "conocen" que cruzar.

"La patrulla fronteriza ha señalado que no van a ir a "asaltar" los bebederos," Hoover señaló. "Si asaltan los bebederos, de alguna manera impiden que inmigrantes venzan la barrera de agua. Si hacen eso, gente moriría de sed y ellos cargarían con las muertes en sus conciencias." Hoover señaló que detectores de sospechosos son quienes realmente son utilizados por lo general. El grupo humanitario fronterizo recuta voluntarios de sus propias Iglesias, Primera Iglesia Cristiana, luego considera a los que están en el camino con algo de conocimiento de la carretera y que puedan hacerlo en otras regiones. Al grupo humanitario fronterizo, tan como camionetas sueltas de agua, y otros vehículos más pequeños los cuales sirven como distribuidores del agua para los bebedores. Otros aduanas como las de comida o medicinas no se pueden dejar en estos bebederos, Hoover mencionó. "Si tienes agua, puedes sobrevivir en el desierto," dijo. Hoover dijo que la organización humanitaria empezó, de alguna forma, debido a la inquietud comunitaria de ver la tragedia del desierto. "Nosotros no sostenemos que no está bien que haga gente muriendo en el desierto, y de alguna forma se ha empezado a hablarse de esto, por algún tipo de conciencia de estar haciendo algo al respecto. "

El tema de las muertes en el desierto es lo que ha motivado a la gente a que se una a las filas de voluntarios de el grupo humanitario fronterizo. "Con toda la gente preocupada por estas muertes en el desierto, es lo mínimo, como que grupo humanitario, podemos hacer," Hutchinson señaló. "Además, por las ayudas oficiales que se reciben, a no ser que hayan sido recientes por la "fuentes de agua" se localiza en California y funciona exactamente igual que el grupo humanitario fronteriza, aquí en Arizona. Hoover comentó. Aquel grupo ha recibido atención de los medios de comunicación a nivel nacional e internacional debido a sus arduas tareas, y actividades; por eso mismo juega un papel muy importante en temas migratorios y en las posturas de la patrulla fronteriza. "La gente llega a estos bebederos de todas partes. Gente joven de New Hampshire, de Tennessee," Ashley comentó. "No puedo imaginarla a ella y a su pequeña de tres años que ha perdido a su esposa."

"El grupo humanitario fronterizo ha logrado el objetivo de que se hable de las muertes en el desierto, y que se hable de los voluntarios que ayudan. "Debemos continuar haciendo mucho más para esta causa, y no hay que dejar de hablar de ella."

No es obvio, por las historias que escuchamos de boca de los voluntarios, que la presencia del inmigrante esta por todas partes en el desierto. "El lugar donde se recogen a los inmigrantes a lo largo del río de Sonora, es el Norte de Sasabe, y el Norte de Sasabe, es el lugar para recogerlos, llevarlos al Norte de Sasabe, para ser soltados. Cuando vas a Altar lo primero que ves son estos Tanques de Agua que están atados con una cuerda, y hay una señora en el Norte de Sasabe, y dice "No puedo imaginarlo, es una niña pre-adosescente, y con una ayuda de un interprete le pregunto. "Se da cuenta el camino que te has pasado para llegar hasta aquí?"

"No puedo imaginarlo, es una niña pre-adosescente, y con una ayuda de un interprete le pregunto. "Se da cuenta el camino que te has pasado para llegar hasta aquí?"...

"No puedo imaginarlo, es una niña pre-adosescente, y con una ayuda de un interprete le pregunto. "Se da cuenta el camino que te has pasado para llegar hasta aquí?"

A todo el mundo, que tiene alguna forma de conocimiento de este tema...
Congress to Rule on Sweeping Immigration Reforms

By Sarah Stanton

A sweeping immigration reform bill was pulled from the Senate floor after advancing through the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee by a 12-6 vote and two days of heated negotiations.

It is unclear whether the bill will head back to the Senate Judiciary Committee after Congress’ scheduled two-week spring recess.

The most controversial aspect of the original version of the bill would make it possible for illegal immigrants already in the U.S. to become citizens through a rigorous, six-year process that includes learning English and taking civics courses. Immigrants would not have to return to the country of origin before becoming citizens, according to the bill.

The bill also supports increased immigration enforcement, doubling the size of the U.S. Border Patrol and creating a “virtual wall” of cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles along the border.

Protection from prosecution for humanitarian groups providing medical attention for illegal entrants is also included in the bill, as well as more visas for nurses and farm workers.

The committee also approved a proposal for a guest worker program that would allow 1.5 million agricultural workers into the country but voted down proposed criminal penal-

ties for immigrants in the country illegally.

“Even if the bill eventually passes in the Senate, it could face major opposition in the House of Representatives, which passed its own enforce-
ment-heavy immigration bill in December. The House bill increased penalties for illegal immigrants who commit crimes, made being in the U.S. illegally a felony and excluded any type of guest-worker program.”

Thousands of Tucson residents joined the nationwide protest of enforcement-heavy House Bill 4437, which would make illegal immigrants into felons.

It has now been passed on to the Senate. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., opposed the House bill, calling it “misguided” in a December speech.

“What we are seeing here on the floor today is an unrealistic, unconstitutional bill based on fear,” Grijalva said during the speech.

Democrats have shown unity in the immi-

gration reform debate, mostly voting against the punitive House bill and supporting the Senate bill. However, the Republican vote has been divided.

While some Republican representatives and senators have expressed a desire to pro-

vide workers for industries that need them, such as agriculture, others have said that national security and border enforcement should be the first priority.

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who has intro-
duced his own immigration reform bill, said increased enforcement and manpower along the border are of utmost importance.

“We do know that mixed in with families looking for a better life are drug dealers, human traffickers, terrorists, and criminals who cross our country,” Frist said in a March 27 speech. “Increasing our border security reduces that threat to our country and to our citizens.”

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., issued a statement on March 27 in opposition to the bill passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and expressed doubt that it will get through the House.

“No plan with amnesty and a massive increase in foreign workers will pass the House,” he said.

The debate in Congress mirrors the debate being argued by people around the country, with massive protests and rallies recently being held on the East and West Coasts.
Aumenta Cuota del Servicio para Recoger Basura

Por Zack Colick
Traducido por Teresa Lorenz

Después de debatir por meses el precio para el servicio de recolección de basuras, muchos de los miembros del Concejo Municipal siguen manteniendo sus posiciones de si la cuota sea beneficiosa a la ciudad.

El concejal Miguel Ortega dijo que ahora Uhlich cree que las subidas se deben "calcular mejor para un año", aunque Uhlich y la concejal Nina Linda, a protestor who wished to remain anonymous, said, "I don't think people should come illegally and break the law. They should close the borders and make people come in legally."

Though local schools around Tucson did not formally dismiss students from class for the protest, many students, teachers and faculty members alike skipped out of classes and came to support the rally at Armory Park.

"School was never cancelled, but our teachers told us it was okay to come and support the marches," said Jose Montano, a seventh grade student at Utterback Middle School.

"I came with my parents because when I got to the park my entire class was here too," he said.

Initially the march was planned by the National Capital Immigrant Coalition, which is a union comprised of immigrant, labor, faith, civil rights and business community groups based in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

"Today, we are fighting for our rights," said Cecilia Amador, a parent of a junior at Tucson High School. "The protests going on are very important and they continue to gain recognition around all the nations areas. Today, people are getting together and protesting … the right to live ethically."
Community Food Bank Teaches Life Skills

By Kristen Connors

Students started out their first class building family trees out of clay, branches, ribbons and colored construction paper, but it was not an art lesson.

The class was the first of a series of economic literacy classes offered by Family Literacy and the Community Food Bank.

The class took place April 5 at the Woods Memorial Branch Library, 3455 N. First Ave., and the eight women participating quickly broke out into a discussion about their youth.

Ruth Tapia, the course instructor, was teaching the class for the first time. Just three years ago she was a student.

Tapia was offered a position as a family literacy teacher through the food bank after completing the program and is now helping out in a way like herself.

"The classes were very helpful," said Tapia. "My English is better and now I can help my kids on their homework."

The free class is geared toward women who have just moved to the states from Mexico and focus on four main areas of curriculum.

The first section of class not only focuses on family history, but also discusses different types of food they grew up on.

The women took turns discussing their family history and funny stories from their youth, which progressed into a lesson on the influence of television and media on purchasing power.

"We look at what people buy just because of their wants and compare it to real needs," said Tapia.

"In a group activity the students talked about what they thought was a necessity and what was just a want."

The class coupled with shoes, clothing, and cars as a necessity and items like television as less important.

"Cars are more important than other things because we need them to be able to get to work and to the grocery store," said Francisca Montero, a student in the class. Working is very important, added Montero.

During this section of the program, students learn how to spend money in a more conscientious manner and learn how to manage their finances, Tapia said.

Next, students will get a tour of the food bank, established in 1976, and the resources it offers, like the Value Foods Grocery store, located in the food bank at 3803 S. Country Club Road, which is open to the public and offers groceries at a discounted price.


On the tour, students also see the community garden where they learn how to grow their own food.

The 7,000 square foot garden is used to demonstrate how to grow healthy foods in the desert environment, Tapia said.

The class also teaches the women how to start small, and grow seeds and smaller produce since many students live in apartments or smaller housing, Tapia said.

The third part of the class educates the women on where the food comes from and advocates buying items from Tucson businesses to help the local economy.

"It helps the community to grow," Tapia said. "We added there are a high number of Hispanic businesses in the area and class participants are encouraged to support them."

According to the Census Bureau, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Arizona has increased from 20 percent to 29 percent from 1997 to 2002.

In 1997 alone, 19 percent of businesses in Tucson were minority-owned.

Tapia also instructs students about the quality of food products and how to check for nutritional value.

A lot of people buy food items because they are cheap, but many contain high levels of chemicals and preservatives, Tapia said.

Students in the class will get food demonstrations and recipes because "it is important to not only eat well but to know how to use it," Tapia said.

Changes are underway for the program. A membership plan and card is in the process to replace the old buying program.

With the buying program, people had to come in a group and pooled their money to purchase food. The food bank then subsidized purchases, helping out the participants by paying for a portion of the groceries.

The new membership card will give people more time and options to come in on their own. Tapia said they hope to have it in use by the summer.

Community Food Bank Teaches Life Skills

By Stephanie Pipp

The Tucson International Mariachi Conference, one of Tucson’s most popular musical entertainment events, is scheduled to take place April 26-28.

The festival has become a must for students, families and children, becoming popular on both local and international levels.

This year’s festival will feature one of the oldest and original mariachi bands, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano. The group, based out of Los Angeles, has performed under the direction of Nati Cano for over 40 years and recorded over 20 compact discs.

Often called the “leader of the mariachi Renaissance in the United States and Mexico,” they have performed internationally and even in front of President Bill Clinton.

Cano, the leader of the group, was born in 1933 to day laborers in Jalisco, Mexico, the birth place of mariachi music.

Mariachi groups consist of up to 20 members made up of violins, trumpets, Spanish guitars, a unique five-string guitar called a “vihuela” and an acoustic base guitar.

This year’s festival also features the bands Los Arrieros and Mariachi Internacional de America. The festival includes daily events ranging from concerts to workshops for students. Proceeds from the festival will go to the Dr. Chavez Child/Family Center, a nonprofit community behavioral health agency. Tickets are now on sale.

For more information on the International Mariachi Conference, please call 838-3908 or e-mail at lgomez@lafrontera.org.

Marchers carried banners and signs that celebrated the aspirations of worker advocate, César Chávez who was born near Yuma, Arizona in 1927. The April 2 march began at Pueblo Magnet High School and ended at Rudy Garcia Park on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Irvington Road.

Happy Birthday to César Chávez

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Fiesta de los Guerreros: Pueblo’s Annual Carnival

Los estudiantes muestran su talento y modas el 4 de abril en el Pueblo Magnet High School. El evento también presentó escalada en rocas, comida auténtica, siendo las comidas y regalos con música en vivo.

El Senado se Opone; No a Reformas Migratorias

La propuesta de ley también propone incrementar la vigilancia en la frontera, incrementando al doble, el personal de la Patrulla Fronteriza y también propone crear una “pared virtual” la cual tendría cámaras, así mismo habría aviones con radares sin piloto a lo largo de la frontera. La propuesta de ley también incluye protección para los grupos humanitarios que proveen ayuda médica a inmigrados; así mismo también incluye más visa para enfermos y campesinos.

El comité también aprobó una propuesta para un programa de visas temporales, la cual permitiría a 1.5 millones de campesinos venir a Estados Unidos, y desaprobó la propuesta de acusar a inmigrados de cargos criminales por pasar ilegalmente la frontera.

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Con esta ley, la cámara de representantes incremento castigos a los inmigrantes indocumentados que cometan crímenes; y que sean acusados del delito de “crimen” por estar en los Estados Unidos ilegalmente; también esta ley excluye cualquier tipo de visas de trabajo. La ley ha sido llevada al Senado.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., estuvo en desacuerdo con la ley de la Cámara de Representantes, llamándola “equivocada” en un discurso que dio en Diciembre.

“Lo que estamos viendo aquí es algo irrealista, una ley basada en miedo,” Grijalva dijo.

Los Demócratas han demostrado unido en los debates sobre temas migratorios, la mayoría han votado en contra de la ley de la Cámara de Representantes y apoyan más al Senado. Sin embargo, el voto republicano ha sido dividido.

A pesar de que algunos representantes y senadores republicanos han expresado un deseo de proveer trabajadores a las industrias que los necesiten, como la agricultura, otros republicanos han dicho que la prioridad número uno es la seguridad nacional y asegurar las fronteras.

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., quien a introducido su propia propuesta de ley de inmigración, dijo que el asegurar las fronteras incrementando el personal de la patrulla fronteriza es de mayor importancia.

“Nosotros sabemos que entre las familias que cruzan buscando un futuro mejor, hay traficantes de drogas , terroristas, y criminales. Al asegurar las fronteras se reduce esa amenaza para el país y los ciudadanos,,” dijo durante un discurso el 27 de Marzo.

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., publicó un comunicado el 27 de Marzo donde se oponía a una ley que fue aprobada por el Comité Judiciario del Senado y expresó dudas de que ésta llegara a la Cámara.

“Ningún plan con amnistía y que incremente la cantidad de trabajadores extranjeros pasará la Cámara,” dijo.

El debate en el Congreso refleja el debate que toda la gente en el país tiene, expresando dolo con marchas, protestas y milines en todo el país.

Community Calendar - Events to Watch for

Children’s Earth Day Festival
A festival and parade for Tucson children celebrating Earth Day and the environment with exhibits, food and hands-on activities. Tucson Children’s Museum & Armory Park, 200 S. Sixth Ave. April 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission is free. Call 207-7183 for more information.

Class, Race and Poverty in Tucson
Members of the University of Arizona and Tucson communities will discuss and debate the history and state of race and class relations in the city.

The University of Arizona AME audience, Room 202. Located on the Northeast Corner of Mountain and Speedway. April 17 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Engelbert Humperdinck in concert
The infamous entertainer will be performing at the Ava-Anselmo Valencia Amphitheatre at Casino Del Sol on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $20 to $45. Call 838-6700 or go to ticketmaster.com for tickets and more information.

Lupillo Rivera in concert
Performing live at the Ava-Anselmo Valencia Amphitheatre at Casino Del Sol on April 21 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $30 each or $40 the day of. Call 838-6700 or go to ticketmaster.com for tickets and more information.

Tucson Mariachi Conference
Events will be held from April 25-29 at The Tucson Convention center. For details and a full calendar, see page 7.

Día Del Nino Celebration
A day dedicated to the children. Activities include face painting, music, plays, rondas and more. Children’s Museum, 200 S. Sixth Ave. April 23 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 792-9985 for more information.

Arts & Crafts Fair, Farmers Market
The Sixth annual fair will sell baked goods and lots of food and gifts with live musical entertainment from El Mariachi Tapatio. St. Augustine Cathedral, 192 S. Stone Ave. April 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Call 623-6351 for more information.

Pima County Fair
The fair will have rides, food, stage concerts and exhibits. Pima County Fair Grounds, 11300 S. Houghton Rd. April 20-30. Call 762-9100 for more information.

Fields to Tables
A photography exhibit showing the impact of history, culture and language of the food system along the Santa Cruz River. This exhibit will feature neighborhood families and local growers. Through May at The University of Arizona college of Agriculture Call 622-0525 for more information.

Border Safety Observer Training
Wingspan will host a training session for the community to help monitor “vigilante activity and protect human rights of border crossers.” April 14 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. Contact Sam Holdren at 624-1779 ext. 23.