By Marisa Bernal

The dogs are lined up at the gates. Here comes the lure around the corner, and they’re off!

“Go go go go!” screams Willard Eyler. “AHHH! Dang it she got third. We got beat by a nose!” he says with exasperation. “Now that is what you call a heartbreaking defeat.”

Eyler is a kennel owner and dog racer, and is one of the few fans who show up for the dog races at the Tucson Greyhound Park in South Tucson. Most people participate in off-track betting in the park’s off-track betting locations at various bars and restaurants around Tucson.

The once vibrant racetrack, founded in 1944, is a ghost of its former self. But a couple of plans are afoot to keep fans happy and the race park healthy—while paying taxes and employing the park’s 130 workers.

A bill moving through the Arizona legislature would make it easier for Tucson Greyhound Park to scale back on live dog racing if it becomes too expensive. In addition, there is talk of switching the racetrack over to a “racino” that would allow for forms of gambling other than betting on the dogs.

The bill would allow the park to run fewer live races and still have simulcasting, betting on races outside of their own race track from both Tucson Greyhound Park and other betting locations throughout Tucson.

The bill was passed by the House on March 2, and is on its way to the Senate.

“Currently, the statute says we have to run four live dog races a day in order to get simulcasting,” said Tom Taylor, general manager and CEO of Tucson Greyhound Park. “We are changing it to 100 days of racing a year.”

This means in order for the park to simulcast other races, it is necessary for them to run live racing at least 100 days a year.

If the races were to be scaled back, the hours of operation would only differ slightly. Currently, the park is open for live racing Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Live racing begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:50 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. If there were no live racing, the track would simply close earlier at night, Taylor said.

Tucson Greyhound Park officials said they have no intention of scaling back on the number of races. Taylor insists the bill is merely about having the option.

Another option he’d like to see is to make the park into a casino or “racino.” Racinos are now the “model’ racino /See Page 6".
By Marissa Freireich

The Mexican-American community can honor their heritage at the Nuestras Raíces tent at the third annual Tucson Festival of Books March 12 and 13.

The purpose of Nuestras Raíces, Spanish for “our roots,” is to celebrate Mexican-American authors, arts and culture.

The Pima County Public Library sponsors the program, which will be part of the book fest for the second time.

“It celebrates the diversity we have among the Mexican-American culture,” said Elizabeth Soltero, youth services librarian and Nuestras Raíces co-chair.

Some of the authors who will participate in the Nuestras Raíces activities at the book fest include Luis Alberto Urrea, Carmen Tafolla, Kathy Cano-Murillo and José Soltero. Besides author presentations, there will also be a youth mariachi contest, folklore, presentations by authors, the festival will include writing workshops, panel discussions and a science pavilion.

“We hope children will be able to participate in this year’s festival and 80,000 people are expected to attend. The Tucson Festival of Books is now the fourth largest book festival in the country. Besides highlighting books from many genres and featuring presentations by authors, the festival will include writing workshops, panel discussions and a science pavilion.

“The literary community and the festival to the community can be proud of and bring focus and attention to the literary issues and education issues that we face in southern Arizona,” said Bill Viner, the event’s chairman.

About 400 authors will participate in this year’s festival and 80,000 people are expected to attend. The Tucson Festival of Books is now the fourth largest book festival in the country.

The purpose of Nuestras Raíces is to supply an event that the community can be involved in a large community event.

“We had been wanting to get involved in a large community event,” he said. “We said, ‘We think we could do something like this in Tucson.’”

They took their idea to the Arizona Daily Star and the UA, who became the main sponsors of the festival. Once they signed on, the preparations began.

Now, planning the festival requires 250 people working year-round and 1,800 volunteers for the weekend itself.

“We try to add a little twist every year,” Viner said.

One of the fun events at the festival this year is the E-Reader Experience tent, where people can learn how to download, borrow and read books and newspapers electronically.

With different events happening constantly at the festival, “the atmosphere is just constant,” Viner said.

For a complete list of exhibitors and events at the Tucson Festival of Books, visit www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org.

For more information about Nuestras Raíces events, visit www.library.pima.gov/tucsonfestivalofbooks.

If you go
Tucson Festival of Books
UA campus mall
Saturday, March 12 and 13
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Admission and parking are free

By Samantha Ferrell

Sam Lena Library offers a variety of classes for adults and kids.

Laptops are available for taking out job applications Monday through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GED preparation and tutoring are offered every Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. All classes are taught in English by Pima County Public Library tutors with Adult Education Certification. Open to ages 16 and older.

Advanced English Language Conversation classes are available Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The spring session runs from March 7 to May 13, but late registration is allowed.

Sunday
Homework Help, 1 to 4 p.m. Tutors available for all ages, from elementary to college students.

Monday
Job Help, 2 to 4 p.m. An instructor is available to answer questions on a variety of computer topics.

Advanced English Language Conversation, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Practice English conversation skills with trained tutors from Literacy Volunteers of Tucson.

Conversation, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Practice English conversation skills with trained volunteer tutors from Literacy Volunteers of Tucson.

Friday
New Guero Canelo to Open in Spring

By Alex Gendreau

Is the Sonoran hot dog craze over? Not for El Gúero Canelo.

The local Sonoran-style restau- rant, which has locations on South 12th Avenue and North Oracle Road, will open a new location at 5802 E. 22nd St. at the beginning of May.

The Contreras family opened El Gúero Canelo as a small taco stand in 1993. The idea began when Daniel and Blanca Contreras traveled to Mexico and talked about opening a Sonoran restaurant that sold carne asada and Mexican hot dogs.

Karina Miranda at El Gúero Canelo’s corporate office said the owner, Daniel Contreras, hoped to open a new location on the east side of town.

“It’s something that he wanted for a while, but we finalized everything at the end of the year,” Miranda said.

The new Gúero is currently remodeling their new location after the previous tenant, fast-food chain Los Betos, moved out.

The menu will include the classic items that made El Gúero Canelo popular among Tucsonans. The Sonoran-style cuisine includes Sammy Dogs (a Mexican hot dog with two dogs in a bun), tostas, burros and on weekend mornings, menudo.
Fantasy Art Encourages Experimentation at Sam Lena

By Samantha Ferrell

Hands flip across a white paper and a graphite shape slowly emerges — a dragon with fangs around his eyes and teeth poking out from a grimmaced mouth. The teens “ohh” and “ahh” at the figure and chat about how angry the beast looks and how fast artist Jessica Feinberg drew the picture.

“And then I like to...” Feinberg sticks her tongue between her teeth and lightly draws a butterfly perched atop the furious-looking dragon’s nose.

This gathering constitutes the fledgling Fantasy Art Group hosted at the Sam Lena-South Tucson Branch Librar twice a month. The group is small. Just three teens and the teacher, Feinberg, sit at a table in a small study room tucked into the corner of the library with books on drawing, dragon, snakes and other creatures scattered about.

Ricki VanAlstine draws a dragon, a creature of her own creation that mixes the mystical beast with the common house pet. The figure received kitten paws and ears but boasts a distinctly dragon-like body and face.

“Yes, it has a cat nose or a dragon nose?” VanAlstine asks Feinberg.

Feinberg decides on a dragon nose so the dragon cat can still breathe fire. VanAlstine is excited by the idea and immediately starts working on it.

This month’s topic, dragons, is being embraced by all of the teens in the room though. Aaron Cadenas sits across the table from VanAlstine and Morales, drawing pictures of fairies and angels.

Last month, Feinberg taught the group all about Steampunk, a style of art that became popular in the 80s and incorporates industrial elements of the Victorian era in a fantastical way. The example drawing that she shows is a rabbit with the imards of a clock.

“I’d never heard of [Steampunk] until that day,” Cadenas said. “It was a specific practice of drawing.”

Cadenas, an intermittent employee at the library, finds the classes to be an unexpected reminder of him of what he calls his passion.

“I decided to do it because I have had a passion for drawing for such a long time that I thought it would be especially beneficial for me and I thought that it would be fun,” Cadenas said. “I learned so many new techniques from her.”

These lessons become obvious when Feinberg compliments VanAlstine on her lighter touch with the pencil since their last meeting.

“Then I like to do it because I want to draw,” Cadenas said. “I’m still trying to figure that out.”

Feinberg tells him he doesn’t have to pick just one and encourges him to experiment, even if it’s scary.

“That’s a lot of what we’re trying to do here,” Feinberg said. “Get people past the fear of drawing badly. We’re trying to get people past whatever happened to them in their past or in our past that scared them away from drawing.”

At March’s meeting, Feinberg will move on to less scary fare to teach kids, teens and adults how to draw fantasy settings.

Una nueva alternativa más económica al pasaporte de libro

Por Lara Schnoll Traducido por Ana Cecilia Abeleis

El departamento del estado de EE. UU. está ofreciendo una tarjeta pasaporte como alternativa al pasaporte para los ciudadanos de EE. UU. que planean viajar por mar o tierra desde Canadá, México, el Caribe y las Bermudas.

La tarjeta pasaporte americana, disponible desde julio del 2008, es un documento de viaje tamaño bolsillo con un costo de 100 dólares para adultos mayores de 16 años y por 10 años para adultos mayores de 16 años. Los solicitantes que tramiten la tarjeta pasaporte por primera vez deben hacerlo en persona en una agencia de pasaporte, en un Centro de trámite para el pasaporte convencional; es válido por 10 años para adultos mayores de 16 años y por 5 años para menores de 16.

Los solicitantes que tramiten la tarjeta pasaporte por primera vez tendrán que hacerlo en persona, incluyendo a menores de edad. El costo total por la tarjeta pasaporte es de 55 dólares para adultos y 40 dólares para menores. Los solicitantes que tramiten el pasaporte por primera vez deben hacerlo en persona en una agencia de pasaporte, en un Centro de trámite para el pasaporte convencional (Acceptance Facility), un centro de trámite para el pasaporte convencional.

Cadenas, un intermitente empleado en la biblioteca, encuentra las clases como una sorpresa no esperada para una labor de dibujar.

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Preparando y presentando los documentos puede ser confuso y demorado, el United Way of Tucson y Southern Arizona ayuda a trabajar con familias en Souther Tucson file their taxes on time and receive the maximum amount of money back.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is offering the service to low-income families with volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service to prepare federal and state tax returns.

Since its opening in 2005, the Quince Douglas Branch Library has hosted the VITA tax help program three times a week from February until April.

“We get about 20 to 30 people everyday,” said Elja Smithwhite, the branch manager.

Services were created to help those who do not have computer skills or experience with using the Internet, as well as to provide bilingual volunteers for non-English speakers.

“Everything is completely free, and United Way even submits peoples’ state and federal returns for free,” said librarian Dragana Cadenas.

The Quince Douglas Branch Library will be hosting the program until April 16.

“They don’t reject anyone who needs help,” Smithwhite said.

VITA Offers Free Tax Help at Libraries, Neighborhood Centers

By Karina Salazar

2011 VITA Locations and Schedule

Quince Douglas Branch Library
1585 E. 36th St.
594-5355
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
12:30-3:30 p.m.

Pio Decimo Center
848 S. 7th Ave.
622-2801
Monday 2-5:30 p.m.,
Wednesday 2-5:30 p.m.,
Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,

El Pueblo Activity Center
151 W. Irvington Rd.
791-5155
Wednesday 2:30-6:30 p.m.,
Friday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

What you will need

• Picture ID. For taxpayer and spouse if applicable
• Original Social Security Card for each family member
• Proof of income, including W2 and 1099 forms
• Documentation of deductible expenses
• Account, routing numbers of checking and savings accounts for direct deposit of refund
• Prior year tax return (if possible)

For more information

Para obtener más información, visite: www.unitedwaytucson.org/volunteer-income-assistance-program-vita
Six to compete for City Council in May Runoff

By Samantha Ferrell

The votes have been cast in the South Tucson city council elections held March 8, but voters will have to wait until after a runoff election scheduled for May 17 to know the final outcome.

In order for candidates to win a city council seat, they are required to win 50 percent plus one vote of the cast votes. However, only two candidates Jennifer Eckstrom and Anita Romero had enough votes to fill this caveat as of press time.

The runoff election will determine the remaining open seats.

The candidates are Paul Dueno, John Garcia, Ildefonso A. Green, Miguel E. Rojas, Manuel Romero III, and Mary H. Solorio.

Go to the Sam Lema South Tucson Branch Library, the South Tucson Station Post Office or the South Tucson City Clerk to vote in the May 17 runoff election.

Free Classes Teach New Compression-Only Version of CPR

By Yael Schusterman

Performing chest-compression-only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on people who are in cardiac arrest almost doubles their chances of survival, said Dr. Joe Gulotta, director of communications and public education for the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center, citing a five-year study.

Study released last year in the United States, according to an overview of the chest-compression-only CPR study by Gordon A. Ewy, MD, professor of medicine and director of the UA Sarver Heart Center. The center has focused its work on how to save lives, but also on how to improve the quality of life for survivors of cardiac arrest. Ewy said that implementation in Arizona were implemented nationally.

“Although the estimates that 58,000 lives would be saved each year,” Ewy said.

While Gulotta, assistant chief of the Tucson Fire Department, said they worked with Sarver Heart Center to learn about the new method and the center showed them research about the effectiveness of the continuous CPR model, Gulotta said.

Gulotta explained the biggest difference between the two methods is that traditional CPR involves a series of compressions and ventilations. While doing chest compressions only, in a real life situation, people didn’t want to wait until after a runoff election scheduled for May 17 to know the final outcome.

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The overcrowning of behavioral health issues in Tucson’s hospitals and detention centers has resulted in two behavioral health care facilities. The Behavioral Health Pavilion and the Crisis Response Center will be located at the University of Arizona Physicians Hospital, or UPH, Medical Center. Construction began in October 2009 and will be completed this summer.

"What makes these facilities so unique is the innovative, collaborative effort that brings together the entire community including behavioral health care, physical health care, criminal justice, families and consumers to deliver an integrated approach to behavioral health recovery," said Katie Riley, director of media relations at the Arizona Health Sciences Center.

The new pavilion will have a new psychiatric emergency department, which is an expansion of the existing emergency facilities at the UPH Hospital. The three-story pavilion will have more inpatient beds, outpatient services, a courtroom for patients admitted through the legal system, a classroom and teaching facilities. The Crisis Response Center is a separate facility that is “state-of-the-art and solves all the overcrowding problems,” said Paul Benchik, Pima County behavioral health agency director.

The crisis center will have a 24-hour staff to direct, assess and stabil-ize people who are not able to treat those who need sub-acute care in coordination with community partners, or are in need of those in crisis care and will cut down on unnecessary emergency room admissions. The facilities are in development through funding from the UPH, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona and the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Benchik said he believes about half of the people in the Pima County Adult Detention Center have mental health problems. The new facilities could be an alternative to incarceration for those people.

The facilities would allow people to walk in, be taken in by their family or be escorted by law enforcement. The center would increase the number of people in the detention center by 10 percent.

Over the last three years, 43 percent of funding for the mental-ity has been cut by the state’s budget.

"If people don’t have insurance or the means to go to the doctor, they go to the emergency room or get picked up by law enforce-ment," Benchik said.

After hospital planners noticed a 30 percent increase in behavioral health visits per year, more than 60 percent of Pima County voters approved $50 million for two facilities through Pima County general obligation bonds.

However, there has been some-what of a balancing act going on. Although funding has decreased for the mentally ill, it has increased for crisis services," Benchik said that it would cost about $25 million to $30 million statewide to fund the services at the crisis center.

The two facilities will not only be a new Pima County community asset but they will also pro-vide a setting to train new physi-cians in an integrated health care environment," said Christine Myren, community relations coordi-nator at UPH Hospital.

These new facilities will give the UA College of Medicine the opportunity to teach psychology and emergency medicine training programs.

The U.S. Department of State is now offering a passport book as an alternative to a passport book for U.S. citizens looking to travel by land or sea within North America. Made available in July 2008, the U.S. Passport Card is a wallet-size travel document issued to U.S. citizens only, that can be used to travel across land and sea ports-of-entry to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land border crosses or sea ports-of-entry.

The U.S. Department of State began issuing the Passport Card to comply with the requirement of the Secure Travel Act and meet Mexico’s requirement for double identity documents for those residents’ needs for a less expensive, more portable alter-native to the conventional booklet. The passport card will share the same validity period as the passport book: 10 years for adults ages sixteen and older and five years for children under age sixteen.

First-time applicants must apply in person, including children. The total fee for adult passport cards is $55 and the total fee for children’s passport cards is $40. All first-time applicants must apply in person at a Passport Agency, U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Also, any U.S. Post Office offers the DS-11 application form required for passport applica-tions.

Applications are being processed within four to six weeks. However, if there is an urgent situa-tion, passport cards can be processed within two to three weeks. The expedited service includes overnight delivery to and from the passport agency and costs an additional $60 per application.
Changes Afoot for Greyhound Park; Casino a Possibility

"A racino is when they bring a casino to a racetrack," he said.

Regardless of a possible switch to a racino-type operation, Tucson Greyhound Park makes money off of its live racing, according to Taylor. If the live racing were to decrease or end, the park loses money as do the kennel owners and surrounding businesses.

Tucson Greyhound Park in Houston and Tucson Greyhound Park are the only two live racing tracks that only have pari-mutuel racing, which means they only bet on the dogs. All of the other dog racino-type operations in the country have added casino-type gambling to their racetracks, Taylor said.

Twelve states have implemented racinos, creating more than 30,000 jobs and generating about $2.6 billion dollars in tax revenue for state and local governments, according to Racinonow.com.

Right now, Arizona State University is conducting a study to determine how much the state knows how much to conduct a study to determine how much more tax revenue they could generate so the state knows how much to increase its budget and saying, “Hey we need $1.5 billion dollars,” Taylor said.

Racinos would generate more tax revenue than standard racetracks. But others are already predicting huge revenues for everyone. Eyler thinks that a racino-type casino in Tucson would be “phenomenal.”

Construction workers would be hired to expand the track facility and several new employees would be needed to staff the park, Taylor said.

People participate in live betting at Tucson Greyhound Park Monday through Saturday, tax a racino, Taylor said.

However, not everyone is so enthusiastic.

“I think it would be a detriment to the community,” said Rudd Gwinnet, a gambler at the Tucson Greyhound Park. “It would bring outsiders in who have no respect for the community.”

And as South Tucson City Manager Enrique Serna pointed out, “They have been talking about [building a racino] for decades. So I don’t know what the likelihood is of that with our state legislature.”

But we wanna be able to have the option if economic things happen.”

Photo By MariSa Bernal
La fecha límite para las solicitudes de estudiantes universitarios de primer año para la ASU para el otoño de 2011. La fecha límite para la solicitud de la ASU para estudiantes de primer año es el 1ro de mayo para inscripciones el día 11 de marzo 2011. Escribo por Tamara Stephens Traducido por Zandra García

Urban Greenway to Connect Neighborhoods

By Paul Ingram

A former rail line will become a car-free pathway for walkers and bicyclists, pending construction and funding. The six-mile El Paso and Southwestern Greenway is designed to follow the line of an abandoned railroad from west of the university through South Tucson to the Kino Sports Complex. The total cost of the project is about $10 million spread over several years. The idea is to create a "low-stress" avenue for bikes and pedestrians.

"The greenway really isn’t a rail line," said Tom Thivener, the phase will take about two years to complete and environmental impact assessments are made and the design is finished. The master plan is "solid and should be completed within the next few months," he said. Thivener said that the greenway will have about 22nd Street to the north, Los Reales and Old Vail Connection roads to the south, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to the east and La Cholla Boulevard and Mission Road to the west. About 30 homes have already been funded through the program and about 20 are in the pipeline.

There are some limitations and exemptions that go along with this program that homebuyers should be aware of. Homebuyers do not have to be first-time homebuyers to qualify, but they cannot currently own another property and the property purchased must be used for the homebuyer’s primary residence for 10 years. Homebuyers must also attend a homebuyer education class. The property must also meet habitable standards upon acquirement, as determined by a certified inspector. Most people only get concerned about the 10 years," said Michael Oliver, a real estate agent for Tierra Antigua Realty. The homebuyer assistance program will offer the $20,000 forgivable loan at zero percent interest and no monthly payments. The loan is then forgiven after the remainder of the 10 years. The terms are contingent upon the homeowner continuing residence in that purchased home for the whole 10 years.

“Now I will be able to afford a home on my own without having to have anybody else helping me or having to help qualify me for a home,” Quijava said.

This program not only benefits the homebuyers, but also the community. Quijava said that applying for this program was easy. Quijava went through the Chicanos Por La Causa program in Tucson, which ran her credit and checked to make sure that she had been in a good job for about two years. After qualifying, she was then able to apply for the housing subsidy. "Now I will be able to afford a home on my own without having to have anybody else helping me or having to help qualify me for a home,” Quijava said.

By Corinne O’Donohue

Homebuyers may qualify for a $20,000 housing subsidy being offered on vacant, forclosed or existing houses off the market. This program will help people afford their own homes while taking houses off the market. The purpose of the program is a national objective, which is aimed at getting the foreclosed homes purchased and getting people into homeownership. Cris Yonnette, the director of the homeownership division for Family Housing Resources, said that the goal is to help people get into homes and start paying monthly mortgages, which should help stimulate the economy. The Tucson program began in November and the funds must be spent in three years. But Yonnette thinks they will spend the money in six months and it should be enough for about 90 homes. When assessing the foreclosed homes in all areas of Pima County, this program will focus on an area that roughly bounded by 22nd Street to the north, Los Reales and Old Vail Connection roads to the south, Davis-Monthan

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Subsidy Available for Qualified Home Buyers

By Corinne O’Donohue

Homebuyers may qualify for a $20,000 housing subsidy being offered on vacant, foreclosed or existing houses off the market. This program will help people afford their own homes while taking houses off the market. The purpose of the program is a national objective, which is aimed at getting the foreclosed homes purchased and getting people into homeownership. Cris Yonnette, the director of the homeownership division for Family Housing Resources, said that the goal is to help people get into homes and start paying monthly mortgages, which should help stimulate the economy. The Tucson program began in November and the funds must be spent in three years. But Yonnette thinks they will spend the money in six months and it should be enough for about 90 homes. When assessing the foreclosed homes in all areas of Pima County, this program will focus on an area that roughly bounded by 22nd Street to the north, Los Reales and Old Vail Connection roads to the south, Davis-Monthan

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March 12

St. Patrick’s Day
Parade and Festival
Come down and enjoy the Irish spirit at the 24th annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival in downtown Tucson. This year’s theme is “Everyday Heroes” and will center on those who have made a positive impact in the community. The parade will feature more than 1,000 marchers, floats, local dignitaries and entertainers. The festival and entertainment begins at Arroyo Park at 3:30 p.m. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. on 1st Street and Stone Avenue and will end at Arroyo Park. Information: 955-4973 or www.tucsonstpatricksday.com.

March 12 -13

Festival of Books
Come out and join the community for some good books and food. The Tucson Children’s Museum is hosting together authors and readers in a family-friendly event. While you are there, you can enjoy a variety of food from local restaurants and vendors. The event will take place on the University of Arizona campus. The festival operates from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days. The first events begin at 10 a.m. and the last events start at 4 p.m. Parking and admission are free. Information: 626-5653 or www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org. See story on page 2.

March 19

Birthday Party and Block Bash
The Tucson Children's Museum is celebrating 25 years. Come down and join them for a fun-filled event that is free and open to the public. This event will feature face painting, a jumping castle, rock climbing and other activities for the kids. The Birthday Bash will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 200 S. Sixth Ave. Information: 797-2900 or www.tucsonchildrensmuseum.org.

March 20

131st Railroad Silver Spike Festival
Join a host of pioneers as they re-enact the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad's first train. The event is free and open to the public. Come dressed in pioneer attire if you would like and enjoy tours and craft booths from local artists. The festival will take place at the Tucson Railroad Museum at 414 N. Toole Ave. and the re-enactment will begin at 11 a.m. sharp. Information: 623-2223 or www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org.

March 25 - 27

Spring Artists’ Market
Enjoy some of the Southwest's finest artists and vendors at the Spring Artists’ Market presented by the Tucson Museum of Art.

Tucson Festival of Books
Be sure to check out the Nuestras Raíces tent sponsored by the Pima County Public Library at the first annual Tucson Festival of Books held on the mall at the University of Arizona. About 80,000 people attended last year. See full story, page 2.

April 1 – 20

International Film Festival
The Arizona Media Arts Center will be hosting an annual festival that will feature international contemporary movies and also a chance to meet the filmmakers. This year the festival is celebrating 20 years and will showcase the best in independent films. This event will take place at the Screening Room at 127 E. Congress St. and will be free and open to the public. Information: 882-2024 or www.tucsonfilmfestival.com.

April 1 – 3

Spring Street Fair
The 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair will take place between Ninth Street and University Boulevard along Fourth Avenue in Tucson. This event is free and open to the public. Hours for each day are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Street Fair offers a variety of arts and crafts booths, street musicians, food and entertainment. There will also be face painting, balloons and other things for the kids. Animals are not allowed if the fair. All metered parking is free on Saturday and Sunday, and there is a free shuttle to and from downtown. Information: 624-5004 or www.fourthavenue.org.

April 1 – 3

Wild West Days
Old Tucson Studios celebrates Western culture and tradition during Wild West Days. The theme for this event is the movie “Tombstone” and proceeds will benefit the Tucson Rodeo Parade Fund. Wild West Days will take place at 201 S. Kinney Rd. Ticket for Wild West Days are $16.95 for adults and 12 above, $13.95 for children 4 to 11 and kids 3 and under are free. There will also be a Chuck Wagon Supper on April 2 that will include entertainment and food. Tickets for the supper are $29.95 for adults and 14 older, $14.95 for children 13 and under and other things for the kids. Animals are not allowed at the fair. All metered parking is free on Saturday and Sunday, and there is a free shuttle to and from downtown. Information: 624-5004 or www.fourthavenue.org.

April 12 – 13

Festival of the Istors
Venga y únase a la comunidad para disfrutar de buenos libros y comida. El festival une a los autores y lectores en un evento familiar. Mientras se encuentra en el evento, usted podrá disfrutar de una variedad de comida de restaurantes locales y vendedores ambulantes. El evento se llevará a cabo en el campus de la Universidad de Arizona. El festival se realizará el 12 y 13 de marzo de 9:30 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. ambos días. El primer evento iniciará a las 10 a.m. y el último a las 4 p.m. La admisión y estacionamiento son gratuitos. Para más información llame al: 626-5653 o visite www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org, Vea la historia en la página 2.

19 de marzo

Fiesta de cumpleaños
El Museo de los Niños de Tucson está celebrando sus 25 años. Venga y únase al evento gratuito lleno de diversión abierto al público. Este evento contará con actividades para los niños tales como pintar-carrín, castillo inflable y juegos mecánicos. La celebración de cumpleaños será de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. en el bloque 200 hacia el sur de la Sexta avenida. Para más información llame al: 797-9895 o visite www.tucsonchildrensmuseum.org.

20 de marzo

Festival ‘Railroad Silver Spike’

Del 25 al 27 de marzo

Mercado artesanal
Disfrute de algunos de los mejores artistas y vendedores del suroeste en el Mercado Artesanal de la primavera, presentado por el Museo de Arte de Tucson. Este evento se realizará en el lobby principal y los patios del Museo de Arte de Tucson, situado en 140 hacia el norte de la avenida Main. Las admisiones para el mercado serán gratuitas. El mercado estará abierto de 10 a.m. a 5 p.m. Para más información llame al: 624-2333 o visite www.tucsontucsonmuseumart.com.

Del 1 al 3 de abril

Feria en las calles durante la primavera
La feria de la calle Cuarta Avenida se realiza en la Noche calles y la University Boulevard a lo largo de la Cuarta Avenida en Tucson. Este evento será gratuito y para todo público. El horario para cada día será de 11 a.m. a 5 p.m. Esta feria ofrece una gran variedad en artes, puestos de artesanía, músicos callejeros, y otros espectáculos. También habrá pinta-caritas, globos, y otras actividades para los niños. No se admiten mascotas en la feria. Todos los estacionesamiento de tiempo serán gratuitos el sábado y domingo. También habrá transporte gratuito desde hacia el centro de la ciudad. Para más información llame al: 624-5004 o visite www.fourthavenue.org.

Del 1 al 3 de abril

Los días del oeste salvaje “Wild West Days”
Los estudios del viejo Tucson celebran el día del oeste salvaje “Wild West Days” y la recaudación se destinara al Museo de desfile de rodeo de Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum. Este evento se llevará a cabo en 101 hacia el sur de la calle Kinney. La entrada para este evento son de $16.95 para mayores de 14 años, $14.95 para los niños menores de 3 años. También habrá asistencia de asientos para la Chuck Wagon Supper el 2 de abril el cual contara con entretenimiento y comida. Las admisiones para la cena son de $29.95 para adultos mayores de 14 años, $14.95 para los niños menores de 13 años. Para más información visite www.oldtucson.org o llame al: 883-0100.

Del 1 al 20 de abril

Festival del cine
El Centro de Artes Audiovisuales de Arizona estará presentando el festival anual que llevará a cabo películas internacionales contemporáneas y también ofrecerán la opción de conociendo algunos de los directores de cine. Este año el festival está celebrando sus 20 años y presentará una variedad de películas independientes. Este evento se llevará a cabo en el lobby principal y los patios del Museo de Arte de Tucson, situado en 127 hacia el este de la calle Congress. El evento será gratuito y para todo público. Para más información llame al: 882-0204 o visite www.filmfestivalarizona.org.