From The Ground Up
Foundation rebuilds homes, memories

By Colleen Keeffe

In the 36 years Delia Carrillo has lived in her South Tucson home, she never dreamt that one day she’d agree to have it leveled to the ground. But she did.

And it was. With help from the Primavera Foundation that decision, quite literally, gave way to a new foundation for Carrillo to stand on.

The organization has teamed up with the City of South Tucson through the Neighborhood Revitalization program to help homeowners whose houses are in dire need of repair.

According to Primavera’s construction administrator BJ Drachman, the Home Repair, Home Replacement Program began just over 18 months ago. The agency has already completed repairs on about a dozen homes and replaced two.

Carrillo’s home was one that was replaced.

She had heard about the program from a friend and contacted the city. She filled out an application for home repairs and waited.

Carrillo has many fond memories of the old house where she and her husband raised their son, Freddy and daughter, Santa.

The couple divorced in 1985 and Carrillo got the house. But time and vandals took their toll on the dwelling.

“My windows were all broken. I had a swamp cooler and it wasn’t working. I wasn’t living comfortably,” Carrilloexplained.

Vandals had broken virtually all of the windows in the house. The walls were cracked, the roof leaked, despite being repaired, and the foundation was sinking, Carrillo added.

Of that, nearly 45 percent were fair, meaning they need $10,000 to $20,000 in repairs, roughly 5 percent were poor, in need of $20,000 to $40,000 in repairs, and about 1 percent need to be replaced because the cost exceeds the value of the house.

But as the report suggests, it accounts for just a rough look at housing conditions.

“As we began to do the owner occupied rehab on the distressed housing conditions, we realized there were five organizations he said when negotiations began, there were five organizations he said when negotiations began, there were five organizations he said when negotiations began, there were five organizations

A $50,000 budget shortfall spurred HNS to make a last-ditch attempt to recuperate some funds by suspending most of its services for what was hoped to be a month beginning in September. Irey and others frantically tried to raise funds to keep HNS alive.

HNS, which let most of its staff go in the weeks leading up to the shutting of its doors, has some programs still running in a skeleton format based on the inertia of its years of service. Former paid employees now donate their time to keep a few programs alive. Weekly potlucks, and children still show up for senior lunches have morphed into sack lunches. The House of Neighborly Services, a South Tucson center for 60 years, will be taken over by a new agency by the beginning of next year.

“Irey, executive director of HNS. “It’s good for us,” said John Irey, executive director of HNS. “It means we’ll be able to continue some of our services.”

The House of Neighborly Services, a South Tucson center for 60 years, will be taken over by a new agency by the beginning of next year.

Barack Obama en un mitin durante las primarias en Phoenix.

Obama ganara las primarias, continuando el apoyo hispano al Partido Demócrata. A nivel nacional los hispanos representaron un 8% del voto, igual que en el 2004. Sin embargo, algunos estudios vienen un aumento considerable en el número de votantes hispanos. En Nuevo México, los hispanos constituyeron el 41% de los votantes, comparado con 32% en el 2004. Los hispanos representaron un 17% de los votantes en Colorado, por encima del 8% en el 2004. En otros estados, la cantidad de electores hispanos se mantuvo igual o disminuyó un poco.

El presidente de los votantes hispanos en Arizona aumentó, del 12% en el 2004 al 16%.

Irey would not say which program will be kept, but weekly senior lunches have morphed into potlucks, and children still show up after school to hang out in the computer lab and basketball court, even though the afterschool program is no longer operating.

Irey would not say which agency will take over HNS, but said when negotiations began, there were five organizations he and members of the board were working with. That list has been narrowed down to two options. Irey said he expects a decision to be made by Thanksgiving.
Thanksgiving Dinners for Those in Need

By Jenny Mayer

The spirit of giving and generosity will be felt across Tucson as the Thanksgiving holiday rolls near and organizations offer free Thanksgiving meals for the community. For the 23rd year, the Salvation Army and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 1145 E. Fort Lowell Road, are working together to serve meals.

Last year, they served about 3,500 meals, including home delivered meals to the elderly and ill. “We are anticipating more families and working poor,” said Tamara McElwee, public relations director for the Salvation Army.

The dinner will be served on Thanksgiving Day starting at 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. After 1:30, they will offer hot meals to go.

The Salvation Army always welcomes donations. They are in need of frozen turkeys and pies. To donate, call their main office at 795-9671.

A day before Thanksgiving, the Gospel Rescue Mission will provide a Thanksgiving meal. It starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. at 312 W. 28th St.

Volunteers serve dinner provided by The Giving Tree Outreach Program Project FEED every Thursday and Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. at an empty lot on East 22nd Street between Columbus Boulevard and Swan Road.

The meal is open to everyone and we could always use help from people bringing prepared food,” said Kathy Fast, assistant director for Giving Tree Outreach Program.

On Nov. 25, the Luz Social Services along with the South Side Coalition and El Pueblo Neighborhood Center are sponsoring the 11th annual Thanksgiving in the Barno, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 101 W. Irvington Road, anyone is welcome.

In addition, to serving dinner, there will be live entertainment, a resource fair, a raffle and a fun zone for children.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is also having a Thanksgiving Day dinner at 2 p.m. at the homeless at 507 W. 28th St.

South Tucson Unemployment Rate Continues to Climb

By Michael K. Rich

The City of South Tucson’s unemployment numbers are more than double those of Pima County and Arizona.

The city’s unemployment rate rose in September to 16 percent which marks six months of consecutive growth dating back to April when the rate was 10.4 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Pima County, the rate was 5.7 percent in September, and Arizona had an average unemployment rate of 6.1 percent.

Historically speaking, the small city has higher unemployment than both of its larger counterparts. In 2007, the city’s unemployment rate was 10.7 percent while the county’s was 3.7 and the state’s was 3.8.

During the past 10 years, the city’s rate has constantly been double that of the county and state.

One possible reason for the larger gap in unemployment numbers between the city and the county is the loss of jobs in construction, which has experienced a loss of 2,500 jobs since the past six months.

The Tucson Metropolitan area reports a loss of nearly 7,000 non-farm related jobs since April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Areas other than construction that have experienced loss include professional and business services with 1,000 jobs lost and information services with 700 jobs lost.

Despite the overall dip in available jobs there was some small growth in the government services and education sectors.

By Gerald R. Zimmer III

Families who need assistance providing gifts and food for their children can talk to school counselors about signing up for the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Toy Distribution.

Families at more than 150 Tucson schools, including schools in the Tucson Unified School District, Sunnyside District and many charter schools, can contact the schools’ counselors or resource officers for information on how to receive help from the Salvation Army.

Families may also go to the open registration for the program at the Salvation Army Family Services Office, 3352 E. 2nd St., from Dec. 8 through 11 at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To register for the Christmas Angel Toy Distribution, parents must bring social security cards, an identification card, valid Tucson address, proof of income and an original birth certificate for each child.

The program provides toys and food to more than 1,200 families per year.

People may also donate gifts and money or volunteer their time during the holiday season by joining the Adopt-A-Family Program.

Volunteers can work at the Salvation Army, participate in community outreach programs or assist in the Christmas projects.

To sponsor a family, there are minimum guidelines which may require a donation of around $200.

Sponsors can also choose to directly deliver items to their adopted family for the holiday season.

To apply to be a sponsor, go to the Tucson Salvation Army Web site at www.thesalvationarmytucson.org, navigate to Adopt-A-Family and click on "apply to sponsor," or call 795-9671.

Schools Join with Salvation Army to Provide Holiday Help for Families

Volunteers serve dinner provided by The Giving Tree Outreach Program Project FEED every Thursday and Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. at an empty lot on East 22nd Street between Columbus Boulevard and South Swan Road.
Students Sound Off About Dropping Out

By Ashley Villarreal

The microphone fizzes at the front of the packed auditorium and silence echoes across the room.

“How many will be the first in their family to attend college?”

The announcer waits. Students’ hands shoot up across the rows.

Community officials, school administra-
tors and students came together at Sunnyside High School Nov. 13 to discuss why local dropout rates are so high and what can be done to bring them down.

The meeting was specifically organized to get student input on the problem.

“I mean, the kids are really honest,” said June Webb-Vignery, the program coordinator at the Metropolitan Education Commission, a local partner that helped plan the summit.

“When they talk, the adults should listen. They really know what’s going on.”

The event was a partnership with a nationwide effort called America’s Promise, started by former Secretary of State Colin Powell, to improve education throughout the United States.

“Obviously, dropout rates are a very important issue,” said Vicki Balentine, superintendent of the Amphitheater School District.

“We know in this day and age is that for those that don’t graduate high school, it’s a less financially sound life than it used to be, and so our push is to get them to graduate.”

It pointed out that Arizona ranks 43rd in the nation for high school graduation rates.

The discussion was threaded through what the alliance calls its “five promises,” which are caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others.

Some students talked about the importance of having adults in their personal and school lives they trust enough to talk to before sliding toward dropping out.

Briana Mendez, a freshman at Sunnyside, said connecting with adults can often be difficult and offered some advice.

“I think students feel a lot less threatened when teachers and administrators, not so much get off their pedestal, but act, like an adult, but like a friend,” she said.

“Sometimes it’s good to have an adult there for you. Sometimes it’s good to just have somebody there to talk to.”

Jeff Conte, a sophomore at Ironwood Ridge High pointed out that high school students are often concerned with how other students and adults see them.

“So much about high school is how people think of you, what your impact in the crowd is.”

But that shouldn’t stop students from turning to adults when they need advice.

“It’s really hard to look at a teacher as a person. You do forget that they were in high school too and they probably had some of the same problems you did.”

Students also talked about forms of peer and community pressures they experience which may push them away from school.

But Julio Chavez, a freshman at Sunnyside, pointed out that part of feeling safe and not wanted enough to succeed is up to the individual.

“Our safety is just created by ourselves,” Chavez said. “I mean we can have the safest campus or the safest community but it won’t really matter unless you, yourself, make it safe.”

Other students said they thought that some people are just “set up for failure.”

which makes staying in school difficult.

Again, Chavez emphasized personal responsibility.

“People aren’t set up for failure. I’m sorry. You gotta face the facts and you gotta face life. It ain’t gonna be easy but if you have the right tools then you can get through life pretty easy.”

Conde agreed and said that it’s often up to individual students to make the right choices.

“So much about life are your choices. You choose to be in a safe place; you choose to do drugs; you choose to play basketball, you choose to drop out,” he said. “At the end of the day, it’s really on all of us.”

Ruben Campos, a guidance counselor at Safford Middle School, thought the frank discussion with students was useful.

“I think if students listened and if people listened then they will benefit from it, and it definitely will be a stepping stone,” she said.

“Because our state really needs to get going. Our country really needs to get going.”

By Gerald R. Zimmer III

POT pho to COURTESY OF RUBEN CAMPOS

National heroes who served as paratroopers during every American war since World War II will be serving their community in Tucson this holiday season. For many service in the armed forces is the ultimate way of giving back to the country and community. But for members of the Mexican-American Paratrooper Association (MAPA), the giving does not end.

The main goal of MAPA is to bring together paratroopers of Mexican-American heritage and give back to the community by helping people who need food and clothing.

The group provides Christmas gift baskets to families in Caring Ministries in Tucson.

“MAPA is always in the holiday spirit, we love to brighten up a holiday for a family,” Campos said.

MAPA pays for this by asking members to send in extra money with their dues.

The group is switching this holiday season from gift baskets to buying $50 food gift cards.

The group also donates truckloads of clothing to Mexico each month by collecting donations from Caring Ministries and driving them across the border to Nogales where they are distributed to individuals and families that Campos has found through Caring Ministries.

Many members join MAPA to give something back to the community during the holiday season.

“I joined because I had a friend in the group who told me about paratroopers helping the needy and that sounded like something worth doing,” said Arnold Escobedo, group member and highway patrolman.

MAPA has more than 50 members across the United States, including a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and three other Medal of Honor winners who have since passed away. The group meets every six months in Nogales, Arizona.

The group’s members show great pride in being part of MAPA.

“We may be one of the most proud organizations in the country,” said MAPA Commander Eugene Campos.

MAPA was founded as an Army paratrooper organization. Paratroopers are soldiers who have completed the U.S. Army Airborne School with a minimum of five jumps from an airplane during their military service.

The group has traditionally accepted only Army paratroopers, but is debating whether or not to offer membership to paratroopers from other branches of service at their next meeting.

“I think our membership would expand in large numbers if we opened it to all branches of service,” Campos said.
El Fondo Fiduciario busca contribuciones de promotores

Por Tessi Martinez

Traducido por Nabil Hourieh

Cuenta con un conjunto de principios de Gadsden Company (Compañía Gadsden) hizo todo lo posible para contribuir con el Fondo Fiduciario de Viviendas de Tucson, muchos de los cuales pasaron por una victoria para los trabajadores de la ciudad de Tucson.

"Creímos que las nuevas viviendas en el centro de Tucson deberían ser casas y sólo para la gente rica y los yuppys", dijo Brian Flagg, el director de desarrollo de la Primavera Foundation, fundadora de los planes de desarrollo con la ciudad, aunque ya estaba teniendo problemas, y planeaba movilizarse a la ciudad desde el centro de la ciudad están dis- puestos a pagar a los pobres de la ciudad. "No realmente me interesa ver a la gente que está en un mercado inmobiliario que ya está arruinado o una cuota de transferencia impuesta en un 178-188 al este de Broadway.

El Fondo Fiduciario de Viviendas de Tucson es considerado una "colonia". En septiembre, Romero temporalmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de su salario).

"A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.

En septiembre, Romero temporarmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de los ingresos medios).

"A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.

En septiembre, Romero temporarmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de los ingresos medios). "A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.

En septiembre, Romero temporarmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de los ingresos medios). "A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.

En septiembre, Romero temporarmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de los ingresos medios). "A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.

En septiembre, Romero temporarmente paró los planes para comenzar la construcción en El Faux. Según Dowell, "El condominio es un buen vecindario, pero él calcula que por cada $1,000 que aumenta el precio de una casa, otras 700 personas no podrán acceder a ella debido al precio. Así que una casa de $200,000 estaría fuera del alcance de 1,400 personas adicionales, concluye.

Era esto a lo que se están tratando de alcanzar el "Sueño Americano", dice Romero, el "menos de opciones" sólo para los grupos que tienen fondos para gente de bajos recursos que ganan el 80% o menos de los ingresos medios; y la clase trabajadora (quienes ganan del 80% al 100% de los ingresos medios). "A mi no me parece que haya opciones", dice Zimmerman sobre las alternativas a la cuota voluntaria. "Sólo me fijo en los hogares que están en un acercamiento de vivienda. Dependiendo de cómo se mire la situación: un hogar $5,300 al Fondo de Vivienda.
Hitting Home: Foreclosures on the Rise

By Claire Conrad

October was the first month that Hugo and Rosa Chavez did not make the payment on their house. "I had a foreclosures notice," said Rosa. "We were thinking ‘What are we going to do?’" Rosa said. "We’re just going to lose the house."

Hugo and Rosa are not alone. According to RealtyTrac, a national database of foreclosure listings, while Maricopa County and Pinal County were among the hardest hit in the state, Pima County still has a high foreclosure rate of foreclosures. They have been advertising to zip codes with a high percentage of foreclosures, and they are pursuing those that are early on in the process and are likely to have higher rates of foreclosure.

Hispanic and women including 200 families will pass through the doors of the volunteer run soup kitchen. "We need way more food," he says. "I’ve already counted 225 family bags," said volunteer Pancho Tadeo, leaning against a chain link fence, a wave of new people relying on their food bank.

"It just amazes me that they come out here everyday," adds Lopez. "No one serves the community like they (Casa Maria) do."

"I don’t know what people would do without Casa Maria," says Charlotte Speers, a 20-year volunteer. "It’s the pulse of South Tucson."

Casa Maria is always struggling to find enough food to feed the hundreds of people who come to their door. Many times they can only offer bread. "We have to all the time be begging for food," Medina says.

According to Speers, Casa Maria has seen a wave of new people relying on their food service. "We’re seeing an increase in the last few months," she says. "It just means that our economy…jobs aren’t here anymore."

Casa Maria offers more than bagged meals. They provide basic necessities for homeless folks, allowing them to use the phone, write up their mail, have their hair cut and choose clothes from their clothing bank.

Tucson police officer Angelica Lopez volunteers once a week at Casa Maria’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

"We have to all the time be begging for food," Medina says.

"Most of these people don’t have health insurance," South Tucson police officer Angelica Lopez volunteer says.

"I see new people every day," Young said. "I’ve seen an increase in the last few months," she adds.

Casa Maria also hosts the El Rio health clinic that sets up next to the Guadalupe’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday. "It’s a really word of mouth," Young says.

By Leila Abu-Saada

The daily migration to the humble white house begins with the sun. In the early morning, light of hundreds of people wend their way through the neighborhood and down the street, by car and by foot to line up at the door.

By the end of the day, more than 600 men and women including 200 families will pass through the two-hour line to get a hot bowl of soup and a bagged lunch – perhaps the only food they will get that day.

This is Guadalupe’s. The home, at 26th Street and Third Avenue, thieves its doors open every Friday through to feed hungry Tucsonans.

It is one of several services the Catholic Worker provides to the community. Casa Maria, which was offered to 25 years to local families and the homeless.

Inside, 12 volunteers hastily unpack green milk crates stacked high with bread, pastries, canned vegetables and fruit, and repack the food into white paper bags to pass on to people waiting in a line that now extends outside of the house, past the dirt yard with the overgrown plants, and onto the concrete sidewalk.

"I come here everyday," says Priscilla Tadeo, leaning against a chain link fence, a white Styrofoam cup of noodle soup in hand and her four-year-old daughter Gracie by her side. "Sometimes you need the extra help."

Tadeo was laid off from her job at the Tortilla Factory. Her husband stuccos houses but has only two or three shifts a week these days. They rely on Guadalupe’s food kitchen.

It’s only two hours into the daily serve when the volunteers have worked a hot stop. "I’ve already counted 225 family bags," says Casa Maria worker Brian Flagg, as Tejano music plays in the background.

Flagg and four other full-time employeess are working in a new building. "We help ourselves $10 a week from privately donated money. "We’re the only ones in town that do this kind of service," says volunteer Panchito Medina leaning against crates of food. "I really feel it’s my obligation as a good citizen to give back to the community."

Casa Maria relies heavily on volunteers to gather and bundle the donations of food that come from Food City, Safeway, individual drop-offs and school fundraisers.

Amongst white borrowers, 17 percent were Hispanic, according to an analysis released by the foundation. According to Speers, Casa Maria has seen a wave of new people relying on their food service. "We have to all the time be begging for food," Medina says. "I see new people every day," Young said. "I’ve seen an increase in the last few months," she adds.

Casa Maria also hosts the El Rio health clinic that sets up next to the Guadalupe’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

We’re the only ones in town that do this kind of service," says volunteer Panchito Medina leaning against crates of food. "I really feel it’s my obligation as a good citizen to give back to the community."

Casa Maria relies heavily on volunteers to gather and bundle the donations of food that come from Food City, Safeway, individual drop-offs and school fundraisers.

"I don’t know what people would do without Casa Maria," says Charlotte Speers, a 20-year volunteer. "It’s the pulse of South Tucson."

Casa Maria is always struggling to find enough food to feed the hundreds of people who come to their door. Many times they can only offer bread. "We have to all the time be begging for food," Medina says.

According to Speers, Casa Maria has seen a wave of new people relying on their food service. "We’ve seen an increase in the last few months," she says. "I just think it’s just our economy…jobs aren’t here anymore."

Casa Maria offers more than bagged meals. They provide basic necessities for homeless folks, allowing them to use the phone, write up their mail, have their hair cut and choose clothes from their clothing bank.

Tucson police officer Angelica Lopez volunteers once a week at Casa Maria’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

"I see new people every day," Young said. "I’ve seen an increase in the last few months," she adds.

Casa Maria also hosts the El Rio health clinic that sets up next to the Guadalupe’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

"It just amazes me that they come out here everyday," adds Lopez. "No one serves the community like they (Casa Maria) do."

"I don’t have anymore food until Salpointe came," Flagg says. "It’s a miracle to me."

Laura Alamada, left, and Esmeralda Zarito, back right, organize and separate piles of canned food, fruit and bread that has been donated to Casa Maria.

"Most of these people don’t have health insurance," South Tucson police officer Angelica Lopez volunteer says. "I see new people every day," Young said. "I’ve seen an increase in the last few months," she adds.

Casa Maria also hosts the El Rio health clinic that sets up next to the Guadalupe’s kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

"It just amazes me that they come out here everyday," adds Lopez. "No one serves the community like they (Casa Maria) do."

"I don’t have anymore food until Salpointe came," Flagg says. "It’s a miracle to me."

The Primavera Foundation has seen an increase in the number of troubled borrowers coming through their doors for help, they are not sure if that is due to the word spreading that help is available or because an increased number of people needing assistance.

The foundation offers educational programs for those considering buying homes as well as assistance for borrowers facing foreclosure, said Renee Bibby, marketing coordinator for Primavera.

Hugo and Rosa were people who found their way to Primavera for help. The first time they went to Primavera, they found emotional relief. They were reassured that they were early on in the process and could still save their home and creditor rating. Hugo attended classes to learn about finances and foreclosure.

Primavera’s classes are offered in English and in Spanish. The foundation counseled a total of 120 borrowers from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Of those, 74 percent were Hispanic, according to an analysis released by the foundation. Don’t Borrow Trouble also offers help in English and Spanish through their counseling services. They have been advertising to zip codes with a high percentage of Hispanics to let them know of upcoming workshop forums or events, Horbacz said.

"The numbers do not reflect the Current projections indicate the rate of foreclosures will continue to rise for the next few years. A high percentage of sub prime and Alt-A borrowers, the poorest class in the country, are likely to have higher rates of foreclosure.

The rate of foreclosure could affect the rate of foreclosure in other areas as well. A high percentage of sub prime and Alt-A borrowers, the poorest class in the country, are likely to have higher rates of foreclosure.

"We’re still spinning out of control in my opinion," Horbacz said. "I don’t know about much more of a bottom we can go but we’re not on our way up. Even if we stay where we are it’s only, to me, going to get worse."

For Hugo and Rosa, the story ends happily. They renegotiated their mortgage and are now paying around half of what they were paying per month, Hugo said. They will stay in their home.
Bad Streak Turns to Season of Success

By Ari Wasserman

Having lost 23 straight games entering this season, Tucson-High School head coach Vincent Smith was worried about everything except making a playoff run, especially because the Badgers hadn’t made the postseason in 20 years.

Even wishful thinking would have been farfetched.

“We believed in our kids and as a coach you always want to believe that you can win,” Smith said, “but given the recent history and seeing the way things have gone, it was a big uphill battle to make the playoffs if we were going to have any chance to do that and do some things well.”

Just when things looked like they were heading down a losing path yet again for Tucson — the losing streak reached 25 games when the Badgers dropped their first two games of the season — something changed.

After a 54-7 victory over Phoenix Alhambra on Sept. 19 to break the seemingly forever streak of losses, the winning attitude returned and the Badgers finished the season 5-5 with a trip to the 5A-I state playoffs waiting for them.

“We honestly could have been 7-3 or 8-2 because we lost by a turnover eventually led to a deficit and one bad play,” Smith said. “But we took a two of our three losses.

Badgers make the mark.

“We honestly could have been 7-3 or 8-2 because we lost by a turnover eventually led to a deficit and one bad play,” Smith said. “But we took a two of our three losses.

Free Laptops to Grade A Students

By Tanya Radisavljevic

How do you motivate high school students to stay in school and implement a variety of programs in an effort to keep kids in school.

How about offering them a free laptop.

More than 1,200 students are currently on track to receive a laptop this January.

The layperson may find the job's long hours and highly physical work unappealing, but firefighter Ruben Olivaros, married with two children, disagrees. He was injured earlier this year and had to work regular hours for four months.

“It felt like I spent less time with my family, actually,” he says. “Working 24 hours means the next day, I get to be home at 2:30 when my kids get home from school.”

The men spent all day in the fire truck.

There’s a lot of pride that comes out of here,” says Joseph Castro, 32. “We run a lot of calls and seeing the way things have turned around for Tucson — the way things have been known for prior to its turn-around.

The float took second place out of 32 stations and the men are proud. The fundraiser collected $52,000 for the Adopt-a-Family program.

At Station 14, like every other station in Tucson, the majority of calls are medically related. According to Tucson Fire Department’s statistics from 2007, nearly 84 percent of all incoming calls were for basic or advanced medical care.

Smith was worried about every-thing. Their professionalism on the job is a stark difference from the fraternity house-like feel that home base. Take their work seriously and appreciate its diversity.

“I think we have a unique group of people with different careers. That’s where you can find the cool thing about this job is there’s such a variety of things we do,” Smith says. “One minute we’re helping someone who drank too much and the next we’re helping an older guy up who just fell. One minute we’re washing dishes and the next minute we’re fighting a fire.”
By Gerald R. Zimmerman III

“I remember it like it was yesterday. Nov. 5, 2007 was the day my life changed forever,” said Kevin Kassner.

“I was working at the Tucson Arizona and I decided to leave work early. Nov. 5, 2007 was the day my life changed forever.”

“Brian Flagg, an activist at Casa Valenzuela said. “It’s our feeling that new housing development agreements know it is a place they can enjoy. ‘Developing’ an Income for the Tucson Housing Trust Fund”

“Developing” an Income for the Tucson Housing Trust Fund

The Tucson Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown Tucson offers families the chance to learn about different styles of music once a month. “It’s a home run, even brings a variety of musicians to perform as a way to expose families to diverse styles of music,” said Lisa Gibbs, associate director of MOCA.

‘Developing’ an Income for the Tucson Housing Trust Fund

The museum also offers activities that relate to the performance. Gibbs said, “Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.”

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

By Tess Martinez

When the Gadsden Company agreed to go above and beyond for the Tucson Housing Trust Fund earlier this year, some saw it as a victory for downtown’s poor.

“It’s hard to believe that new housing developments downtown will be expensive and only for rich people and yuppies,” said Brian Flagg, an activist at Casa Valenzuela.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.

Kevin Kassner didn’t recognize the signs of diabetes until his pancreas failed. His eyes were glazed over as if he was dreaming of the world he had been diagnosed with diabetes in the last three years, but now people live 10 to 50 years after diagnosis with diet, insulin, drugs and/or insulin pumps, according to the ADA.

In a way, it seems like diabetes has completely changed Kassner’s life, but he knows that everything is the same.

The Mama/Dada/Baby performance on Dec. 20 will showcase two local artists and work they have done with MOCA members.

Admission to the concert is $5 per family and free for MOCA members.

Family Time concerts are held on the plaza outside the museum on 149 N. Stone Ave. every third Saturday of the month.

For more information about family time concerts at MOCA call 624-5019.
Nov. 1 – March 31
Butterflies!
See the annual butterfly exhibit at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Butterflies from Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas are on display for all to enjoy. Admission, which includes the gardens and the butterfly exhibit, is $11 for adults and $5.50 for children 4 to 12. Children 3 and under are free. For more information call 324-0166.

Nov. 22
Sparks Science Fun Fair
The Tucson Children’s Museum offers some science fun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 792-9985.

Starting Nov. 23
Gaming Sundays
Nothing to do on a Sunday afternoon? Come play Guitar Hero III, Dance Dance Revolution and many more games. The Pima County Library’s Mission branch, 3770 S. Mission Road, offers games every second and fourth Sunday of the month from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information visit http://www.library.pima.gov/locations/mission/ or call 594-5323.

Nov. 28 – Nov. 30
Aztec Dances
Come enjoy the history of Aztec dances. Nahui Ollin Aztec Dancers have been traveling around the U.S. and Mexico performing Aztec dances. They will be performing at the Tolteca Tlacuilo, 186 N. Meyer Ave., in the Old Town Artisans Courtyard. Performances are at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 623-5787.

Nov. 28 – Jan. 4
’Tis the Season
Learn the history of various holiday traditions at the UA’s Flandrau Science Center. The show traces the history of Christian, Jewish, Egyptian, Hopi and other winter traditions. Admission is $5 for ages 4 and up. Children under 4 are free. For a schedule of shows, see http://www.gotuasciencecenter.org/astronomy/planetarium/ or call 621-3645.

Dec. 1
Tacky the Penguin
Come meet and hear the adventures of Tacky the Penguin at the UA Student Union Bookstore. The story-telling event features a different character the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 621-2814.

Dec. 6
Tikal & Heritage Festival
The annual Tamal Festival is back at Casino del Sol’s Anselmo Valencia Tori Amphitheater. Enjoy a full day of tamales, music and entertainment from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 1-800-344-9435.

Traducido por Ernesto Amaya
1 de nov. - 31 de mar. ¡Mariposas!
Ve an la exposición anual de mariposas en el Jardín Botánico de Tucson (Tucson Botanical Gardens). Habrá mariposas de Asia, África, Australia y América para que todos puedan disfrutar. El ingreso, el cual incluye los jardines y la exposición de las mariposas, cuesta $11 para adultos y $5.50 para niños de 4 a 12. Si desea más información llame al 324-0166.

22 de nov. SPARKS feria científica divertida
El Museo Infantil de Tucson (Tucson’s Children’s Museum) ofrece actividades divertidas con las ciencias desde las 10 a.m. hasta las 4 p.m. El ingreso es gratuito. Si desea más información llame al 792-9985.

A partir del 23 de nov.
Videojuegos los domingos
¿No tiene nada que hacer los domingos por la tarde? Venga y juegue a Guitar Hero III, Dance Dance Revolution y muchos videojuegos más. La sucursal de Pima County Library Mission en 3770 S. Mission Rd. ofrece los videojuegos cada segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, desde las 3 hasta las 4:30 p.m. Si desea más información, visite http://www.library.pima.gov/locations/mission/ o llame al 594-5323.

28-30 de nov.
Bailes aztecas
Vengan a disfrutar de la historia de los bailes aztecas. Los Nahui Ollin Aztec Dancers han viajado a través de los Estados Unidos y México presentando bailes aztecas cuya tradición ha sido conservado gracias a los danzantes de la familia de Luis Salinas. Presentarán en el Tolteca Tlacuilo, 186 N. Meyer Ave., en el Old Town Artisans Courtyard. Las presentaciones serán a las 12, 2 y 4 p.m. El ingreso es gratuito. Si desea más información llame al 623-5787.

28 de nov. - 4 de ene.
Es la temporada

1 de dic.
Tacky el Pingüino
Vengan a escuchar las aventuras de Tacky el Pingüino en la Biblioteca de la Unión Estudiantil de la U de A. La narración presenta a un personaje diferente el primer sábado de cada mes, a las 10:30 a.m. Si desea más información llame al 621-2814.

6 de dic.
Festival sobre las tradiciones y el tamal
El festival anual Tamal vuelve al Anselmo Valencia Tori Amphitheater en el Casino del Sol. Disfruten de un día de tamales, música y entretenimiento, desde las 10 a.m. hasta las 3 p.m. Si desea más información llame al 1-800-344-9435.

Check us out!
El Independiente now online at
www.elindenews.com