For many low-income families, buying a house is a dream that remains out of reach for others, it is a dream that has turned into a nightmare. The spread across Tucson’s residential streets: foreclosure signs litter neighborhood streets from Oro Valley to Vail.

The cause isn’t just the slow housing market. Subprime loans and predatory lending practices have caused more of the foreclosures in Tucson than other marker-driven factors, says B.C. Robinson, a housing counselor at Tucson Urban League.

Arizona posts the nation’s third-highest foreclosure rate, and Tucson ranks 54th among metro areas nationwide. Currently, the city lists 594 foreclosures. Pima County reported 601 foreclosures during the month of February or one for every 677 households, according to www.realtytrac.com, a website that tracks real estate trends nationwide.

“A lender will qualify (a family) for more than they can afford,” Robinson says. “A mortgage should be no more than 30 percent of a family’s income.”

Maggie Amado-Tellez, housing director at Chicanos por la Causa, says that subprime lenders often target low-income families, especially Chicanos and Hispanics, by offering less rigorous criteria for loans so that applicants can qualify at higher rates.

She says homeowners become stuck in large mortgages with high interest rates when they shouldn’t have purchased a home in the first place, because they didn’t have sufficient income to handle a traditional mortgage.

“How much are the percentages of people’s income going to the home payment, so there’s less discretionary income?” she says. “Then life happens. Someone gets sick or you get a divorce. Where does the food come from?”

But Amado-Tellez is quick to add that it’s not just lenders to blame for the high rate of mortgage defaults.

“It’s not just the loans. Who are these people to subprime lenders?” she says. “Less than 1 percent of people who are defaulting now are clients of (financial) counselors. Realtors steer a lot of people to subprime lenders.”

When first-time buyers are looking for a home, they spend a lot of time with their real estate agent, who becomes the person they trust in the home-buying process, Amado-Tellez says. And with a depressed housing market, agents are more eager to sell property than make sure their client is in an affordable home.

“They steer them away from knowledge is power,” Amado-Tellez says.

Both Chicanos por la Causa and Tucson Urban League, along with Primavera Foundation and

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS AND POTENTIAL HOMEOWNERS

Primavera Foundation
702 S. Sixth Ave.
Financial counseling, pre-purchase services, federal grant application assistance.
Contact Danny Mendez
882-5383 or 623-5111

Tucson Urban League
2305 S. Park Ave.
Financial counseling, pre-purchase services, help with closing process, federal grant application assistance.
Contact B.C. Robinson
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### Sunnyside Softball Singing for Repeat at State Tourney

**By Luke Davis**

The Sunnyside Blue Devils softball team marched as far as evil as their mascot’s name implies, but you’d be hard pressed to find another team in 5A division who doesn’t think so.

The Blue Devils, last year’s 5A Division II champions, are in place to tear up the state softball play-offs again.

Sunnyside is 17-1 in the regular season, and entered the state tournament third in the 5A power rankings.

Their only loss during the regular season is to Western Vista Buena High School, currently third in Division I.

The state softball tournament began April 26, with Sunnyside advancing to the second round of contests by prevailing over Phoenix area Barry Goldwater High School.

The Blue Devils next victim, Anthem’s Boulder Creek High School. It only took Sunnyside five innings to defeat the Jaguars 13-1, propelling them to the semifinals of the tournament.

The Blue Devils’ loss May 5 to Peoria Sunrise Mountain put them in the loser bracket of the double elimination tournament, but Sunnyside next won itself a shot at redemption with a victory over Phoenix Pinnacle High School.

Their prize was a rematch with Sunrise Mountain on May 7. A win gives them a title shot against teams they beat during the season; Ironwood Ridge or Scottsdale Horizon.

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### ELL Funding Becomes Law

**By Claire Rodin**

A bill funding English instruction in Arizona schools will become law without Gov. Janet Napolitano’s signature.

The Senate Bill 1096 appropriates $40 million to fund English Language Learners programs and help prevent millions in court fines.

“Senate Bill 1096 is far from a perfection solution to Arizona’s need for adequate English language learner instruction,” Napolitano said in a press release.

The governor, however still believes that the legislature will have a lot of work ahead of them concerning English-Language instruction. Napolitano explained that there are more court’s sanctions orders that still need to be considered and would reduce the two-year limit on funding.

In the governor’s letter she urged legislators to consider the thoughts of “front-line educators,” many of whom disagree with the efficiency of the $40 million amount Napolitano argued that funding for a genuinely effective program would be closer to $300 million.

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### Spring Training: Out at Home?

By Luke Davis

How quickly we all forget.

With nearly 20 percent of the major league baseball regular season over, Tucson baseball fans are cheering their teams, in the moment forgetting that soon those flickering images on a screen may be the only way to see their team.

Tucson’s spring training is in danger of extinction, and the continuation as to why was a topic of great discussion around the bars and water coolers of the city during the presesason, but the passage of time and the excitement of the regular season left the curious with no answers.

For those still left wanting, fear not. The answers to the four most asked questions about spring training’s status and how it got that way are in the following paragraphs.

So let’s step up to the plate and knock these out of the park.

**Question #1: How is it that we will go from three teams to no teams?**

**El Indie Answer:** Currently, three major league teams call Tucson home. Many think that these are the Colorado Rockies, who play at Hi Corbett Field (built in 1937 and run by the City of Tucson), and the Chicago White Sox and Arizona Diamondbacks, who play at Arizona Diamondbacks Stadium (built in 1998 and run by Pima County).

What most may not know is that these teams are contracted with local government in a sort of polygamous marriage. The White Sox and Diamondbacks are associated with the city of Goodyear (a suburb of Phoenix), and the Colorado Rockies, a franchise that has been in Arizona since 1998 and run by Pima County.

The future does not look particularly promising for those in Tucson here is so unstable that no one team has seriously considered a move.

All indicators from the Rockies point to a continued Tucson residency if their required renovations and improvements are made.

However this is contingent on the city funding the money to do so, and that is not currently looking like a strong possibility due to budget deficits.

So there you have it.

The future does not look particularly promising for those in Tucson wishing to sip water beer, get a sunburn, and listen to the crack of a wooden bat but connecting with a rawhide ball.

**Question #2: How much does Tucson make from spring training anyway?**

**El Indie Answer:** The answer is a lot. An economic impact study done by the Cactus League (the body that governs Arizona spring training) estimated that in the month-long 2007 season, spring training brought in nearly $31 million to the Tucson area. This money comes from a variety of sources, including direct-from-baseball fans, like beer and tickets, and peripheral monies like hotel taxes, restaurant sales and car rentals.

Spring training is the second largest non-municipal money source for Tucson after the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

**Question #3: Why is there no sports authority here like the one in Maricopa County to help the city keep teams?**

**El Indie Answer:** This is one of the main questions heard repeatedly. The answer is rather complicated, and actually is right now in a state of flux.

First, as to what a sports authority is. Tucson only has to look at the northern neighbor that is in the process of scooping up its baseball teams like so many ground balls hit to a shortstop.

Maricopa County’s Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) is a corporate and political body that knits together communities throughout the county and can allocate money from all of them through taxes to improvements in or new construction on sports facilities and other tourism-enhancing endeavors.

Currently, this authority has allocated $68.3 million to the Cactus League spring training facilities around the county in Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe and Surprise.

This authority is an unusually cooperative effort, as municipalities tend to bicker and disagree on who should be given money.
Economy, not Sanctions Hurting Small Businesses

By Lorena Barraza

Because of the slowing economy, small businesses in Tucson are not feeling negative impacts of the new Arizona employer sanctions law that went into effect in January. This is sort of like a perfect storm,” says Maricela Solis de Kester, president of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce. “With the harsh economy and housing market, places are seeing a decline in business and not needing to hire new employees, which is why they’re not feeling the impact of the law since it is happening all at once.”

Because of this, Solis de Kester says the Tucson Chamber of Commerce has not heard any complaints or any sort of feedback on the law from any of their members.

The new Arizona sanction law states that businesses must verify employees’ right-to-work documents such as a visa. If the documents are falsified or forged the company must fire the employee or the business will face heavy fines.

Many small businesses in South Tucson are family owned and operated, and often don’t hire many employees. But other businesses in South Tucson and all of Arizona must incorporate E-Verify in the system in which the documents are verified.

The restaurant business is enduring the worst effects of the falling economy and the law on undocumented workers.

Sherri Gillespie, Marketing Manager for the Arizona Restaurant and Hospitality Association, sees the strain that the new law and the economy are placing on the restaurant industry and its effects on the job market.

“We have seen that with this law in effect, employees are going elsewhere for employment. Some are going back to Mexico or to other states. Arizona is not as business-friendly as it once was,” Gillespie says. “Many restaurants are raising their prices or closing their doors.”

Abelardo Frisby, the general manager at Las Cazuelitas, a Mexican restaurant chain in Tucson, has experienced the effect of the law on undocumented workers first hand.

“I have turned five people down due to illegal documents,” Frisby says. “I have also had two workers and when their information didn’t match up in the E-Verify system, I asked them to bring in new documents. After that, I never saw them again — they never came back.”

But with the bad economy, Frisby doesn’t need to replace them.

“Business is slow, so losing those employees didn’t really hurt us, but we lost some very hard workers. But our new students can’t get any U.S. citizen to come and do a $6.90 an hour job, when they can get that through unemployment.”

Viva Dance Offers Classes, Hip-hop to Salsa to Folklorico

By Mark Rodriguez

The Viva Performing Arts Center makes an about-face this summer after sponsoring the Spark the Floor hip-hop festival in April.

In August the dance studio will be showcased at the Hispanic Performing Arts Conference, which will be held Aug. 2 at Centennial Hall.

The show is one of the largest organized by the performing arts center and celebrates Arizona’s Hispanic culture with dance and music.

The Viva Performing Arts Center, 4562 S. Park Ave., offers classes to prepare for the conference, and dancers will also have the opportunity to participate in work-shops leading up to the conference, from July 30 to Aug. 1.

Workshops will be offered in folklorico, flamenco, salsa, hip-hop, and a teaching style, says Julie Gallego, who directs the Viva Performing Arts Center.

She says that the Viva studio is the only dance studio in the south Tucson area that offers ballet classes.

Dance classes are currently in session, but new students can register and join in with a $20 annual registration fee for one student, plus a monthly fee based on the number of classes taken.

For more information on specific classes and times, auditions or fees, visit vivaaaworkshops.com or call 544-9943.

Sixth Avenue Facelift

Sixth and Stone Avenues are both two-way streets south of Broadway Boulevard.

Room Available for Seniors at Blanchie Johnson Courtyard

By Laura Hassett

For seniors wishing to live in a comfortable and affordable home, there are still occupancies at the Blanchie Johnson Courtyards, a subsidized rental community in South Tucson.

The Metropolitan Housing Corp. and the Tucson Urban League received a federal grant to build the 68-unit apartment complex, west of the Guionic Douglas Neighborhood Center on East 36th Street and South Kino Parkway. Seniors 62 and older can apply to live in one of the units, says Metropolitan Housing Corp. Executive Director, Yvonne Romero-Harris.

“We are gladly accepting applications,” Romero-Harris says. “Any newcomers are welcome.”

For eligibility, a single person applying must have a maximum of $30,000 into its anti-racketeering fund, which includes money seized from drugs and reclaimed businesses.

“And instead of us having to go to the Pima County Courthouse to put together a photo line-up (of suspects), we’ll have access to criminal law data since the law went into effect in the office and in the field,” Garcia says.

The upgraded system will make the department more efficient and accurate for the department, Garcia says, as it would allow them to pull up identification information, call 241-6886 or visit ArtCulturePartnership, 951 E. 35th Street.

Tech Grant May Help STPD

By Christina Foglia

The South Tucson Police Department is re-applying for a federal grant that would help the department make technological upgrades.

The U.S. Department of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is a technology grant that is renewable for five years, says Kevin Trick, information technology specialist with the STPD.

The annual amount is about $15,000, Trick says.

This year it was used to upgrade recording capabilities on 911 calls, Trick says. This past year it was used to get the police department its own server and provide back-up power for computers in case the opportunity to travel to different countries and learn about other cultures.

Local Latina Dancer Tagged for Up With People Tour

By Mark Rodriguez

A young south side dancer has been given the opportunity to join Up With People, an organization that stages musical performances around the world as participants gain insight and education about different countries and cultures.

Blanca Martinez, 22, a speech, language and hearing senior at the University of Arizona, has been selected for a six-month tour beginning July 11, and is seeking financial support.

The Pueblo High School graduate has danced with Tucson hip-hop crews including Ixora and Blackout, and has worked with Viva dance. She says she is excited about the opportunity to travel to different countries and learn about other cultures.

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Employer Sanctions After Five Months: Law has Workers Living in Limbo  

By Lorena Barraza

Itus Rodriguez has been a responsible and reliable employee of the franchise Techni- pany for nearly five years. He was promoted to manager three years ago and often works long, grueling hours. Rodriguez supervises a staff of eight employees. He is trained in various tasks such as taking care of cus- tomer service issues, handling mer- chandise, and managing inventory and writing reports. But Rodriguez isn't the employer's boss; he is, and he's not like the staff he supervises. Rodriguez has a secret.

Like millions of other workers in the United States, he is not in this country legally. This makes a recent addition to his responsibilities a bit painful. Since Arizona's employer sanc- tions law went into effect in January, Rodriguez has had to fire several of his employees because he could not verify that they were working legally.

Arizona workers must now provide proper documentation to their employers in order to legally work in the United States. These documents must be con- firmed with the federal govern- ment's E-Verify system which checks them for eligibility for employment. (See story, page 7.)

Since the law went into effect, I have had to lay off at least eight employees, says Rodriguez, who has been in the country illegally for the purpose of this article. “They were all hard working employees too. People who are here without papers work hard, like burros, do what that came here to do — work.”

Local Program Documents Law’s Impact, Abuses

By Gaby Renteria-Poespel

Five months after the Legal Arizona Workers Law—also known as the employer sanc- tions law—went into effect, the full impact of the regulation is not known. What is known are the possible abuses that undocumented immigrant workers may endure from employers trying to protect themselves from being sanctioned.

In an effort to document these abuses, the Arizona Immigration Project, an organization engaged in teaching out to immigrant communities.

“The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), in collaboration with the Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), has been documenting complaints and employer abuses since before the law went into effect on Jan. 1,” said Nina Rubin, director of Border Research at SIROW and project director for the Tucson Women Workers’ Project.

“The project works with local social services and immigrant rights organizations like Southern Arizona Legal Aid and Border Action Network, to inform the community about ways to docu- ment employer abuses,” Rubin said.

“We are here just trying to encourage people to come forward to let us know what is happening to them as a result of the law,” she said.

Rubin said it is very likely that the law is forcing some workers into illegal employment or into independent contractor type posi- tions, where they would not be cov- ered by the law, and are vulnerable to abuse.

The project offers confidential advice and counseling on work- related aspects of the law to workers who attend the project’s clinics.

Last year, Rubin and her staff noticed that some employers were starting to “clean house,” she said. Some employers received letters from employers warning them about the need to obtain new docu- ments to prove they were working here legally.

“I know there was a pretty large lay-off of at least 15 workers that contacted us who were all laid off at once in mid-to-late January after the law went into effect,” she said.

Rubin said that so far the organ- ization has become involved direct- ly in only 12 cases related to the employer sanctions law.

However, the legal clinic receives phone calls from people asking questions regarding the law or issues related to it, Rubin said. The most common issue revolved around employers asking long-term employees to provide new docu- ments to prove their identity.

“That really gets to the heart of the really ambiguous and problem- atic aspects of the law, which is that it’s not clear,” Rubin said.

Many employers are checking on the legal status of current and prospective workers, even though the employer sanctions law requires that they check the status of new employees within the first three days of hire, Rubin said.

“One of the few hopeful things about documenting what’s happening to at least take stock of how much are employers really being forced into a situation where they are acting in violation of federal laws by trying to comply with the state law,” Rubin said.

Maria Mendoza, a third year law student and volunteer at the clinic, said that she is seeing other problematic effects since the law has been in place that qualify as discrimination.

“I speak with somebody who suggested they were starting to have employers ask them for docu- mentation before they were even going through an interview or hir- ing process,” Mendoza said.

Taylor, another law stu- dent helping in the project, has observed similar problems.

“I’ve dealt with one or two cases where the employer received a social security “no match letter,” and then, under some suspension that the employers are undocumented workers, terminate them even though the employers are not really supposed to do that,” Taylor said.

Although the Arizona law does not specifically deal with unmatched social security num- bers, it has all become entangled, Rubin said. The “no-match” letters are not supposed to be grounds for firing workers, she said.

Sebastian Quinac, coordinator for the Immigration and Border Program at AFSC, said his office has also seen an increase of abuses of day laborers. While they may be temporary workers, some employ- ers take advantage of the current situation to commit abuses, such as not paying them wages.

The situation has been frustrat- ing for the clinic because the law is ambiguous, which makes it diffi- cult to do much legally for an undocumented worker who has been asked to provide new docu- ments, Rubin said.

The clinic can help undocumented workers who have been fired or did not get the wages they were due before they were termi- nated, but they can’t legally help them get their jobs back, Rubin said. They can also help when the federal E-Verify system is not used as it should be, she said.

“I know there’s many, many more workers being affected than we’ve heard from,” she said.

Once Rubin and her team collect more data, they hope it can be used to evaluate whether the law should continue to be in effect and what can be done to try to be asked to provide new docu- ments, Rubin said.
**Impact is Uncertainty, Confusion, Fear**

**More Deportees Make Their Way to Sonoran Shelter**

By Gaby Renteria-Poepsel

Most of them carry backpacks on their shoulders. At the entrance there is a desk, where Gilda Loureiro keeps record of the migrants for the night. On the wall, there are a number of stories in Spanish about the migrants who die crossing the desert. Signs of bright green paper reflect the number of migrants the shelter has received in the last three years. Last year’s number of migrants reached 27,076, up from about 14,256 the year before.

Before Arizona’s employer sanctions law went into effect in January, there was much speculation about how many migrants might leave Arizona to return to Mexico, and the pressures their departure might place on border cities like Nogales, Sonora.

People involved in immigration issues agree on one thing: the number of migrants returning to Nogales, Sonora, has increased. Some are self-deporting and some are deported by the U.S. Border Patrol; however, there are no specific statistics comparing how many of the deportees are caught while trying to cross versus how many are leaving because of the sanctions law.

The Albergue Juan Bosco, a shelter in Nogales, Sonora is located at the top of a steep street, and from its steps one can see the sun set over the city. The white house has concrete steps at the entrance, and a small sign above it has the name in red letters. The shelter offers food and rest to deported migrants. It is at the dirt and gravel parking lot outside the building while waiting for the doors to open. The shelter has been in operation for 25 years, and for the last three it has received some help from local and state governments. There has been a 40 percent increase in the number of migrants they have served this year compared to 2007, according to Francisco Loureiro Herrera, who is in charge of the shelter. He is Gilda’s husband.

Loureiro Herrera said that despite the increase in number of migrants, repatriation is occurring in an orderly fashion. “We joined other organizations that are working with migrants, and we’ve tried to have a process in place to avoid any problems,” he said.

Currently, the U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector sends back to Mexico an average of 1,000 people a day, according to Mario Escalante, spokesman for the Tucson Sector. This number includes deportees and those who have been granted voluntary repatriation.

Grupo Beta, the Mexican equivalent of BORSTAR, the Border Patrol’s rescue team, has provided for the return of 874 migrants to their home country only in the last two months, compared to 700 in all of 2007, according to Leopoldo Santamaria, director of Colegio de Sonora in Hermosillo, speaking to legislators in Sonora.

At some time in the morning, Dirección de Atención a Migrante Internacional (International Migrant Services), headquartered in Hermosillo, reports as many as 2,000 migrants are deported every day just through the Mariposa checkpoint in Nogales, which is a branch office that reports to the headquarters. It is unclear how many of those were detained and deported while trying to cross and how many were deported as a result of the sanctions law after living for some time in Arizona.

As they come into the shelter, migrants are asked to give basic information like their name, age, and place of origin. This information is later given to government officials who use it as a way to keep track of the Mexican states with the most emigrants, said Loureiro Herrera.

The shelter has a room with bunk beds for the men and another for the women, a room with tables for migrants to have a meal, a kitchen, and a little chapel where some sleep on busy nights. They are allowed to stay in the shelter for up to three days. "We give them the opportunity to think about what they want to do. Some go back to their place of origin, some get a job or stay here in Nogales." Loureiro Herrera said.

Teresa and Daniel are two of the many deportees recently staying at the shelter whose economic situation has forced them north to the United States. The married couple was caught and deported in their first attempt to cross the desert to Arizona. Physically and emotionally exhausted, they too had to make a decision whether to stay in Nogales, return home or try again to get to [the U.S.], she said. "The need is what makes one cross." For migrants who want to return to their home in Mexico, the shelter sometimes provides bus tickets, but because of the high cost they are given exclusively to families or those who are injured, Loureiro Herrera said.

There are, therefore, a good number who stay in the streets and go unaccounted for. This is what some call a “floating population.” Santos Ramirez said research about this population is necessary in order to understand the social effects of Arizona’s new law. "We only have impressions," he said. "We need a study about the way these populations survive.”

Loureiro Herrera shares the same concerns and said organizations are trying to find a way to keep the number of “floating” migrants down. One way is to find jobs for those returning to Mexico.

The shelter tries to match migrants to local jobs. They frequently receive requests for workers from businesses like nurseries in Sonora, he said.

The high turnover of migrant workers is convenient for the companies because the workers do not stay long enough to get benefits, he said.

"People take these jobs while they save to pay the [coyote] and then leave," he said.

Loureiro Herrera said there has been a lot of speculation in Nogales about having an avalanche of migrants who will create problems in the city, but he does not believe this will happen. "All the migrant wants is food, and as long as there are places where they can get to it there is no reason to fear that they will be delinquents," he said.

He remains optimistic about the future, but acknowledges that more shelters are needed. "The most people we’ve had this year is 160 people in one day," he said. "We can’t receive so many people every day. We would need a super shelter.” Loureiro Herrera says he knows a solution to the immigration problem won’t come soon. He says his records show that more and more young people are deciding to cross, and hopes Mexico will start looking into ways to maintain its workforce.

“I see that most migrants are from 18 to 56 years of age,” said Loureiro Herrera. “If the immigration continues like now, I think soon Mexico will be a country of old people.’’

To Help

The Albergue Juan Bosco shelter is always in need of donations such as trash bags, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. What they need the most are socks in all sizes.

To donate, call Gilda Loureiro at 011-52-631-313-6833, at the shelter in Nogales, Sonora.
Nov. Ballot Initiative Would Ban Payday Loans in Arizona

By Ian Cross

The mysterious disappearance of honeybees nationwide may not be a concern for many Americans, but local beekeepers say that a Southside business owner wants to generate more buzz on the issue.

The declining bee population is being blamed on Colony Collapse Disorder. A study in 2007 led to the creation of an international center to remove the nutritional imbalances causing Colony Collapse Disorder. Researchers at the Carl Hayden Research Center report that the Africanized queen and removal of the Africanized bees can interbreed with the native bees. The Africanized bees are more aggressive and can be dangerous, according to Wilson. DeGrandi-Hoffman points out that “[Africanized] bees also have some positive traits; they’re vigorous, build fast and you don’t see the estimated 25 percent decline in the bee population.

Another group, Reform AZ, was recently formed to work on the ballot, the organization for St. Bernadette, and reformers are working to save the bees. DeGrandi-Hoffman’s research has led her to believe that there is a combination of factors causing Colony Collapse Disorder. These factors include a new disease that targets the bees digestive system, and eventually a part of the bee is lost.

Another theory is that the stress of being transported from crop to crop is harming the bees. Wilson isn’t the only Tucsonan working to save the bees. By Ian Cross

Roya Wilson, the owner of Southwest Bee Supply, says that the bees have been in Arizona, rather than exterminating them.

A lot of people want them dead, Wilson says. “I don’t do that, I’m not a bee killer.” Instead, Wilson’s staff removes the hive or swarm and re-queens the bees. When they parasitize bees, they could be transferring a virus,” she says. “When they parasitize bees, they could be transferring a virus.”

Nosema, a new disease that targets the bees digestive system, could also be a contributor to bee death, she says. Another theory is that the stress of being transported from crop to crop is harming the bees. Wilson isn’t the only Tucsonan working to save the bees. Researchers at the Carl Hayden Research Center report that the Africanized queen and removal of the Africanized bees can interbreed with the native bees. The Africanized bees are more aggressive and can be dangerous, according to Wilson. DeGrandi-Hoffman points out that “[Africanized] bees also have some positive traits; they’re vigorous, build fast and you don’t see the estimated 25 percent decline in the bee population.

Another group, Reform AZ, was recently formed to work on the ballot, the organization for St. Bernadette, and reformers are working to save the bees. DeGrandi-Hoffman’s research has led her to believe that there is a combination of factors causing Colony Collapse Disorder. These factors include a new disease that targets the bees digestive system, and eventually a part of the bee is lost.

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Employer Sanctions Lead to Uncertainty, Fear

By Gabby Renteria-Poopesel

While anecdotes of empty appointment complexes and large numbers of people moving out of the state or going back to Mexico have been circulating in Arizona, the Mexican Consulate in Tucson has not yet seen evidence of dramatic changes in the response to the state’s employer sanctions law, which fines businesses for hiring undocumented workers.

However, the consulate is aware of situations that some immigrants may be facing, said Alejandro Ramos Cardoso, spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in Tucson.

"If a bad situation was happening, I might be able to work while their wives and children are going back to Mexico," Ramos Cardoso said. "We also know of cases where people who have returned to the country or decided to return to Mexico.

"As expected, Contreras says, the discrepancy was corrected in Arizona, and in his case, he was able to continue to work assignments based on tentative non-confirmation," Ramos Cardoso said. "Also, in order for people to be able to continue study in Mexico, people have to fill out a form to transfer their studies here."

"I don’t know if there was wrongdoing," Ramos Cardoso said. "But probably in the Social Security Administration switched Marcos and Contreras around, which resulted in the discrepancy.

If anyone is fired because of this law, they are welcome to come to the consulate so that we can analyze their case to determine if there was wrongdoing.

By Brian White

José Contreras was excited about his new job.

"I don’t think there would be something that would stop me working or being hired," he said.

"It’s not so scary of how one mistake can put a whole person’s future at risk," he says. The company did another check, this time with a more positive result – confirmed. He got the job.

"If this project becomes mandatory throughout the country, for the first time in the history of this nation every citizen would have to ask the government for permission to work," she says. "Beyond asking for permission, Washin predicts Social Security, an already swamped government agency, will become completely debilitated from the amount of work that’s come with making such a verification law.

There are about 7 million employers in the United States and currently 55,000 are using E-Verify. If a national law passed requiring all employers to use the service, it would represent 8 percent of the U.S. workforce.

Washin points out that right now the average person waits 499 days – well over a year – for a disability claim decision from Social Security. People should be wary of any organization that offers to expedite the process.

"There’s just too many things that are wrong for this system to be viable."
SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

By Lorena Barraza

KIDCO
May 27 to July 25
KIDCO summer program is offered for children ages 5 to 12 by Tucson Parks and Recreation. The program runs from Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All participating center locations will have morning and afternoon sessions 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Participants may register for one or both sessions. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of $75.

Participating Locations:
- Cherry Avenue 791-4497
- Freedom Center 791-4699
- Fred Archer 791-4355
- Ormsby Center 791-4011
- Quince Douglas 791-2507
- El Pueblo Center 791-5155
- Santa Rosa 791-4589

Tucson Parks and Recreation

May 27 to August 8
Summer Youth Camps for ages 5 to 12 run Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sessions will be held at Randolph and Udal Parks and will include sports, arts and crafts, movies, swimming, and cooking. For more information, call 791-4873.

El Pueblo Regional Center
7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday
Quince Douglas Center 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday
Art Express Inc.
May 28 to June 27
High School Musical Theatre for grades 9 to 12, Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participants will study and produce a well-known musical. Auditions will be held during the first three days of class.

June 2 to June 27
Junior Musical Theatre for grades 5 to 8, Monday through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m. Participants will study the production of an age-appropriate musical. The session costs $250.

June 2 to June 27
Fine Arts Youth Academy for grades 4 to 8, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will receive instruction in band, orchestra, percussion, guitar, drama, dance, visual arts, cartooning, mariachi, folklorico and hip-hop. The session costs $225. For more information call 319-0400 or go to www.gitexpress.org

El Pueblo Regional Center
Quincie Douglass Center
Santa Rosa
Archer Center
Cherry Avenue Center

Mud Puddle Party
August 2
Come out and play in the mud! This free event is for the entire family and will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Reid Park. The event will feature a pig pen, mud volleyball, a toddler mud pit, a junior mud obstacle course and a big-kid mud obstacle course. Participants are required to wear an old t-shirt, shorts and old sneakers. For more information call 791-5787.

Leadership Program
Teens ages 13 to 17 can have a fun summer while gaining valuable work experience by volunteering for the Parks and Recreation Department. A limited number of teens are assigned to neighborhood centers, KIDCO sites and swim-pool city-wide. Participants must attend a mandatory orientation to be eligible to be placed as a volunteer. Junior lifeguards must complete the junior lifeguard training course held in April. For information call the volunteer coordinator at 791-5909, ext. 125 and for junior lifeguards call 791-5352.

Free Guitar Classes
The 17th Street Market offers a free guitar class to children ages 6 to 12 every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For information call 624-8821.

Neighborhood Center Activities for Children
Fred Archer
Summer pool hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Busy Bodies Preschool program for ages 3 to 5. Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon. Registration and fee are required.

Schoolz Out Camp for ages 5 to 11. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is $2 per day, per child. Call center for dates and registration.

Freedom Recreation Center
Kid Connection for ages 3 to 5. Wednesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Activities include: ABCs, 123s, social interaction and motor development.

Free teen program for ages 11 to 17 offered Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participants can enjoy sports, exercise, volunteering, games and music. Contact center for more information.

Martial arts and resiliency skills for ages 6 to 16. Traditional Martial Arts training and mentoring is offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Quince Douglas
Summer Pool Hours: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Kid Creation for children ages 3 to 5. Educational and social activities are offered two mornings a week.

Schoolz Out camps for children ages 3 to 5, 11 weeks, educational and social activities.

Santa Rosa
Schoolz Out Camps will be held during summer break. Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer break.

Double Digits Teen Club for ages 10 to 12 will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Activities include sport competitions, cooking, crafts, trips, special events and community service projects. Free to facility pass holders.