Groups: Be aware of payday lending

By Candace Cutrufo
EL INDEPENDIENTE

Local organizations are seeking creative financial alternatives to payday lending and legislation that will place stricter regulations on the industry. Legislative reform in 2000 exempted payday loan companies from the standard annual interest rate cap of 36 percent. In two years, the number of quick loan stores in Pima County quadrupled.

Pima County quick-loan customers now pay an estimated $20 million in associated fees, according to a 2003 report by the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity. The report sparked awareness in community organizations like United Way and the Arizona Federal Credit Union. The organizations now actively pursue payday-lending alternatives.

“When you read the report and hear the facts, you realize it affects everyone,” said Erin Markley of United Economic Integrity.

The organizations now actively pursue payday-lending alternatives.

By Candace Cutrufo
EL INDEPENDIENTE

Prop 200 dropped for primary

By Aaron Mackey
EL INDEPENDIENTE

A state law requiring voters to show identification before casting their ballots will not apply to South Tucson’s primary election today, as state officials haven’t yet determined how to enforce the measure.

The primary, which features four city council candidates vying for three spots in May’s general election, would have been one of the first elections in the state since Proposition 200 was passed last fall. Proposition 200, among other things, requires that citizens present identification before voting and receiving other state benefits. In a letter to Secretary of State Jan Brewer, Attorney General Terry Goddard delayed the law’s enforcement, saying that more work needed to be done to train local election workers.

“While your staff, election

WORK TO FIX DRAINAGE WOES

By Sean Harris
EL INDEPENDIENTE

For 2005, South Tucson requested block grant funding for community cleanup, crime- and gang-prevention, emergency home repair, fire safety equipment, youth programs and more. The grant money is distributed nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the City of South Tucson, said proposed budget cuts for the city could lose $450,000 to $500,000 per year.

For 2005, South Tucson requested block grant funding for community cleanup, crime- and gang-prevention, emergency home repair, fire safety equipment, youth programs and more. The grant money is distributed nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the City of South Tucson, said proposed budget cuts for the city could lose $450,000 to $500,000 per year.

Bush’s proposed budget cuts may hurt block grant money

By Sean Harris
EL INDEPENDIENTE

Disabled 62-year-old Dominic Genduso has eight buckets in his living room for collecting rain water that leaks in.

With help from a Community Development Block grant, the 28-year resident of 235 W. 35th St. will soon have a new roof over his head.

“I’m just being patient and waiting for the weather to clear,” Genduso said. “I’ve seen a lot of people go.”

Genduso, and other South Tucsonans who depend on the Community Development Block program, could be sharply affected if President Bush’s proposed budget cuts make it through Congress.

The proposed federal budget would lump the block grant with 17 other programs, and cut their combined funding by almost $2 billion.

Allen Kulwin, the Pima County community development program manager, said the president’s proposed budget cuts are part of an underlying strategy to end the block grant.

“It’s a crisis for the low-income communities in the county as well as Tucson,” Kulwin said. “CDBG will be totally eliminated, leaving low-income communities to fend for themselves.”

Ruben Villa, the financial director for the City of South Tucson, said proposed cuts at the federal level don’t always filter down to small communities. However, if the president’s budget cuts make it through Congress, Villa estimates the city could lose $450,000 to $500,000 per year.

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See PAYDAY/3

Breaking down payday loans

Estimated yearly industry volume for Pima County

Number of loans
430,000
Total amount
$130,000
Total paid in fees
$20 million

Number of payday loan sites in Pima County
2000
2001
2002
16
40
78

Source: Southwest Center for Economic Integrity

See BACHES/4

Salen baches en cantidad en ésta temporada

Por Marcia Gaysue
EL INDEPENDIENTE

Con el constante cambio del clima y con las tormentas de lluvia, se forman con más frecuencia baches en las calles de la ciudad.

Los baches se forman con la lluvia y con los autos que manejan sobre las calles para que el bache se forme.

“No hemos mantenido las calles como debíamos haberlas mantenido en años pasados,” dijo Michael Graham, portavoz del Departamento de Transporte de Tucson.

Solamente una petición ha sido hecha al departamento por la reparación del bache localizado en la Calle 26, entre las avenidas Cuarta y Quinta, dijo Graham.

“No he experimentado demasiados problemas con baches, pero cuando llueve es obvio que el problema sea aún peor,” dijo Jorge Arvizu.

Con el aumento de baches por causa de la lluvia, tomará por lo menos de una a dos semanas para llegar a mejorar dichas áreas.

En este momento tenemos unos 70 a 90 obreros trabajando en los baches para man-

See BACHES/4
Demoran el uso de Prop. 200

For Aaron Mackey
El Independiente

Traducido por Rosell Omedo

Una ley estatal que requiere que los votantes muestren una identificación antes de ejercer su voto no ha sido aplicada en las elecciones primarias de Sur Tucson, ya que los funcionarios del estado todavía no saben cómo imponer dicha medida.

Las elecciones primarias, que representan a cuatro candidatos de aymientos que compiten por tres puestos en la elección de Mayo, habrían sido una de las primeras elecciones en el estado despejadas de que la Proposición 200 hubo sido aprobada el año pasado.

La Proposición 200, entre otras cosas, requiere que los ciudadanos muestren una identificación antes de ejercer el voto y recibir otros beneficios del estado.

En una carta a la Secretaria de Estado Jan Brewer, el Procurador General Terry Goddard denunció el cumplimiento de la ley, diciendo que necesitaría de más tiempo y trabajo para poder entregar a los trabajadores de la ley.

“Mientras usted provee, funcionarios electorales de todo el estado y abogados de mi oficina y otras oficinas públicas de la ley a través del estado, han estado trabajando fuertemente para implementar los requisitos para identificar al votante en las urnas para las elecciones de 8 de Marzo, ahora parece que el estatuto no se podrá implementar si el retraso continúa”, dijo ella.

“Continuaré trabajando con el poder legislativo del estado y ministerio de justicia para asegurar que la Proposición 200 sea implementada de una manera justa y lícita, que respetaría la diversidad de nuestro estado y seguiría los deseos de los votantes,” dijo Brewer.

Dolores Robles, secretaria municipal de la ciudad de Sur Tucson, dijo que ella todavía se confundiría con dicha medida, a pesar de haber asistido a varios talleres sobre cómo imponer dicha ley.

“Nosotros no sabemos cómo hacer el proceso, ni tampoco cómo implementarlo,” dijo Robles.

Votantes que hubieran olvidado su identificación se las habría negado pasar a las urnas dejándolas sin la oportunidad de ejercer su voto, dijo Robles.

También existía el temor que las urnas no fuesen de grado ni tampoco cómo implementarlo.

“Si el estatuto no se implementa no podría ser decretada antes. Sin embargo, no se sentirían seguras,” dijo Beltran.

La ley no será implementada en las elecciones primarias, entonces los ciudadanos deben estar seguros de ir a las urnas, dijo Robles.

Las elecciones primarias serán hoy en la sala de juntas de la Biblioteca Sam Lema de Sur Tucson, en 1600 el sur del Sexta Avenida.

Paul S. Díaz, Arturo Ildefonso Green, Pete Tadeo y Carlos Galván Salazar son los candidatos que compiten por los tres puestos en las elecciones generales en Mayo.

Demoran el uso de Prop. 200

By Ashley Nowe
El Independiente

A Tucson based senior assistance program is expanding its aid to the Spanish-speaking community.

The Senior Companion Program is making an effort to reach South Tucson neighborhoods by offering training courses for companions in Spanish for the first time since its inception in 2000.

The program offers companionships to seniors, helping them stay out of care centers and in their homes longer.

The companions, who must be 60 or older, take those in need to doctor’s appointments, shopping, out for a meal, or just stay at home and talk.

“One of the things we need in order to become a companion is that the trainee must speak English, because they have a purpose and even the small stipend they receive can really help.”

In order to become a companion, the trainee must undergo 20 hours of initial training and meet once a month thereafter for continued care education.

There are already 11 Spanish-speaking companions for the first training session on March 7th and 8th. There will also be another all Spanish training course offered on May 11th and 12th.

“With more bilingual and Spanish-speaking companions trained, the more we will be able to help that community,” Wardell said.

“Training for companions is really growing in Spanish-speaking areas.”

According to senior companion Micaela Paul, even those who are bilingual, like herself, feel more comfortable having a companion who can speak their language.

“One of the things I helped had been waiting for a Spanish-speaking companion for years,” said Paul. “Even though she can speak English, she wanted someone to speak Spanish, especially when we talk about family or when we were young. They just feel more comfortable.”

Wardell was hired six months ago to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community after the program received a grant from the City of Tucson general funds.

For the first time the Senior Companion Program has an employee who focuses specifically on the needs of the local Hispanic community.

“We have more support than ever before,” said Sharyn Mead, Senior Companion Program coordinator. “There is a huge need out there. (South Tucson community)"

Speak up for us. We would like to hear from you.

If you have questions or comments please contact us.

Viewpoints

Were you planning on voting, and does Proposition 200 discourage voters from voting?

“I haven’t decided yet and gone through the decision process. (Prop 200) is going to take more time. Nowadays, voting is key and now it’s going to take longer.”

—Beatris Guarista, South Tucson resident

“No, not this year. I don’t know what good it’ll do. I don’t like (Prop 200) because it’s kind of discrimination.”

—Manuel Torres, South Tucson resident

“Yes, I always do. We need to vote for the one that will do the best job. For some people they probably wouldn’t feel as safe (because of Prop 200).”

—Georgia Beltran, South Tucson resident

“No I won’t vote. I can’t because I don’t have papers.”

—Gloria Silbestre, South Tucson resident

Spanish-speakers aid Hispanic seniors

Senior companion

• Spanish-speaking Training: March 7th, 8th, May 11th and 12th

For class information or to request a companion call the Family Counseling Agency at 327-4853.

Senior companion:

Micaela Paul, even those who are bilingual, like herself, feel more comfortable having a companion who can speak their native language.

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Speak up for us. We would like to hear from you.

If you have questions or comments please contact us.
**Drain repair may still leave some residents under water**

By Jennifer Phillips

Construction to improve an existing storm drain should alleviate flooding near the Sam Lena South Tucson Library, but some residents believe waterlogged conditions will continue into the monsoon season, according to a Pima County consultant.

According to MaryAnn Rodriguez, project manager for the Pima County Flood Control District, the URS Corporation was hired to design the project which will utilize a current 42-inch drain, located along 26th Street between Eighth Avenue and Sixth Avenue.

The improvement includes a curb-to-curb catch basin across 26th Street, near the corner of Eighth Avenue, that will divert water underground. Construction began on Feb. 17 and is expected to be completed by July 15.

According to Rodriguez, rain water that collects at Mendoza’s location is part of a bigger problem.

**HOW PAYDAY LENDING WORKS**

By Candace Cutrufolo

**Interest**

Legislation passed in 2000 exempting short-term loan industry from the state’s 35 percent annual interest cap. The lenders can legally charge 15 percent interest per two-week period. This yields an annual interest rate of over 450 percent.

If a customer needs a loan for $100, he writes a check for $115 to the payday lender. At the end of the two-week period, the lender will cash the check unless the customer rolls over the loan for another two weeks thus accruing another $15 in interest.

**Rollovers**

State law permits three rollovers, or extensions of a payday loan. On a $100 loan rolled over three times, a customer will pay $45 interest. If the customer community by protecting customers from paying compounding fees.

**One loan at a time**

It is against state law to charge interest on more than one payday loan at a time. Griffith said this would significantly decrease the frequency if the customer community by protecting customers from paying compounding fees.

**Reduce rollover minimum**

The center advocates decreasing the number of rollovers a payday loan holder is allowed to take from three to one. Griffith said this would significantly decrease the frequency of payday lenders and their associated fees.

**Closing the loopholes:**

The Southwest Center for Economic Integrity would like to see a 72-hour waiting period between closing one loan and opening another. Griffith said the idea is to reduce pressure on the customer to open a second loan.

**Small made too much money to be eligible for financial aid, so she visited a local payday lender. She took out a loan for $500 and reluctantly paid the $75 interest, she said.**

“Small said she thought she had ended the cycle. She used her portion of the Christmas money to pay off the balance she already had paid with her tax return, she said. Small said her experience with payday lending caused her anxiety and depression, but the family gifts, she said. “They said I still had a balance,” Small said. “I couldn’t believe it.”

**PAYSAY GROUPS SEEK NEW LOAN ALTERNATIVES**

Continued from 1 another person paying these high interest rates if they don’t have to.” United Way provides a forum for people to talk about payday lending, Markley said. It holds monthly meetings for local credit unions with these interest rates, currently in changing financial conditions in Tucson.

“We try to get the right people around the table,” Markley said. “We want to interest people and then pass the ball.”

Many in South Tucson live from pay check to pay check, so these lenders make their profits by targeting this particular community.

“Missy Small, a 34-year-old single mother of three children, turned to payday lenders after her second divorce in 2002 left her in debt. Her child support from her first marriage stopped coming in, Small found herself making $12 an hour and struggling to provide for her family.”

Small made too much money to be eligible for financial aid, so she visited a local payday lender. She took out a $500 loan and reluctantly paid the $75 interest, she said. “I didn’t like going in there, but we needed food.”

When the two-week loan period expired, she found herself unable to pay back the lender. She would pay off the loan and borrow again to get by, she said. “This quickly snowballed and it was very hard to get out of that cycle.”

After her 2003 tax return was used to pay off her loan balance, Small said she thought she had ended the cycle. Small went back to the payday lender the following Christmas to cash a check her grandmother had sent to buy the family gifts, she said. “They said I still had a bal- ance,” Small said. “I couldn’t believe it.”

**FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES IN TUCSON**

Chicanos por la Causa Home Purchasing Program
200 N. Stone Ave. 882-0018 English/Spanish

Luiz Southside Coalition Financial Literacy Training
822 N. Calle El Paseo. 882-7623 English/Spanish

Primavera Foundation Homeownership Workshop
2305 S. Park Ave. 791-9522 x226 English only

**PAYDAY TIPS**

There is a need in the community for these short-term loans,” Griffith said. “We need to come up with creative alternatives to these lenders.”

With the help of St. Philip’s Church and the Arizona Federal Credit Union, the Southwest Center has started a pilot project called “Family Financial Impact,” Griffith said.

The center recruited seven South Tucson women to participate in a study that seeks to develop new alternatives to payday loans. St. Philip’s Church provided the $5 fee for the women to open an account at the Arizona Federal Credit Union and the $25 minimum needed to keep the account open, Griffith said.

The impact program will track the financial impact of these women over a six-month period.

**Payday Lending – One loan at a time**

Some payday lenders charge interest on the interest of their loans. For example, if the loan

W. 26th Street, has lived in South Tucson on and off for the last 50 years. Flooding along W. 26th Street and Eighth Avenue is so problematic that, at one point, Mendoza installed a small drain in the middle of his backyard.

“I’ve been fighting the problem for over 30 years,” Mendoza said. “I figure at least now they are doing something, but my property will flood many times by the time it is finished.”

Residents say the flooding has attracted mosquitoes, caused property damage and left kids to walk on their way to Ochoa Elementary School.

URS Project Manager Jody Rodriguez said that, although the catch basin will decrease flooding for low rainfall, residents could still expect flooding during monsoon downpours. According to Rodriguez, rain water that collects at Mendoza’s location is part of a bigger problem for South Tucson.

Water moves through underground drains and city streets where it eventually flows to the Santa Cruz River.

According to the Arizona Federal Credit Union, the water can only cross the railroad tracks at two locations, one at East 32nd Street and another at East 27th Street.

A box culvert at East 32nd Street takes the water underground until it eventually empties at West 29th Street and Seventh Avenue, near Bank One. The water moves along the streets until it ends up at Mendoza’s house, and cuts diagonally across his yard, Rodriguez said.

A West Coast Vintage Racer, Mendoza likes to build racecars in his spare time, but his equipment is mostly in backyard. Some payday lenders charge interest on the interest of their loans. For example, if the loan

**By Candace Cutrufolo**

**PAYDAY TIPS**

‘The idea is to truly learn what works and what doesn’t work, and then build on that for a more extended project,” Griffith said.

“These lenders offer instant gratification,” said Robert Jackson, Arizona Federal Credit Union community representative.

“Arizona Federal offers several alternatives to payday lending, like free check cashing, account courtesy and a money wiring service, Jackson said.

“We literally open up accounts for any- one who lives, works, worship or attends school in Tucson, regardless of past bank- ing and credit history or current financial problems,” Jackson said.

With a state-issued ID, valid social security number and $30, anyone can open an account at Arizona Federal, regardless of credit or is looking for an alternative to payday loans, we offer unique options,” Jackson said. “We provide a fresh start.”

Arizona Federal Credit Union is located at 2900 E. Broadway Blvd., and 1069 E. Silverlake Road.
Continued from 2

Stricter laws proposed for payday loans

A database to track payday lending customers is necessary to enforce these state laws on payday lending, Griffin said. The database would trace each customer’s lending history to ensure customers are not taking out more than one loan at a time nor rolling over the loan more times than state law allows. The database, which mirrors legislation in Florida, would be kept confidential and periodically purged, Griffin said.

Proposed payday lending legislation

Rep. Marian McClure’s committee heard proposed legislation on Monday, Feb. 28 at 1:30 p.m. McClure’s bill includes protection of military members and their families from payday lenders. The bill would also require payday lenders to prominently post that it is illegal to take out more than one loan at a time. If the legislation were passed, it would also require payday lenders to charge $1.50 a night per room and build 10 units on the property. He built 10 units on the property.

The Arizona Motel’s neon sign that faces Sixth Avenue won a “Best Of” award given by the Tucson Weekly in 1993.

BACHES

Continua de Pagina 1
tener las calles de la ciudad más seguras,” dijo Graham.

El arreglo temporal para este problema sería una combinación de petróleo y grava, colocándolas en los baches de la calle.

Eventualmente las calles serían pavi-

mentadas para ahorrar dinero en el futuro, dijo Angel Lopez, director de trabajos públicos de la ciudad de Tucson. Los fondos de ingreso de la autopista incluyen $6 millones disponibles para la conservación de asfalto en las carreteras, dijo Graham.

Aunque el presupuesto sea suficiente actualmente, la ciudad quiere hacer más reparaciones adicionales en las calles.

En noviembre del 2004, Phoenix ren-

ovó impuestos de medio centavo en ven-
tas de sus residentes para que el depar-
tamento de transporte pueda recibir más dinero para mejorar las carreteras que recorren de reparaciones básicas hasta contrucción de autopistas.

La ciudad de Tucson también ha intentado crear un plan como el de Phoenix, pero los votantes siempre rec-

an la idea. Las calles a ser reparar son la calle 40 y la cuarta avenida, la cuadra 300 del oeste de la Calle 28th y la cuadra 400 del oeste de la Calle 7th, dijo Lopez.

“No podemos estar en todo lugar. Dependemos en que los ciudadanos sean los ojos de las calles,” dijo Graham. “Asumimos a las personas que llaman para informarlos de condi-
ciones peligrosas en las carreteras.”

FLOOD

Residents frustrated

Continued from 3

often ends up underwater. His gravel is swept away as water moves across his property, and debris fills the existing curb drain.

“I take my trusty little rake and get the gravel out of the way, and it’s very beneficial for South Tucson and Pima County Flood Control District,” said Sálaz. “It’s a weekend, I can’t wait for a crew to come out. The water would be up to the house by then.”

Rodriguez said the solution for those residents is on the way.

The Pima County Flood Control District and South Tucson are currently making plans to create a detention basin between South Kino Parkway and South Park Avenue, just north of Interstate 10.

“It will pick up a lot of water at the peak areas and will be very beneficial for South Tucson,” said Richard G. Sálaz, South Tucson transportation and flood control director.

South Tucson and Pima County Flood Control District officials held a meeting on Feb. 23 to discuss the project. Sálaz said they are currently working to get an engineer on board for the final design and hope to start construction by fall.

“It has been an interesting project,” Rodriguez said. “Hopefully, one day the problem will get worked out with all these new improvements.”
The police department is in the midst of revising their policy regarding the use of stun guns, or Tasers, against juveniles.

“The South Tucson Police Department has not issued Tasers recently due to lack of government funding, Police Chief Sixto O. Molina said. The department plans to buy new and improved, cost-effective stun guns once manufacturers make them available.

“We don’t have the resources to purchase more tasers at this time,” Molina said. “We have a budget to follow and each taser costs up to $1000.”

The department has adjusted their policy on tasers because of past incidents involving the use of force on individuals, most recently a 9-year-old girl. The revised policy states that officers cannot use a juvenile until they pose a threat.

Sgt. Art Zarate from the Tucson Police Department handcuffed and placed the girl in the patrol car, according to a police report filed by the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. The department concluded that Tetychea’s actions were justified and no criminal charges were filed.

Molina said there was great misconception regarding the incident because the community, including the local media, was unaware of the girl’s history with staff members and law enforcement. Furthermore, the public was not aware of the extensive training process officers must complete, Molina said.

“What the public doesn’t realize is that tasers save more lives than kill,” Molina said. “We use tasers based upon our policy. Instead of shooting an individual with a gun, which would severely injure or kill them, we can subdue a suspect before he or she does something harmful to themselves or others.”

Taser Instructor Sgt. Dan Snyder said certified officers within the department are prepared to deal with any situation they encounter.

“We provide an eight-hour program which focuses on every aspect of operating a taser. Also, every officer must be stunned with the Taser in order to become familiar with the physical effects of the device,” Snyder said.

Officer Paul Patterson of Tucson Police Department said his specific training involved knowing what situations dictate what type of force is needed to combat out-of-control individuals.

“A situation involving a 160-pound officer and 300-pound subject may call for the use of a Taser. Whereas a situation involving a 300-pound officer and 160-pound subject may not,” Patterson said.

For two years, the South Tucson Police Department has been equipped with 10 stun guns. The department continues to research and familiarize themselves with the taser.

New school prepares students for advanced education, internships

By Kelsey Yamaoka
EL INDEPENDIENTE

A new high school located in Tucson’s south side is working hard to get its students into college and ensure competency once in the workplace.

San Miguel High School, 212 W. Medina Road, opened its doors on August 9, 2004, and has an all freshman class of 56 students.

This private Catholic school is part of the Cristo Rey Network, a national organization providing intensive education to young adults from low-income families.

“Most students could not normally afford the type of college prep,” said Director of Development Marie Hardt-Delisa.

As San Miguel students receive both a college preparatory education as well as job experience through the school’s Corporate Internship Program, students work in teams of four, sharing one job, working a total of five days a month, Hardt-Delisa said.

The teams earn $17,000 a year, and that money is split evenly four ways. Their wages are used to offset the costs of their education, Hardt-Delisa said.

The money earned in the Corporate Internship Program allows students to receive a private education without the usual expense that comes with such schooling.

Without the Corporate Internship Program, San Miguel would cost $7,800 per year, but as a result of the money the students earn from work, the cost is $2,600 per year, Hardt-Delisa said.

No students are refused admission because of financial difficulties, and San Miguel provides significant financial aid and has numerous donors, Hardt-Delisa said.

Sabrina Ketterling, 14, and Elena Olivera, 15, both attend San Miguel and work at the University of Arizona in the College of Humanities.

“We work one day a week, plus one Monday per month, Olivera said.

“My job at the College of Humanities gives me hands on experience. I deliver mail, answer the phones, help students and organize events,” Ketterling said.

Mari Messina, an Administrative Associate for the Spanish and Portuguese department, who works with Ketterling and Olivera, said the work program gives youngsters a chance to visit the university and shows what type of force is needed to combat out-of-control individuals.

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Incident prompts review of stun gun policy

By Matthew Wolf
EL INDEPENDIENTE

A local domestic violence awareness group recently celebrated the renaming of their El Pueblo location with a ceremony and open house.

The Brewster Center for Domestic Violence, 2425 N. Haskell Drive, chose the new name Sin Violencia ‘Ganaremos’ from nearly 50 entries. Possible names were suggested by staff, community members and survivors of domestic violence, said Michele Schubert, executive director.

The name, roughly translated, means “without violence we shall overcome,” said Shelley Roop, finance director.

The name was chosen by 11 Brewster Center staff, board and community members, Roop said. “It is a strong, empowering name, and is closely aligned with our mission statement.”

The renaming ceremony was attended by board members, staff, community members and representatives from Councilmen Leal and Ibarra’s offices.

“It was great,” Schubert said. “The committee spent a lot of time looking at all the possibilities and this reflected the message we wanted to send.”

The Brewster Center provides services to victims of domestic violence through advocacy, shelter, community education and individual empowerment, according to their website, www.thebrewstercenter.org.
A new program is teaching struggling families how to reconnect and strengthen family bonds. The Strengthening Families initiative consists of 14 one-on-one and group sessions with the 10 families that are enrolled. Said Gina Coffren, family support specialist and clinical liaison, "This program, which began on Jan.13 and will go through to April 14, stresses issues ranging from communication to responsibility and discipline, she said.

The program is offered through the La Frontera Center’s Dr. Nelba Chavez Child/Family Resource Center, 502 W. 29th St.

"The program can serve many things," Coffren said. "It can be reunification, strengthening their family bond and relationship and reestablishing the lines of communication. We work with each individual family to see what needs are not being met and try and fix those things so we can make each one of our families a family again."

Continued from 1

PROP 200

Eligible voters could have been turned away at the polls, said another resident, Georgia Beltran, said another resident. "It's important to us to pull family from the strengths that these families already have," Jack said. "We're going to vote, make them feel like they're the worst parents in the world."

The program has worked well thus far, Coffren and Jack said. It's a success because these parents have come out to take a look and do this program and follow through with the materials we are giving them. Coffren said. "They are taking their homework seriously, doing it at home and bringing it back here. We've talked about what worked and what didn't. That to me is a success."

Coffren said. The next session begins April 28. Coffren said, families can join up through the third session, but after that enrollment is closed in order to maintain a connection between the families involved. Coffren said. "Families learn to relate to each other and learn from one another. Coffren said. "They bond as parents which helps to keep everyone on the same level."

Families are referred to the program at the La Frontera Center, by other therapists, Child Protective Services and through word of mouth, Coffren said. The program is based in English but can be done in Spanish if needed, Coffren said. The program is goal to improve family interactions in a sensitive, fun and effective manner that incorporates the entire family, Jack said.

"A strong family is a family that has an extended support system," Coffren said. "We can't always be with them to help them out so we remind them that the responsibility for the children lies with the entire family," she said.

LA FRONTERA

The La Frontera Center supports families, children and adults with mental health, substance abuse, behavioral or other issues.

Any families interested in enrolling in the Strengthening Families program should call 838-3959 or 838-3871.

The class sizes at San Miguel are smaller than at other high schools. Everything is explained in greater detail and students are constantly challenged with new things. The class sizes at San Miguel are smaller than many schools in the area. Classes hold anywhere from 12-to 16-students, said Hardt-Delisa. "I'm learning a lot more here, than if I was at a private high school."

San Miguel has strict dress code and only require a signature to go to the polls, Robles said. "It's a success because these students work together and do this program and follow through with the materials we are giving them. Coffren said. "They are taking their homework seriously, doing it at home and bringing it back here.

"It's going to take more time," said South Tucson resident Beatrix Guarista. "Nowadays voting is long and now it's going to take longer."

Guarista has not decided whether she's going to vote in the primary, saying the Proposition 200 situation would have deterred her from voting. Another resident, Georgia Beltran, said she was planning on forgetting your ballot or to the polls in time for the March 8 election, it now appears that the statute cannot be implemented," Goddard said in a statement.

The law doesn’t specify what is acceptable identification, leaving state election officials in the dark can’t and shouldn’t be used to demonstrate citizenship, Goddard said in the letter.

"The law allows voters to have to be amended so that people who can’t show proper identification can still vote using a provisional ballot, Goddard said.

Continued from 5 people functioning in the work-place.

Both Ketterling and Olvera aspire to attend the University of Arizona. She said working there will give them a head start.

"Because I work there I’m better acquainted with the school, so I’m more confident about going there. I won’t have to worry about getting lost.” Enid Robles, 12 said, "We know a lot of people.” Ketterling said.

Working has numerous positive influences on the students. Hardt-Delisa sees the students self-confidence rising and, as a result of their jobs, they build positive mentors' relationships with successful adults.

"Most kids who come here don’t know any doctors, lawyers or therapists. Their jobs put them in a little scared but it’s been fun to watch them transition and learn. Hopefully, they’ll come to the university as students.”

Not only are students getting valuable work experience, they are also receiving a rigorous education. Most students come to San Miguel levels below their grade level, Brother Nick Gonzalez, Principal of San Miguel said. "We catch them up, and then push them ahead.” Hardt-Delisa said.

San Miguel’s education focuses on the basics, math, English, and science, all geared to get them into college. Gonzalez said.

All students are required to take three years of Spanish because most colleges look highly upon three years of a foreign language.

In a prepared statement, Brewer expressed disappointment that the Proposition 200 initiative, passed by voters, could not be enacted sooner. However, she said, ensuring that all citizens are able to vote under the measure is a concern that needs to be addressed.

"I will continue to work with the state legislature and the attorney general to assure that Proposition 200 is implement- ed in a fair and lawful manner, which would respect the diversity of our great state and follow the wishes of the voters,” Brewer said.

Dolores Robles South Tucson city clerk said, she was still confused about the measure and is attending multiple work- shops on how to enforce the law.

"We don’t know how the process is done, and we don’t know how to enforce it,” said Robles.

Eligible voters could have been turned away at polling sites because they forgot identification, leaving them no chance to actually vote, Robles said.

There was also the fear that many voters would simply not turn out, thinking the ID requirement another unnecessary hassle, Robles said.

"We probably would have had a lower voter turnout,” she said. Because of concerns about showing identification on election day, voting offici- als were expecting a spike in the number of requested early ballots. The ballots are mailed in and only require a signature to show proof that the voter is a citizen.

One day prior to the request deadline, the Pima County Recorder’s Office had received requests for 26,000 ballots. South Tucson resident Beatrix Guarista said the measure does more to drive voters away, as it offers yet another time-consum- ing roadblock.

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Sunnyside baseball team eyes regional crown

By Ryan K. Clay
EL INDEPENDIENTE

This year’s Sunnyside High School baseball team is taking it back to the old school. The Blue Devils are sporting a new look as they pay tribute to those that came before them, with a set of throwback game jerseys that are designed after the 1972 Sunnyside baseball team’s jerseys.

“Just that we wanted. We wanted to be different, we wanted to do something unique,” said Alexis Padilla, senior third baseman.

The jerseys are white, with a blue, silver, and white stripe around the collar, down the sleeves, and along the side of the pants.

Throwback jerseys have become increasingly popular, with many professional sports teams adding a throwback jersey to their collection.

This year’s senior players decided they wanted to have an old school look and that is why they decided on the throwback jerseys.

The Blue Devils return 6 starters from a team that went 20-10 last year, and finished second in their conference.

Head Coach Ernie Palomarez believes the team is ready for a deep run into the playoffs, despite the predictions of others.

“Some magazine in Phoenix picked us to finish fourth in our league, but that’s fine with us,” Palomarez said.

The six returning starters will provide the strong core the team needs to succeed, he said.

Alexis Padilla, senior third baseman

Padilla is especially interested in working with Duran because he played at such a high level, Palomarez said.

Padilla values his time spent with Duran.

“It’s great working with him, being an infidelizer,” Padilla said.

Padilla is particularly interested in working with Duran because next year he plans on attending the UA and trying out for the baseball team.

Moises Duran

Duran finished his playing career last summer at the UA, and is spending this spring volunteer coaching for the Blue Devils.

Palomarez said it’s great that his team gets to work with a former collegiate baseball player.

The players are able to identify with Duran, and they look up to him because he played at such a high level, Palomarez said.

Padilla values his time spent with Duran.

“This is the best job I’ve ever had,” said Villalpando. “It’s the feeling that you’re helping somebody achieve their goal.”

Villalpando said she has been busier this semester with seniors approaching graduation.

“A lot of these kids are first generations,” said Villalpando. “They don’t know how to deal with their family that has gone through what they are going through. It’s no wonder they need the extra help.”

Villalpando said that some of the biggest anxiety in these situations is caused by procrastination. Out of an approximate 340 graduating seniors, only 50 or so have completed the process and are already admitted to a university.

“I try to stay positive and tell them it’s not too late. But some of these kids wait until the last possible minute,” said Villalpando.

Another problem is those who don’t take their academics seriously. For kids who don’t care, they have to deal with the stress of becoming a dropout and becoming something or someone they don’t want to be.

“It’s sad,” said Villalpando. “Some come to school because their parents make them, or because it’s a social gathering.”

When students are confronted about their academic situation, the counselors are the ones helping them get through it.

“If a student is ditching, we’ll ask why they are ditching, and tell them the consequences of not getting a high school diploma,” said Alissa Asch, professional school counselor.

Villalpando said she knows the parents want their children to succeed and do well, but they end up putting too much pressure on their child.

According to Villalpando, if you are stressing from parental pressure, you can take the weight off your shoulders by keeping your parents informed.

Sometimes parents aren’t sure how hard their child is trying, but by keeping them informed you are relieving them and yourself of that stress.

“Today’s world is much harder than our parent’s world,” said Villalpando. “Students need to have their diplomas if they are going to make it. They’ve seen what happens to their parents without an education, and they want better for themselves.”

There are ways to deal with stress, and if you find yourself overwhelmed by it, ask for help, because there are people like Asch and Villalpando who are willing to listen.

Upcoming big games

March 18 @ Santa Rita
4 p.m.

March 31 @ Ironwood Ridge
4 p.m.

April 4 v. Nogales
6:30 p.m.

April 13 v Ironwood Ridge
6:30 p.m.

April 15 @ Nogales
6:30 p.m.

April 22 @ Santa Rita
6:30 p.m.

As for now, the team is focused on reaching the playoffs, but they still have to get through their 4A Sonoran Conference rivals in order to achieve that goal.

Duarte, Padilla, and Ramirez are all adamant about recognizing Ironwood Ridge as the team they want to beat this year.

Last year Ironwood Ridge finished ahead of Sunnyside in the 4A Sonoran Conference.

This year a survey of coaches in the Sonoran Conference predicted Sunnyside to finish second behind Santa Rita High School. Ironwood Ridge was placed in third.

Padilla was surprised Sunnyside was predicted to finish second.

“I believe that we’ll be number one. Santa Rita has some players back, but they lost a lot of seniors. Like our coach says, we’re just reloading. We only lost three seniors from last year team,” Padilla said.

The first big test for the team comes March 18 when they play at Santa Rita at 4:00 p.m.

Counselors offer relief from stress

By Matthew Bassin
EL INDEPENDIENTE

With college applications due, and AIMS test scores looming over graduation, student stress levels are on the rise.

To alleviate this problem, students can turn to counselors for help.

Josel Villalpando, college scholar- ship counselor at Sunnyside High School, has been helping students for over four years.

“This is the best job I’ve ever had,” said Villalpando. “It’s the feeling that you’re helping somebody achieve their goal.”

Villalpando said she has been busier this semester with seniors approaching graduation.

“A lot of these kids are first generations,” said Villalpando. “They don’t know how to deal with their family that has gone through what they are going through. It’s no wonder they need the extra help.”

Villalpando said that some of the biggest anxiety in these situations is caused by procrastination. Out of an approximate 340 graduating seniors, only 50 or so have completed the process and are already admitted to a university.

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Sometimes parents aren’t sure how hard their child is trying, but by keeping them informed you are relieving them and yourself of that stress.

“Today’s world is much harder than our parent’s world,” said Villalpando. “Students need to have their diplomas if they are going to make it. They’ve seen what happens to their parents without an education, and they want better for themselves.”

There are ways to deal with stress, and if you find yourself overwhelmed by it, ask for help, because there are people like Asch and Villalpando who are willing to listen.

Wet weather brings potholes

By Marcia Gaysue
EL INDEPENDIENTE

With the weather constantly changing and more rain coming to the city, more potholes are popping up around town.

Potholes develop from cracks in the asphalt and rain slipping into the subgrade. Once those two elements combine, all it takes is the weight of cars driving on the roads for a pothole to form.

“We haven’t maintained streets in the past like we should have,” said Michael Graham, spokesman for the Tucson Department of Transportation.

Only one request for a pothole repair has been made to the Tucson Department of Transportation for an area of road located on 26th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, Graham said.

“I haven’t experienced too many problems with potholes, but when it does rain it’s obvious that the problems are getting worse,” southside resident Jorge Arvizu said.

With the number of potholes increasing because of the rainfall, it takes about one to two weeks to get to the areas that need improvement.

“Right now we have about 70 to 90 workers trying to fill potholes to make city streets safe,” Graham said.

The temporary fix for the problem is to add a lot of mix oil and gravel, compact it and lay it on the roads. Eventually, the streets will be repaved to save money in the future, said Angel Lopez, public works director for the City.
**Police Beat**

By Sarah Mitchell

A man was arrested for shoplifting and trespassing at the Food City Grocery Store at 2950 S. Sixth Ave. on Feb. 16.

The store’s director told police that a man concealed items from the store in his blue sweatshirt and tried to leave without paying for them.

When confronted, the man admitted he planned to steal the items, police said.

The report stated that the man attempted to steal four different bottles of over-the-counter pain relievers, the total cost amounting to $18.56 before taxes.

A Domino’s Pizza delivery driver reported receiving the payment time as payment for a pizza ordered on Feb. 15.

Police responded to the restaurant at 2750 S. Fourth Ave. where the manager gave them two counterfeit $20 bills and the address of the delivery. The driver said a man dressed in all red paid for the order.

The delivery driver said he recognized the address at the 1900 block of 11th Avenue and met a woman there who said she was the man’s sister.

The woman told police that she had given her brother a $20 bill, a $10 bill and a $5 bill for the pizza and that he had since left. She denied giving her brother counterfeit money. She said she handles money all day at her work, so she would know the difference, reports stated.

The counterfeit bills were placed into evidence, and the report was forwarded to the United States Secret Service because they handle currency fraud.

A man was arrested at the Knight’s Inn at 720 W. 29th St. for possession of cocaine on Feb. 14.

Police attempted to pull the man over when they saw him driving erratically and crossing the painted line dividers on South Sixth Avenue.

The man did not respond to the Police’s lights or sirens. The police reported using their PA system and spoke only broken English. The reports stated the car had five passengers but no one knew the man’s name.

The woman at the hotel and found 4 grams of cocaine. Another officer found an additional 2 grams on the floor of the car, but could not determine who it belonged to.

A complete list of stolen items couldn’t be made because not all employees were there to identify what was missing.

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**SMALL**

**Woman warns of financial pitfall**

Continued from 3

hardest part was not being able to provide for her children. "They don’t have the things they need or want," she said. "They see how their peers live and they get angry." She teaches children to focus on what they have instead of what they are without.

Though Small is still in financial ruin, she said she has hope the system will change.

On Feb. 28, Small told her story at the hearing of the payday-lending bill at the State Capitol.

"I fight for things," Small said. "I really believe that we have ways to pass because these people shouldn’t be able to break the law or break people’s pockets."

"You can’t do anything to get help. Several can make a huge difference," she said. "I wish there were more people that would find their voice and speak up."

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**POTHOLAS**

**Rains cause road damage**

Continued from 7 of South Tucson.

The highway user revenue funds include $6 million available for asphalt maintenance, reports included.

After accounting for the budget is enough at the moment, the city would like more to add additional repairs to the roads.

In November 2004, Phoenix renewed its half-cent sales tax on sores of residents so the department of transportation could receive more money to make money changes ranging from basic repairs to building freeways.

Tucson has tried several times create a plan like Phoenix, but voters always reject the idea. "I would probably vote no because taxes are already too high in South Tucson," Aviruz said.

The Regional Transportation Authority plans to develop a system that will get residents to vote yes on a sales tax.

"We better have a good plan," Aviruz said. "If it’s worthwhile, they will vote favorably.

"If the money really went to the right places and applied to the roads that actually need improvements, instead of repaving some little neighborhood road that people drive 15 miles down anyway, then I would probably vote yes," said South Tucson resident Genni Gentilevich.

Roads planned for repair are 40th Street and Fourth Avenue, the 300 block of West 28th Street and the 400 block of West Seventh Street, Lopez said.

"We can’t be everywhere. We rely on the citizens to be the eyes of the roads," Graham said. "We encourage people to call to report hazardous road conditions.

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**MOTEL**

**Historic motel still thriving**

Continued from 4

had in mind for the motel.

Eight units were added to the original 10 of the business grew and in 1957, the garages were enclosed and made into rooms and planting palm trees around the motel.

After knocking out walls, connecting the bars and elevators, Lagarda says they used to look like.

The Arizona Children’s Association has a location hold on him so that he cannot leave the building, police said.

When confronted, the man admitted he had more than 32 grams of cocaine. Another officer found an additional .2 grams on the floor of the car, but could not determine who it belonged to.

"Most of my competitors went out because they put the freeway in. They destroyed places so they could put something new in its place," Yunt said. But Yunt worked hard to maintain and improve the Arizona Motel to ensure that he could continue to serve the needs of the people. He put so much money into building it, and this is home for the future, she replies, "Bud has put everything into this place – he put so much money into building it, and this is home for me now. As long as I’m healthy and I can keep going, I will."

With their only remaining competitor in all of South Tucson located right next to them, the Yunts plan to continue on with hard work and dedication as Bud approaches his 50th anniversary as owner.

"But who knows," Pat Yunt says. "They might try to do away with small motels, but more people depend on us for us to survive as a mom and pop."

Although they have considered such a change, Yunt’s spirit seems to live on just as strong as it was when the day returned from the Army.

"I have never known anybody who was so great that whenever his time came the world couldn’t get along without him – and I believe this. There’s always some- one to take your place," he said. And perhaps Pat Yunt is just the person to do it.

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**Community Calendar**

**South Tucson City Council**

Primary Elections March 8
Sam Lenza South Tucson Library’s Meeting Room 1607 S. Sixth Ave.
St. Patrick’s Day Parade March 17 11 a.m.
Downtown Tucson -Starts at the courthouse lot at Cushing Street and Granada Avenue
Tucson Presidio History Fair March 13 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tucson Museum of Art 140 N. Main St.
35th Annual Fourth Avenue Spring Street Fair March 18 - 20 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fiesta Grande Street Fair April 2 - 3 10 a.m. - dusk
Grande Avenue between St. Mary’s and Speedway Boulevard
2005 Arizona Aerospace Days April 2 - 3 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Free Admission
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Contact SunTran for Shuttle Info.

**Flamenco Dance Lessons**

Mondays through April 14
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Muse Center for Performing Arts 516 N. Fifth Ave.

**23rd Annual Wk’s Pow Wow**

March 12 - 13
San Xavier del Bac Mission 1900 W. San Xavier Road
Admission $3 - $5

**Growing Your Business Workshop**

March 22
3:30 p.m.
330 W. Nebraska St.
En Esp: Español