Rent-to-own homes under way

By Abigail Kesling  
Staff Writer

Developers have torn into a plot of land in South Tucson to make way for 60 rent-to-own homes for low-income families, part of the city's effort to increase home ownership and stabilize communities.

At a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 9 at Eighth Avenue and East 39th Street, construction began on the first housing project in South Tucson to guide residents from renting to owning homes. “We are going to have more chances for home ownership for people who live in South Tucson,” said City Manager Fernando Castro.

For the past year, a nonprofit organization, Development Design Group, has been working with the South Tucson City Council to develop a quality and affordable housing community for low-income families.

The outcome, Valle del Sur, will offer families with incomes ranging from $15,000 to $32,000 the option to buy their homes at today's market price after renting for 15 years, said Daniella Zepeda, a representative for Development Design Group.

Rent is determined by income, and a down payment earned from renting will help future residents shoulder some of the home purchasing costs.

According to Zepeda, the Valle del Sur approach to affordable housing provides incentives for families to buy and settle into one home, translating into benefits for many.

"This program encourages people to stay in their homes for a long time creating a stable and safer community,” Zepeda said. "We want this to be a place where people feel comfortable and get to know their neighbors, because everyone will be able to help each other out.”

South Tucson Mayor Shirley Villegas said the development is part of a positive trend the city's been experiencing.

"We want more homeowners in this city, which is becoming more common, with 65 percent of citizens as homeowners now, where before about 75 percent were renting," Villegas said.

Prop. 200 under fire

By Mitra Taj  
Staff Writer

As the election nears, supporters and opponents of Proposition 200 are fiercely debating the costs and contributions of illegal immigration and the effectiveness of requiring proof of citizenship to vote and to access public services.

While much of the debate surrounding Proposition 200 involves the exchange of figures and alleged facts, the controversy at the core of the proposition has more to do with differing world views than with practicalities.

Protect Arizona Now, the group who put Proposition 200, or The Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, on the ballot, is the latest manifestation of an attempt to protect the state and the country from illegal immigration.

A key provision of Prop. 200 requires everyone to show proof of citizenship when voting and a photo ID when voting.

Both the Secretary of State and the Pima County registrar have publicly stated that there has never been an allegation of fraud involving an illegal immigrant in Arizona.

But Virginia Abernethy, who made headlines when she was appointed as the national advisor to PAIN because of her admissions to being an “ethnic separatist,”

South Tucson boasts record voter increase

By Stefanie Thompson  
Staff Writer

Voter registration has broken records across the state of Arizona this year, including a large increase of registered voters in South Tucson, according to the Pima County Recorder’s Office.

South Tucson has 1,892 voters registered and eligible to participate in the upcoming Nov. 2 election, according to the Pima County Recorder’s Office.

In the 2000 general election, South Tucson had 1,560 registered voters, according to Pima County Elections Office officials. Of those, 213 voted.

In South Tucson’s precinct 47, 14.85 percent of registered voters cast a ballot in 2000.

In South Tucson’s precinct 134, 18.08 percent cast their vote according to an elections official.

The election this year will mark "the most important national election we’ll see in 50 years," said Congressman Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz.

Grijalva said he
A nonprofit organization wants to remove the educational barriers facing the growing numbers of South Tucson children living in poverty.

Almost half of South Tucson children are living below the national poverty line, according to the 2002 U.S. Census Bureau records, organization without lucrativeness that offers academic assistance to more than 300 Latino students from low-income families.

More children live in poverty and as a result face more academic challenges, according to America’s Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being July 2004, the U.S. government’s eighth annual monitoring report on the well-being of the nation’s youth.

Parents in low-income families are forced to spend more time at work, which limits the educational tools available to younger children, Luna said.

Older children often become a second source of income for the household and have to divide time between school and work, Luna said.

The academic performance of children living in poverty will suffer in these situations, Luna said. South Tucson youth also face a high probability of becoming academic drop outs. Fifty-nine percent of current South Tucson school children do not have a high school diploma, according to U.S. Census records.

“Our services push these children to make an academic improvement and teaches them to ask questions about their health, community and well being,” Luna said.

All South Tucson children above age 3 are enrolled in a form of educational program, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. According to the 2002 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 46 percent of children are living below poverty level compared to the 43 percent of families in Tucson.

The 15.8 percent of children in the country who lived in poverty in 2001 increased to 16.7 percent in 2002, the monitoring report said.

Youth education and leadership programs provide a direct academic and social change for children in need, Luna said.

Education is key for progress, U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige stated in the Federal Interagency Forum of Child and Family Statistics. Chicanos Por La Causa offers Tuscon’s south-side youth a reference of educational outreach and leadership programs, in addition to their resource facility for academic assistance and tutoring, at 250 N. Silverbell Road.

“We not only assist students, but offer aid to low-income families through the Chicanos Por La Causa main office,” Luna said.

Chicanos Por La Causa encourages South Tucson youth to take advantage of their programs, and the organization has an upcoming fundraiser to aid three of the seven education and youth leadership programs for south-side youths.

Chicanos Por La Causa Tucson’s Eighth Annual Golf Tournament will take place at the Westin La Paloma Country Club Nov. 5. The event will raise funds for Corazon de Aztlan (Heart of Aztlan), a series of youth workshops and retreats on educational attainment, community awareness, leadership enhancement and cultural pride. According to Adela Gonzales, Chicanos Por La Causa special events coordinator.

The funds raised will also go to Querer Es Poder (Desire is Power), an eighth grade scholarship program based on excellence in attendance and academics and Xinchutili (Germinating Seed) a youth leadership development conference, Gonzales said.

Gonzales anticipates 150 participants at the event and she hopes to raise $20,000 for the youth programs.

For more information on Chicanos Por La Causa services, contact the Tucson office at (520)882-0018, or the Youth Drop-In Center at 791-9855.
Project YES says ‘no’ to apathy

Tutoring, classes encourage positive learning, action

By Dan McGuire

Staff Writer

More than 100 children and young adults in South Tucson are spending their after-school hours each day studying, learning and preparing for the future at Project YES.

Project YES, 100 W. 37th St., is a nonprofit organization that offers opportunities for youth and families to improve academic performance, decrease dropout rates and reduce juvenile delinquency, gang activity and substance abuse, according to their Web site.

“We help kids and families one at a time to allow them to reach their highest potential,” said Robert Heslinga, the executive director of Project YES.

Project YES, an acronym for Youth Enrichment Support, offers three primary programs: youth and young adult educational tutoring, danger prevention programs and parenting classes, according to Heslinga.

Students receive individualized tutoring in the program that, according to Heslinga, advances a student’s learning ability up to one grade level for every 35 hours of tutoring they receive.

“What we are and always have been is a place of hope.”

— Robert Heslinga

Project YES executive director

According to Heslinga, students ages 9 to 17 participate in the seven-week program and leave more prepared for future situations.

“They react to things in their environment before thinking about the consequences,” Heslinga said of the students before they go through New Horizons. “The program teaches them to think things through before they’re put into the situation.”

Project YES executive director

Robert Heslinga

Continued from Page 1

said just because no one has been caught does not mean it is not happening.

Fear of illegal immigrants diverting U.S. elections seems to resound with likely Arizona voters, according to a Sept. 10 poll by the Arizona Republic. Ninety one percent of those surveyed said they supported Prop 200’s provision requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote. The proposition as a whole was found to be favored by 66 percent of the 600 registered voters consulted.

Many supporters of Prop. 200 decry the Mexican “invasion” taking place in the Southwest.

“Alas, California is lost to the Mexican invasion as is New Mexico and Texas,” wrote Frosty Wooldridge in a July 23 article titled, “The Illegal Immigrant Backlash,” posted on the PAN Web site.

“Expect those states to become manifestations of the Third World in the coming years,” he wrote.

When asked if the United States is being invaded by illegal immigrants, Abernethy asked, “When 3 million people come here a year illegally, is that an invasion?”

Rafael Martinez Cordoba, an illegal immigrant from Nogales, Sonora, who said it took him four days to cross the border two years ago, said illegal immigration is not an invasion, but a valuable resource for the United States.

“We come here to look for work not to hurt anybody,” said Cordoba. “This gringo doesn’t work here. He sits there with his computer but we go out and do the rest.”

Cordoba said the proposition is “racist” and said what is needed are laws that are more just.

“They take advantage of us and pay us very little,” he said as he waited with a group of men at a day laborer pick up spot on the South Side. “Some days there’s work and some days there’s not.”

Celestino Fernandez, a sociology professor at the University of Arizona who studies Latin America, Mexico and cultural and race relations called the Mexican invasion theory of illegal immigration unsubstantial “scare tactics.”

“There’s no discussion anywhere in Latin America of attacking the U.S. or taking back the land,” Fernandez said. “They use that kind of language to scare people, there’s no basis for it.”

Fernandez said a combination of tough economic times and an increasingly ethnically diverse country are fueling the illegal immigration backlash and support for Prop. 200.

“When the dominant group in society perceives or feels that they’re losing power or authority or control or they hear too many people speaking a language they don’t understand, they say, ‘oh, let’s write a law,’” Fernandez said.

Abernethy said it is important for Americans who are in the country now to “recognize” the country in the future. That includes preserving European-American culture, she said, and making sure the United States remains an English-speaking country.

Abernethy denies being a racist and said she is taking her cues from Prop. 200, which describes itself on its website as “a non-profit organization to advance the rights and collective interests of true conservatives . . . The C of CC also stands against the C of CC.”

Romero, whose own children went through the New Horizons program, said one of the benefits of the program is seeing former students succeed after they leave Project YES.

“I see good feeling the kids and talking with them [after the program],” Romero said. “They’re making the right decisions, not me.”

Romero said most of the youth in the New Horizons program are there for future problem prevention, but some of the students have been involved with gangs or have issues with substance abuse.

A study by the Tucson/Pima County Commission on Addiction and Treatment and Prevention found that in 2002 nearly 60 percent of Pima County 12th graders used alcohol.

Cigarette tobacco was the second substance students most commonly used at more than 27 percent, but marijuana use just below 24 percent.

See YES / page 5

Day laborers wait to be picked up for potential employment on a street corner on the South Side.

Prop. 200

Continued from Page 1

said, “If you don’t like those rules, would you get rid of every Chinatown? If you’re going to leave those, then European Americans have to play those games. I don’t like it but that’s what it is.”

Abernethy said as an anthropologist, she has learned that it is only natural for people to want to be “with their own.”

“I do identify with my group and I want the welfare of my group,” Abernethy said.

She said Prop. 200 is not about furthering just the European-American cause because it would benefit established immigrants as well.

Abernethy called John McCain a traitor to his constituency for not taking a hard line on immigration reform.

Abernethy said she sits on the advisory board of the Council of Conservative Citizens, a group which describes itself on its website as “a non-profit organization to work for the rights and collective interests of true conservatives . . . The C of CC also stands against the tide of nonwhite, Third World immigrants swamping this country.”

The group has been branded a racist hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Anti-Defamation League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

When asked about the white supremacist allegations launched at the C of CC, Abernethy said, “I don’t know and I don’t care. I care about their position on immigration.”
Suspensions in TUSD drop

By Andrea Dalton
Staff Writer

The number of suspensions for fights dropped significantly after two fatal, violent fights marked the opening of school last year for two Tucson Unified School District high schools.

TUSD and the high schools are working to keep violence from returning.

Despite the number of suspensions at Pueblo High Magnet School and Tucson High Magnet School climbing with the increasing student population until 2003-2004, the trend suddenly changed, according to statistics TUSD published online at their Web site.

The first of two deaths that may have caused the decrease in fights and suspensions at Pueblo and Tucson occurred Sept. 5, 2003.

Pueblo junior Jose Roberto “Bobby” Vasquez Acosta, 16, died after a fistfight during school hours. The death was blamed on a heart condition aggravated by the fight. No one was charged with the death.

A week later, Tucson student Jesus Falcon, 17, and a friend walked into deadly gang crossfire after school in a downtown underpass. Reports said the gang conflict began earlier that day at school.

Falcon died the next day from a head-wound, by a bullet. His friend Luis Torres, 16, survived but still has a bullet in his ankle from the incident. Two 18-year-olds were convicted of second-degree murder in August for the slaying.

Although populations of students enrolled in school were the highest they have ever been last year, after the deaths the number of students suspended for fighting dropped.

Last year, Pueblo suspended 32 students of more than 1,800 for fighting. That number is down from 48 of 1,700 students the year before and 42 students of 1,600 in 2000-2001.

Tucson Magnet High School suspended eight students of more than 2,650 for fighting. The year before, 83 students were suspended for fighting of 2,500 and in 2000-2001 school year 63 of 2,200 were suspended for fighting.

Warren Allison, head of TUSD department of school safety, said the events of last year and national tragedies like Sept. 11 and Columbine have raised student awareness about violence and fighting. Students realize that they do not want these things to happen again or in their schools, so reporting dangers to his department has increased. This means Allison and his team can stop fights before they start.

Allison said although awareness has increased within the schools where these students went, he believes the effect will wear off over time.

Jessica Armenta, a junior at Pueblo, said Vasquez Acosta’s death at the school changed students’ attitudes about fighting.

“It made you realize you could die,” she said.

A year after these tragedies TUSD, with the help of students reporting possible violence, is determined to prevent violence from marring another school year.

Almost all fights that occur in high school do not have such tragic outcomes as the incidents last year, said Allison. But he and his team of officers respond to every fight rumor, red flag and call on the 24-hour TUSD hotline just in case.

The TUSD department of school safety is one of only two like it in See SUSPENSIONS / Page 7

TUSD SUSPENSION STATISTICS

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Statistics from TUSD Web site

By Andrea Dalton
Staff Writer

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Buscan eradicar desventaja académica

Por Michelle Ochoa
Reportera

Una organización sin fines lucrativos quiere quitar las barreras enfrentando al número de niños Sur Tusconenses que viven en la indigencia.

Casi la mitad de los niños de Sur Tucson viven debajo del índice de pobreza, según los informes del Censo de los Estados Unidos, reflejando una tendencia nacional.

“Vivir en la indigencia puede causar una barrera en la educación de los niños”, dijo Laura Luna, directora de Chicanos Por La Causa – Servicios para Jóvenes, sin fines lucrativos, quien ofrece ayuda académica para más de 300 estudiantes Latinos de familias de bajos recursos.

El trabajo de los padres de las familias de bajos recursos los exige a pasar más tiempo en la labor, lo cual limita los instrumentos educacionales disponibles para jóvenes, dijo Luna.

A menudo, los adolescentes también son proveedores de ingresos en sus hogares y tienen que dividir su tiempo entre la escuela y el trabajo, dijo Luna.

Los jóvenes de Sur Tucson tienen alta probabilidad de no terminar sus estudios, ya que el 59 porciento de los residentes de Sur Tucson no tienen el diploma de preparatoria, según los registros del Censo de los EE.UU.

Luna agregó que sus servicios esfuerzan a los niños a mejorar académicamente y les enseña hacer preguntarse sobre su salud, comunidad y bienestar.

Según el Censo de los EE.UU., todos los niños en Sur Tucson, mayores de tres años de edad, están inscritos en algún tipo de programa educativo.

El Secretario de Educación de Estados Unidos declaró que la educación es clave para el progreso durante el Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family

Statistics

Chicanos Por La Causa ofrece a jóvenes de Sur Tucson una lista de información sobre programas de alcance y liderazgo, además de su centro de recursos para ayuda académica y tutoría, ubicada en 250 N. Silverbell Road.

No solamente ayudamos a estudiantes, sino que también ofrecemos ayuda a familias de bajos recursos por medio de la oficina principal de Chicanos Por La Causa.

Chicanos Por La Causa anima a los jóvenes de Sur Tucson que aprovechen de sus programas, y esta recaudando fondos para ayudar a tres de siete programas de liderazgo y educación para jóvenes de Sur Tucson.

Uno de estos eventos es el Octavo Torneo Anual de Golf de Chicanos Por La Causa. Se llevará acabo el 5 de Noviembre en Westin La Paloma Country Club.

Este evento recaudará fondos para el Corazón de Aztlán, una serie de talleres y retiros de logro para jóvenes, conocimiento de la comunidad, aumento de liderazgo y orgullo cultural, según Adela González, coordinadora de Eventos Especiales de Chicanos Por La Causa.

Los fondos también serán distribuidos para Queer es Poder, un programa de beca para el octavo año escolar basado en excelencia, asistencia y académica, y también para Xinachtli, una conferencia de desarrollo en liderazgo, dijo González.

González anticipa que 150 participantes en el evento y espera recaudar $20,000 para los programas juveniles de Chicanos Por La Causa.

Para más información, comuníquese con la oficina al 882-0018, o el Centro para Jóvenes al 791-9855.

Traducido por Alina-Lucia Andrade
Programs offer safe Halloween

By Araceli Cons
Staff Writer

Pumpkins begin to glow, paper ghosts haunt passers-by from windows and many people are wondering what Halloween activities they can participate in to celebrate the holiday. For anyone looking for a fun, safe or healthier holiday happening, there are several options for the whole family to enjoy around town. Adults and kids alike can get their dose of fun and frights around town.

Howl-o-ween Reid Park Zoo, 1100 S. Randolph Way.

According to the Reid Park Zoo education curator, Vivian Van Peenen, who heard of similar events at other zoos and from holiday enthusiasts on staff, “Two of our zokeepers in particular are just really into Halloween, and they thought it would be fun for themselves to get involved in Halloween, and they thought our guests would love it.” Van Peenen said, “It becomes an all-staff event, which is nice, because at the end it’s the whole staff celebrating and coming together to provide our community with a safe alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating.”

This all-ages event, which is in its eighth year, is Oct. 29 and 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will feature scary and non-scary areas. Oct. 31, hours are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will feature the not scary area only. Staff expects about 8,500 people to attend in those three days.

Even before entering the zoo, visitors can explore a spooky bus in the parking lot and be entertained by jugglers and still walkers at the gate. Animals will not be on display during the event, but once inside, those who dare can venture into haunted caves.

Those looking for something tamer can visit a less scary area, which will feature festive decorations, a pumpkin patch, festive lights and life-size animals dressed in costumes. Guests can meet costumed characters, enter to win giveaways and satisfy a sweet tooth with trick-or-treating. Organizations will pitch in with booths for giveaways and candy stops. The snack bar will also be open.

Advance tickets are recommended and go on sale at the zoo’s front admission gate. Tickets for Oct. 29 and 30 are $5 and tickets for Oct. 31 are $4. Zoo members can get a $1 discount. Proceeds will go toward next year’s event or the zoo’s animal enrichment program.

Safe Halloween Celebration El Con Mall, 3601 E. Broadway Blvd.

Pima Community College and El Con Mall collaborate for this event, which will be held Oct. 30 from noon to 4 p.m. in the food court area.

Organizers expect 2,500 to 3,000 people to attend the free event, which is also an educational experience for children from kindergarten through fifth grade, stressing safety during the holiday. “We want people to know that kids don’t have to be out on the street to have fun,” said Juanita Casas, Pima’s Community College’s Desert Course.


CDG Architects and Diamond Rock Homes Construction, Co. estan construyendo esta comunidad para Sur Tucson. Para alistarse para recibir informacion actualizada sobre la vivienda, llame Daniella Zepeda, 520-205-8457.

Annual Halloween Carnival Oct. 29, The Mulcahy YMCA, 5085 S. Nogales Highway

From 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. All ages are welcome to participate in the activities. Games will include an evil twin relay, mummy wrap, pass the pumpkin and pumpkin. Everyone can also show off their inner goblin with face painting and the costume contest, or get creepy in the spooky story room and investigate the haunted classroom. Guests will also have an opportunity to get some exercise in an obstacle course jumping castle. Kids can create crafts, decorate pumpkins and make their own healthy trick-or-treat bags with popcorn and toys.

“El YMCA is trying to promote a healthy environment to stimulate children in regards to building strong kids, strong minds and strong communities,” said Ordoñez, 20-year-old of the event. “We want people to know that kids don’t have to be out on the street to have fun,” said Juanita Stevenson, an office assistant at Pima Community College, Desert Campus.

The celebration allows kids to trick-or-treat and play games, including the pumpkin toss, minia- ture golf, a cake walk, a climbing wall and the chance to explore a fire truck and a U.S. Army Hummer. Kids can also get their faces painted, get their pictures taken, listen to stories and of course, get some candy.

See Halloween / Page 6
29th roadwork nearing end

By Julia Henry
Staff Writer

The $3 million 29th Street reconstruction project that slowed commuters and pedestrians this year will end before January, the city’s planning director said.

The target date for completion of the ‘29th Street Corridor Revitalization’ is Thanksgiving weekend, though the official deadline is December 31, said Planning Director Richard Salaz.

“We have been frustrated with the inconveniences of road construction, but they will be pleased with the results,” said Salaz.

The complete renovation of 29th Street includes laying underground utilities, pouring new curbs and sidewalks, street lighting, a new crosswalk to aid school children at the Eighth Avenue intersection, five murals on newly constructed retaining walls and landscaping east of Fourth Avenue.

“Starting construction is done. Finishing and striping started Oct. 7,” Salaz said. “Though work remains to be done curbside.

Federal funding for the project originated from highway revenues. The Pima County Association of Governments allocated nearly 25 percent of a $12.6 million bond for this project.

South Tucson resident Maria Reina said that the construction always causes her a problem while driving.

“I haven’t had any problems getting to work, but I have had a few customers complain about trying to cross the street,” said Patricia Phillips, a service clerk at Walgreen Drugstore on south 29th Street.

In response to a request for art proposals, the Las Artes center submitted the necessary qualifications to build five murals along retaining walls, some as long as 40 feet, said lead artist Alex Garza.

“The students at Las Artes are residents, so participating in the project allows them to invest in their community,” he said.

The mural designs are intended to honor everyday activities of the city. These designs must be approved before artists begin work in the next month or two, said Garza.

The first mural design will be a narrative dedicated to women depicting key points in life, beginning with a child at play, followed by a quinceañera, a mother with children and finally an elderly woman in a nurturing setting. This mural will cover a retaining wall across from La Casa de Bernie Sedley and will incorporate lots of flowers using soft and elaborate colors.

Artists plan to decorate existing symbolic pottery shapes on another wall near La Frontera with indigenous patterns. Artists will use mixed media on this project including large sheets of colored glass and metal and chrome cutouts in place of typical colored tile mosaics.

The monies allocated for the artwork will cover all materials as well as pay students for their talent.

“We would like to thank the community for its support,” Garza said, “I think all public works like this help reinforce hope that things will get better.”

Halloween: Continued from Page 5

those who need their sweets. Prizes will take the place of candy and every child will walk away with prizes and coupons. A free raffle with paid admission is also part of the fun, with three pairs of tickets to the University of Arizona’s homecoming football game Oct. 30 up for grabs.

Tickets for admission can be purchased at the YMCA on the day of the event for $2, and activity tickets are four for $1. Proceeds will benefit the family program, daycare, after school sports, school age programs and future events.

El Pueblo Activity Center Annual Halloween Fiesta
101 W. Irvington Road

Organizations help put together free fun for all ages Oct. 30 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., where about 2,000 people are expected to attend.

“It’s just our way of saying let’s get the kids off the street, let’s get them into a safe environment and have fun,” said Richard Barker, the El Pueblo Activity Center supervisor.

The event, in its 25th year, will include carnival game booths, a haunted hay boneyard and a jumping castle and obstacle course. Activities will give everyone a chance to win prizes and candy. Free hotdogs, chips and soft drinks will also be available.

Another spot to find eerie enjoyment will be at the free Great Pumpkin Adventure at the Quinque Douglas Center, 1575 E. 36th St., Oct. 23 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This event for all ages will include a jumping castle and obstacle course, games, prizes, trick-or-treating and a DJ. Plenty of free hotdogs, chips and drinks will be available. Several community resource booths will also be present, offering information for anyone interested.

El Pueblo Park 101 W. Irvington Road

The 4th Annual Pumpkin Harvest Agua Linda Farm 2877 E. Frontage Rd., Amado 30 minutes south of Tucson

Visitors can also go through a haunted hay maze, take a hay wagon ride, or visit the an animal corral, or listen to live music.

Voting: Continued from Page 1

Andrew Record, a political science major and ASUA special events director, registers Jason Hendifer, 17, to vote at the U of A campus.

By Gregorio Solis
Staff Writer

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Staff Writer

Halloween: Continued from Page 5

El Independiente Page 6 October/octubre 2004
For More Information, Contact:

Pima County Election Office (520) 740-4260 www.co.pima.az.us/elections
Pima County Recorder’s Office (520) 740-4330 www.recorder.pima.gov
Arizona Secretary of State Office (602)542-8683 or (877)THE-VOTE www.azsos.gov/elections

Dr. Gregorio Solis, a Tucson resident, agreed that voting this year is especially important.

“We are in the same county, and we all need each other,” Solis said. “I look forward to voting and impacting how the government works.”

In addition to voting on a national level for president and congressional representatives, voters will also find local officials and statewide propositions on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Early ballots are available by request from the Pima County Recorder’s Office until Oct. 22, and can be turned in anytime on or before the Nov. 2 election.

The 2004 general election is Nov. 2, and polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The voting sites in South Tucson for precincts 47 and 134 respectively are the John Valenzuela Youth Center, 1550 S. Sixth Ave., in the meeting room, and the Sam Lena Library, 1607 S. Sixth Ave.

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Countless arguments have arisen in the past months surrounding the April 13 decision to extend Arizona’s last call to 2 a.m., but the results of the new law are still unknown.

Many Pima County businesses are advocates of the new law, saying the extra hour of drinking will increase income. Other organizations say more revenue is not worth endangering lives.

An organization opposing the recent law is Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Holly Robles, a senior victim advocate who has worked with MADD for 10 years, said the new law is just another example of how the organization takes three steps forward and two backward. Passing a law that extends the allotted drinking time seems to make their efforts useless, Robles said.

Robles said she is opposed to the extended drinking time because she thinks those who already drink heavily will drink even more in the extra hour.

She also said this law would mostly affect those who are irresponsible drinkers to begin with; instead of having four drinks and driving, maybe they will have six. Maybe instead of getting into an accident and hitting one car, they will hit two, Robles said.

According to MADD, the government claimed the new law would create more than $40 million in additional revenue per year. But according to the organization’s statistics, the state spent more than $30 billion last year as a result of drunken driving.

“It’s just a no-brainer,” Robles said. “Any amount of time you leave a bar open later will make a difference.”

Another concern, Robles said, is because these drunken drivers will be driving around 2:30 or 3 a.m., they could meet the traffic of early morning workers, putting them at danger as well.

Despite Robles’ worries however, there have not been major problems because of the later last call in South Tucson.

R.C., the manager of the Wagon Wheel on South Sixth Avenue, said his bar is a neighborhood bar, consisting of the same people who come to drink there, and he has not noticed an increase in new clientele or revenue since the law passed.

Marshall Vest, a business and economics professor at the University of Arizona, said a person can only consume and handle so much alcohol in one day, and one extra hour will not make much of a difference.

He said he also does not think statistics of revenue will increase substantially; his impression is that if people did not come to or stay late at certain bars before the law passed, their actions will remain the same.

“Meeting planners haven’t been avoiding Arizona because the bars close too soon,” he said. “Nor will knowledge that bars are open an hour longer bring more conventions.”

In 2003, Pima County recorded 48 alcohol-related deaths. The South Tucson Police Department has reported a decrease in DUI citations this year, from 19 in September 2003 to 13 this September.

Ed Slechta from the Department of Public Safety said it would probably take at least a few months to obtain accurate statistics. Although he said he doesn’t know for sure what the outcome will be after this year is over, he said his task force is working harder than ever since last call was extended.

“Last year, we were only out on the streets patrolling heavily during the long holiday weekend in September,” Slechta said. “This year, we went out not only during that weekend, but also the weekends prior to and after the holiday.”

Gov. Janet Napolitano said she wants Arizonans to pay attention to what effect the law has on the state. In an April 13 press release, she stated she “wants the agencies to keep track of an changes and report back … in six months.”

Robles is still skeptical about the outcome of the data.

“I want the statistics to prove [MADD] wrong,” Robles said. “But I also don’t want to have to say ‘I told you so’ at the cost of someone’s life.”

**Southern Arizona Calendar of Events**

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### Oct. 15 - Nov. 2

**Oct. 15-31:** Halloween Howl at Colossal Cave Mountain Park-La Posta Quemada Ranch. Friday, Saturday and Sunday 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Contact: 647-7121

**Oct. 15-31:** Nightfall at Old Tucson Studios. Contact: 883-0100

**Oct. 17:** Rillito Park Antique Fair at Rillito Park Horse Racetrack 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Contact: 481-7275

**Oct. 21-23:** Boon at Leo Rich Theatre at TCC, $5-$18. Contact: 882-7406

**Oct. 23:** The Alternative Bazaar™ at TMAC, 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Contact: 903-0918

**Oct. 23:** NASCAR Racing at Tucson Raceway Park at 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

**Oct. 23-24:** 4th Annual Bluegrass Festival at Pima County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Contact: 296-1231

**Oct. 24:** Dia de los Muertos “Day of the Dead” Bookmans 6230 E. Speedway, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: 748-9555

**Oct. 30:** NASCAR Racing at Tucson Raceway Park 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

**Oct. 31:** 4th Annual Pumpkin Harvest on 1-19 South to Agua Linda Rd. Contact: 398-3218

**Nov. 2:** Election Day

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### Suspensions: Continued from Page 4

...in the state of Arizona, Allison said.

The district’s policies and actions regarding student safety have not changed since the student’s deaths because his department is as vigilant as it has always been.

“Just by having a department such as ours shows that the school district is committed to the safety of our students,” Allison said. “So it’s not like we had to do anything new or different. We were already working on these issues.”

Allison and his department are based at Palo Verde High School. He and most of his team are retired police officers that respond to calls by going out to schools district-wide and addressing each problem. The team also trains school-hired monitors in drug recognition, gang recognition and ways to defuse fights. Prevention and visibility are the department’s biggest tools in deterring violence, Allison said.

Having monitors in the halls and around during lunch is what keeps students from fighting at Pueblo High School, said Pueblo High School sophomore Jimmy Apalategui. Apalategui said that he feels safe at school and he thinks that security is done well.

John Robertson, a middle school teacher at Wakefield Middle School and girl’s golf coach at Pueblo High School, said that he does not see much violence at either school and that the girls who are busy in after-school sports like golf are not a problem.

Most fights in the district are not gang related and mediation between arguing students prevents a lot of violence.

“Mostly it’s boyfriend and girlfriend kind of fights; the same kinds of things since when I was in school,” Allison said. “We need to get them to an administrator or a counselor to deal with those before it turns physical.”

Allison said that schools use suspension and expulsion as discipline for fighting but that the district tries to use alternatives to such last resort actions. The district would rather have students in school learning, not on the streets.

Effective violence prevention needs to be a community wide effort, Allison said.

“School safety is an attitude,” he said. “It has to be all of our jobs.”
Ex-Wildcat leads Pueblo football

By Melissa Aquino
Staff Writer

Former University of Arizona linebacker Scott McKee heads Pueblo High Magnet School’s football program with “character, heart, and leadership,” said Reginald Sanpay, offensive line coach.

“Pueblo is a school that plays with honor,” said assistant coach Brian Reilly. “We have the best coaches from Tucson, straight from the University of Arizona.”

McKee played for the Wildcats from 1999 to 2002, and served as one of the UA’s assistant coaches last year. He said his experience playing college football helped him with different aspects of the game. McKee said he hopes to improve Pueblo’s overall football program, and wants the team to become a top contender in this year’s state championship.

McKee said he keeps a silver stopwatch in his pocket, which was given to him by his father during his 1978-1979 season. He said his father, Larry McKee, has “been my role model [who has] inspired me to play the game of football; he has been where I have been.”

Larry McKee coached the team with prestige during the 1978-79 seasons, earning the Football Coach of the Year Award, and is now the principal at Tucson High Magnet School.

Tyreece Mays, Pueblo running back and free safety, said Pueblo “has good coaches who know football, and who are enthusiastic to the team; they give a good hands-on approach.”

The coaching staff continues to give players simple goals like “being on time and playing full speed, which helps improve attitude each day,” McKee said.

“If anything, he keeps us in a straight line,” Gamez said.

Angel Sorilla, Pueblo free safety and quarterback, said “nothing like hours and hours a day of practice” takes place.

A typical football practice begins at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and some weekends. Football players are on the field for practice, which allows them to focus fully on the ideas of “school, work first, then football,” Sorilla said.

Practice consists of warm-ups and conditioning, said James Leonard, linebacker coach.

Virgil Henderson, Pueblo High Magnet School junior varsity head coach, said the team continues to strive for success.

Housing:

Continued from Page 1

Zepeda said at Valle del Sur, affordable doesn’t have to mean cheap. “We want to emphasize that this is quality, affordable housing not just affordable housing,” she said.

All homes will include new washers and dryers, ceiling fans, microwaves and refrigerators, Zepeda said. Outside of the home, residents will be able to use Valle del Sur’s licensed child-care facility, playground and community building.

Valle del Sur houses, which will range from 880 to 1,250 square feet, will have two, three or four bedrooms with two bathrooms.

Audrey Benchik, who went to the groundbreaking ceremony, called the development “fantastic.”

“I am also very impressed with this program, and I think more places in the country should use this as an example for people believe in themselves,” Leonard said.

McKee’s leadership as head coach and passion for the game flow directly to each member of the team, “setting a good example, and playing honorably,” said Michael Beck, assistant principal for activities.

“Each player has heart, and every player plays together like family,” said Dallas Bonillas, Pueblo linebacker.

WARRIORS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

October
23 @ Cholla        L 33-14

September
3 @ Rincon         W 27-0
10@ Marana         W 37-6
17@ Yuma           L 35-12
23 Amphi           L 41-13

October
8 @ Catalina Foothills
5 @ Cienega

Flying high in the sun

Children fly through the sky by the magic of a swing ride in the carnival on South Sixth Avenue, Oct. 2.

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA BROWN

Pueblo High School Football players, coached by Scott McKee (below), work out during a practice. The football team has a 2-4 record.

Photos by Kenneth Wolverton