Building a Bridge to Higher Education

By Janelle Drumwright

Making the transition from high school to college isn’t easy, and it’s often even harder for minorities, but thanks to the efforts of local high schools and the University of Arizona, that transition is getting easier.

Tucson High Magnet School, where 72 percent of the student population is minority and 58 percent is Hispanic, is a model of such success and diversity. Approximately 83 percent of the school’s 2006 graduating seniors were going to attend a college or university, said Dr. Marisa Ostroff, the College and Career Center counselor for Tucson High. This is well above the national rate of 67 percent from 2004, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Of the 83 percent of Tucson High students who garnered a record-breaking $5.5 million in scholarships, 50 percent were admitted to community colleges and 33 percent to four-year institutions, Ostroff said. Approximately 10 percent were admitted out-of-state.

Ostroff said “repetition is key” when successfully presenting students with information about college.

“It sort of put a bug in their ear and literally advertise it to death,” she said.

Ostroff has an “open-door policy” with students and tries her best to be accessible to them and simplify the college application process.

Common roadblocks for students who want to get to college are financial concerns and poor grades, Ostroff said. To combat these problems, Ostroff said she emphasizes community colleges as open-enrollment schools to give struggling students confidence in their grades. She also said she tries to provide as much scholarship information as possible, including referring students to Web sites like fastweb.com where they can create a profile and search for scholarships that apply to their individual situations and interests.

Ostroff said she also emphasizes Web sites designed for minorities because of Tucson High’s large percentage of minority students.

The University of Arizona is doing its part as well. The UA’s law and medical schools have built a strong relationship with Hispanic students. Both schools recently ranked in the top 10 nationally for Hispanic students in Hispanic Business magazine for the second year in a row.

The University of Arizona creates links with students through outreach programs such as Med-Start, the Office of Minority Affairs’ signature program. The six-week summer program is aimed at students between their junior and senior years of high school, also called “rising seniors,” who are interested in health careers.

Med-Start was established more than 35 years ago to recruit and train students from rural, reservation and economically disadvantaged areas in an attempt to improve the healthcare in those regions. The program is also available through Arizona State University as Maricopa Med-Start.

Students not only get to explore a range of health careers firsthand from firefighting to pediatrics—the number one choice of incoming medical students—but also learn firsthand what college is going to be like.

Andrew Stuck, the program coordinator for Med-Start, said the transition to a university is usually the hardest for minorities, and programs like Med-Start help to ease that transition. During the six-week program, students live in UA dorms, take chemistry and English classes and learn to budget their

‘Scholarship’ see page 6

Progreso de ELL Impedido por Poco Tiempo y Dinero

By Mika Mandelbaum

Traducido por Natalia Lopera

Un cambio reciente en la ley de Ningún Niño se queda atrás le dará menos tiempo a estudiantes que hablan español para aprender ingles antes de tener que pasar exámenes evaluativos nacionales y del estado.

El 13 de Septiembre, la administración del Presidente Bush disminuyó la cantidad de tiempo dado a los estudiantes para aprender ingles de tres años a un año.

Aunque los cambios no se efectuarán inmediatamente, el Superintendente de Instrucción Pública, Tom Horne, está demandando al gobierno nacional por los cambios. El pensa que un año no es suficiente para enseñar a aprender una idioma adecuadamente.

Los educadores de Tucson están de acuerdo con Horne y se están reuniendo con representantes del estado para expresar la opinión que aún los tres años dados inicialmente no son suficiente tiempo y que la reducción a un año es casi imposible, dijo Steve Holmes, el director de adquisición de lenguaje en el Distrito Unificado de Escuelas de Tucson, conocido como TUSD.

TUSD tiene aproximadamente 7,300 estudiantes que están aprendiendo ingles, se conocen comúnmente como estudiantes ELL, y aproximadamente 2,000 profesores que enseñan la inmersión al lenguaje, conocidos como SEI.

El programa de SEI requiere que los profesores modifiquen sus lecciones para acomodarse a las necesidades de los estudiantes que están aprendiendo el idioma. También requiere que se hable en ingles por treinta minutos cada día en clase.

El gobierno debería reconocer que se toma por lo menos entre cinco a siete años para que una persona aprenda el ingles académico, dijo Sandie Pearse, profesora de la Escuela Elemental Ochoa.

“Nos se puede esperar que ellos aprendan el ingles académico en un año,” Pearse dijo.

“No hay manera. He estado enseñando en el Ingles académico durante muchos años,” dijo Sixto Molina, profesor de la Escuela Elemental Ochoa.

“Se puede esperar que ellos aprendan el ingles académico en un año,” Pearse dijo.

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Sin embargo, él dijo que residentes no pueden recibir el 80 por ciento de los créditos en el Sur de Tucson. En vez de eso, las personas de Tucson son detenidas en el Sur de Tucson, y eso pasa a el informe de crimen de la ciudad.

El latrocincio está por menos el problema más grande, con 629 incidentes registrados en 2005. La Policía del Sur de Tucson, que tiene a 23 policías y tres reservas, todavía manda oficiales a las escenas aunque muchos otros departamentos no lo hacen, Molina dijo.

El índice de criminalidad comenzó a disminuir después de 1997 hasta que empezó aumentar otra vez en 2000. La subida es debida en gran parte a la apertura de nuevos negocios tales como Food City, 2950 S. Sixth Ave., que abrió también en 2000, Molina dijo.

Consecuentemente, con más negocios hay más robos,” él dijo.

El aumento en el crimen se puede atribuir también en el uso de drogas, Molina dijo. Molina dijo si él podría hacer una cosa para ayudar a reducir el crimen en el Sur de Tucson sería ayudar a drogadictos obtener ayuda.

“Encontrar una manera de poner un mandato que drogadictos obtengan el

Crimen de Robo Sube, Crimen Violento Baja en South Tucson

By Brian Goldsmith

Traducido por Abby Nelson

El índice de criminalidad en el Sur de Tucson a sido el más alto desde 1997, pero aunque los crimenes de robo eran mayores, los crimenes violentos tales como el asesinato y el acoso sexual eran menores, según el informe de 2005 por la Policía del Sur de Tucson.

El año pasado 986 crimenes se registraron — el número más alto a sido 1,226 en el año 1997.

“Deseo que los números fueran hacia abajo,” Jefe de Policias del Sur de Tucson Sixto Molina dijo.

Los crimenes incluyen asesinato, acoso sexual, robo, asalto agravado, rebo con fractura, latrocincio, robo del auto y delito de incendio.

El robo con fractura, robo y el latrocincio—son mayor mente en tiendas — todo ha subido en los últimos años en gran parte debido a la apertura de nuevos negocios, las droga y los vagabundos, Molina dijo.

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“Encontrar una manera de poner un mandato que drogadictos obtengan el
The crime rate in South Tucson is the highest it has been since 1997, but while theft crimes are up, violent crimes such as murder and sexual assault are down, according to the 2005 crime report from the South Tucson Police Department. Last year 986 crimes were recorded—the highest number since 1,226 in 1997. “It seems the numbers were down,” South Tucson Police Chief Sixto Molina said. Those crimes include murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson. Burglary, robbery and larceny—mostly shoplifting—have all risen in recent years largely due to the opening of new businesses, drugs and the homeless population, Molina said. However, he said residents do not commit 80 percent of the crimes in South Tucson. Instead, people from Tucson often get arrested in South Tucson, and that goes on the city’s crime report. Larceny is by far the biggest problem, with 629 incidents recorded in 2005. The South Tucson Police Department, which has 23 police officers and three reserves, still sends officers to shopping center scenes even though many other departments do not, Molina said. The crime rate began to decline after 1997 until it began increasing again in 2000. The rise is due largely to the opening of many businesses such as Food City, 200 S. Sixth Ave, which also opened in 2000, Molina said. “Consequently, with more businesses there are more thefts,” he said. The increase in crime can also be attributed to drug use, Molina said. Molina said if he could do one thing to help reduce crime in South Tucson it would be to assist drug addicts in getting help. “I would find a way to mandate drug users to get treatment for their addictions,” he said. As a crystal methamphetamine addiction sweeps the nation, the police department is taking steps to educate the community. They have mailed brochures about the drug to every household in South Tucson, Molina said. “If people know the dangers of something, hopefully they’ll stay away,” he said. The expanding homeless population is another cause of the increase in crime, Molina said. “They’re still people that need to eat and drink to survive and if they don’t have the money they’re going to steal,” he said. There isn’t just one area of the city that is considered a larger problem area than others, according to Molina. “It’s pretty much spread out because we’re such a small city,” he said. He points out that neighborhood centers such as the House of Neighborly Services and the John Valenzuela Youth Center help fight crime by offering a variety of activities that keep people off the streets. “These are very successful in indirectly helping us control crime,” he said. Molina, who has been chief for nearly 10 years, said the relationship between law enforcement and the community is a significant factor in fighting crime. “The police department is only as strong as the community will let it be,” he said. Molina said that relationship is better now than it once was because the community can trust the department and know they are there to protect and serve. “We attempt to be respectful of all citizens, even those with lengthy criminal records,” he said. South Tucson resident Dora Valenzuela agrees. “I think we’re very safe here,” she said. However, some South Tucson residents don’t feel the same way. Angel Armenta is not satisfied with law enforcement and said police harass residents for no apparent reason. “They’re showing that they have power over you,” he said. Many outside the mile-square city view South Tucson as a high crime area, but Molina said this is a stereotype. He pointed out that many people do not realize the difference between South Tucson, the city, and the general area of southern Tucson.

-border Patrol, Aid Workers Disagree on Death Stats

By Natalia Lopera

Local humanitarian organizations are criticizing Border Patrol figures that indicate decreased numbers at border arrests and deaths in the Tucson sector.

The Border Patrol attributes a decrease in arrests to tougher law enforcement, humanitarian organizations say there are not fewer crossers, but instead, crossers have shifted their routes to more obscure areas. In addition, they say the Border Patrol undercounts deaths in general.

“I don’t think people are crossing any less, but where they’re crossing is what has changed,” said Kat Rodriguez, coordinating organizer for the Human Rights Coalition/Indigenous Alliance Without Borders.

Gustavo Soto, Tucson Border Patrol Sector spokesman, said from 2005 to 2006 border deaths decreased by 26 percent and arrests by 13 percent.

Arrests dropped from 438,000 to 380,000 while deaths decreased from 216 to 160.

The Tucson Border Patrol Sector covers 12 of the 15 counties in the state. Soto said the Border Patrol could not release numbers for the entire 2006 fiscal year due to ongoing backlogs from its headquarters. It is only allowed to provide numbers of the fiscal year minus the last 15 days. Jay Young, program coordinator at Humane Borders, an organization that fills up waters tanks to help desert crossers and prevent deaths, said the members of his organization have noticed people are crossing the border in different areas in Arizona.

There has been a strong Border Patrol and Minutemen presence near trails and water stations, which has caused crossers to take different routes, Young said. Altar Valley, located 30 miles southwest of Tucson, used to be a popular route for crossers but traffic has moved to the east and west due to increased Border Patrol presence.

Members of Humane Borders can tell when migrants switch routes because of the amount of water they have to replenish at each station, Young said. The total amount of water the organization refills each year has been similar since 2002, which shows that the number of crossers isn’t decreasing, he said.

Rodriguez said that while the shift in migration patterns has caused the number of deaths to decrease in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector, it has caused deaths to increase in other sectors, specifically in places like El Paso, Texas.

The city falls under the jurisdic- tion of the El Paso Border Patrol, which covers all of New Mexico, Arizona and part of Texas. El Paso Border Patrol spokesman, Rogelio Garcia, said they had 8 or 9 percent increase in apprehensions as well as a 23 percent decrease in deaths.

Soto said there have been “slight spikes” in the number of apprehensions in some areas during the year, which is a normal result of increased enforcement, but overall, the numbers of apprehensions and deaths are going down nationwide.

Tough border enforcement with the addition of 6,000 National Guard troops has led to fewer crossers, Soto said.

Also, the relatively cool summer months of this year in comparison to last year meant fewer people died of dehydration, he said.

The Border Patrol had higher arrest numbers during more stringent enforcement efforts after 9/11, but the decrease of arrests shows the enforcement efforts are having a deterring effect, Soto said.

Young said his organization, as well as others, don’t trust the death counts the Border Patrol provides and a recent government report confirmed their position.

The Government Accountability Office examined the way the Border Patrol records border deaths and concluded its procedures are not uniform across all sectors and have resulted in undercounting.

Linda Ray, a volunteer at Samaritans, a non-profit organization that aids suffering border crossers, pointed out some deaths are not recorded at all. If bodies are found in the desert by regular citizens and brought into the morgue, they are not counted as border deaths, she said.

Young said because the Border Patrol undercounts deaths, his organization compares numbers with those provided by the county medical examiner. He said the number of border deaths this year for Pima County alone was 199 compared to the 160 reported by the Tucson Border Patrol.

“We believe that there are more migrant deaths than the Border Patrol reports,” Young said.

**South Tucson’s Bilingual Newspaper**

El Independiente encourages letters from all its readers, but reserves the right to edit correspondence for grammar, style, clarity and length.

El Independiente: 210158B
Phone: 621-3618
Fax: 621-7557

**Managing Editor**
Melissa Colosimo

**News Editor**
Mika Mandelbaum

**Spanish Editor**
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Students to Help Neighbors ‘Make a Difference’

Por Rachel Hamilton
Traducido Por Natalia Lopera

La Administración de Comida y Medicinas decidió permitir que las farmacias locales empiecen a ofrecer Plan B, comúnmente conocido como ‘la píldora del día siguiente’, que es un anticonceptivo para casos de emergencia. A partir de finales de este año, las drogas que tengan mas de 18 años no necesitarán prescripción médica. Aun cuando la decisión se hizo en Agosto, el reempaque de la píldora por la compañía Barr Pharmaceuticals ha impedido la distribución, dijo Rachel Chanes, administrativo de Planned Parenthood de Southern Arizona.

‘La mas pronto que podría estar en los almacenes es de Nov., pero esperamos que no se tarde mas de un año,’ Chanes dijo.

La administración se demoró mucho para tomar la decisión de ofrecer este tipo de anticonceptivos de emergencia sin prescripción. Mucha gente creen que se tardó demasiado.

‘Se demoró 30 meses para llegar a donde estamos ahora, pero nosotros hemos sido promotores de esto por mucho tiempo,’ Chanes dijo.

Por muchos años, grupos conservativos y religiosos se han opuesto violentamente a las esfuerzos de Planned Parenthood para hacer el Plan B más disponible al público.

Farmacéutica, Jerry Sormani expresó su apoyo por la decisión y por los derechos de las mujeres.

‘Yo creo que es una idea estupenda, y no entiendo por qué la píldora no se había hecho disponible antes,’ Sormani dijo. ‘No es mi deber juzgar a alguien por su decisión.’

Algunos creen que la disponibilidad de la píldora no afectará los almacenes.

‘Nuestra población es de edad mayor, más tradicional, y no la pedirán más a menudo,’ dijo Laura Pedrego, una farmacéutica de Food City localizado en Irvington y Interstate 19. ‘Pero es un poco temprano para predecir.’

Pedrego dijo que aun así, ella igual hará pedidos del medicamento y dijo que sabe que sus compañeros harán lo mismo.

‘Pero otra gente no está a favor en contra de la venta de la píldora sin prescripción.’

Algunas farmacias como Target y Walgreens tienen una regla que permite que las farmacias decidan si quieren vender el Plan B, a su completa discreción.

‘Yo no tengo problema con la venta del Plan B, pero otros farmacias a la mejor y pueden negarse vender,’ Fredri dijo.

‘Las farmacias de Wal-Mart pien-

Know Before You Go

Pharmacies with ‘No Discrimination, No Delay’ Policies

- Eskaton Pharmacies
- CVS/Pharmacy
- Costco Pharmacies
- Kroger Pharmacies

Pharmacies without ‘No Discrimination, No Delay’

Wal-Mart Pharmacies
Walgreens Pharmacies
Target Pharmacies
Rite-Aid Pharmacies

Plan B Doesn’t Require Prescription

By Rachel Hamilton

Local pharmacies will begin offering Plan B, commonly known as the “morning after pill,” over the counter by the end of the year following a decision by the Food and Drug Administration to make the drug available without a prescription to all women 18 and over.

‘The earliest it would be in stores would be Nov. 1, but we are hoping no later than the end of the calendar year,’ Chanes said.

‘The decision to offer nonprescription emergency contraception has been a long time in the making. Some think too long,’ Chanes said.

‘It took 30 months to get this far, but we have advocated for this to happen for a long time,’ Chanes said.

‘For years, conservative and religious groups have fought efforts by Planned Parenthood to make Plan B a more readily available local medication.

‘Local fry’s pharmacist Jerry Sormani expressed his support for the decision and for women’s rights in general.

‘I think it’s a great idea and I don’t understand why it wasn’t available before now,’ Sormani said. ‘It’s not for me to pass judgement on someone’s decision.’

Some believe the over-the-counter status was determined in August, repackaging of the pills by manufacturer Barr Pharmaceutical is holding up its distribution, said Rachel Chanes, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona.

‘We had hoped it would be in stores by November 1, but we are hoping no later than the end of the calendar year,’ Chanes said. ‘It is very simple, pharmacies should stock and sell E.C. (emergency contraception).’

‘It would be for me to pass judgement on women’s rights in general. I am not for that,’ Chanes said.

‘Some think too long. However, not everyone believes emergency contraception should be available over the counter or otherwise.’

Some pharmacies like Target and Walgreens have policies allowing pharmacists to refuse to sell Plan B, or even birth control, based on their own personal beliefs.

John Friedli, a Target pharmacist, confirmed this policy.

‘I don’t have a problem with it, but other pharmacists might and could refuse it,’ Friedli said.

Wal-Mart pharmacies had previously decided not to make up to about the new emergency contraception up until March, when the corporation announced a change in its policies, according to Planned Parenthood.

A pharmacy in the local Wal-Mart refused to comment on this change or anything else about emergency contraception.

‘Planned Parenthood’s Chanes said, “to us it is very simple, pharmacies should stock and sell E.C. (emergency contraception).”’

‘It is no like any other prescription.’

Planned Parenthood is asking for a ‘No Discrimination, No Delay’ policy, which would ensure women could go to any pharmacy in the country and be guaranteed access to this medication, Chanes said.

‘Our main concern is that people get E.C. in a timely fashion,’ Chanes said.

According to the Planned Parenthood Web site, Plan B must be taken within 120 hours, or 5 days, after unprotected sex. The pill is most effective when taken within the first 72 hours.

‘Many pharmacists in drug stores and around Southern Tucson said they would fill prescriptions with no questions asked and provide it over the counter upon request.

‘When asked if she would supply the pill, Rosalinda Gomez, a pharmacist at the Walgreens on the corner of South Sixth Avenue and East 29th Street, said, “absolutely.”

‘Our concern is that people get E.C. in a timely fashion,’ Chanes said.

‘Plan B is only approved for over-the-counter sales to women 18 and over. However, pharmacists may fill prescriptions for Plan B at Planned Parenthood.

‘We will keep working with teens so that that population does not fall through the cracks,’ Chanes said.

Questions?

Write to:
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Plan B doesn’t require prescription

By Rachel Hamilton

Plan B is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for women 18 and over who need emergency contraception. They can purchase the drug in local pharmacies.
American Indian Students Explore Leadership Skills, Heritage in Clubs

By Benjamin Meeker

Culturally appropriate curriculum and education programs meant to reach out to American Indian students, a large minority population in Tucson schools, have become priorities for Tucson Unified School District. "We want to use art and culture as a way to represent as indigenous people," says Anna Felix, advisor of Pueblo High Magnet School’s Tribal Images club.

American Indian students from 104 different tribes are represented in TUSD. Currently 10 percent of Cholla High Magnet School students are enrolled as American Indian, and Pueblo’s enrollment is 4 percent.

Both schools offer a leadership program called Tribal Images Youth Council. Pueblo also offers a Native American literature class and this year, TUSD’s Artsmobile has an American Indian-themed art exhibit.

"Gathering of Nations," America’s largest annual American Indian gathering, takes place in the United States attending. Last year, Cholla’s students attend national conferences. The club also helps students attend national conferences.

In 2004, Pueblo’s members went to the "Gathering of Nations," America’s largest powwow with people from all over the United States attending. Last year, Cholla’s members attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference in San Diego.

In October Jesse Smiley, a member of the Navajo tribe and Cholla’s Tribal Images, will travel to Norway for an international youth conference with participants from 14 countries. Discussion forums will focus on global warming, terrorism and native culture.

Involvement in the club brings American Indians together for community service projects and keeps them out of trouble, Smiley says. He says he enjoys the club because he has a good time with his friends and meets many new people.

"We meet students from different tribes and backgrounds," says senior Vanessa Bencomo, secretary of the Cholla club. Bencomo, a member of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, plans to add Tribal Images to her college résumé.

"It helps us understand culture and help our community," says Molina, a member of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe.

In addition to the Tribal Images club, Pueblo has added a Native American literature class. Teacher Marianne Harris bases her curriculum on books like “House Made of Dawn,” by N. Scott Momaday and “Reservation Blues,” by Sherman Alexie.

"Reservation Blues," by Sherman Alexie, "is an instrument to disseminate knowledge of the history of American Indian life inside and outside the reservation," Hall said.

"These books educate about the Native American perspective," says Anselmo Ramon, TUSD Native American studies department director. He says clubs like Tribal Images and American Indian courses move the district in the direction of what he calls “cultural pro- ciency” for American Indian students.

"It is the responsibility of all communities to see if they have the most prized resources, their children, receive the best education possible," Ramon says.

He says the Tribal Images clubs, Pueblo’s literature class and TUSD’s Artsmobile help students to appreciate different cultures, succeed after high school and enter high-level professions.

Film Festival Celebrates ‘Puro Mexicano’ Films

By Gemma Zanowski

A celebration of Mexican and Mexican-American filmmaking, the Second Annual Puro Mexicano Tucson Film Festival will showcase work from both established and up-and-coming artists.

The festival is "entertainment, education, celebration, all rolled into one amazing weekend," says Kimberly Schmitz, the festival’s media relations representative.

The event is a rarity because it showcases only Mexican and Mexican-American productions, Schmitz says. People journey from outside the state to attend the unique showings and cultural events the festival offers.

The Puro festival provides a wide range of activities. The festival’s first movie premiere commemorates "The Father of Chicano Music," Lalo Guerrero. Other featured movies are comedic, such as "America 101."

The Pura Inspiración film festival encourages individuals to create short documentaries that promote awareness of Hispanics. The contest includes the newly added "Celebrating Cultural Diversity Award," which will be given to the filmmaker who "best incorporates culture, language and traditions into their story," according to the film contest’s Web site.

Hispanic influences in Tucson give the city its culturally rich atmosphere, Schmitz said. Tucson has recognized this and is proud of its Mexican heritage.

However, the festival’s planners original-ly did not intend to focus on Mexican and Mexican-American films, said Shelli Hall, director of the Tucson Film Office.

Hall said she wanted to have a film festival with "Tucson" in the name but when she

"Film is the universal language. It crosses all borders."

Shelli Hall, Tucson Film Office director

organized a committee to brainstorm possibilities, the Hispanic component naturally fell into place.

"The Mexican element made perfect sense because of our border proximity and demo- graphics," Hall said.

Last year the festival attracted about 600 people, but this year Hall said she hopes for a turnout of around 2,000. She said she wants to fill the Fox Theatre, which seats approximately 1,200 people, at least once each year because of the concentration of Hispanics in Tucson.

Although in its second year, the festival will be making its first appearance in the newly renovated Fox Theatre.

Using the historical Vaudville-inspired theatre is a great tribute to the films and the filmmakers, Schmitz said. Fox Theatre closed in the 1970s and reopened Dec. 31, 2005 after major renovations.

Halls hopes the film festival will help renovate Tucson’s downtown district by giving the area a better reputation.

The festival is important not only for its cultural celebration and potential benefits to downtown, but for its teaching applicability as well.

Many younger kids don’t know the histo- ry of the Hispanic movement and the festival offers an alternative to a classroom environ- ment for learning this important information, Schmitz said.

Children have an opportunity to showcase their original productions Nov. 4 during the children’s Pura Inspiración, a great hands-on experience for blooming filmmakers, Schmitz said.

The festival includes something for everyone, Hall said. But the main point is to bring enlightenment and understanding to viewers.

"Film is the universal language," Hall said.

“It crosses all borders. People can iden- tify with other human beings if they see their stories.”

Puro Mexicano runs Nov. 3 through 5 at the Fox Tucson Theatre, downtown at 17 W. Congress.

Admission tickets for individual films cost $5 in advance and $7 at the door. Call 624-1515 or visit www.ticketsmaster.com for more information.

Puro Mexicano Film Schedule

Fox Theatre Events

Nov. 3 Noon, Day of the Dead Fine Art Photography Exhibition

3 p.m. “American 101” film screening

6 p.m. Pre-movie festivities

7 p.m. “Lalo Guerrero: The Original Chicano” film screening

Nov. 4 Noon, Day of the Dead Fine Art Photography Exhibition

1 p.m. Pura Inspiración Kids Short Film Competition

2 p.m. Pura Inspiración Teen Competition

3 p.m. Border Films Program (short films to be announced)

5 p.m. “Al Otro Lado” film screening

7:30 p.m. “2 Dias” film screening

Nov. 5 Noon, Day of the Dead Fine Art Photography Exhibition

1:30 p.m. Best International Short Films of 2006 (films to be announced)

4 p.m. Pura Inspiración Short Film Competition (films to be announced)
Dia de Los Muertos a Family and Community Holiday

By Abby Nelson

The Day of the Dead, known in Spanish as El Dia de Los Muertos, is a holiday of both joyful celebration and solemn remembrance. Observed in a variety of ways, it mixes personal family tradition with community festivity.

In American culture it’s celebrated as Halloween—a day to dress up in costumes, light jack-o’-lanterns, gather with friends and collect candy. But it is different in other cultures, like the Aztec and Mexican cultures, where El Dia de Los Muertos originated, says William Beasley, a history professor at the University of Arizona. For them, it is a day of remembrance to commemorate those who have died and to pray for their loved ones’ entry into heaven.

This holds true for Maria Concepcion Barron, 82, and her daughter Maria Aleyda Castaneda Barron, 45, who make the holiday a personal one.

The Barron women usually drive to the cemetery in Mexico where their relatives have been buried for decades, and sit all day and late into the evening in their loved ones’ honor. Maria Concepcion brings flowers, wreaths and crosses to the graves of her husband, son, father and other relatives. The rest of her family is buried further south in Mexico.

“Those who do not place a wreath or a cross get sad because the grave looks so lonely, it just breaks your heart,” says Maria Concepcion.

Traditionally, families make altars in their homes with flowers, pictures and some of their deceased family members’ favorite belongings, like toys or favorite brand of cigarettes.

They also cook a meal consisting of egg yolks bread—known as Day of the Dead bread—hot chocolate, fruit, chicken and mole sauce, says Beasley.

Generally El Dia de Los Muertos is as much a community event as a family event, he says. The Mexican community believes the loss of one member is a loss to the whole community, so they try to keep the lost member’s spirit alive.

Friends often come by to look at the altar in remembrance while enjoying hot chocolate and mole.

Maria Aleyda says the time she and her mother spend at the cemetery has gotten shorter as her mother has gotten older, and the dinners have become less extravagant, but she says she feels her father and brothers understand.

“I am an old woman,” Maria Concepcion says. “I can only go so far and do so much.”

Maria Concepcion and her daughter light candles to help their loved ones find their way back home and to show someone still remembers them, that someone still cares.

In the Barron family it is thought the members of their family, guided by the candles, come home, see the altar and remember their life and the personal one.

Barron, 45, who make the holiday a family tradition, says William Beezley, a history professor at the University of Arizona. For them, it is a day of remembrance to commemorate those who have died and to pray for their loved ones’ entry into heaven.

Pat’s Drive-In: Barrio Classic, City Icon

By Nathan Olivarez-Giles

Just off Interstate 10, inside Tucson’s famed Barrio Hollywood, German sport coupes with glass-like paint sit next to mud-covered, full-size American trucks fresh from construction sites under a large six-bay carport. On the cement curb in front of the tight parking slots, doctors and nurses stand in line with their initials embroidered on the cuffs of their pressed shirts. English and Spanish, in varying degrees of slang and tradition, fill their pressed shirts. English and Spanish, in varying degrees of slang and tradition, fill their pressed shirts. English and Spanish, in varying degrees of slang and tradition, fill their pressed shirts. English and Spanish, in varying degrees of slang and tradition, fill their pressed shirts. English and Spanish, in varying degrees of slang and tradition, fill.

With store-brand, water-boiled hot dogs at the core of the menu, it’s Pat’s famous chili that is the key, unchanged since Pat’s opened in the summer of 1962. The chili comes mild and hot, and the degree of the spice really depends on the day it’s made, ranging from a spicy ting to a scorching blast. The chili’s consistent inconsistency never seems to be a bother, but instead, is one of the things that makes Pat’s exactly what it is.

A second favorite on everybody’s list is Pat’s fries—soggy, smashed together, skin-intact and packed tightly into a small, white paper bag. The fries are so greasy that small windows appear through the bag, treating the hungry to a preview of their latest endeavor. Mountaineously high, Pat’s fries are an under-taking for those not used to at least 20 people with dedication to finish a serving.

The cramped, mustard yellow one-piece restroom at Pat’s—all but empty with no real competition in sight, except maybe Wienschneitzel, Pat’s has cemented itself as a city icon with an incredibly devoted following.

Travis Hall, a owner of a Tucson glass company, moved here seven years ago from Nebraska, and has been eating at Pat’s for the last five years.

“A friend of mine read about it on the Internet,” says Hall. “Now every time I’m on this side of town, I have to stop here.”

Hall, like many in Tucson, has spread the word, which feeds the growth of the legend that is Pat’s. Hall says he’s never met a person who didn’t like the food.

“It’s cheap and it’s homemade.” Hall says. “It’s not the atmosphere, no. It’s good, greasy food, and it’s just a really good way of spicing up the life of corporate franchise.”

Pat’s is something most people grew up in Tucson, Hall says.

“If you haven’t been to Pat’s, you haven’t really been to Tucson,” says Hall. Frank, who declined to give his last name, has been coming to Pat’s since he was a child, so long in fact, he can’t remember the first time he came to Pat’s.

“My grandparents lived down the street, Seminole Avenue. I used to come here with them,” Frank says. Pat’s isn’t only significant culturally and economically significant to the city, he says. “Take Pat’s out of the west side and what would you have?”

Every year, Pat’s closes its doors and slides windows for a week, sometimes two, to do repairs on the building, upgrade equipment and give the employees a “vacation,” says Frank. Every year, people thought we went out of business,” Frank says. “They ask us, ‘is everything okay?’ The immediate reaction to the “vacation” is a yearly reminder of just how valued Pat’s is, Hernandez says. “They do support us,” says Hernandez. “It makes me feel important.”

Corey Smith, left, and Adam Staton-Smith enjoy a quick lunch at Pat’s.
Información y Actividades Mantiene a Gente Fuera de Peligro

**‘Crimen’ continua de pagina 1**

El vicio de metanfetamina de cristal barre la nación, la policía toma los pasos para educar a la comunidad. Molina envió los folletos acerca de la dróga a cada casa en el Sur de Tucson, Molina dijo.


"Ellos todavía son personas que necesitan comer y beber para sobrevivir y si ellos no tienen el dinero ellos robarán," él dijo. No hay una sola área de una ciudad que se considere un asunto problemático más grande que los otros, según Molina.

"Es espantoso toda el crimen porque somos una ciudad tan pequeña," él dijo. El indicador de centros vecindarios tales como la Casa de Servicios Vecino y el Centro de Juventud de Juan Valenzuela ayuda prevenir el crimen ofreciendo una variedad de actividades que mantienen la gente fuera de las calles.

"Estas son las cosas que ayudan indirectamente a controlar el crimen," él dijo. Molina, que ha sido jefe por casi 10 años, dijo la relación entre la aplicación de la ley y la comunidad es un factor significativo en la lucha contra el crimen. "La policía es sólo tan fuerte como la comunidad lo permitirá ser," él dijo. Molina dijo que esa relación es mejor ahora que era una vez porque la comunidad puede confiar en el departamento y saber que ellos están allí para proteger y servir.


"Pensamos que somos muy seguros aquí," ella dijo. Sin embargo, algunos residentes del Sur de Tucson no se sienten de la misma manera. Ángel Armenta no está de acuerdo con la aplicación de la ley y dice que la policía acosa a residentes sin motivo aparente. "Ellos muestran que tienen el poder sobre usted," él dijo. Muchos fuera de las vistas de la ciudad del Sur de Tucson la ve como un área con mucho crimen, pero Molina dijo que esto es un estereotipo. Él indicó que muchas personas no se dan cuenta en la diferencia entre el Sur de Tucson, la ciudad, y el área general de Tucson meridional, él dijo.

Sin embargo, con el índice de criminalidad alto, Molina sabe a veces que el estereotipo se merece. “Obtenemos un golpe malo a veces, pero también hay cosas que suceden y eso no ayuda nuestra reputación," él dijo.

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El Cambio al Programa ELL: ‘no tiene ningún sentido’

‘ELL’ continua de pagina 1

"La cantidad de estudiantes es clave, especialmente cuando hay estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés porque obviamente (si hay menos en el salón) se puede enseñar mejor," Pearse dijo. "Algunas veces yo tengo ayudantes, pero cuando uno es el único, es difícil atender las necesidades de todos." Muchos de estos asuntos podrían resolverse si el distrito recibiera más dinero, Holmes dijo. TUSD recibe $800,000 anualmente de fondos federales Title III y aproximadamente $2.8 millones del estado.

"Yo creo que definitivamente podríamos hacer más con fondos adicionales," ella dijo. Posibles mejorías incluirían disminuyendo el tamaño de las clases para que los formen parte del programa SEI, asistencia de instrucción en los salones, tecnología que ayude a acelerar el proceso de aprendizaje del lenguaje, y entrenamiento adicional para los profesores, Holmes dijo.

La población de South Tucson tiene un gran número de estudiantes aprendiendo el inglés, muchos de los cuales atienden la Escuela Elemental Ochoa, y Holmes dijo que él espera que los padres de la comunidad se hagan responsables por entender y reforzar lo que las escuelas les enseñen a los niños.

"Es una alianza donde los esfuerzos se empeñan en aumentar la rapidez de la adquisición del inglés," él dijo. Pero cuando los padres no hablan inglés en la casa, se les hace difícil ayudar a sus hijos, Pearse dijo. Los profesores están tratando de facilitar la interacción entre la escuela, los padres y los hijos.

"A estos niños, este les dará muchas oportunidades educativas," ella dijo. "Ellos pueden pasar a la secundaria y luego a la Universidad. Ese es el objetivo, la educación es importante y ellos tienen que mirar hacia el futuro."

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UA Med-Start Program Helps Teens Get Ahead

‘Scholarship’ continued from page 1

money with a meal plan.

“Our students learn very quickly that $100 doesn’t last very long and you can’t eat at fast-food restaurants three times a day because they go broke and get sick,” Stuck said.

Students also hear presentations about the college application process, financial aid, time management and the different programs available to them.

“The program spreads its message of diversity with a trip to northern Arizona where students learn about the challenges of rural area medicine when they visit the Hopi Health Care Center in Polacca, Ariz., set up by Northern Arizona University.

The program has been very popular and Stuck estimates around 100 to 150 students apply each year. Last year they accepted 35 students and 22 alternates. The number of students they can accept fluctuates each year based on their budget.

“The reason why we’re so selective is the program is really catered to the upcoming senior and the challenges they’ll face," Stuck said.

Often times, Med-Start has to compete with other UA programs that seem to be the best of the best.

Overall, the program has been successful.

“We find that not only do more than 90 percent of Med-Start graduates go to college, but about half choose the UA,” Stuck said.

After Hispanic students arrive at the UA for their first semester, other resources are in place to continue supporting them, such as the Latino Medical Student Association. Luis Rodriguez, one of three mentorship coordinators for LMSA, said their main goal is to provide and provide mentoring opportunities for undergraduates so they will become competitive applicants for medical school.

The program matches undergraduates with current medical students, and medical students with physicians.

Although the local LMSA chapter has been in existence for a few years, this is the first year the program has been really active, Stuck said, providing a network of friendship and knowledge to help support Latino medical students.

“Just leaving the family behind and enveloping this life as a professional is hard," said Rodriguez, who first brought his family to Puerto Rico at age 13 when he moved to Phoenix, and then again when he moved to Tucson for college.

With so many resources in place, the hardest part seems to be just getting the whole process started.

Counselors like O’Roff work every day to spark that necessary motivation in their students.

“Many rely on becoming well prepared at college entrance process and simultaneously increasing the confidence and expectations of our students, especially minority students, the path to college gradually opens," O’Roff said.

“As more students travel that path, other students more easily follow.”

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Students from Tucson High School get advice about how to apply to college from Ashley Patterson, right, a representative from Mills College which is a private women’s liberal arts college in Oakland, Calif.
Medios, Democracia y Exhibición de la Iniciativa de la Política De ahora a 3 de Nov. - 5 de Nov.
Esta exposición presenta los trabajos de 222 artistas, inclusivo fotografías del Periódico, Arizona Daily Star, y el ganador del premio Pulitzer del Los Angeles Times Don Bartlett. Las fotos son la crónica de las condiciones fronterizas, el viaje de la inmigración y las culturas de las hispanas de Tucson. Un componente reciente de esta exposición se diseñó para alentar ciudadanos a decir sus propios cuentos de la inmigración. Encuéntralo en la Universidad de Arizona en el Colegio de Humanidades en la Galería de la Unión, o llame 626-3721 para más información.

Esta producción del Estudio Vieja de Tucson representa un cuento sobre un médico villano y su pueblo de “sujetos terribles.” Con tres casas encantadas y presentaciones en vivo con muchos efectos especiales completan la alegría que sorprenderá. Si usted planea traer a toda la familia, mantenga la respetuosa distinción. El evento hace su primera aparición en el Parque de Reid 6pm hasta la medianoche viernes y sábado. 10pm de la noche de domingo a jueves, de adultos y $17.95 para niños de 4-11 años. Las entradas cuestan $20.95 para las familias. Las entradas para películas individuales cue- santan de $5 a $7 en la entrada. Las entradas de la casa cuestan $5. Llame al 624-1515 ext. 5 o visita la página www.tucsonfilm-festival.org para más información.

El Baile de los Muertos 3 de Nov. - 4 de Nov.
La fiesta empieza el viernes con la cena y una ceremonia con antorchas, seguido por la música y el entretenimiento. El Keltic Bromeca “Komer representa el arte, el baile y el “mini caber toss”. La cena es de 6pm a 7:30pm y los costos son de $20. La cer- eemonia con antorchas es de 7:30 a 8 de la tarde y los costos de $5. La cena debe ser ordenada el día 27 de octubre. Los acontecimientos del sábado empiezan a las 9am hasta las 5pm y la admisión es de $12, pero los niños menores de 12 años son gratis con un adulto pagado. Todos los acontecimientos son en el Rillito Park, 120 S. Church Ave. Para más información llame al 954-9411.

Cinematográfico de Tucson Puro Mexicano 3 de Nov. - 8 de Nov.

La celebración de la inmigración cultural extraordinario incluye los actores y artistas del vecindario, los patrocinios tradición de las aldeas. Los patroci- nadores pueden ver la colección en las galerías principales en el Museo de Tucson del Arte, 140 N. Main Ave. Llame al 623-2333 o visita www.tucsonarts.com por más información y horarios del museo. La exhibición es de $8 para adultos, $6 para menores y gratis para niños menores de 12.

La exhibición de las aldeas se localizan en 260 S. Church Ave. La Evolución de la tradición de las aldeas. Los patrocinios tradición de las aldeas. Los patroci- nadores pueden ver la colección en las galerías principales en el Museo de Tucson del Arte, 140 N. Main Ave. Llame al 623-2333 o visita www.tucsonarts.com por más información y horarios del museo. La exhibición es de $8 para adultos, $6 para menores y gratis para niños menores de 12.

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Tucson Meets its Diverse Self

For 33 years Tucson Meet Yourself has celebrated the various ethnicities and communities that comprise this sprawling desert city.

Clockwise from top:
- Joey Havey (left) and Sylvia Maduli perform the Itik dance from the Philippines;
- Marvin Todacheenie, plays a Navajo flute handmade from Santa Cruz River Valley cane;
- Etta Todacheenie, demonstrates Navajo weaving, which she learned from her grandmother at a young age;
- Samantha Menendez (left) and Nicole Bartlett, both 6, play at a craft table;
- Rocky Martinez, 26, demonstrates freestyle graffiti art, which he has been doing for the last 10 years.