

► **OFFICIAL ARRESTED:** Man accused of helping illegal immigrants for money/B4
► **OPINION/B3**

YUMA

AND REGION

B
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 15, 2001

In Arizona:
Judge issues
gambling ruling
DETAILS/B4

► YUMA GLANCE

Boating safety class offered

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will host a free boating safety class at its Yuma office, 1940 E. 28th St., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The class covers boating rules, boating laws in Arizona and California, boat registration requirements and boating hazards. For more information, call the Yuma office at 342-0091.

Groups seek help

Several Yuma motorcycle groups want the public's help in identifying veteran gravesites at the Yuma City Cemetery that need to be repaired or spruced up.

The groups — American Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education, Rough Riders, Harley Owners Group and Vietnam Vets — plan to refurbish the gravesites at the cemetery, 1st Avenue and 15th Street, on Veterans Day.

The groups will replace or repair broken grave stones, remove trash and do any other needed maintenance.

Anyone who knows of a neglected gravesite of a veteran should call Gilbert Hernandez, 726-9345, no later than Sept. 28.

► LOTTERIES

Winning numbers selected Tuesday, August 14.

ARIZONA

Fantasy Five -4,14,22,3,6
Pick 3 -3,6,8

CALIFORNIA

Fantasy Five -11,12,13,37,38.
Daily 3 -1,1,5

Visit us on
the Web at

www.yumasun.com

REACH US

EDITOR

Terry Ross
539-6870

tross@yumasun.com
MANAGING EDITOR

Randy Hoeft
539-6869
rheoft@yumasun.com

CITY EDITOR
John Vaughn
539-6850

jvaughn@yumasun.com
NEWS EDITOR

Roxanne Lehmann
539-6862
rlehmann@yumasun.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Matt Paulson
539-6880
mpaulson@yumasun.com

MAIL
P.O. Box 271
Yuma, AZ 85366
FAX
928-782-7369

Colleagues saddened by loss of deputy

► Meyer was well-respected, 'outstanding individual'

BY KERRY POHLMAN
SUN STAFF WRITER

Co-workers are mourning the sudden loss of a Yuma County sheriff's deputy whose own son was killed tragically in an accident several years ago.

Michael Meyer, 40, was killed in the line of duty Monday afternoon in a single-car accident on Highway 95, about 50 miles northeast of Yuma. His patrol vehicle hydroplaned during a brief but heavy rain storm in that area and rolled over, according to officials investigating the accident. Meyer was wearing a seatbelt, they said.

Meyer is survived by his wife, Penny, and five children. Funeral services are pending.

Meyer was a gunnery

sergeant at the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma until he retired from the military in 1998.

The Meyer family suffered the loss of a child just a few years ago. Their 16-year-old son, Thomas, was killed in 1996 after being struck by a car while on his bicycle. A park on the Marine base is dedicated in his memory.

At the time, Michael Meyer spoke of his son's dreams of becoming a pediatrician and of his giving nature.

"Just like Thomas, you can

make a difference if you try," he told the crowd at the dedication several years ago.

Meyer's death has numbed those who worked closely with him. Meyer was dedicated to his work and had a special ability to attract friends like magnets, his co-workers said.

"We will miss him a great deal," said Larry Voyles, regional supervisor at the Game and Fish Department. "His dedication and professionalism filtered down to his troops. It made it a pleasure to work in the field and side by side. He was an outstanding individual, the kind of person we all want to grow up to be like. Our hearts go out to the family and his fellow employees."

Meyer was in charge of the Water Safety Division for the sheriff's department. His work meant he was often out on the water patrolling the area's lakes and rivers. Although he had

been on the force just four years, his performance did not go unnoticed. His peers awarded him Officer of the Quarter three times in the last two years.

"He's one of the best officers I've ever seen," said Natalie Robb, game ranger. "He was an expert at boating and police work. ... He taught me a lot. He kind of took me under his wing."

Robb often worked the same shift as Meyer. Robb is new to her career and she counted on Meyer for his help.

"He loved working the water," Robb said.

Meyer treated people fairly and had a gift for making people feel at ease, she said. Meyer was a boating instructor, too. He worked a lot of hours, but seemed like a dedicated family man, she said.

Northern Yuma County was a regular patrol assignment for Meyer, who had a knowledge of the changing desert conditions.

Meyer checked the washes and the roads for flooding and damage during heavy storms.

Meyer was on routine patrol at the time of the accident, sheriff's officials said. It's not yet known how fast Meyer was traveling when his vehicle started to weave.

Meyer's vehicle rolled one and one-quarter times. He was found by motorists who called 911.

Meyer was a reserve deputy

FYI

► **DONATIONS TO THE MEMORIAL FUND TO ASSIST THE MEYER FAMILY CAN BE MADE AT: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 101 W. 26TH ST., OR YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 141 S. 3RD AVE.**

SEE LOSS/B4

San Luis mayor, elderly rally in protest

► Director's dismissal ruffles feathers

BY LUKE TURF
SUN STAFF WRITER

SAN LUIS, Ariz. — About 100 senior citizens rallied behind San Luis Mayor Joe Harper at the Senior Nutrition Center Tuesday in a protest of the city council's decision to oust the center's management.

The seniors' protest came as City Manager Enrique Castillo released his July 26 audit of the center. The audit alleges mismanagement of the center by former Director Aracely de la Hoya and president of the senior group and center volunteer Dolores Ybarra.

Among other things, Castillo's audit alleges the senior center staff provided minimal

supervision of the seniors, did not offer sufficient scheduled activities, created a safety hazard with an unsecured gas cylinder, and used paper notes and Post-It notes instead of receipts to record transactions. It also accuses Ybarra of using the center to carry out personal business.

Now Castillo is carrying out the decision made earlier this month by city council to transfer de la Hoya and Ybarra's responsibilities to the city's parks and recreation department.

Castillo sent a letter to

Ybarra Monday advising her the senior volunteer program has been terminated, and that her services "will no longer be needed."

De la Hoya and Ybarra couldn't be reached Tuesday night for comment on the audit. But earlier in the day Ybarra said she plans to continue volunteering at the center despite the council's orders.

"I'm the president (of the seniors) they (city council) can't push me out of here, only the seniors can," Ybarra said in an interview after the rally. "All the seniors say if they push me

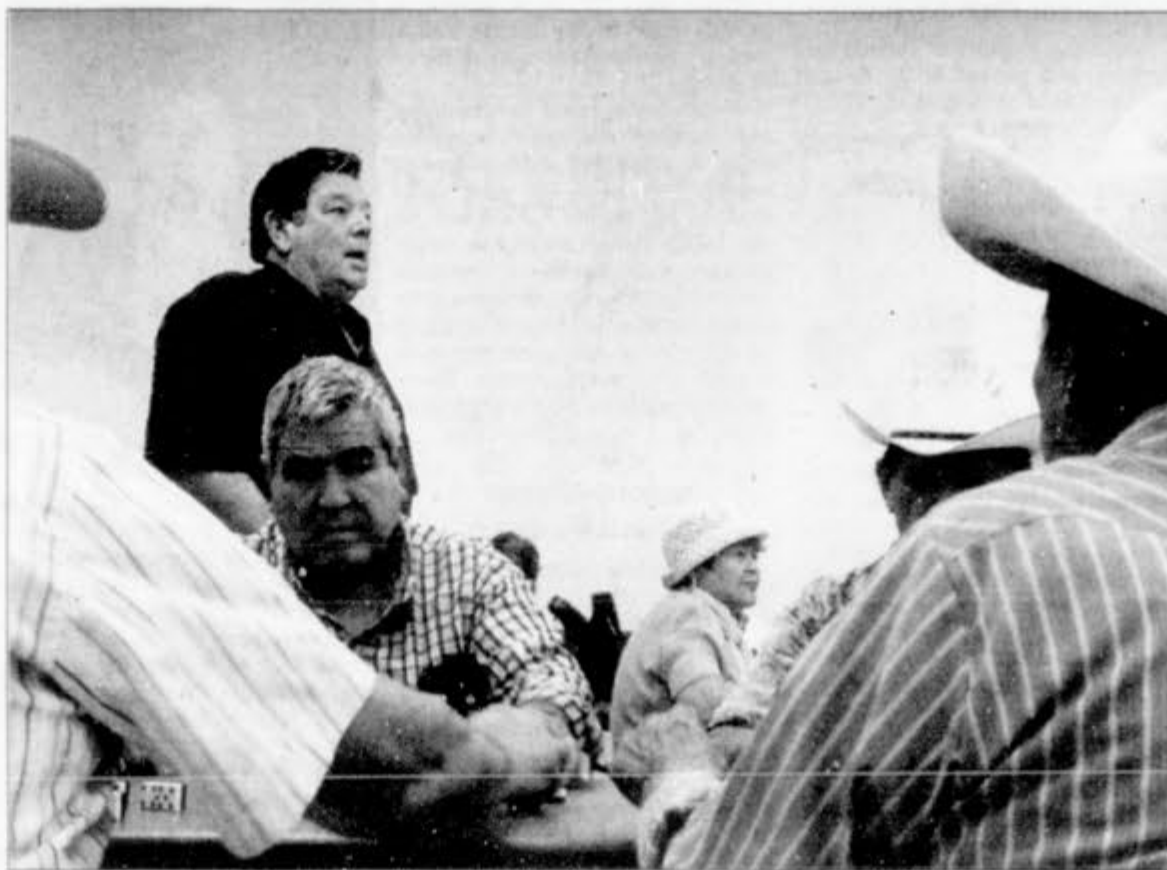
out, they're going home."

Harper, who met with seniors in a show of support, said Ybarra is a senior and not a city employee, so no one can keep her out of the public building. Police won't be brought in to stop anyone from entering the building, he said.

But Castillo said though Ybarra is welcome to enter the building, she will not have the authority she did before.

Harper said he and council members Gloria Torres and Pedro Julian are the only ones

SEE RALLY/B4



SAN LUIS Mayor Joe Harper (standing) meets with seniors opposed to the ousting of the city's Senior Nutrition Center director.

PHOTO BY LUKE TURF/THE SUN

Council will be non-voting member of port authority

► Report on proposed building code also heard

BY T. M. SHULTZ
SUN STAFF WRITER

The Yuma City Council agreed Tuesday to become a non-voting member of the Greater Yuma Port Authority and to appoint Councilman Ross Hieb to sit in on the group's meetings.

The authority is overseeing the development of a new commercial port of entry east of the current port in San Luis. Members of the authority include Somerton, San Luis, Yuma County, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe.

Officials say the new port will boost Arizona's border economy and ease congestion at the overcrowded port in San Luis. And as the new port is developed, truck traffic along the city's eastern borders is likely to increase dramatically.

The entire region is seen as a key gateway for Mexican agricultural products to markets in the United States and Canada through the CANAMEX corridor, Hieb said. The corridor is 1,700 miles of roadways that will

SEE COUNCIL/B4

Freedom Realty introduces program to aid Yuma schools

► \$100 from each sale or purchase to help keep special programs open

BY NORA FASCENELLI
SUN STAFF WRITER

Dan Lambert decided something had to be done to bring more money into schools when his son told him the high school band skipped a great competition in Phoenix because there wasn't enough money to send them.

So today Lambert's company, Freedom Realty, introduces a new plan to help Yuma-area schools keep special programs open.

Freedom Realty is teaming with American West Mortgage Corp. to donate \$100 of each transaction fee to a local school.

"At closing, a \$100 check is sent to any school chosen by our customer," Lambert explained. "If we represent the buyer, that's \$100. If we also represent the seller, that's another \$100. And if the financing, or a refinancing, is handled by American West Mortgage Corp., that's another \$100. The sale of one home could generate as much as \$300 in

donations to whatever school the customer designates."

Lambert said even though he opened his company just one month ago, he wanted to get this program started right away.

"We don't want school programs canceled because of a shortage of cash," Lambert said. "We're just trying to give something back to the community. Education is extremely important to us."

Lambert believes real estate agents and lenders throughout the Yuma area will benefit from the Students First Team.

"If a school system is falling apart, property values go down," Lambert said. "People don't want to move to an area if there are problems with the schools."

Lambert said his program can be used by homeowners to complement the newly increased private school tuition tax credit, which allows Arizona taxpayers to give up to \$625 to private or parochial schools each year and deduct a dollar-for-dollar credit

SEE AID/B4

MONSOON WEATHER

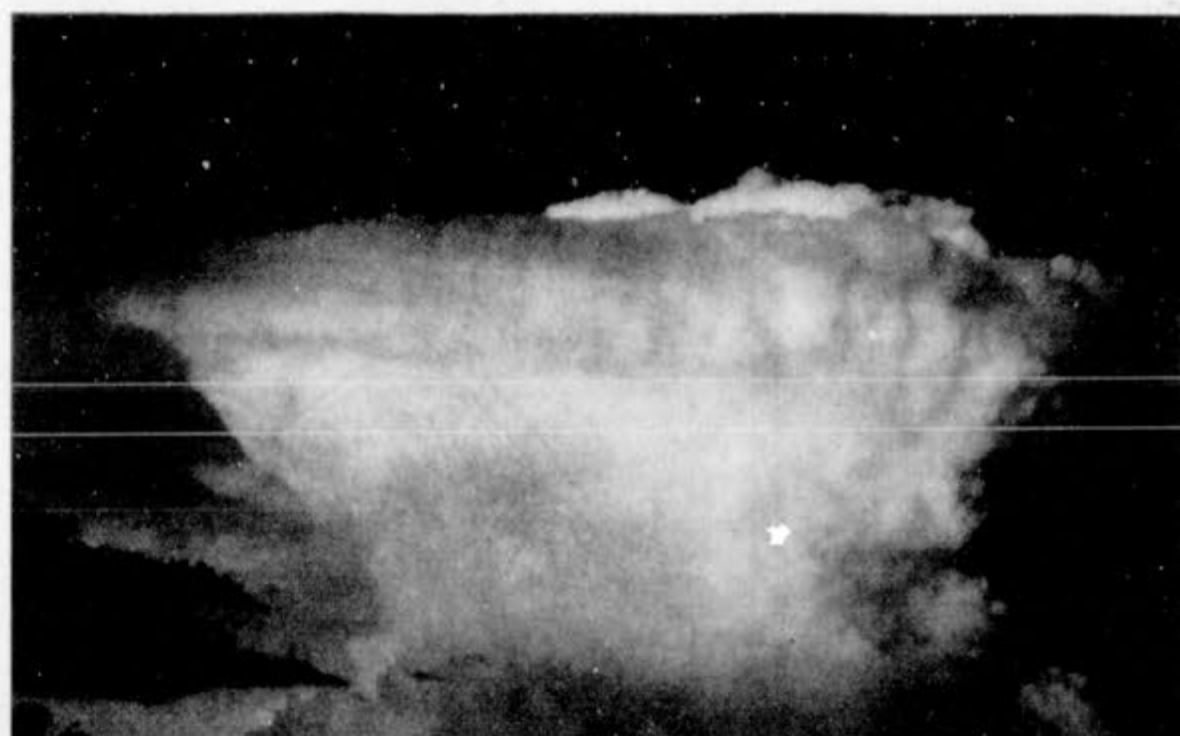


PHOTO BY LEONARD HEROUX

The Yuma area's monsoon weather created this unusual mushroom-like cloud formation near the Gila Mountains. Leonard Heroux, a Foothills resident, took this photo on the evening of Aug. 7.

Congressman Pastor coming to Yuma

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor will be visiting the Yuma area Thursday for several public meetings.

Pastor, a Democrat who represents Yuma County in the Second Congressional District, will meet with the San Luis City Council at 9:30 a.m. at 23222 1st St. in San Luis, Ariz. Then Pastor will meet with the Somerton City Council and will present a grant with Mayor Augustin

Tumbaga at 11:45 a.m. at the Somerton Senior Center, 239 W. Canal St.

At 2 p.m., Pastor will meet with Yuma Mayor Marilyn Young and the Yuma City Council at Yuma City Hall, 180 W. 1st St., and then with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors at 3:30 p.m. at 198 S. Main St.

Spokeswoman Maura Saavedra said Pastor is currently on

break from Congress.

"It's an opportunity for the congressman to meet with the local elected officials and get an update on what is happening in Yuma and surrounding areas," Saavedra said.

Pastor will also update the elected officials on any issues in Congress that might relate to the Yuma area.

YUMA AND REGION

Judge bars Arizona Gov. Jane Hull from negotiating gambling compacts

► State must notify tribes by June 1 that compacts allowing gambling on reservations will not be renewed

PHOENIX — A federal judge on Tuesday barred Gov. Jane Hull from approving any future gambling compacts with the state's Indian tribes.

U.S. District Judge Robert C. Broomfield also set a June 1 deadline for the state to notify tribes with compacts that the agreements permitting gambling on their reservations won't be renewed.

The ruling won't invalidate the existing 17 compacts. Officials, however, declined to speculate on how future gambling agreements will be handled and who will approve them.

Broomfield's order enforces his July 3 ruling that Hull doesn't have authority under state law to enter new compacts.

The ruling came in a lawsuit against the state by three Phoenix-area race tracks, which argued that Arizona's 19 tribal casinos operate illegally and wanted to block new compacts.

Hull promised to appeal the ruling.

"After discussing the issue with the attorney general, I believe there are substantial

residents through a ballot initiative, LaSarte said.

The judge issued his order after considering rival drafts submitted last month by the state and the tracks.

"There are some things that aren't exactly the way we wrote them, but, for the most part, this ruling is the way we suggested it should be," Wake said.

Both sides in the lawsuit agreed that the judge should bar Hull from entering new compacts to replace ones that start expiring in late 2003.

The tracks asked Broomfield to require Hull to declare that the current compacts will not be renewed and tie her hands on making changes to them in the meantime.

Though the tracks didn't ask Broomfield to order that gambling be stopped while the current compacts are still running, they said it is clear that they are illegal and can't be renewed.

Hull's proposed order said it would be premature and unnecessary to order her to immediately declare that the compacts will not be renewed. Continued negotiations with the tribes could produce the basis for a new law that could be passed by the Legislature or the state's voters, her lawyers argued.

Hull has said she always presumed the current compacts were legal and that she could enter new ones under authority granted her predecessor, fellow



TOHONO O'ODHAM nation's new Desert Diamond Casino, which is southern Arizona's largest casino, recently opened, located off Interstate 19 in Sahuarita. A federal judge Tuesday barred Gov. Jane Hull from negotiating any future gambling compacts with the state's Indian tribes. U.S. District Judge Robert C. Broomfield also set a June 1 deadline for the state to notify tribes with compacts that the agreements permitting gambling on their reservations won't be renewed. The ruling won't invalidate the existing 17 compacts.

Republican Fife Symington, by the Legislature in the early 1990s.

However, Broomfield said the Legislature unconstitutionally delegated its own responsibility to set policy.

He also said new compacts couldn't legally allow slot machines, blackjack and keno because a federal Indian gaming law only allows compacts to permit those games that otherwise are legal in a state.

Expiration dates for Arizona casino compacts with tribes

- ASSOCIATED PRESS
- Expiration dates for current 10-year compacts by tribe:
- Ak-Chin Indian Community, Maricopa: June 24, 2003.
 - Cocopah Indian Tribe, Somerton: June 24, 2003.
 - Colorado River Indian Tribes, Parker: April 14, 2004.
 - Fort McDowell Indian Community, Fountain Hills: June 24, 2003.
 - Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Needles, Calif.: Aug. 6, 2003.
 - Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton: July 6, 2003.
 - Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs: Feb. 23, 2004.
 - Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, Fredonia: Feb. 23, 2004.
 - Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, Tucson: June 24, 2003.
 - Quechan Indian Tribe, Yuma: Oct. 22, 2003.
 - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale: Aug. 18, 2008.
 - San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos: Aug. 11, 2003.
 - Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells: June 24, 2003.
 - Tonto Apache Tribe: July 6, 2003.
 - White Mountain Apache Tribe: June 24, 2003.
 - Yavapai-Apache Tribe, Camp Verde: June 24, 2003.
 - Yavapai-Prescott Indian Community: June 24, 2003.

Hopi runners trek 265 miles to protest coal company's use of Indian water

PHOENIX — Seven Hopi runners completed a 265-mile journey from the Hopi Reservation in northeast Arizona to Phoenix Tuesday as a protest of a coal company's use of Indian groundwater.

Peabody Energy, the world's largest private coal company, purchases about 3,800 acre-feet of water from the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation each year for \$3.5 million.

The water from the Navajo aquifer, which runs beneath both tribes' reservations, is used to move coal via pipeline from two strip mines in the area to the Mojave Generating Station in Laughlin, Nev.

Environmentalists have claimed that pumping has caused the Black Mesa water table to fall by as much as 100 feet.

In a recent \$2 million study, Peabody denied charges that its water pumping hurt the Navajo aquifer.

The two-year study was conducted by several national hydrologic firms and said the aquifer, which spans an area the size of Delaware, will fully recover after the pumping stops.

"Peabody uses less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the water stored in the aquifer," said Peabody spokeswoman Beth Sutton. "It's just a fraction ... it's like taking six ounces of water from a 55-gallon drum."

LOSS

FROM PAGE B1

The sheriff's department made the following statement in a press release:

"The department and the community has suffered a great loss. His family has suffered an even greater loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children at this time..."

Kerry Pohiman can be reached at kpohiman@yumasun.com or 539-6872.

Organizations or groups of individuals interested in touring The Sun should contact Karen Phillips at 539-6806

Customs inspector accused of aiding illegal immigrants for pay in San Luis

PHOENIX — A U.S. Customs inspector from San Luis was arrested Tuesday on charges that he conspired to bring illegal immigrants across the border for profit, officials said.

Manuel E. Silva, 43, pleaded innocent during his arraignment in federal court on charges of bringing illegal aliens into the U.S., aiding the transportation of illegal aliens, and conspiracy to transport illegal aliens for financial gain.

Silva, assigned to the San Luis, Ariz., port of entry, was released pending his Oct. 2 trial.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE B1

allow the flow of goods from Mexico through the United States to Canada and back.

As a non-voting member of the port authority, Yuma will not have to contribute any money but will be able to make its concerns known and be kept informed of what's going on, Hieb said.

Hieb said he's been urging the city to become active with the port authority for some time and has been attending many of the port authority meetings already.

"This is going to be one of the biggest economic drivers in this community over the next couple of decades, and for us not to participate is insane," Hieb said.

City Administrator Joyce Wilson said prior to the council session that the timing might be right for the city to begin easing its way into the organization.

"My personal opinion is it probably wouldn't be bad for us," Wilson said.

At Tuesday's work session

the council also heard a report from city building official Larry Nichols on the city's proposed new building code for houses. The code was developed by city building staff and a seven-member volunteer board of local builders.

Nichols said the proposed code addresses city staff's concern for structural safety and the board's concern that it be easily understood.

The number of residential building permits have increased dramatically in Yuma in recent years — from 203 in 1997 to 551 in the past year, Nichols said.

The increased number of building permits include many more large homes with open great rooms and triple garages. Such homes need to be carefully reinforced to withstand Yuma's unique conditions, including extreme heat, high winds, earthquakes and poor soils, Nichols said.

Councilman Ed Hansberger, who said he has been an electrician all his life, had the lone question on the new code. He said he wanted to know if it was safe to use 14 gauge wire instead of 12 gauge wire, as the new code

Attention Grocery Shoppers!

Don't miss today's valuable grocery ads inside

The Sun and inside today's Prospector inserted in The Sun

Want to Learn How to.....?

A BETTER WAY TO RENT TO OWN!

1. 1 WEEK FREE RENT!

2. Reduced the rent for the first 12 months!

3. RENTAL PURCHASE STARTING AT RETAIL PRICES!

BARGAIN CITY 329-4325

RALLY

FROM PAGE B1

fighting for the seniors, who want management of the center to remain with Ybarra and de la Hoya. Harper voted against terminating de la Hoya's position last week.

Castillo was scheduled to meet yesterday with de la Hoya to discuss her future with the city in another position since her job ended when control of

the center was turned over to the parks and recreation department.

"For now it's a done deal," Harper said. But he hopes to have it reversed within three months and get de la Hoya her job back within a week after that, he said.

Jaime P. Ibarra is the director of parks and recreation in San Luis. He said he will be supervising whoever is running the senior center and he's not opposed to it. To him, it's just

one more division to run, he said.

"The seniors don't want them (parks and recreation), they don't even know them," said Patricio Gaydan, a frequent visitor to the center. "I don't know why the council is doing this."

"Hopefully everyone else in town isn't scared of losing their job," Harper said.

Luke Turf can be reached at lturf@yumasun.com or 539-6858

AID

FROM PAGE B1

from their state income tax bill.

If a tax credit contribution is made through STAY (Student Tuition Assistance of Yuma), the giver can request that the amount be applied to the tuition of a specific student. Combined

with a tax credit of up to \$250 for donations to any Arizona public schools, a married couple buying or refinancing a home with Students First Team affiliates could direct as much as \$1050 to the school of their choice, without actually spending a penny. If the seller was also a customer of a Students First Team affiliate, the amount could total \$1150.

For more information, contact Dan Lambert, Freedom Realty, 782-5786. For tax credit contributions for designated students, contact School Tuition Association of Yuma, Inc. (STAY), P.O. Box 515, Yuma, AZ 85366, 782-5786.

Nora Fascentelli can be reached at nfascentelli@yumasun.com or 539-6856.