

SPORTS  
BRIEFSGonzalez hosts  
baseball clinic

Boston Red Sox first baseman Adrian Gonzalez will host a baseball clinic on Saturday, Jan. 15, at Mountain View Park in Mesa.

The free clinic is for boys and girls ages 5 to 15 and will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mountain View, located near North Lindsay Road and East Adobe Street. The event is in conjunction with Central Christian Church.

Gonzalez will be joined by other pro players, including current and former Diamondbacks like Mark Reynolds, Ian Kennedy, Russ Ortiz and Barry Enright, as they personally interact and share valuable tips with kids. They'll also take time to sign autographs.

For more information, contact Jeff Small at jeffsmall@centralaz.com.

ALL  
registration

Sign-ups for the Ahwatukee Little League starts today, Jan. 7, for ages 5 to 12.

Registration will be today and next Friday, Jan. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays (Jan. 8 and Jan. 15) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ahwatukee Board of Management office, located near 48th

## HOMERUNDERBY



Mountain Pointe's Joey Curletta (left) takes one of his cuts while winning the Babe Ruth age group at the Fifth Annual Power Showcase at Chase Field. Desert Vista's Shaun Chase finished third in the featured group at the showcase.

Photo provided by Power Showcase

# Power surge

Chase, Curletta show off strength in HR derby showcase

By JASON P. SKODA  
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Their home runs nearly reached their names and faces that were splashed all over the monstrous scoreboard at Chase

Field.

So, yeah, it was a pretty good time.

Desert Vista's Shaun Chase and Mountain Pointe's Joey Curletta participated in the Fifth Annual International Power Showcase on Dec. 30 and ended up being two of the more

impressive hitters out of the 69 amateur players in the home-run derby style showcase.

"It was a great event," Curletta said. "All of the guys from Arizona (9) wanted someone

from here to win it. We were rooting for each other because we didn't want someone else coming in here and winning it."

Chase, a senior, was in the featured age group and finished

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## ROLEMODELS

## MP's Marshall saved, molded by grandmother

By JASON P. SKODA  
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Nina Ross lost her son, Christopher, way too young.

The one thing that makes it the least bit bearable is watching Izzy Marshall fiddle with his clothes, making sure every collar and button looks just right.

"He is just like his dad," Ross said of Marshall. "He is trying to really do something with himself in school like him and they both have very sweet personalities, but where I really see it

is when it comes to his appearance. He is very funny and particular about it. Everything has to be just right."

It is a point of pride for Marshall and something he can control whereas his early childhood was out of his hands and just about everything was wrong.

The Mountain Pointe senior came from a broken home as his father was killed on Aug. 7, 1991, his 26th birth date, in what Ross described as a gang shooting before Marshall was even born.

His mother has been in and out of drug



Mountain Pointe senior Izzy Marshall has always pushed forward no matter what life put in front of him because of lessons taught to him by his grandmother Nina Ross.

Jason P. Skoda/  
AFN

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Street and Warner Road behind Blockbuster next to Ahwatukee Park.

The cost is \$85 for T-ball and coach pitch (ages 5-7) and \$140 for Farm, Majors and Minors (ages 8-12) and \$150 for Juniors (ages 13-14). There must be two

proofs of residence and a birth certificate.

The fee includes hat, jersey, pants, belt and socks.

For more information or to register online, go to <http://www.ahwatukeelittleleague.org>.

### Charity baseball game on tap

Little League teams from across the state will attend the 19th annual Molina Celebrity Baseball game and end up winners themselves.

Four to five teams will each receive \$300 for attending the game and during the seventh inning stretch and additional \$16,500 will be given to those teams. The game is on Jan. 30 at

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