

PGA Tour: Love conquers all at Pebble Beach / Sports



# Arizona Daily Star

50¢  
Per copy  
in Mexico

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SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 · MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2001

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## Fossil fanatics



Tucsonan Matt Barrios, 15, would make a nice snack for a Tyrannosaurus rex. The bronze casting was made from fossilized bones.

## Old bones flying out of tents as hobby gains followers

**TUCSON**  
Gem, Mineral & Fossil Shows  
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**M**att Barrios, 15, is a fossil fanatic. He has several thousand bones, actually — some dating back 250 million years — and they're for sale at the Gem, Mineral & Fossil Shows at Tucson Electric Park.

"Business keeps getting better every year," said Atiz, who has been coming to Tucson's Gem, Mineral & Fossil Shows for six years. "Tucson must be very happy to have something like this."

Tucson is heaven for a fossil collector these days, with nearly every

gem show containing some sort of fossil presence. Enthusiasts can shop for decent fossil trinkets or \$15,000 dinosaur bones.

The gem show has drawn fossil dealers from all corners of the world. Atiz, whose family has made the annual voyage from Madrid, Morocco, to Tucson for more than 25 years, came to town a week ago with several large pieces worth more than \$1,000, and he sold them all almost immediately. His tent is one of the more popular at the Expo.

Atiz said part of the reason for his increased success could be the entry of new buyers into the fossil market. Count Tucson engineer Dillis Fra-

zier among the ranks of the potential new fossil buyers.

Frazier, 40, has lived in the Old Pueblo for five years but never attended the gem show until Friday, when he decided to go to the Expo on his day off. A friend's recommendation sparked Frazier to head to Atiz's tent.

"I just find it interesting," Frazier said, sifting through a box of rocks embedded with bone and tooth fossils. "It's interesting to find stuff like this embedded in the rocks here."

Business is booming for Atiz, and he isn't even selling in the show's fossil hot spot. The Arizona Mineral

## Council learns of gun-sale loophole

### Background checks could be forced at TCC

By Joe Burchell

City attorneys believe there may be a loophole in state law that would let the City Council require background checks on private sales at Tucson Convention Center gun shows.

State law prohibits the city from requiring private gun sellers to do the same type of background checks on customers that licensed gun dealers must perform, a memo sent to the council late Thursday says.

But the council might be able to get around the state prohibition by requiring promoters who put on gun shows at the TCC, not as a matter of law, since the regulation of gun sales is a state responsibility, the memo says.

The requirement would have to be imposed on gun show promoters as a condition of their contract to use the TCC, not as a matter of law, since the regulation of gun sales is a state responsibility, the memo says.

If the promoter failed to comply, he could be found in violation of contract, not in violation of the law, and prohibited from further use of the TCC.

However, the memo, written by Assistant City Attorney Dave Hiebel and forwarded to the council by City Manager James Keene, recommends against trying to circumvent state law that way.

Shifting the responsibility for background checks from gun sellers to gun show promoters likely would be challenged.

"Case law in this area is not definitive, and a court could hold the city is preempted by (state) law, the memo says.

"Amending state law is the most desirable method to accomplish background checks on

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A PLAZA PUBLICATION  
ISSN 0891-9248  
No. 250, No. 38

7 50130 00001 5

## At-risk' students get on degree track

### UA-PCC program helps high schoolers realize college dream

By Sarah Garrecht Gassan

The University of Arizona and Pima Community College are reaching into high schools to turn students at risk of dropping out into college graduates.

The Achieving a College Education, or ACE, program puts high school juniors on track to earn a baccalaureate degree in six years.

"In a global sense, the goal is to improve the economic stability of Tucson, to help students graduate from high school and college to contribute to society," said program coordinator Veronica Diaz. "More specifically, we want those students to complete a four-year college degree."

The UA and PCC provide guidance, support classes and tuition scholarships to the 75 junkies admitted to the program each year from high schools in Pima and Santa Cruz counties.

Other colleges have programs that aim to guide students to a college

## Career and Job Placement



ACE stands for Achieving a College Education. The program provides guidance and academic and tuition support for students in Pima and Santa Cruz counties.

## Bush lays out his plans in 'cordial' talk with Demos

By Scott Lindlow

FARMINGTON, Pa. — President Bush said he got a cordial hearing from skeptical Democratic lawmakers yesterday but will have to wait to gauge his success in winning any of them over to his proposals for tax cuts and other matters on his agenda.

"I think they listened," Bush said as he left the two-hour session, which had been scheduled to last just over an hour. "I have no idea until the votes come. They were very cordial. These are professionals who want to serve their nation."

With the meeting, Bush began selling the centerpiece of his economic program — a sweeping \$1.8 trillion, 10-year tax cut.

The White House has a full schedule of activities this week, starting today, when Bush was set to appear with a carefully selected group of American families — much as he did during the campaign — to illustrate the benefits of reducing individual tax rates.

## Study: Most stroke victims delay getting to hospital too long

By Linda A. Johnson

TRENTON, N.J. — Most patients who suffer a stroke are waiting too long to get to a hospital for care, increasing the risk of serious disability or death, according to a study at 10 New Jersey hospitals.

The study by researchers at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey found that only 46 percent of stroke

patients came to a hospital within three hours, when treatment can best prevent permanent disability caused by too little blood flow to the brain.

"Despite multiple national efforts to promote public awareness, more than half the patients failed to (arrive) within that window of time," said lead researcher Dr. Clifton R. Lacy, chief of the division of cardiovascular diseases at the

university's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick.

"We need to heighten public awareness," he said.

Altogether, 61 percent of the 523 stroke patients studied came to a hospital within six hours of the onset of symptoms, the safer limit when doctors have a chance of preventing brain damage, paralysis and other severe effects.

The study, published in the January edition of the journal Stroke, was conducted in 1996 and 1997, when education campaigns were still young. Delay times may have since gotten shorter.

Prior national and international studies found that 20 percent to 30 percent of stroke patients arrived at an emergency department within three hours, and 35 percent to 46 percent arrived within six hours.

About 750,000 Americans suffer strokes each year and about one-fourth die, according to Dr. Daniel F. Hanley Jr., a professor of brain-injury outcomes at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore and a spokesman for the National Stroke Association.

"This (study) confirms that if you think you're having