

advocate for safe driving

BY Meagan McCrary
PHOTO BY Anna Peña



tempe

» Nicole Turner will represent Chandler at the 2007 Miss Arizona pageant this June. It will be her third and last year competing for the coveted title, but there is something else that means more to Turner than a crown. »Five years ago, Turner lost a dear friend, Aaron Mattison, in an automobile accident. At that time, someone suggested participating in pageants to spread the message "To Drive With Care." »T.D.W.C. became the beauty queen's platform, one which she has enthusiastically taken into the community. »"T.D.W.C. is not just a platform. It is a life mission of mine and goal to see all

teens »and adults drive responsibly," Turner says. »The safety advocate implemented a key chain program with the inscription T.D.W.C. to remind drivers daily of their responsibilities. In 2003, as Miss Teen Arizona International, Turner passed out T.D.W.C. key chains to all of the contestants, who then distributed them throughout their states and countries. Turner has circulated more than 500 key chains worldwide. »In the past five years, Turner has earned various titles, allowing her to educate others on the importance of driving safely. ■



chandler

Pat's Run on April 7 in Tempe celebrates Pat Tillman's legacy while raising awareness and funding for the **PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION**. Tillman, a former Arizona State University Sun Devil football player, abandoned a successful career in the NFL to join the Army after the terror attacks on 9/11. He was killed in 2004 in a friendly-fire incident in Afghanistan. For more information visit www.patillmanfoundation.org.



Marilyn Joyce, a Gilbert resident who works in Tempe, was named **TEMPE'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** for the second consecutive time. The Tempe Chamber of Commerce presented Joyce with the award at the Chamber's 10th Annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions on Feb. 13. Joyce is employed by First Horizon Home Loans in Tempe.

» designing independence

Athletic wheelchairs inspire man to make a difference

BY Meagan McCrary PHOTO BY Carl Schultz

In 2005, the critically-acclaimed documentary "Murderball" followed the 2004 U.S. Quadriplegic Rugby Team on its journey to capture the bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. »Valley residents Andy Cohn and Scott Hogsett were featured in the documentary, and like most impaired athletes in the area, visit one man for all their adaptive wheelchair needs — Jeffrey Ramsdell. »Ramsdell has been the general manager of Leeden Wheelchair Lift & Sport in Tempe for 13 years and is dedicated to meeting his clients' diverse needs, which include

sport chairs and automotive modifications. »"I refer to him as the best wheelchair mechanic in the Southwest," explains Hogsett, who has known Ramsdell for 12 years. "He's been a big, longtime sponsor of the Phoenix Heat. ... He pretty much keeps us going. If he wasn't around, I don't know what we would do." »Hogsett and Cohn both play for the Phoenix Heat, a quad rugby team recently crowned national champions. »Ramsdell supports the team by being at local tournaments and keeping chairs maintained. In fact, Ramsdell can be spotted

at most adaptive athletic events throughout the Valley. »Additionally, Ramsdell works with various cities' recreation departments, the Banner Wheelchair Suns and volunteers with the city of Phoenix's adaptive recreation program, Daring Adventures, where he works with the cycling program. »Ramsdell's technical expertise has allowed him to remain on the forefront of adaptive wheelchairs. He recently redesigned a hand cycle for a man with cerebral palsy who only had use of one hand. »"That's the kind of thing, the reaction, that makes you feel good — the facial expression. You just know that you can help make a difference," Ramsdell says. "I have learned you have to respect all people, that physical limitations don't make any difference in the person's ability to enjoy life and the want for independence." ■

gilbert

fashionable peace

Clothing for today's love child

BY Meagan McCrary PHOTO BY Anna Peña

Images of the Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Hindu deities inspire clothing designer Kiran Rai to promote messages of peace and passive resistance. Her collection, Sir Alistair Rai, is an infusion of the designer's Indian heritage, love for rock 'n' roll and a desire to promote global awareness. »In less than one year, the Gilbert-based company has gone international. Sir Alistair Rai is sold exclusively in high-end, contemporary boutiques in Los Angeles, London, Paris, Saudi Arabia, India and now the Southeast Valley. »The first people to wear Sir Alistair Rai clothing were rock stars. Now, actors like Angelina Jolie, Drew Barrymore and Halle Berry can be spotted in Sir Alistair Rai designs. »A product of the early '70s peace movement, the fashion guru was hit with the moneymaking idea while discussing the current war with her 16-year-old son, Kyle. Firmly believing that what goes around comes around, Rai, 40, was reminded of the political unrest and "hippy" chic fashion of the '60s and '70s. »In October 2005, Rai launched the Sir Alistair Rai collection in hopes fueling the peace movement in the best way she knew how — with fashion. The peace-minded fashions range from tanks and tees to skirts and dresses. T-shirts typically retail for \$50. »However, Rai didn't get into the business to make money. »"I want to make money, so I can give more away," Rai explains. "Charity is a major thing." »You can find Sir Alistair Rai clothing at Mesa's Tea Dreams and Gilbert's Velvet Boutique, as well as online at www.siralistairrai.com. ■

