

# THE LUMBERJACK

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## Official English bill goes to ballot

MARILYN NELSON  
THE LUMBERJACK

According to the Arizona State Legislature Web site, in 1988, the Arizona Supreme Court overruled the official English bill because it was considered unconstitutional. Now a similar bill, House Concurrent Resolution 2030, advanced after a 23-20 vote by the House in

March. Now, by voting on the general ballot this November, citizens will determine whether or not English will become Arizona's official language.

According to the document, this bill will preserve the role of English as the official language for government functions, such as upholding regulations, publications, orders and policies.

English will be used in all public proceed-

ings, actions and programs of the Arizona government. The 2030 bill will repeal Article 28 of the state's Constitution, according to the House Bill Summary March 11, 2005 from the Arizona Legislative Web site.

Although many in the House and Senate approve of the bill, some, like Corina Lira, consider it a legislative mistake.

"The bill will create a barrier for people to vote; even now, Hispanic people struggle to

vote because most often they do not know how a democratic government runs," said Lira, junior international affairs major. "Currently, it is hard enough to get the Hispanic community to the polls."

Furthermore, the bill would give Arizona minorities a right to sue the government if there is a violation to the proposed article.

See **BALLOTS**, page 3

## Student, member of Flagstaff biking community remembered in memorial ride

DAN MORRIS  
THE LUMBERJACK

With the wind and snow swirling, hundreds of Flagstaff cyclists came to Heritage Square Saturday to honor a fallen comrade.

More than 200 friends, colleagues and well-wishers gathered for a ride to remember Matt Kelly, an NAU Anthropology graduate student, who was hit and killed by a drunk driver while on a bike ride April 5.

Escorted by Flagstaff police officers, the group took off from Heritage Square around 9 a.m., heading east on Route 66. The mob of bicycles then turned left onto Arrowhead Ave., going by Matt and his wife Brenda's house before heading up Cedar Ave. to the scene of the accident.

After a moment of silence, Brenda Kelly addressed the crowd, stressing the need to change the laws that allowed Brian Ray Price, the man who allegedly hit Kelly, to continue driving after two DWI arrests.

"We need to change the laws. This guy (Price) was convicted twice with DUIs. We can't just take their licenses. People like that don't care," Brenda Kelly said to the mass of cyclists as passing cars nearly drowned her soft voice.

"Matt would come home and complain about the carelessness of drivers," she said, emphasizing the need for cyclists to teach motorists to be aware of bikes on the road. Similar sentiments were echoed by Kip Moyer, co-founder of Flag Velo, the cycling team to which Matt belonged.

"It's our responsibility, as survivors, to raise awareness," Moyer said. "It's dangerous being a cyclist."

After Brenda spoke to the crowd on Cedar Ave., she led the procession back to Heritage Square, where approximately 30 riders mingled, reminisced and signed a Flag Velo racing jersey, which was given to Brenda. Police escorts also signed the jersey.

"They (the police) were very supportive and sensitive," Moyer said, referring to help Flagstaff P.D.'s assistance with the memorial ride.

Matt Kelly was riding west on Cedar Ave., east of Buffalo Park Tuesday afternoon when Shaun Ray Price allegedly struck him and continued driving.

A DPS officer witnessed the incident and followed Price until he purportedly hit an automobile before



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coming to a stop. Price is currently being held in Coconino County Jail, charged with second-degree murder, two counts of DUI, two counts of aggravated assault, and fleeing the scene. His bail is set at \$1 million.

The day of his death, Matt found out his master's thesis in anthropology had been approved. He and Brenda had also recently learned that she was pregnant with their first child. Kip Moyer said the tragic circumstances of Matt's death have brought out the best of the Flagstaff community.

"It's a pretty heart-breaking situation," Moyer said about the Kelly's, adding that the community support has been "amazing."

See **KELLY**, page 5

(ABOVE) MELISSA GRIMES, president of bicycle club Flag Velo, hugs a fellow rider at the memorial procession for student bicyclist Matt Kelly who died last Tuesday after being struck by a drunk driver.

(RIGHT) MEMBERS OF Flagstaff's biking community gather in remembrance of Kelly. The group, with over 200 in attendance, was escorted by Flagstaff Police.



Marcus Sabini/The Lumberjack

## Invasive plant species threaten natural ecology, environment

ANNIE TURNER  
THE LUMBERJACK

Getting rid of weeds is a much more important than most people know.

Invasive plants grow all over Flagstaff and pose a problem to people, crops and livestock, said Wade Albrecht, coordinator for the San Francisco Peaks Weed Management Area.

Albrecht is also a Natural Resources Educator for the UA Coconino County Cooperative Extension.

Some of the major invasive species are knapweed, yellow star thistle, field bindweed and leafy spurge. Albrecht said these plants can have a number of negative effects on humans and animals.

"They can be detrimental to livestock by poisoning them and cause human health problems like dermatitis," Albrecht said.

Weeds and other species are indigestible for livestock, elk and deer but "can be controlled by goats and sheep that have an acquired taste for this plant," Albrecht said.

Invasive species are particularly crippling to both ranching and agriculture because they reduce foliage and crop production.

See **PLANTS**, page 3

## Ponderosa research

Three years later, students study the effects of Rodeo-Chediski

MICHELLE TALSMA  
THE LUMBERJACK

In 2002, the Rodeo-Chediski wildfire in eastern Arizona consumed 469,000 acres of land, according to a 2002 article in the *Arizona Daily Sun*.

The fire destroyed more than 300 homes and properties and caused the evacuation of more than 30,000 people in nine different communities.

Almost three years after the devastating fire, two NAU graduate students are conducting research on the burned areas to determine the effect that tree thinning and prescribed burns have on forest affected by wildfire.

Peter Fule, associate director of ecology research with the Ecological Restoration Institute, said the idea for a research project began when he investigated fire behavior during the Rodeo-Chediski wildfire.

See **GRADUATE**, page 4

## Crowds commemorate first annual Cesar Chavez march

MARILYN NELSON  
THE LUMBERJACK

Community members and NAU students gathered on April 10 to march in remembrance of Cesar Chavez, a Latino civil rights leader who died in 1993.

The march, which was sponsored by NAU's Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/o de Aztlan, or M.E.Ch.A., recognized Chavez's struggle for better working conditions for his people and other minorities and his impact on the national community of farm workers.

"By this event, we hope to involve the community and NAU to inform them (the community) about the importance of Cesar Chavez and what he contributed to our Latino community and how far we have come today," said Alex Campos, freshman athletic training major and M.E.Ch.A.'s co-chair.

"M.E.Ch.A. sponsored this march to bring awareness to the Flagstaff community," said Carlos Rodriguez, sophomore social work major.

The march, which began outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, commenced following a prayer delivered by Catholic Deacon Larry Whalem.

Rodriguez said the chapel has a very special place in Flagstaff's chicano history.

"(Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel) was the first chicano church in Flagstaff and it was handmade," Rodriguez said.

Among the spectators were Mayor Joe Donaldson and Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chair Liz Archuleta.

"Congratulations to M.E.Ch.A., for appreciating what Cesar Chavez did for farm workers," Archuleta said at the march. "He created the first grassroots movement to protect farm workers, he demonstrated non-violently.

Because of him there are better working conditions for farm workers, better pay and health care programs. He fought for respect for all people."

According to the United Farm Workers Web site, Chavez's vigorous leadership and nonviolent tactics led to the foundation of the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, a 340-mile protest march from Delano to Sacramento, Ca., the Delano grape strike and fasts that focused national attention on the struggles of farm workers.

"In the past, there were deplorable work conditions, there were lack of restroom facilities, no type of water or shelter for breaks and there were the use of dangerous pesticides that caused cancers and fatal illnesses in farm workers," Archuleta said.

Donaldson said, "This march brings awareness to the life of Cesar Chavez and his march is still very relevant to this day."



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ERICA SANCHEZ FRESHMAN, construction management major, joins in the Cesar Chavez March.