

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Arizona Living

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SECTION E

THE GUIDE INSIDE CDs • DVDs • BOOKS • E3

Nerds on your list vote for 'Napoleon'

- **Geek is chic**, as witness the surprise hit Napoleon Dynamite, which hits DVD shelves Tuesday.
- **For gamers**, it was worth a six-year wait to play the shoot-em-up sequel Half-Life 2.
- **Best known as the writer of Glen Campbell's biggest hits**, including By Your Side, I Got to Go to Phoenix, Jimmy Webb is releasing a boxed set of his solo works.



AP/Wide World Photos/Getty Images



PEOPLE
Survivor host Jeff Probst says he has formed a tribe of his own with former contestant Julie Berry. **E3**



They know the drill. David Cano (left) and his ingenious "spinning spatula" take on brother Joe and his vintage mixer in the annual Tamale Wars. Below: Joe's freshly steamed tamales.

The tamale titans

Each yuletide, Dad and Uncle Joe mix it up to see who's master of the masa

By Kathy Cano Murillo
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It's the tastiest of sibling rivalries, a savory showdown between my dad and my Uncle Joe.

I call it the Tamale Wars. No one knew that, 55 years ago, tamale-making was to be the brothers' December destiny. Each holiday season, the two go olive to olive to see who makes the best tamale. Two weeks before Christmas, they head to their respective kitchens to immerse themselves in rounds of cut beef and pork, corn husks and chile pods, emerging days later with tamales made to their exacting standards.

David and Joe Cano each produce 30 to 60 dozen of the traditional treats. They know their tamales will be devoured in ways that prove each has earned the title of Tamale King. That title, however, is the one thing they refuse to share.

Close family members have been aware of the brotherly competition, but out of respect, no one speaks of it. One can visit either house during this time, see them mixing vats of masa to perfection and hear comments such as "My tamales are best because I have a secret ingredient" (Un-

cle Joe), or "I don't get all fancy, I just make sure they are good" (Dad).

Having volunteered to help, I arrived at my dad's house early one Saturday morning to the sound of Christmas carols on the kitchen radio. The savory scent of moist and red chile filled the home, proof Dad had started without me. I shredded the beef and pork while my father finished the gravy that would go into the red chile sauce. When the sauce cooled, he blended it with the meat and we plunged into the assembly, which would go well into the night.

How it all began
As we worked, I realized that this rivalry between him and Uncle Joe had as many layers as a bundle of dried husks. And only after I had talked with both did those layers peel away to reveal the truth.

"Your uncle and I used to deliver tamales on our bicycles when we were kids," Dad said while swiftly folding a husk and sliding it into the table. He launched into

his version of the tale and, after I talked to Uncle Joe a few days later, the story took shape.

In the late '60s, the brothers were hired to deliver tamales for the Antico Tamale Shop in downtown Phoenix. The shop was owned by a husband and wife, who passed their respective recipes to each of the young Cano boys. The couple eventually parted ways, and the former wife opened a new place, La Tliltuca Tortilleria, on Washington Street.

Uncle Joe married the owner's daughter, became part of the family business and, for the next few years, worked weekends at the shop around his full-time engineering job with Phoenix. My dad also joined the civil-engineering department.

See **BROTHERS** Page E2



Mary Day's "a Christmas person" as caregiver and vest alike.

Sweater fan wears spirit of holidays on sleeves

By Vanessa Willis
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Holiday-themed sweaters in the movies — Colin Firth's reindeer and snowman pullovers in the Bridget Jones films come to mind — may cause audiences to chuckle.

And the knit novelties may spark howls and snickers among fashionistas.

But Mary Day of Charlotte doesn't give a hoot. The teacher simply grins while surveying her collection of holiday sweaters. In what others may snub as the fruitcake of fashion, she sees cheerfulness and beauty. "Wearing these sweaters, it's a way to take that good holiday feeling with you," Day says. "Christmas makes

me wonder, what if it were like this all the time? If people felt this way, if that feeling carried through the rest of the year. Just imagine."

She has about 20 pieces to take her through all of the seasons of the year. But her favorites are eight sweaters with Christmas themes and a few more with non-holiday, winter designs.

Day says she's always been "a Christmas person," she decorates inside and out the day after Thanksgiving. So it makes sense to wear clothing that shows her holiday spirit everywhere she goes. "My mother made Christmas so special," she remembers. "I just love the hustle and bustle, the carols, the smell of cookies baking, the church services. It's like that song that says it's the most wonderful time of the year."

Until about 20 years ago, holiday and novelty sweaters weren't a mainstay among de-

See **SWEATERS** Page E2

Dazzling horses get free rein in stage performance with man

By Dolores Tropeano
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SCOTTSDALE — It's Cirque du Soleil meets the Horse Whisperer.

After wildly successful runs in Canada and on the West Coast, Cavalis: A Magical Encounter Between Horse and Man is coming to the Valley.

Created by one of the founders of Quebec's famed Cirque du Soleil, the show stars 40 exquisite equines on a 160-foot-wide stage. After a five-day run in Scottsdale was announced two weeks ago, tickets sold so quickly that a second week of performances was added. Cavalis will run Jan. 25 through Feb. 4 beneath a 26,264-square-foot white tent — about half the size of a football field — next to the Palm Court Scottsdale Princess.

For more than two hours, beautiful black, white, gray and chestnut stallions and geldings perform onstage

with about 70 of their two-legged partners — acrobats, dancers, musicians. A 200-foot-wide screen projects a stream of images that, with original music, creates a dreamy setting.

But the real attraction is the horses: Arabian, Paint, and geldings perform onstage

See **CANALX** Page E2

IF YOU GO
'Cavalis: A Magical Encounter Between Horse and Man'
WHAT: Multimedia extravaganza featuring 40 horses and about 70 performers.
WHERE: Beneath a 26,264-square-foot tent next to the Palm Court Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E. Princess Drive, one mile west of Loop 101.
WHEN: Jan. 25 to Feb. 6.
ADMISSION: Adults, \$55.75-\$81.75; 12 and younger, \$35.75-\$55.75.
DETAILS: 1-866-999-8111 or www.cavalis.net.

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ASK US ANYTHING ... WRAPPING PRESENTS

Wonder how to wrap all those holiday presents with flair and without wasting paper?

1 Amanda Durham, a gift wrapper at Macy's at Metrotecenter, offers these tips:

1 Measure the box and add two inches. That's the length of paper to use to avoid messy corners and waste.

2 Use double-sided tape. The goal for the pros is to have no tape showing. But in addition to providing a more professional look, double-sided tape helps give a tighter, more finished wrap, especially at the ends.

3 About those troublesome ends: Create the paper along the outline of the box. At the ends, use one-inch pieces of tape to secure the corners. Fold the top piece of paper down and put the double-sided tape on the bottom piece you'll fold up. Press to adhere. To finish the package, go back and re-create the paper along the edges of the box with your thumb and finger. Top with a ribbon and bow. — Susan Fall



Have a question for us? Send us an e-mail at askanything@arizonarepublic.com.

Coming Tuesday

Ease up

For many, the winter holidays usher in burdens as heavy as Santa's bag of toys. Phoenix families share simple suggestions for lightening the load. In Arizona Living.