

Peoria's Hometown Newspaper

PEORIA ROTARY CLUB
The Peoria
PO BOX 6325
PEORIA AZ 853
8023

Peoria Times

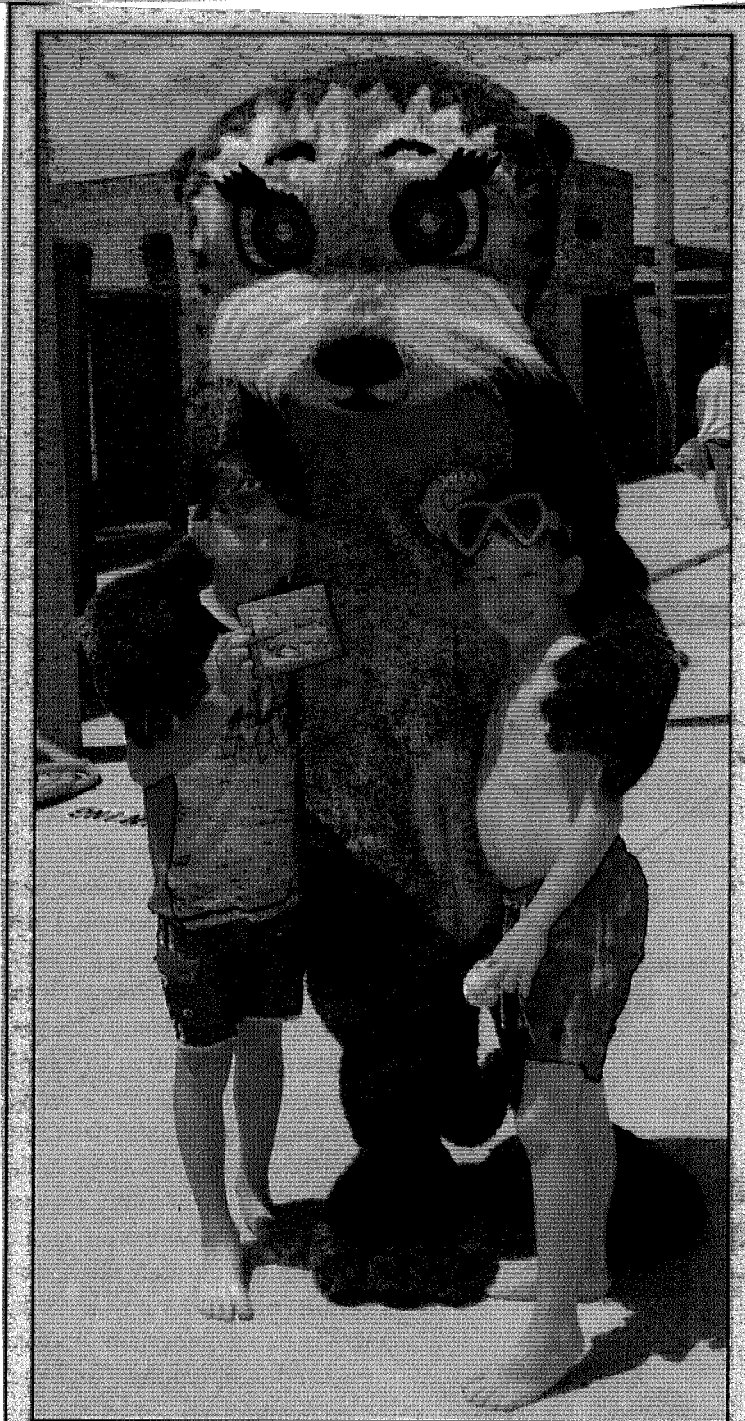


Photo by Carolyn Dryer

Mark Duguid and his friend, Josiah, hug Josh the Otter at the Splash4Safety event held last Saturday at Sunrise Pool. The event was hosted by Rotary Club of Peoria.

Josh the Otter teaches what kids otter know about water safety

Josh the Otter was the main attraction at last weekend's Splash4Safety event. Story and more photos, page 4.

Splash4Safety draws eager participants

Although Josh the Otter was the main attraction, and he was really popular among the toddlers and elementary school-age children, there were other reasons people who attended the Splash4Safety event held last Saturday at Sunrise Pool.

Hosted by Rotary Club of Peoria, the event also had giveaways, such as free T-shirts that children could color and take home, a constant reminder of why they should be mindful before they enter a swimming pool.

There were event sponsors, such as Aqua-Tots that gave tips to parents about how to keep their kids safe, and to tell them about their own swimming programs. Salt River



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

Twin brothers Cominic and Xander color their free T-shirts at the Splash4Safety event at Sunrise Pool. The youngsters are students at Desert Palms Elementary School.

Project gave away goodie bags, and First Things First brought hundreds of waterproof bandage containers, which were a crowd favorite.

And there was quite a crowd, approximately 300 swimmers, from babies in diapers to their grandparents, who came to enjoy the balmy afternoon temperatures.

One Rotary observer said he heard from a lot of people that things they liked about the event were:

- Every parent/grandparent I talked to said it was great.

- Ben as Josh the Otter
- Passports and Raffle
- T-shirt coloring

- ASU Rotaract Club, Sun City del Sol Rotary Club and Arrowhead Kiwanis Club participated

- Radio Disney was fabulous - I can't imagine the event without them.

- The exhibitors had a great time and thought it was well worth their time.

- Pool staff/management were easy to work with

- The weather

Former Rotary Club of Peoria President and Governor-Elect of Ro-

tary District 5490 Chuck Fitzgerald said, "It was a success. I was proud to be there as a Rotarian."

Each preschool child received a Josh the Otter book, which tells the story of how important it is to learn about water safety. Radio Disney set up a small radio station under a tent and played music and a CD that allowed children to follow along in their Josh the Otter book.

Peoria Police Department had a representative on hand to talk with

MORE SPLASH ON 5

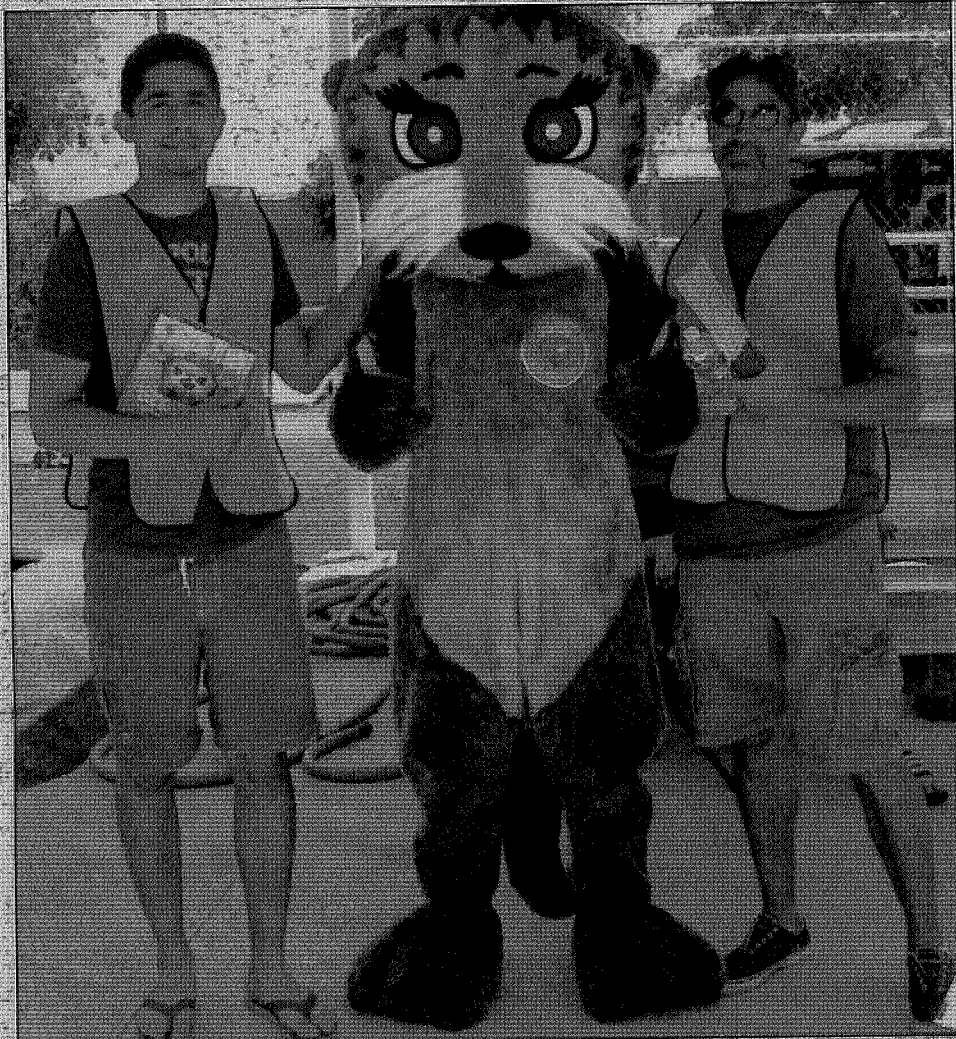


Photo by Carolyn Dryer
Xavier Tejeda and Steve Lazere give Josh the Otter a supportive arm during the Splash-4Safety event. Josh was feeling the heat outside the water at Sunrise Pool during the warm afternoon.

SPLASH: 'Passport' to win prizes, From 4

children about safety, and Peoria Fire Department conducted a mock water rescue.

Especially popular was the "passport" handed out to each participant. When they got a square filler in from each booth, they dropped it into a bowl and had a chance to win a raffle prize.

Overall, organizers called the event a true success. Children had fun, while parents were pleased with the water safety awareness theme. The Rotary Club was not the only service organization there. Arrowhead

Kiwanis Club had several club members volunteer, and they pitched in with enthusiasm.

Rotary Club of Peoria vows this is just the first yearly event with Josh

the Otter. They plan to tweak what happened this year and make next year's event even better. They thank all of the sponsors for their generous donations.