

## Our Staff Standouts:

### Kirsten Brewer & Devon Long

Kirstin Brewer, recently named Instructor at YEI!, has been Operations Assistant here since 1998. She's a graduate of Prescott High School. With her teaching skills and experience in an office environment, Kirsten is now also assisting in getting out the payroll for 140 Pro-Techs (Production Technicians). As Kirsten's career here at YEI goes into its seventh year, her skills and contributions at all levels have greatly expanded.

Devon Long, of course, is the "famous voice of YEI!," answering the phone hundreds of times a day and routing those calls to nearly forty staff members

and responding to client needs, customer requests and greeting everyone who walks through the door. "Ever cool in the clutch," as Devon said in a recently recorded radio ad for Arizona Telephone Technology dial phones, "I can connect all of our clients and customers to all of our staff, and sometimes I can even find Brad."

With characteristic good humor and patience, both Kirsten and Devon add a lot to our operations at the Washington Avenue facility and help to promote our professional and responsive image in the public eye. (See their photo below.)



Kirstin & Devon, the backbone of the Washington Avenue front office!

### Friends From Down Under Visit for Turkey Day!

Readers of the Exceptional News will remember our visitors from Geelong Employability of Geelong Australia in the late 90's. Now, after years of planning and saving, here they come again! YEI! will be hosting fifteen employees of Geelong Employability and their staff/companions over Thanksgiving week. All kinds of activities are planned, including trips to Grand Canyon, Jerome, Sedona (the usual tourist schtick), and there are even plans for an evening at Coyote Joe's. Host families are needed. To learn more about visitors who you might like to welcome into your home, call or email Sandra Clark, teacher at Glassford Hill Middle School: (home) 928-772-1683, (work) 928-759-4630, email:

azclarks@cableone.net or sclark2@humboldt.k12.az.us.

Photos in this issue by Rob Colcord.

A LOOK INSIDE	Non-Prom Big Hit ..... p. 1
	How They Got Here ..... p.2
	Employee Spotlight ..... p. 2
	Shrink Wrap News ..... p. 3
	Kirsten & Devon ..... p. 4
	Geelong Pals Visit ..... p. 4



Washington Avenue Industries • 436 N. Washington Ave. • Prescott, AZ • 86301 • 928-445-0991 • Fax: 928-445-0994  
Antelope Point Industries (API) • 2727 Lake Valley Rd. • Prescott Valley, AZ • 86314 • 928-772-6235 • Fax: 928-775-6462



## Non-Prom a Big Hit: NOT!

Dozens of Prescott citizenry did NOT gather at an undisclosed site to enjoy a midsummer "Non-Prom" to benefit Yavapai Exceptional Industries. A packet of wildflower seeds were enclosed in every NON-invitation, suggesting that folks could literally watch their garden grow in the comfort of their own home rather than attend our NON-event.

We exhorted you: "DON'T go out on an expensive evening, DON'T eat that expensive no - no food that isn't good for you to begin with, DON'T overdress on a hot summer night."

In fact, dozens and dozens of our favorite friends in the Tri-City area enjoyed an entire evening doing whatever they liked in the cool of their Prescott area homes, having sent along a memorable gift to YEI! on the occasion NOT having a special event!

Guests were NOT invited to participate on several levels, such as "going stag," "as a non-couple," "as an estranged couple reunited just for this event."

The RSVP's that rolled into the YEI! Washington Avenue headquarters included such memorable excuses for not attending as: "I don't have the right UN-dress," "I'm going over to Brad's for steaks that night instead."

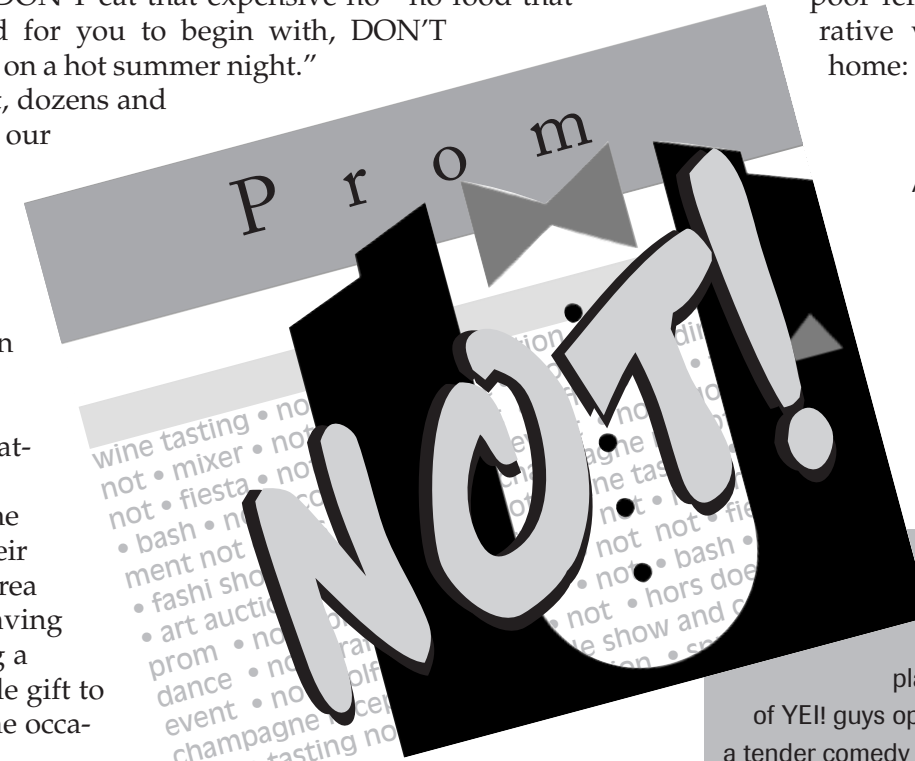
Long time YEI! supporters the Dahlbergs (of Mingus Springs Camp) simply created the category for themselves "Old Geezers." One poor fellow included this commemorative verse his excuse for staying home:

"My pancreas is calcified,  
My fibroblasts are clotting,  
And near my seventh vertebra A  
spinal disc is rotting;  
My liver's twice its normal size, One  
lung is turning gray,  
I hope YOUR life is filled with joy  
On this happy  
NONPROM day!"

-Danny Gonzales  
(Sturm, Ruger)

### The Boys Next Door

Watch for PFAA's production of this prize-winning play of what happens when a group of YEI! guys opens in your neighborhood. This is a tender comedy that shows what happens when a neighborhood comes to accept new exceptional neighbors. Logan and Tyler may even portray some members of the cast - we'll keep you posted.



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Prescott, AZ  
Permit No. 172



## How They Got Here

### Ongoing Stories of Our Families and How They Came to Us

One of the standard operating principles of YEI! is that there is never a waiting list. Every person who walks in the door is capable of making a contribution to family and community. Our responsibility is to respond to their needs and hence the additions of buildings and programs over the years. You present a "medically defined barrier to employment," and seem to be able to benefit from participation in group activities and you're in – just bring your own lunch!

In large part your financial gifts go to support people who are not eligible for whatever reason we can determine for the third party fee for service that we contract with the state of Arizona, Tribal Entities, Public Schools and other parties. No body is ever denied service due to funding and everybody is entered who seems that they can benefit from what we do.

This month we feature Lance, Tina, and Larry "Sharp Cookie," all three of whom arrived at YEI! without hesitation and, in fact, in a whirlwind.

**Tina Platzer** was on a waiting list in her home state of Oregon for nearly nine years, before being accepted into the local workshop in Career Services in the state's disabilities program. Not the case in Prescott. When YEI! Board member Ben Valentine noticed her standing with her family while they were unloading their moving van, it was apparent to him that she would benefit from YEI! services. Ben produced his card and, sure enough, she started with us the next day - assigned to a carpool and on the job in one day's time.



Tina & Brad sport the "uniform of the day."

**Lance (Lance Wolf)** came to us from the Salt Lake area wearing a T-shirt bearing a picture of a wolf, he became, well, Wolf. Likewise, although the paperwork rendering him eligible for both services for the blind and in vocation rehabilitation was yet to arrive, he began our program with no waiting period or clumsy application process. He is on the van daily as a fully contributing member of the customized services department on Washington Avenue.

More stories next time. Send us yours!



**Larry Sharp's** mother called to inquire about services from the driveway of their new home in Prescott, while sitting in the cab of the Ryder moving van. Upon hearing about Larry, the YEI! van was dispatched to the Sharp residence where Larry was collected so his mom could resume moving into her new household. THAT day Larry became a full-on YEI-guy, picking up the nickname "Sharp Cookie."

We already have a Lance, Production Technician in Area A, so when our 2nd

## YEI's Antelope Point Industries Increases Production Capacity

Bill Loughney, Industrial Services Manager at Yavapai Exceptional Industries, is understandably very excited about the acquisition and installation of a Shanklin Shrink Wrap/Tunnel with a capacity of 6' x 13".

The equipment was acquired through gifts largely derived from the Lion's Club's area-wide newspaper recycling program, in order to increase the number of skilled job stations created and supported by Yavapai Exceptional Industries and to meet the increasing demands of the Tri-City area industrial base.

The first customer on board is Mirage Foods of San Diego, California. YEI! has been packaging metric tons of premier quality dog and cat food for Mirage Foods for years. When Mirage considered expansion into lot sales at the retail point, they turned longtime partners YEI! to perform the unique task of shrink-wrapping an entire case of product. This led to YEI!'s partnership with area Lion's Clubs to tool up for modern competitive production standards.



"No, No, No! The Mirage Food is for the CATS & DOGS!"

Contact Bill Loughney at 772-6235 or 713-9718 to price out your latest project. Remember, outsourcing can still mean "Made in the USA" when you partner with Antelope Point Industries and Yavapai Exceptional Industries.



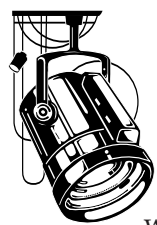
"We're currently meeting all of Mirage's processing and distribution requirements, with product being shipped out to all 50 states. We still have considerable remaining capacity at our shrink-wrap production stations and are eager to bring some of our neighbors onboard," said Loughney.

No longer will Tri-City businesses need to send their shrink-wrapping projects out of the area. YEI!'s newly established stations will meet industrial standards for years to come for a myriad of products and industrial customers.

YEI! is still a drop-ship capable operation with semi truck bays, fork lifts, and other logistics available onsite. Our partners always express amazement at our workshops' levels of sophistication and methodology. We're committed to creating jobs for our neighbors with disabilities and that requires producing a superior product at an obvious value.



Bill Loughney and Rick Bennett represent YEI!'s golf team /uniform at Bill's Alma Mater's San Diego ARC Benefit Tourney



## Employee Spotlight on ... Claire Parker

Claire Parker was singled out by former governor Jane Hull for a YEI! Exceptional Guy Award! Claire has been with YEI! for a number of years, and you may recognize her as the employee who greets you so enthusiastically at the Wendy's drive-thru on Highway 69 (at right). She's been a valuable employee for eight years and she so sincerely welcomes you by looking you in the eye, shaking your hands, and asking, "Do you want fries with that?"

She is as proud of her work at Wendy's as she is of her work done at the Washington Avenue facility where she is a lead Production Worker in the Sturm Ruger department. She loves sports and is active in OASIS (Self-Advocacy Social Club).

