

SUSHI BARS
Nikki Gets into the Raw

RAFTING TRIPS
The Gila & Salt Rivers

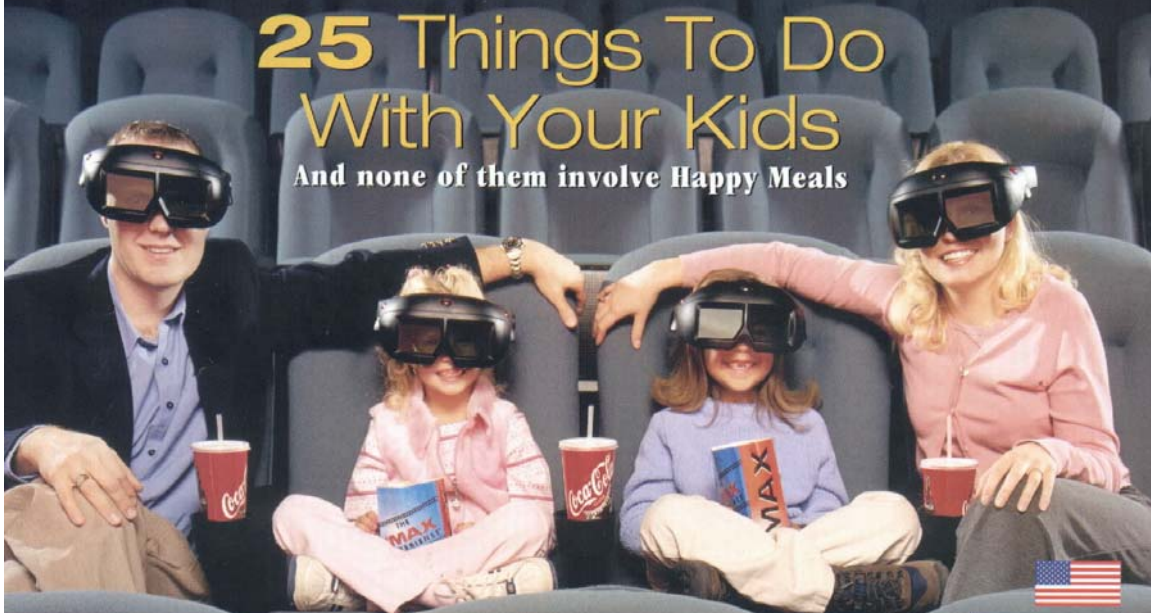
ARCADIA
"Eden in the Desert?"

PHOENIX

Magazine

FAMILY FIELD TRIPS

**25 Things To Do
With Your Kids**
And none of them involve Happy Meals



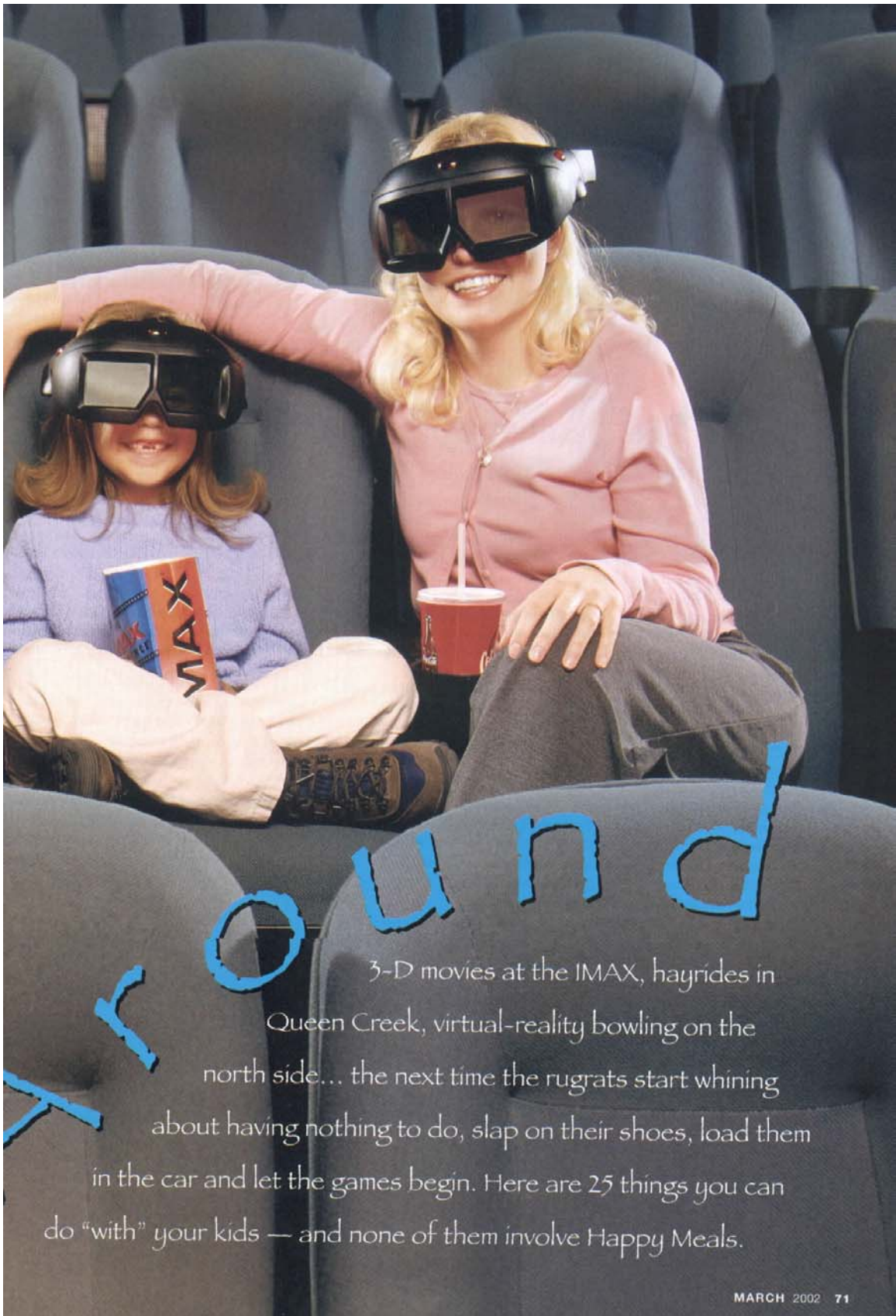
PLUS:

Movie Guru
On Light Rail
Spring Checklist

*****5-DIGIT 85242
165292 PM 0302 JLY03 16
MARK SCHEPP
22601 E CLOUD RD
QUEEN CREEK AZ 85242-9556

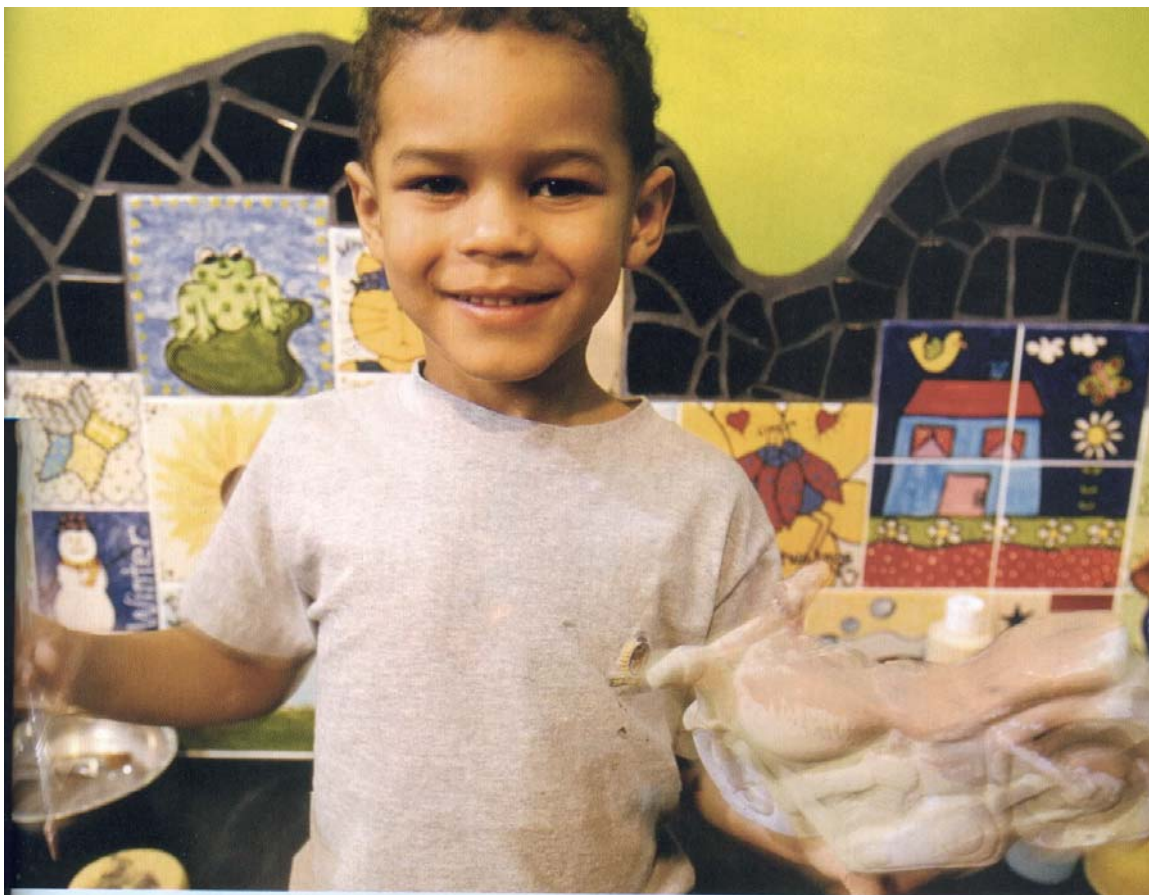
2320
12





Background

3-D movies at the IMAX, hayrides in Queen Creek, virtual-reality bowling on the north side... the next time the rugrats start whining about having nothing to do, slap on their shoes, load them in the car and let the games begin. Here are 25 things you can do "with" your kids — and none of them involve Happy Meals.



17. PAINT A PLATE

Mom always said: She'd rather have a gift you *made* instead of one you *bought*. But you never completely believed she preferred a thumbprint ashtray to a Lladro figurine. Now both mother and child can combine worlds at pottery-painting places like As You Wish (several locations). They supply the blank mugs and platters; you supply the artistic genius. Prices vary.

Check the White Pages for the As You Wish store nearest you.

18. BE A HAYSEED FOR A DAY

Show the kids that fruit and vegetables don't actually grow in piles in Safeway produce departments. The Schnepf family's working farm in Queen Creek, for example, is open to visitors, who can pick peaches and other organic produce, hunt for Easter eggs, take hayrides at harvest time, and wander a straw maze, among other agriculturally inclined fun. Hours are seasonal, so call for specific times. Admission prices vary.

Schnepf Family Farms, 22601 E. Cloud Rd., Queen Creek, 90-987-3333, www.azfamilyfarm.com.

19. SPIN YOUR WHEELS

Cycle aficionados such as the members of the 37-year-old Arizona Bicycle Club meet regularly to roam the Valley on two wheels. The ABC has Saturday and Sunday rides — a good way to enjoy the weather, see the sites from something other than a car window, and burn off that bagel. Bike safety is emphasized. Participants, of any age, should be in good enough shape to complete at least 10 miles. Family membership costs \$30, although one can take a get-acquainted ride for free.

Call ABC's Eugene Berlatsky at 602-264-5478 for more information.

20. PEDAL OR PADDLE

The desert is not famed for its water bodies, but a few scattered local lagoons do allow the chance to experience gliding, drifting, splashing and chasing the occasional duck. Phoenix's Encanto Park (602-254-1520), Scottsdale's Eldorado Park (480-312-2483), Tempe's Town Lake (480-517-4050) and Kiwanis Park (480-345-1034) all rent floaters of some sort — canoes, pedal boats or kayaks. Rates start at \$6 per half-hour.

Locations vary.