



Remembering  
'College' days  
Movie Times, **Page 15**

# THE PEORIA REPUBLIC

WEEKEND EDITION, AUGUST 30, 2008

PEORIA.AZCENTRAL.COM

## Zonie pooch to run in San Diego



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Kahlua snuggles with Tiffany Di Giacinto of Peoria. The Chihuahua is among 15 finalists in a Petco Unleashed racing competition Sunday at Petco Park in San Diego. **Page 6**

## Peoria Luke la

Seeks to halt bui

By Charles Kelly

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Peoria will join the state Attorney General's Office and other West Valley cities in suing Maricopa County to force it to stop issuing building permits in areas critical to Luke Air Force Base.

Earlier this week, the Peoria City Council unanimously voted to aid the state, Glendale and Surprise in suing the county over the issue of a buffer zone near Luke and its auxiliary fields.

Mayor Bob Barrett said his passionate defense of Luke caused one critic to ask whether he had "lost his marbles."

He quipped that he was glad to ask the council to vote in favor of joining the litigation so he and the council members could avoid a "marble-ous."

"I think there is no other f

# Peoria's smallest speeder

## Chihuahua going for title at annual Petco race

By Jeffrey Javier

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Peoria resident Tiffany Di Giacinto and her 3½-year-old Chihuahua, Kahlua, will represent Arizona in a national dog competition Sunday in San Diego.

The competition, however, is not what many would expect. It isn't the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show or the Purina National Dog Show. It is instead a racing competition for Chihuahuas.

Kahlua will race against 14 other Chihuahuas at the fourth annual Petco Unleashed races between innings of a San Diego Padres baseball game at Petco Park.

"It'll be interesting," Di Giacinto said. "It'll be a lot of fun, and I'm looking forward to seeing the other regional competitors."

Di Giacinto first heard about the competition three weeks before the regional competition in April. After signing up, she started training Kahlua by taking her to a dog park and fashioning a starting block out of a cardboard box.

Di Giacinto said that because Kahlua was in a confined space, once the flap was lifted she would have a need to run to her.

"She's just very, very attached to me," Di Giacinto said. "She follows me from room to room and from place to place, and I am capitalizing on that attachment to help her succeed."



**“**She's just very, very attached to me. She follows me from room to room and from place to place, and I am capitalizing on that attachment to help her succeed.”

**Tiffany Di Giacinto**  
Kahlua's owner

The first-place winner will receive a trophy, a one-year supply of Royal Canin Chihuahua dog food and a \$300 Petco gift card. Second- and third-place winners will also receive a prize.

Scott Harris, Di Giacinto's boyfriend, said Kahlua has a good shot at winning the national competition.

"She runs pretty darned fast, and the more away from Tiffany she is, the more anxious she is to see her," Harris said.



PHOTOS BY NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Kahlua won a blue ribbon when she came in first in the local Chihuahua race. Her next stop is the fourth annual Petco Unleashed races in Sand Diego.