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## Prop. 106 to protect 2,000 acres near Flag

Approval, Prop. 105, leaves preservation of public tracts largely up to the Legislature.

BY **CYNDY COLE**  
Sun Staff Reporter



...ers are being to weigh two so-land conservation es in the Nov. 7 a. Only one of the ves, Proposition its state trust land servatory Mesa, Hills, Dry Lake, Lake and land ng Walnut Canyon its to developers t requiring further ive approval. ositions 105 and e competing meacked respective-homebuilders and nmental groups. would require ssional action to e effective. osition 106 pro- 62,786 acres t Flagstaff and Centennial For- om development h a combination ver-than-market-urchases by local

governments and by removing development options. This initiative would exempt 693,700 acres of state trust land from development across Arizona, out of the 9.3 million acres that exist.

"We have protected Flagstaff's premier open spaces if this passes and we lose them almost certainly if it doesn't," Nikolai Ramsey of the Grand Canyon Trust said of Proposition 106.

Opponents say Proposition 106 goes too far and doesn't consider housing or transportation needs.

"Proposition 106 puts conservation planning above everything else," said Spencer Kamps,

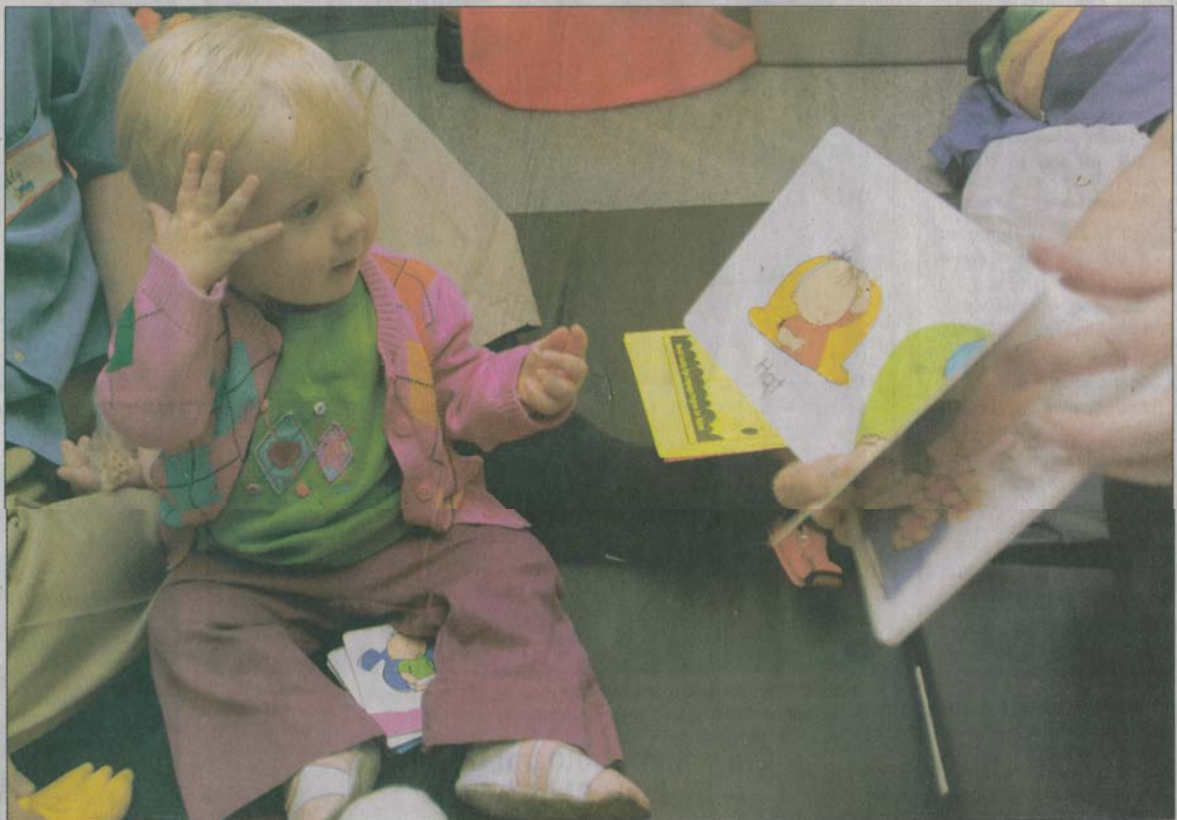
See **LAND**, A10

## ...ish meets with ...ur leaders to ...aluate strategy

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BY **JENNIFER LOVEN**  
Associated Press Writer  
FLAGSTAFF

"I wouldn't read into this somehow that there is a full-scale push for a major



To order this photo, go to <http://photos.azdailysun.com>

Jill Torrance/Arizona Daily Sun

**KENDALL NICHOLSON, 1, MAKES** the sign for "hat" during a Baby Signs class at McPherson Recreation Center on Thursday.

# Decoding baby talk

Local mom has toddlers interpreting sign language

By **HILLARY DAVIS**  
Sun Staff Reporter

**K**endall Nicholson is a bright and engaging baby, with big, intelligent blue-gray eyes and a jubilant giggle. At only 14 months, she's not very verbal — but that doesn't mean she can't communicate.

With a special type of sign language adapted for babies, Kendall can tell her parents when she's hungry, full, sleepy or wet. She can "say" when she sees a dog, a flower, a banana or her

shoes, and practices her manners with signs for "please" and "thank you."

The Flagstaff toddler is one of many students of the nationwide Baby Signs program. Kendall's mother, Tami, teaches classes locally.

At a preview class last week at the McPherson Recreation Center, six boys and girls between 9 and 22 months old practiced signs in an informal circle setting filled with toys, blankets and upbeat children's music. Classes are an interactive, sensory, bonding experience.

Parents sing or read books while signing along to key vocabulary terms, and present the children with toys or snacks that visually reinforce signs.

### SIGN UP FOR SIGNS

For more information on Baby Signs or upcoming classes and play groups, contact Tami Nicholson at 225-0206 or [tami@babysignsbytami.com](mailto:tami@babysignsbytami.com).

Some of the babies were shy, or more interested in the toys, treats or each other, but others enjoyed showing off their newly-acquired skills.

The Baby Signs vocabulary has about 100 terms, some loosely based on American Sign Language.

Kendall's parents estimated that she knows

See **BABY**, A10

# Renzi ads attack Simon's ties to ACLU

By **DAILY SUN STAFF**

**I**n this television ad, Rep. Rick Renzi attacks Democratic challenger Ellen Simon, tying her to a case the American Civil Liberties Union litigated and

and "Served as the President of the ACLU," appear along with the words "Radical Organization defends hard core criminals Man/Boy Love Association." News headline reads "ACLU Defends Child Molester"



## BABY

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about 35 signs, and although she doesn't talk much yet, she signs every day. She picks up new signs quickly, adding two or three a week to her repertoire.

They say she is so eager to communicate that sometimes she points to

an object they don't know a sign for, so they look it up in an ASL dictionary or make up a baby-friendly sign. All this could have rich cognitive rewards for the little girl.

"Signing is a bridge toward talking," Tami said. "What crawling is to walking, signing is to talking."

Research shows that signing reinforces verbal skills rather than limits them. According to the Baby Signs

Web site, research funded by the national Institute of Health showed that hearing children who practiced sign language as babies showed more advanced verbal skills than their peers, with 3-year-olds speaking at the level of a normal 4-year-old. They also scored higher on IQ tests.

Nicholson got interested in baby sign language when she was living in Las Vegas. She had been planning on taking

Kendall to classes when she got a little older, but the family relocated to Flagstaff. Upon not finding a Baby Signs instructor in town, Nicholson decided to become one herself.

Now, Flagstaff's Baby Signs program is poised to take off with classes, play groups, storytimes and parents-only workshops planned for coming weeks.

Regular "Sign, Say & Play" classes are scheduled for Thursday from 10 to

11 a.m. at the McPherson Recreation Center, a small building just northeast of the Jay Lively Activity Center, 1650 N. Turquoise Drive. Classes are designed for small groups of four to eight babies, but Nicholson said she would add more class sections if there is enough interest. Classes begin Oct. 26.

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