

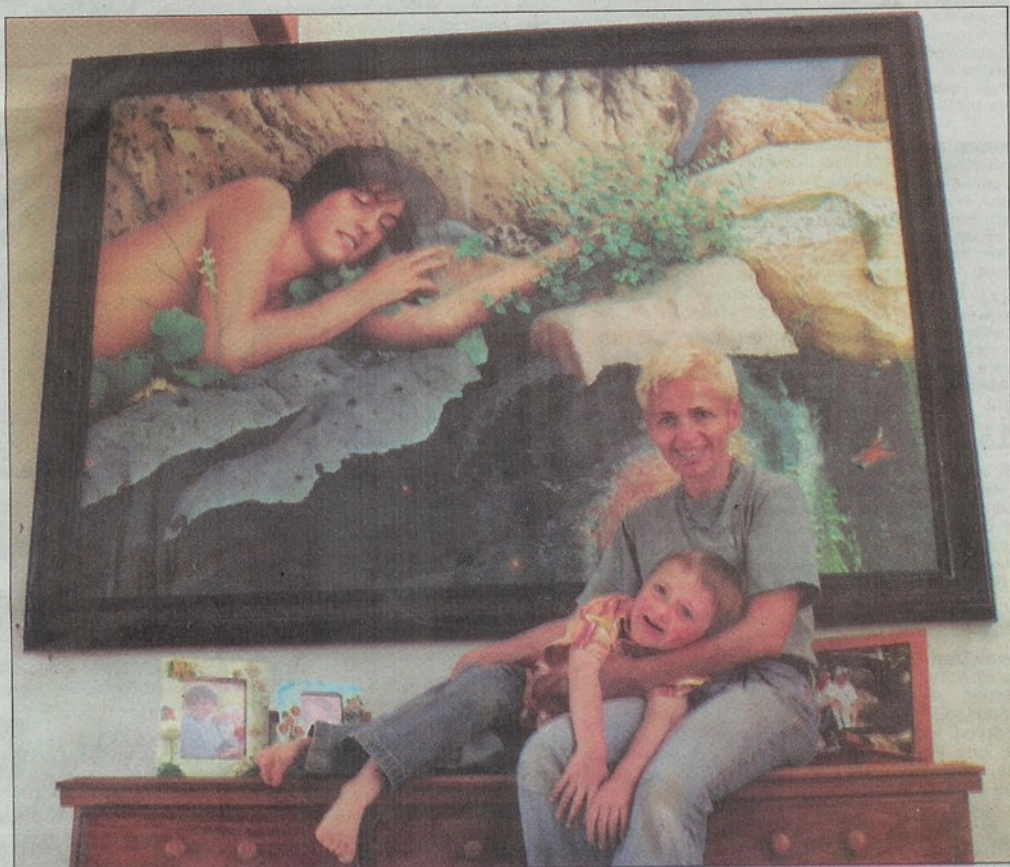
# SUNDAY

LEARNING • C3

Distensen teachers surprised with new lounge

NEIGHBORS • C5

'Laundry Mary' fundraiser a success



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

Josh Biggs/Arizona Daily Sun

**FLAGSTAFF ARTIST CHARLIE BYNAR** poses with her son, Isaac, in her home in front of her painting, "Dragonfly." Bynar, a watercolor artist, has been painting for more than two decades.

## MEMORABLE MOMS

Throughout history, memorable mothers have made their mark through exceptional achievement and devotion to family.

By **BETSEY BRUNER**

Arts, Culture & Community Editor

A mother is like no other. She can make or break a family, a nation or a world.

Several local women made a short list of memorable mothers suggested by neighbors and co-workers.

### BECOMING A MOTHER BEAR

The name of Charlotte "Charlie" Bynar was given by several people who responded to a request for names of worthy mothers that ran in the *Daily Sun*.

Bynar, who just turned 40, juggles life as a successful painter with the responsibility of raising her son Isaac, 5.

What does being a memorable mother mean to her?

"To me, that would stir the idea that there is a real memorable connection between the child and the mother," she said in a phone interview. "I'm one of those mothers

who didn't know I was a mother bear until I had my little boy. It just brings that out in you. We're connected really strongly."

Bynar has been married for 13 years to David Calley, owner of Southwest Windpower, Flagstaff's first alternative wind-energy company.

The three members of her family are fiercely independent," she said, including her husband who fashioned his first wind turbine out of washing machine parts when he was a boy.

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# MOMS

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## DOING RESEARCH FOR HER CHILD

"All our family is both ordinary and unusual," Bynar said. "David is an inventor-entrepreneur-business owner, and I am a stay-at-home mom and painter. Isaac is just like other 5-year-olds in many ways, but at the age of 2, he threw us a curve ball."

During an annual checkup, Isaac's pediatrician noticed that he was a "late talker" and suggested getting his hearing checked. After an appointment with a school psychologist who said she thought he was autistic, Bynar placed her son in a special needs class.

She began an earnest investigation of the condition of autism, which ultimately resulted in a visit to a Dr. Camarata, deputy director for Behavioral Research at the Vanderbilt Brain Institute Neuroscience Council. He diagnosed Isaac with Mixed Receptive, Expressive Language Disorder, not autism.

"He is a late talker, but he has no other mental or physical deficiency," she said. "He's really independent. He does things when he decides to do them. He just doesn't fit the box. He'll find his way."

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Bynar has pursued her 20-year career as an artist with devotion. Born in Sun Valley, Idaho, she won the Scholastics Art Award in 1983 and 1984.

After her first exhibitions

in 1988 in Flagstaff's Macy's Coffee Shop, she started building a loyal base of patrons who commissioned portraits. Bynar has exhibited throughout the country:

Today, she paints while Isaac is in school, for about three hours in the afternoon on four days during the work week.

In the past, she has worked very large and taken more than a year to finish some paintings. Her painting "Dragonfly" is 77 inches by 54 inches and hung in Hudgens Gallery downtown, until she brought it home.

Her style is very individual. Working in watercolors, she painstakingly renders scenes of people in realistic but also fantastic environments.

"I really concentrate on the detail," she said. "I capture the human essence in them, of that person — the condition of just being human and all the little struggle. With the detail, to get the painting to look back at you, you've got to get the eyes to look back at you."