

Crelia Helps Others Cope with Border Life

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Staff Writer

Moving far away from home is always tough.

But imagine moving to Yuma, Ariz., population 70,000, and being the wife of a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

That's what former Seminole resident Vanessa Herron Crelia was faced with in 1999.

Crelia's family relocated to Yuma after her husband, Mike was hired as a Border Patrol agent with

the Yuma sector.

Knowing now how a big move like this can effect them first hand, Crelia has put forth an effort to help other Border Patrol spouses to deal with moving to a city they know little about.

According to an article in the Yuma Sun, Crelia was befriended by another agent's wife who made her transition to Yuma much smoother.

To return the favor, Crelia, a former website designer built a web page called "Supporting the

Border Patrol Spouses," which can be found at www.bpspouses.com.

Along with information about towns all across the Mexican border with Border Patrol stations, the site also gives spouses a place to interact with other spouses including a chat room.

Since Creila created the site three years ago, hundreds of spouses have sought advice.

"Now, spouses are starting to connect," she told the Yuma Sun.

"It's just been growing and growing."

Creila explains that the site is run independently of the Border Patrol.

"Some agents have also built their own websites to discuss Border Patrol issues and stay in touch," stated Michael McGlasson, spokesman for the Yuma Sector.

"Vanessa's site and other sites are seen as positive."

When asked the biggest reason for starting her website, Creila stated, "I simply saw a need."

"There was no place really for
(See Border on Page 10)

● Border

(Continued from Page 1)

spouses to go," she stated.

"We want to know about towns, we want to know about populations, we want to know about jobs.

"It gives spouses comfort by giving them the ability to correspond with someone that's already been there."



Crelia