



Student intern Cody Kinz checks the tires of a school district bus.

Photo by Patti Schmazel

4 high school CTE students get valuable internships

By Patti Schmazel

Rio Rico High School

Implemented just a year ago, part-time internships for Rio Rico High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) students have given them a taste of the real world

of work. These paid positions, in two of the 11 CTE programs offered at the school, are a capstone experience for students before they graduate.

This year, student internships are available in Agricultural Science and Culinary

Arts. Students hired in the positions are also enrolled in the same CTE program at the high school. Selection of the interns occurs during the spring semester for the following year.

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Veteran teachers building readers at Kinder level

By Len Johnson

San Cayetano Elementary

With well over 50 years' experience among them teaching kindergarten, the teaching team at San Cayetano Elementary has consistently turned out excellent young readers.

Kindergarten reading levels have been at or above 90 percent for the past three years. Last year, 99 percent of kindergarten readers at San Cayetano hit "core" reading levels on their DIBELS reading test.

SEE **READING** / PAGE 14

6 accepted into all-state middle school band

By Reneé Curren

Coatimundi Middle School

When a student decides to be a band member it means they are making a commitment to excellence in addition to their academic studies.

Students practice on their instrument for many hours off campus to prepare for their participation in the band. Auditioning for

parts and preparing for concerts gives students a chance to be part of something larger than themselves.

"I think that playing in a performing ensemble-like band really fosters a growth mindset," said Coatimundi Middle School band director Aimee Wallace.

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Student awards strengthen district pride

Superintendent's Letter



By David Verdugo

Superintendent

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

This year has been a good one for us. Let me share some of the high points.

One of the most important accomplishments for us -- one that would never have happened without the support from our parents and community -- was that the

district's M&O Budget Override passed in the November 2016 election. On behalf of our governing board and staff, I want to personally thank each of you for your support. Our children are now the beneficiaries of your good will.

In addition to the stories from our schools included in this issue, here are some of our other highlights this year:

- Our business office was successful in reducing our district's secondary tax rate by refinancing our current bond. We were able to receive a favorable interest rate of 1.74 percent, saving the district and taxpayers \$255,900. This savings would be taken in 2017-18 to reduce the secondary tax rate.

- Mariajose Rojo, fourth grade student at Mountain View Elementary, and Karime Diaz, freshman at

Rio Rico High School, were selected as 2016 Arizona English Language Learner (ELL) Success Stories, receiving honorable mention awards from the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) with the Arizona Department of Education.

- RRHS senior Allie Schadler was named 2017 Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. This is the second year in a row that Allie has won this distinction in cross country, as well as having won as Gatorade Arizona Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 2015. This now makes five Gatorade awards for RRHS; Carlos Villarreal won both Cross Country and Track and Field in 2014-15.

- Twenty RRHS students received prestigious awards from Cambridge International Examinations. The

high school had two "Top of the Country" award winners. Angel Ojeda, junior, received the "Top of the Country" award in chemistry; his second year in a row for "Top of the Country." Last year he won for biology. And, Esteban Urena, sophomore, received "Top of the Country" award for biology.

- Two Rio Rico High School seniors, Areli Diaz and Jonah McCoy, were selected as finalists in the Questbridge National College Match program, a college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding qualified high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to the nation's top tier colleges of their choice. Partner colleges include University of Chicago, MIT, Duke, Stanford, Scripps, Brown and others. Scholarships are comprised

of tuition, room and board, and other expenses.

- Baely Elizabeth Ahumada, RRHS JROTC senior, received the bronze and silver Presidential Service Volunteer Awards for performing over 175 hours of volunteer service in her Rio Rico community. Ahumada was presented with two medals, a certificate and letter signed by President Obama.

- Three RRHS students received the highest AP Scholar Awards. Jonah McCoy was deemed an AP Scholar with Honors, an award granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and score a 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Two RRHS students were deemed an AP Scholar: Areli Diaz and Patrick Hays. The AP Scholar award is granted to students

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Clubs help class skills extend into daily life



By Patti Schmalzel

Rio Rico High School

Rio Rico High School Career and Technical Education student organizations (CTSOs) provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn in class to their lives and within the community. There is a CTSO for each of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered at the high school.

Participating in activities associated with these organizations benefit students in a variety of ways. According to the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, participating in leadership and professional development in a CTSO raises students' educational aspirations. CTSO

students demonstrate higher levels of motivation and academic and civic engagement.

The CTSOs and the corresponding programs currently offered at the high school include:

- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) – culinary arts

- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) – business management, accounting, information and networking technologies

- Future Farmers of America (FFA) – agriscience

- Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) – licensed nurse assistant, sports medicine

- Skills USA – law enforcement, technical theater, Junior Reserve Officers Training Program (JROTC)

Student officers from each establish goals at the beginning of the year that provide members with activities in work-based learning, community service, professional development, and that showcase their skill development through competitions. Addi-

tionally, fundraising activities are planned to support the cost of participating in these pursuits.

Work-based learning opportunities, under the direction of the respective CTE instructor, have been logged for each CTE program offered at the high school. FFA students from the agriscience classes have logged thousands of hours working at the farm. FCCLA culinary students have planned, prepared, and served food to hundreds of people at banquets and breakfasts throughout the year.

Skills USA law enforcement students have assisted with security and traffic enforcement services at school and community events. FBLA students have printed business cards and made award plaques for various groups and individuals. HOSA students have participated in clinical experiences and offered blood pressure checks to school staff.

Community service experiences planned throughout the year create a path for which CTSO students can develop a sense of civic



Photo by Patti Schmalzel

RRHS Culinary Arts students Samantha Feliz, Anthony Kennett, Vicky Mercado, Adriana Garcia (background), Victoria Soto, and Ashley Quiroz gather at Careers through Culinary Arts (CCAP) Small Bites Competition.

responsibility. HOSA students raised money for the National Alliance for Mental Health during a Halloween zombie walk. They also passed out pamphlets during homecoming to increase awareness of domestic violence and sold items to raise funds for a women's shelter in Santa Cruz County.

FFA members and alumni worked with Doug Kuhn Ranch to halter, broke, bathe, groom and show cattle during the Arizona National Livestock Show. FCCLA students made blankets to donate to a local domestic violence center. The JROTC Honor Guard has presented our flags at numerous events during the year.

Training, competition

Being a member of a CTSO at Rio Rico High School also gives students a clearer

understanding of the importance of belonging to a professional organization. In the fall, all CTSO officers attended an officer training workshop.

Additionally, the Skills USA law enforcement students attended Teen Court training and have implemented Teen Court at the school. FBLA students attended the Fall Leadership Extravaganza and the FFA students attended the 17th Annual Baboquivari – Rio Rico Greenhand Leadership Day. FFA students also competed in career development events at Central Arizona College.

CTSO regional and state competitions give students experience in showcasing the skills they have developed in their program area. JROTC students recently received high rankings in marksmanship during a competition in Tombstone.

FFA and FCCLA students entered projects and food products that were judged at the Santa Cruz County Fair in the fall. FCCLA students also provided guests with “small bites” at a conference in Tubac and MacDonal’s Ranch in Phoenix. Skills USA law enforcement students received awards during their Crime Scene Investigation competition at a recent regional meeting.

Students in all the CTSOs are currently preparing and practicing for their state competitions to be held this spring. These young adults have spent many hours raising funds to finance their registration and travel costs for the competitions. If you are interested in supporting a CTSO through tax credit, please download the tax credit form at www.scv35.org.



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Hawk Tech tutoring meeting needs of all students



By Morgan Falkner

Rio Rico High School

At this rate, RRHS will have no trouble qualifying next year for a renewal of the school's 21st Century Grant, which this year amounted to \$140,000 in federal funds.

According to grant administrator Teresa Potter, a stipulation for grant renewal is that the recipient school

be able to demonstrate widespread use of the program among students.

Potter said the grant requires that a minimum of 110 "regular" students – by regular, they mean a student attending at least 30 sessions of before- or after-school tutoring during the school year.

If student participation continues at the same pace, she said, by year-end RRHS would qualify as having 294 students regularly attending the program, known at RRHS as Hawk Tech.

"The first semester was a wonderful success," said Potter, who teaches chemistry at the high school. "Hawk Tech is intended to meet the needs of all students regardless of

academic proficiency."

RRHS world history teacher Hallie Birkett has seen up close the results of having a well-run, deep-pocketed tutoring system like Hawk Tech.

"Some of the students are fantastic with using the time well," Birkett said of the 15 or so freshmen who regularly show up for tutoring. She said Hawk Tech represented a "significant improvement" over previous schoolwide tutoring initiatives.

"Freshmen and bilingual students have the greatest participation in Hawk Tech," Potter said. The services offered through the program reach a wide variety of needs.

"We have students attending that need

help just completing daily homework," Potter explained. "We have other students who come to deepen their understanding, and we have students who are taking independent study classes, enriching their education in areas such as computer programming, Chinese, (and) psychology."

Enrichment activities include robotics, building boomerangs, and Tae Kwan Do. Two dozen RRHS teachers participate in the program, which features preparatory AZMerit math and English tutoring, general help with homework, and enrichment activities.

Potter even went so far as to say that the program is taking important root in the school. "It is in the pro-



Photo by Teresa Potter

Teacher Hallie Birkett helps a student during after-school 21st Century Grant tutoring at RRHS.

cess of becoming part of the culture of the school," she said.

School Principal Shelly Vroegh agreed that Hawk Tech is gaining traction on campus, but added that, to realize its potential value to students, additional fine-tuning awaits.

"Students are start-

ing to take advantage of the tutoring sessions, but we are still working on getting the students who really need to be there to attend," said Vroegh. "Teresa and I are always looking at ways to improve this."

The grant is renewable for up to five years.

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Santa brightens the day



Mountain View Elementary third grader Jaslene Maddox takes a break from the fun and games to pose with Santa Claus during the school's annual Holiday Hullabaloo.

Photo by Hope Brown

High school students earn top Cambridge scores

By Morgan Falkner

Rio Rico High School

Rio Rico High School seems to have gotten the hang of teaching Cambridge curricula. Five years after adopting Cambridge University's high school program in science (biology and chemistry), math, English, and social studies (world and U.S. history), the school's numbers – that is, the number of students taking and passing the Cambridge Exam – have gone through the roof.

Take math, for instance. School Cambridge math teacher Phil Brown had 22 students take the exam for sophomores last April. All of them passed (the national average for test passage was 20.3 percent of students per class). But wait,

RRHS's performance on the sophomore math test was even better than that. Of 10 elite-level "A-star" scores for that test nationwide, six came from RRHS students.

To look at it in a slightly different way, 1.09 percent of American sophomores who took the math test earned an A-star score – the best of the best. By contrast, 27.27 of RRHS sophomores who took that test attained the coveted A-star.

Then there's biology. In 2015, all of RRHS Cambridge biology teacher Aimee Denovchek's students passed the test. In 2016, her students produced six of the eight A-stars awarded for the Cambridge biology exam.

In the RRHS Cambridge Chemistry class, the story was much the same: 88 percent of teacher Teresa Potter's

students passed the test. The school's Social Studies Cambridge results had a 77 percent passage rate (compared to a national average of 24.39 percent for world history and 17.78 percent for U.S. history).

Brown attributes much of his Cambridge success to the students themselves.

"I believe that the success is largely theirs' (the students'). I do not believe math is a subject that can be taught, much like creative writing or music," Mr. Brown explained. "I encourage them to make mistakes freely and learn from them."

It helps, he pointed out, to have a strong support system in place campus-wide. "I believe we have an administration that really wants us to be successful, so they support us," he said. "We also have had, to a large degree,

stability in the teaching ranks."

Denovchek agrees that solid instruction among Cambridge teachers is vital to RRHS's success.

"I think that the scores are a reflection of our (the teachers) understanding the expectations, the standards (and) having a passion for our content, and being able to translate both to our students," she said.

"Additionally, I sincerely believe that our students have a passion for greatness, and even though they have a competitive rapport they will also encourage and help one another."

Principal Shelly Vroegh noted the Cambridge infrastructure that's been built at RRHS.

"I believe a big part of why Cambridge was so successful was



Photo by Daniela Gonzalez

Math teacher Phil Brown instructs Rio Rico High School students who are excelling in the Cambridge math program.

because of the training and materials we were able to purchase" with grant money. "We had a very systematic implementation of the program. I think another big reason Cambridge has been so successful is because of the teacher buy-in. They truly believe in the program and the academic piece."

So does at least one

student who, now a junior and has exited the Cambridge program at RRHS, attributes his success with Advanced Placement classes to Cambridge.

"It (Cambridge curricula) is a necessary step in transitioning to Advanced Placement," said RRHS junior Sebastian Valencia. "AP is so simple because of Cambridge."

State's top cross country runner, Schadler has goals piled on top of goals

By Morgan Falkner

Rio Rico High School

Late last year, decorated RRHS long-distance athlete Allie Schadler achieved what many may have thought was the crowning achievement of an illustrious high school career that featured numerous course records and state championships: She placed seventh at nationals and, as a result, was awarded the title of All-American.

Time to sit back, relax, and cruise through the rest of her senior year, right? Not exactly.

Schadler, who accepted a cross country

scholarship offer from the University of Washington, is ramping up for a monster track season.

"I like track more because it's faster," Schadler said in a recent interview. The fact that a demonstrably fast human being prefers a different event because it's faster should be fairly alarming to Arizona high school female runners. "The mile's my favorite event."

"She is healthy and motivated," said her RRHS track coach. Steve Schadler should know, being both coach and father to Allie.

"We will work on some speed with her (400- and

800-meter races) this year which should set her up well for the mile and, more importantly, next year."

Allie Schadler has goals piled on top of goals. Looking ahead to her freshman year at UW, the soft-spoken senior aims to reach collegiate All-American status, a national championship, and to be named an Academic All-American. She says she'll need to get mentally tougher, plus she's hitting the weights, doing more interval runs, and increasing her mileage.

Allie's career, and that of her likewise elite younger sister, Samantha, seems to have

caught her coach a bit by surprise.

"I honestly never dreamed that Allie and Sammie would be as immediately successful as they have been," said Mr. Schadler, himself a former cross country runner at Stanford University (Toni Ann Schadler, Allie's mother, was her Coatimundi Middle School cross country coach and an elite runner at Indiana University).

"Like all parents, I hoped they would be successful enough to gain some confidence and self-esteem, but the challenge has really been in exploring how to manage their emotions and my own



Photo by Toni Ann Schadler

Allie Schadler, center, competes in the Dec. 2 Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Ore.

as they continue to perform so well. They have each won state championships as freshmen, so we talk a lot about perspective and running to fulfill

your own goals – not falling victim to outside expectations.

"Perspective is definitely a daily topic in our household, as

SEE RUNNER / PAGE 12

Athletics thriving in academic culture



By Renee Curren

Coatimundi MS

“Wins and losses are always the result of ‘team’,” said Coatimundi Dean Katie Stosick. “What we are working toward each day is leadership, dedication, hustle, and a growth mindset. If we get those things right, winning will be a byproduct of our success.”

Approximately 150 students participated in the athletic program and with that kind of encouragement a successful season is practically guaranteed. Athletes are also held accountable for academic eligibility with weekly grade checks.

“Our athletes are some of our best scholars and learn a dedication to excellence as a universal habit,” said Stosick, who supervises eligibility.

Last semester, cross country girls placed

first as league champions, and cross country boys placed fifth. The volleyball team came in as league runners-up with a 6-2 record. Boys basketball had a 7-1 season and brought home the league championship trophy. At the end-of-quarter CtMS awards ceremony, the trophy was honorably placed in the hands of Principal Lerona Dickson with a knightly bow.

Collaborating within the district was a high point of the season, making it possible for girls soccer and boys basketball games against Calabasas to be hosted at Rio Rico High School. Young athletes got excited about playing at the high school campus.

The opportunity also seeded hopes for inspired middle school athletes to work hard to earn the privilege of playing as a Rio Rico Hawk. This was also the first year playing in the Southern Valley League against teams with more experience.

Girls’ soccer had a 3-5 season with their coach, Aureliano Villegas, affectionately known on campus as Chato. His coaching

strategy is the same today as it has been since 2010: to play clean and lose, or win with class.

He is proud of his soccer players and pushes them to stay in good condition, learn from mistakes, and pursue new skills. Girls practice every day and must take care of their equipment as well. Chato sees his athletes as learning sportsmanship, respect, and preparing for high school and their future.

The girls traveled to Continental for soccer play-offs and, after a tough game, earned their spot as number 4 in the tournament. Chato’s advice for future athletes is to “focus during the game (and) have your eyes open. It’s not only about one person making the goals, it’s about the whole team working together and everyone putting in their part.” He added, “One last thing is to enjoy and have lots of fun.”

Christina Williams (eighth grade science/math teacher) has coached the volleyball team for five consecutive seasons and loves the growth she sees in young student athletes year after year.



Photos by Katie Stosick

Coach Ben Hix advises his basketball players in between plays.

“The great thing about volleyball is that it is a team sport and requires each member to do their fair share, but also requires them to rely on each other,” said Williams.

Though each player learns a specific position it is necessary for positions to be interconnected. She encourages each player to drop complacency and play with passion. The deciding game against Alter Valley that seeded them second in the league was “one of the most exciting athletic moments I’ve ever witnessed,” Stosick declared. “The energy in the gym was electric and the entire crowd watched each volley

with bated breath.”

To bring home the league trophy the boys’ basketball team had to overcome both physical and psychological obstacles. It was a home game for the higher ranking Calabasas team and the crowd was very excited. Calabasas took a large early lead but CtMS regrouped as a team and “with some timely rebounds and free throws they battled back,” said Stosick. “I’m very proud of their ability to play above the circumstances.”

Following is a list of student Athletes of the Week from the second quarter, recognized by the athletic department as dependable leaders:

Adrian Lopez - A team boys’ basketball, 8th grade

April Martinez - A team girls’ soccer, 8th grade

Julian Riesgo - A team boys’ basketball, 7th grade

Cecile Raymond Baker - A team girls’ soccer, 8th grade

Edgardo Martinez - B team boys’ basketball, 7th grade

Gloribel Quintero - cheer, 7th grade

Diego Leyva - A team boys’ basketball, 8th grade

Thanks to the coaches, athletes, and their families for helping the athletic culture thrive in the academic community at CTMS.



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Science, social studies bring extra awareness to youth



By Len Johnson

San Cayetano Elementary

Formal social studies and science classes are undergoing a dramatic change in the district's elementary schools.

Marcy Miller, district instructional specialist, calls the return of science and social studies an "exciting adventure" that should challenge students and better prepare them for state science testing that begins in fourth grade.

"Our goal is helping our kids have the opportunities to become well-versed 21st-century students," Miller said. "The world is changing so quickly. Students need a global awareness, and we want our kids to have a great science experience."

Miller spoke to teachers to mark the beginning of what's being called a "soft rollout" of science and social studies this year. The goals are to explore these new avenues of learning and enjoy the adventure.

The plan is to get ready for next year's revision of the Arizona standards for social studies and science.

District curriculum emphasizes reading, writing and math for



Photo by Len Johnson

San Cayetano first grade students Gabriella Gonzales, left, and Brielle Bustamante are learning about different rocks in the Rio Rico area.

elementary students. Science and social studies are currently taught within the reading curriculum for 40 minutes each week. Now, students will learn from a six-unit lesson plan in social studies for 40 minutes every day.

The social studies standards will extend to history, geography, government and economics. For example, students will be learning about countries, states and landforms such as rivers and mountains.

They'll be taught about American culture and politics, with topics ranging from the Pilgrims to the Bill of Rights, using the Harcourt Social Studies series.

Science and social studies will be taught alternately to students four to five days a week in the 40-minute block, or other configurations of time throughout the week. Science will be hands on, with students conducting experiments and recording the results.

Beth Bond, district Pre-K science specialist, said various science programs have been chosen for the

district to align with standards at different grade levels. Two of the most prominent are FOSS Investigations and Cambridge Primary Science.

This semester, kinder, first, fourth and fifth grades will be taught through the FOSS program. Second and third grades will use Cambridge science, which has been used with great success in the district's middle schools.

Science units include trees, balance and motion, magnetism and electricity, and levers.

"We want students to be learning by doing, and these programs give them the chance to do so," said Bond.

Teachers are excited about teaching more science and social studies.

"It will give us the chance to go more in depth with social studies and science," said Joanne Lavoie, first grade teacher at San Cayetano. "And maybe, some of our lower readers will be spurred on by the subject matter and connect more to their reading."

Curriculum guides addition of high tech computer skills



By Jennifer Alejos

Calabasas School

The Computer and Technology Lab is becoming the stethoscope of our district to hear (and of course, see) how the students are learning. The focus is turning to online testing to generate quick reports that teachers can use to target learning skills.

Combining technology programs to teach coding, typing, word processing, presentation skills, how to take online tests, and making student learning visible for teachers is a big task.

Patricia Bejarano, media center specialist, works closely with our curriculum,

instruction, and assessment team in the district.

"I am excited for the things to come and the future of how students will learn using more technology," said Bejarano.

Her elementary technology team includes Nellie Ruiz (Calabasas PK8), Paul Groth (San Cayetano), and Veronica Barnett (Mountain View). Her middle school team includes Ivan Soto (Coatimundi) and Teresa Lizarraga (Calabasas). With curriculum in hand, they teach computer programs and skills, internet safety, and skills needed to take their online tests.

"They are able to see themselves in the camera and show their badge and scan it through the computer webcam. It's so high tech," said Ruiz.

"The students are totally focused in the lessons. Compass Learning has lessons that keep our K-5 students engaged with their new characters and

stories from around the world and across the curriculum. This program automatically generates individualized learning paths. It is rewarding to see the students excited to come to computer class."

For middle school, Lizarraga notes that technology is revolutionizing the learning process as it is integrated into the curriculum. Soto agrees.

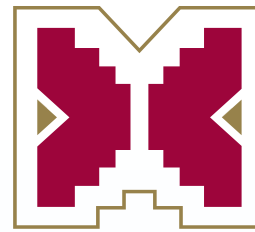
"The students who take technology classes will be more prepared to succeed professionally because more and more technology is used as part of any working environment," said Soto.

"If used correctly," said Bejarano, "it can help prepare students for their future careers. Many companies require candidates to be proficient in some sort of technological program. So the more students learn early on, the better prepared they will be in the future."



Photo by Jennifer Alejos

Teresa Lizarraga says, "Technology is part of children's lives. Technology has revolutionized the way we think, work, and play."



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Library technology enhances students' research options

By Jennifer Alejos

Calabasas School

The library, inspiring movies and even a television show, is the place for imagination to stretch, for research to inform, and for dreams to take students beyond school walls.

Patricia Bejarano is the district's coordinator of the new Library/Media program combining the Library and Technology/Computer Labs. The hope is to create a multimedia flow for students to research, build, and collaborate together across classrooms, campuses, and in the future maybe other schools.

"My view of the future of kids who learn about technology is that they will start to use technology in ways that will change their everyday lifestyle," said Bejarano. "We want to use technology to enhance the traditional library and create a 21st Century Library that will enhance the way students learn about technology.

"Students get excited about learning when using technology and they always have access to the latest and greatest versions of software or digital textbooks."

The Library/Media team includes Darla Henson (San Cayetano), Maritza Riesgo (Calabasas-Elementary), Georgina Frownfelter (Mountain View), Rosario Moreno (Calabasas-Middle), Toni Reyes (Coatimun-



Photo by Jennifer Alejos

Maritza Riesgo, right, enlivens the library with her creations, taking storybook characters out of the books and putting them on the walls. She also sends letters from the kids to authors and displays their responses. She's joined by Yolanda Fuentes.

di Middle), Melissa Rios and Paz Gerardo (both RRHS).

Team members described how they implement this new philosophy.

Henson brings authors and books to life through videos she plays for them, and depending on the subject matter she shares her extensive travel experience with the kids, too.

She says the students start young with technology by searching for books through the school's computer database thinking about subjects, authors, and using key search terms to find their book.

Riesgo creates life size characters from storybooks and places them on the wall. Giant superheros with giant paper muscle arms grace the walls at Calabasas. She teaches them to be authors by asking students to write letters to their favorite superhero. The superhero's response is then placed on the wall to encourage others that they can be

authors, too.

In middle school, Moreno emphasizes the importance of being responsible. Books, computers, and resources in the school library are available to all, but if students are not responsible to return or take care of things, there is a price.

Like a public library, students are charged a fee for late or lost books. By eighth grade, most students understand this process.

At the high school, students get the opportunity to practice higher level skills. This semester, Rios is busy with students as they begin their research topics.

One visiting class examined a variety of materials about World War II. Resources ranged from the examination of different perspectives, such as the first-person account found in "The Diary of Ann Frank," to an array of history books on different aspects of the war.



Photo by Tonya Yanez

The little free library is located outside the welcome center at Calabasas for all to enjoy.

No check-outs needed with little free library



By Tonya Yanez

Calabasas School

Calabasas School has some great friends in Green Valley. This year, we have the privilege of working with a group of men and women who come to the school and tutor students during their REACH classes, which are classes set aside

for tutoring or enrichment.

The group is called The Green Valley Tutors and that's not all they have done for Calabasas School.

Over the past few months, the group has also been creating Little Free Libraries. These big bird-house like structures are put up anywhere and are used as a mini-library.

Anyone can take a book, read it, and return it without having to check it out like a traditional library. People can also donate books if they have some they think others would enjoy.

The Little Free Library is located outside the district's Wel-

come Center at Calabasas School. It can be used by the students, staff, and the public. Two more Little Free Libraries will be starting at other schools within the district in the near future.

"The Little Free Library is a great addition to our community because it allows all members to receive and share books that they enjoy as well as to gain a love of reading that will spread throughout," said Calabasas Assistant Principal Rebekah Cabrera.

To get more information on this project, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org



What a speller!

Photo by Adriana Aguilar

Paulina Fontes, fifth grade, poses with Mountain View Elementary Principal Christopher Jackson after winning the school-wide spelling bee for the second year in a row.



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Great season posted by boys' basketball

By Tonya Yanez

Calabasas School

At Calabasas School, students and staff were excited this year when they heard they would be joining a sports league comprised of southern Arizona schools.

The league, Southern Valley League, includes Anza Trail, Emily Gray, Altar Valley, Sahuarita Middle, Continental, Coati-mundi Middle, and Calabasas Schools.

The Calabasas boys' basketball A-team, coached by Karla Ramirez, a long-time coach of 10 years, knew it would take a lot of work to do well, and that's exactly what they did.

The boys committed to coming in for practice before school from 5 a.m. until 6:50 a.m. before getting ready for the school day.

Overall, the team finished the season with an 8-1 record. They were undefeated during the regular season until they battled Coati-mundi for the championship, to which they couldn't quite "add the cherry on top," said Ramirez.

In the end, the team was pleased with their second-place standing.

"This year's team consisted of only two players from the previous year and those two individuals really showed the new players what my game plan was and they caught on quite quickly," Ramirez said.



Photo by Tonya Yanez

Calabasas has another trophy to display with pride thanks to the boys' basketball A-team.

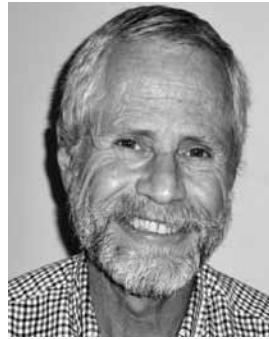
"I was impressed at how quickly they learned the plays, and how they executed them. The best part about coaching this team was that they love basketball. They enjoyed coming in early and even on some Saturdays to play. We all had a lot of fun!"

"I hope these boys stick together, work

together, and play together to grow as a team and win State," Ramirez added. "I believe these guys have what it takes as a team."

The Calabasas crowd is excited to see these boys, along with the Coati-mundi Middle School boys, make one great team for the high school.

Spending on key programs approved through override



By Mark Dittmar

Mountain View Elementary

In November, voters across Santa Cruz County School District 35 showed their support for early childhood literacy by approving a new seven percent, seven-year Maintenance and Operations Budget Override by a vote of 3,581 to 2,328.

"I was confident the vote would pass," said David Alvarez, Chairman of Citizens Supporting SCVUSD35 Override, the political action committee formed to get the word out to the community. "Once most people understood the necessity

of the override, they were quick to lend their support."

The override is expected to generate \$1.2 million annually over the next five years, decreasing by a third in years 6 and 7. The money comes from a property tax that will cost district taxpayers less than \$8 a month on a home valued at \$100,000.

"If the override hadn't passed, we were looking at having to cut another \$300,000 from the budget," said a grateful Superintendent David Verdugo.

Funding from the override will provide the district with the resources to continue its full-day kindergarten program, while attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers for its K-5 electives, fine arts, information technology, online education, athletics (not to exceed 5 percent), and K-12 counselor positions.

"On behalf of the Santa Cruz Valley

Unified School District No. 35 Governing Board, students, and employees, I want to thank our generous community members for their recent support for, and passage of, the SCVUSD35 override," said Verdugo. "Santa Cruz County Unified School District 35 is committed to delivering the best educational programs for its students in the same fiscally responsible manner that has won it financial acclaim for the past 16 years."

"I'm so glad it passed," said fifth grader Ximena Hernandez-Romero who helped her mother, Ana Gabriela Romero Davis, solicit votes. "I'm going into middle school next year and want to be an artist. Where else could I learn what I need?"

For more information about the new Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Override call (520) 281-8282, or visit <http://www.scv35.org>.



Photo by Carol Cullen

Citizens Supporting SCVUSD35 Override PAC members were recognized for their efforts during a post-election school board meeting. From left are Superintendent David Verdugo, Rich Bohman, Mark Dittmar, Molly Johnson, Virginia Leavitt, Patty Molina, Cristina Pierce, Hank Thysell, and Assistant Superintendent Shadler. Not pictured are members David Alvarez, Art Peterson, Dean Davis, Lewis Hollander, Lil Hunsaker, Tony Vartola and Carol Cullen.

PRIDE

Continued from Page 2

who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

• In January, we said “goodbye” to Brian Vandervoet for his 16 years of volunteer service as SCVUSD No. 35 governing board member. In the same month, we welcomed Joel Kramer back to the governing board for his third term since 2004.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to keep us in mind as you prepare your 2016 tax returns. Our community has been generous in past years with their tax credits, having directed a total of \$45,721 to our district in 2015. These funds help defray our students’ costs in extracurricular activities – things like band uniforms, materials for use in local community service projects, international travel, and more.

Please keep in mind this is not money out of your pockets, rather a redirecting from the State to SCVUSD of your tax dollars owed (up to \$200 for individuals; \$400 for married).

You have until April 15 of this year to direct your 2016 tax credits to our students. We are currently at \$44,721 for 2016, and with your help will exceed the 2015 credit amount. Please see the notice on this page for more information about your tax credit opportunities. Thank you for your continued support.

RUNNER

Continued from Page 5

is reminding everyone that running, racing, and competing are all supposed to be fun! We really try hard to keep it that way.”

As a sophomore, Allie Schadler placed 17th at nationals. The next year, plantar fasciitis, a painful foot ailment, rendered her unable to race. At her final high school nationals meet, Allie Schadler was healthy and ready to put an exclamation mark on a storied career. Then the mud happened.

“I’d never raced in that environment,” she recalled of the soggy course in Portland, Ore. “It was running in sand.” Perhaps compounding that, “I went out too fast and died.”

Mud isn’t likely to figure into the track season, which likely means bad news for the girls competing against her.

Arizona Tax Credit Program Reclaim Your Tax Dollars

by making a tax credit donation to



SANTA CRUZ VALLEY
Unified School District No. 35
Educate Everyone Every Day

Direct your tax dollars where you want them to go. By law, Arizona allows you to contribute to SCVUSD No. 35 now through the AZ School Tax Credit Program. Married couples can contribute up to \$400; individuals can contribute up to \$200.

You may be able to deduct this entire amount from your State income tax.

Every Arizona citizen can participate and send their contribution to SCVUSD No. 35. So encourage your family, friends and neighbors to contribute to SCVUSD No. 35 to get their tax credits, too.

It’s easy. Complete the form below. Return it, with your check, to SCVUSD No. 35 any time before **April 15**, to qualify for the previous year’s tax credit.

Choices for Your Tax Dollars at SCVUSD No. 35

To receive the tax credit, Arizona allows you to contribute to **extra curricular activities**.

Your contribution is made to SCVUSD No. 35. You then choose to have your contribution benefit **all students** in the extracurricular activity. Or, you can designate it as a fee to cover a **specific student’s participation** in an activity.

Examples of costs covered by past contributions: **Band Program**: equipment, instruments, travel, or specific student’s travel or band needs. **International Club**: specific students’ travel costs to Europe and elsewhere. **National Honor Society**: travel and club supplies. **Student Council Organization**: promoting student leadership, service and engagement in all schools. **Art or Cartoon Clubs**: materials and supplies. **And more clubs**: check with your school about other qualifying programs.

For more information, contact Maribel Aguilar at 520-375-8270, maguilar@scv35.org



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Make checks payable to: Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone-Home: _____

Phone-Business: _____

Contribution Amount: _____

Cash:

Check: Check No. _____

Please direct my tax credit contribution to the following school(s):

Mountain View Elementary

San Cayetano Elementary

Calabasas (PreK through 8)

Coatimundi Middle School

Rio Rico High School

My tax credit contribution should benefit the following — include name of activity/student: _____

Athletics

Student

Extra Curricular Activity

Please accept my tax credit contributions as shown on this form. I understand that SCVUSD No. 35 will provide a written receipt for my tax filing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Must be postmarked by April 15, to receive tax credit for the previous tax year: 1374 W. Frontage Road, Rio Rico, AZ 85648

Register Early to Begin Your Education Adventure

At the Welcome Center: Enroll your child and schedule a tour of your child's new school. During the tour, you and your child will:

- Visit Classrooms,
- Meet Teachers,
- Tour a School Bus, and
- Receive a surprise with the "Golden Ticket."



Eligibility

Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years old before September 1, 2017.

Preschool: Child must be 4 years old before September 1, 2017.

March 1-31, 2017

Accepting Open Enrollment Applications

Parents Must Bring:

- Original Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Parent/Guardian Photo ID
- Proof of Address
 - Mortgage statement, property tax or rental agreement, and
 - Utility bill (water, electricity, telephone or cable)

Inscribase Temprano y Empiece La Aventura

En el Welcome Center: Inscriba a su hijo(a) y haga una cita para recorrer la nueva escuela de su hijo. Durante este recorrido usted y su hijo:

- Visitarán las aulas,
- Conocerán a los maestros,
- Recorrerán un camión escolar, y
- Recibirán una sorpresa con el "Boleto de Oro."



Elegibilidad

Kinder: El niño debe tener los 5 años antes del 1 ro de septiembre del 2017.

Pre-escolar: El niño debe tener los 4 años antes del 1 ro de septiembre del 2017.

Marzo 1-31, 2017 Estamos Aceptando Solicitudes de Inscripción Abierta

Documentos Necesarios:

- Acta de Nacimiento
- Cartilla de Vacunación
- Identificación del Padre/madre o tutor
- Comprobante de Domicilio:
 - Hipoteca, Impuestos de la propiedad o Contrato de Arrendamiento, y
 - recibos de servicios (agua, luz, cable o telefono).

Welcome Center, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm, De lunes a viernes
131 Camino Maricopa, Rio Rico, AZ 85648 520-375-8281

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Photo by Patti Schmalzel

Culinary intern Vicky Mercado product tests a recipe for the upcoming Culinary Arts 2 lab.

INTERNS

Continued from Page 1

This year's interns work at the high school's farm, culinary lab, and district's transportation facility. All of the interns agree that their "learning-by-doing" experience has given them insight into the requirements and responsibilities of being an effective employee.

Victoria Chacon and Natalie Burgos tend to the produce, plants, and chickens at the agriculture farm located near the high school. Their job duties, performed with limited supervision, have given them a deeper understanding of what it means to be responsible.

Chacon states that she "enjoys working at the farm and learning about the different aspects of it." She likes "working with the chickens and completing her jobs in the calmness of the greenhouses" after a long day at school. She also recognizes the importance of her role as an employee.

"Responsibility is the key to being an effective employee because I'm accountable for everything I do at

work," said Chacon.

Agriculture instructor Richard McPherson shares the same view. "My interns are valuable members of the farm crew and their hard work contributes to the success of my program."

Culinary Intern Vicky Mercado agrees that her experience has taught her the value of hard work and its positive impact on her life.

"My internship has pushed me to work hard not only in my internship position, but in school and life as well," said Mercado. She plans to attend a culinary school after graduating and states that "being an intern has really shown me that this is the right career path for me."

She also thinks that her internship has helped her "understand the value of money and the value of an education." She thinks the experience has prepared her to be more successful in college, both academically and financially.

Cody Kinz is an agriculture science student intern assigned to the district's transportation department. In his view this experience has focused his career

goals.

"This position has allowed me to grow and has strengthened my passion for working in the automotive industry," said Kinz. "[I enjoy] doing hands-on work that you wouldn't normally be able to do in the classroom."

His internship experience has also shown him that it is critical to correctly follow instructions and complete tasks on time, and it has given him insight into the responsibilities he will have in his future job. Transportation Director Rico Quiroz is very supportive of the internship program and the work Cody has done for the district.

"Cody is a hard worker and we are pleased to have him work with us," said Quiroz.

The worth of the CTE Internship program is evident by the sense of accomplishment these students feel from their experience. If you are an employer and are interested in hiring a student intern, please contact Rio Rico High Schools Internship Coordinator Patti Schmalzel, or CTE Director Michelle Poppen at (520) 375-8766.

BAND

Continued from Page 1

Wallace advocates among her band members the conviction that they are a team, and their team is only as strong as their weakest player. Students in her classroom are motivated to be the best they can be because they could get left behind if they give up when something is difficult and the rest of the group moves on.

“Kids are smart,” says Wallace. “They can ‘hear’ that they do not sound great when they are first starting something, whether it be a new instrument that they haven’t tackled before, or a new piece of band music.” Most of Wallace’s students take practicing and coming prepared to class quite seriously.

The true phenomenon is that many band students took even more time

outside of class to prepare an audition for the Arizona Eighth Grade All-State Band.

The All-State Band is an ensemble that meets and performs in early March and consists of only the top-scoring students (usually 80 or more). School directors from all over the state can send between five and 20 auditioning students, and a full group of 20 represented CtMS this year. Students had approximately one month to prepare their audition etudes and scales. Each student’s audition was recorded then submitted to a panel of judges from the Arizona Music Educators Association.

Congratulations to the six CtMS students who have been accepted into the All-State band with audition scores that topped hundreds of competitors: Sofia Villanes (clarinet), Michelle Ochoa (clarinet), Juliana Espinosa (trumpet), Pierre Ahumada (trumpet), Roberto



Photo by Aimee Wallace

Young musicians who have excelled are the all-state band students. From left are Michelle Ochoa (clarinet), Juliana Espinosa (trumpet), Roberto Guevara (trombone), Sofia Villanes (clarinet), Diogo Gonzalez (tuba), and Pierra Ahumada (trumpet).

Guevara (trombone), and Diogo Gonzalez (tuba).

All other CtMS students who tried out were placed on the alternates list to receive honorable mentions for their excellent auditions: Paulina Soto (flute), Fey Castillo (flute), Mariana Valdez (clarinet),

David Alvarez (trumpet), Dagoberto Rodriguez (trumpet), Michael Gonzalez (horn), and Luis Martinez (tenor saxophone and alto saxophone).

Performing students will travel to Phoenix in March for a grueling schedule of practice and

rehearsal for the grand All-State concert performance. Performances will include “Rough Rides” by Karl L. King, “Andromeda” by David Shaffer, and “Along the Caney Fork” by John Hasay.

READING

Continued from Page 1

“That’s huge,” said Judy Seaman, reading specialist at San Cayetano. “It shows the determination of those teachers and their belief that all students can succeed.”

DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. In kindergarten, it measures the following early reading skills:

- Letter naming
- “Segmenting” words, or breaking apart the sounds, such as c-a-t
- Reading “nonsense” words, which are random combinations of words in a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern, such as rab

Those early skills often spur kinder-age children to read simple books before first grade. The “nonsense”

skill leads to early mastery of larger words, such as rabbit or ladder.

Kinder students are often reading books by Christmas. Early reading is the leading indicator of later success in all subjects, according to the National Institute for Literacy.

Kinder teacher Jennifer Martinez takes the mission to read early seriously. “If they struggle in kinder it follows them all through school,” she said. “We set high goals for all our students and if they feel you believe in them they’ll believe in themselves.”

Danielle Groth says she loves teaching kinder. She joined the San Cayetano kindergarten team four years ago.

“I like the variety of reading tools we possess,” Groth said. “We do reading one-on-one, small group and whole group. They



Photo by Len Johnson

Helping to construct the important foundations of education are teachers, from left, Danielle Groth, Maggie Trujillo, Mindy Scanlan and Jennifer Martinez.

are exposed to so many opportunities to read and that builds their vocabulary and comprehension as well.”

Maggie Trujillo and Jennifer Martinez became San Cayetano teachers 15 years ago. “We target all aspects of reading,” Trujillo said. “We also have a great team of reading intervention-

ists.”

Trujillo and Martinez point out that the kinder team knows each other’s strengths and weaknesses and are humble enough to get help from each other.

“But the most help we got was from Mindy, who really helped us lay a foundation when we came,” Trujillo said. “She

was always willing to work with us and meet with us. She really supported us.

Mindy Scanlan has been teaching kindergarten at San Cayetano for 24 years. “We do all have our own special talents that everyone can capitalize on,” she said. “It’s fun to work with these people who are willing to try new things.”



Photo by Jennifer Alejos

Rebecca Aguirre says, "One of the greatest things that has ever happened to me is getting this job here at Mountain View. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many amazing people. The students are super special to me."

Outlook is bright for students who love science

By Jennifer Alejos

Calabasas School

It's elementary, my dear Watson. Science Elementary.

Elizabeth Bond has become our own Sherlock in the District, building a first-year program for our children from resources, research, and experience.

She is incredibly excited to be the district Pre-K science specialist teacher. Her eyes light up and her whole being becomes energized at the mention of science. She says for our students "that love science for both inquiry and solving problems, [they] will absolutely have an exciting place in [our] future society, so we are trying to prepare them."

"Science isn't so much 'Ooh an explosion! On to the next .

...' but 'Ooh an explosion! Why did that happen? Can that be a good thing? How can I make sure I'm doing it safely?'"

"Science is really more of a process than concrete knowledge," said Bond. "So we are giving them plenty of experience walking through the scientific method and being logical, safe, inquisitive observers so that they may be ready to tackle whatever challenge comes their way."

On her team are Rebecca Aguirre at Mountain View, Molly Johnson at San Cayetano, and Claudia Guevara at Calabasas.

Like Bond, Aguirre and Johnson are also forward thinking. "The possibilities for the future of the kids who love science are endless," said Aguirre. "In the words

of Edward Teller, 'the science of today is the technology of tomorrow'."

"The future is extremely bright for kids who love science," said Johnson. "Their world will be more interesting and their job opportunities will be unlimited."

According to Bond, the science program has been exceedingly interesting for our youngest students as they study animals and nature, wavelengths and color, and plants and lifecycles.

The older students are having their preconceived ideas of science challenged as they learn more about the weather and the human body. They are learning science is more study, observation, communication, and teamwork, than explosion.

Career Day supports planning for future

By Mark Dittmar

Mountain View Elementary

In September, Mountain View Elementary held its annual Career Day Expo. The purpose of the event was to expose students to a variety of careers they may choose to pursue as they get older.

Twenty-one representatives from government agencies and the private sector explained and demonstrated what their jobs entail as the students, on a fact-finding mission, rotated from one presentation to the next asking questions and taking notes which were later used to write essays.

"I knew you should never sit on a power box because it's very dangerous," said Samantha Alcantar, fifth grader. "But, I didn't know they teach about electricity in college."

At mid-morning, children already fasci-

nated by the motorcycle, ATV, fire truck and Border Patrol horses positioned around the perimeter of the school's field turned their eyes upward to watch the Life Net helicopter land. A moment later they took turns sitting inside the chopper asking questions.

"That was really fun!" shouted 9-year-old Jewls Aguilar to her mother, Adriana Aguilar, the Mountain View Parent Liaison who helped coordinate the day's events.

After a short lunch break the children continued listening to presenters.

"There was so much to see and learn about," said fifth grader Albert Bustamante. "There are really a lot of choices out there!"

"Exposing children to what's 'out there' was the whole reason for Mountain View's Career Day," said Aguilar, "and it's never too soon to start think-

ing about the future."

Mountain View Elementary School would like to thank the following organizations for participating in its 2016 Career Day Expo:

Life Line Air Methods (helicopter)

Dr. Duke, dentist
Claudia Medina, massage therapist

Cochise College - University of Arizona, Santa Cruz

Jeovanna Herrera, cake shop owner
Tubac Fire Department

Unisource Energy
Truly Nolen Exterminators

U.S. Border Patrol
Santa Cruz County Sheriff Department
US Customs/Border Protection

Santa Cruz Propane
San Cayetano Veterinary Hospital

Santa Cruz County Recorder's Office
Rodrigo Valenzuela, Tae Kwon Do, instructor/owner

Wells Fargo Bank



Photo by Mark Dittmar

MVES fifth graders Jeshua Murrieta, left, and Erick Flores look thrilled as they take their turn sitting in the Life Line Air Methods helicopter during the school's annual Career Day activities.

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