



Seniors bid farewell, move on

Students Jasmin Aguilar and Juan Ruiz have a great time on their graduation night. Photo by Carol Cullen

PLEASE SEE MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

43-year-veteran teacher retires

By Len Johnson

San Cayetano Elementary

Judy Seaman, who began teaching here in 1974, has decided to retire. A reading specialist, she ranks as the longest-running educator in the district. She started at Tubac Elementary School (closed by the district in 1994) and finishes her career at San Cayetano Elementary, with a stint



Photo by Len Johnson
Judy Seaman has taught and led teaching teams in the school district since 1974.

SEE SEAMAN / PAGE 11

RRHS grads gain many awards and scholarships

By Morgan Falkner

Rio Rico High School

RRHS seniors reaped an estimated \$2 million in scholarship offers in a ceremony held on May 17. The annual Senior Awards ceremony packs the school cafeteria with students and family members as long-anticipated scholarship announcements are made.

In addition to the announcement of who won what, the ceremony honored high academic achievers for the class of 2017, including Valedictorian Jonah McCoy and Salutatorian

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Planted by Leo Felix, Page 9



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Great results in 2016-17 school year

Superintendent's Letter



By David Verdugo

Superintendent

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

With graduation upon us, it is time to wish everyone a restful summer break. With your support, we've enjoyed another successful year. We can't say it often enough -- "thank you" for your continued support and commitment to our district, especially with your passage of the district's Maintenance and Operation budget override in the 2016 election.

In addition to the academic accomplishments of our students detailed in this edition and the previous edition of our newsletter, I am pleased to announce our most recent distinctions:

- RRHS designated A+ School of Excellence™ by

Arizona Education Foundation. The Arizona Education Foundation announced in April that Rio Rico High School is one of 39 exemplary Arizona schools receiving its A+ School of Excellence™ designation for the 2016-17 academic year. Applicant schools are evaluated in the areas of student focus and support, school culture, active teaching and learning, curriculum, leadership, community and parent involvement and assessment data. With this award, Rio Rico High School now becomes the fourth of five Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 schools to receive this title, joining San Cayetano

Elementary, Coatimundi Middle, and Calabasas Schools.

- District -- For the 17th consecutive year, the district's Business Office has received the Association of School Business Officials International's (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for having met or exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

- Sports – Graduating senior Allie Schadler is named Arizona Girls Athlete of the Year. This year, Allie set two state records in cross country and the

3200m, was named First Team All-American in cross country and track, and won five state championships in cross country, 400m, 1600m, 4 x 400m relay, and 4 x 800m relay. We wish Allie all the best as she now moves on to the University of Washington.

On behalf of our students and staff, I want to extend our gratitude to everyone for making this a great school year. We hope you have a restful and safe summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone back at SCVUSD for the start of the 2017-18 school year on Monday, Aug. 7.

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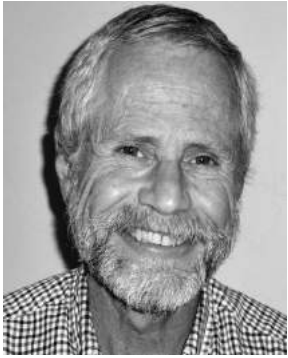
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Teacher runs Grand Canyon on spring break



By Mark Dittmar

Mountain View Elementary

Rio Rico High School teacher Teresa Brown Potter spent this year's spring break in an unusual way, running to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back out. "It was something I'd always dreamed of doing," said the

advanced placement chemistry teacher.

The 58-year-old started her solo run from the National Park's South Rim down the Bright Angel Trail mid-morning, carrying the water, food and fuel she would need for the next seven hours. After arriving at the bottom of the mile-deep canyon two hours later, she paused to refresh herself at the Colorado River before starting her climb out.

"By the time I reached the Devil's Corkscrew it was starting to get hot," she said describing the nine-mile ascent. "So I just slowed down and kept my mind on the things I'd practiced

while training."

Later at Indian Gardens, still five miles from the top, the determined runner was greeted by her daughter, Krystal Potter Lemman, who had been waiting to accompany her mother the rest of the way. "At that point mom was getting tired but I never doubted she would make it," Krystal said.

During the run, Potter thought about her great grandfather, who at age 22 was a topographer with the 1872 Powell Expedition as it explored the Grand Canyon. "It was as though he were right there with me," she remarked.

Back on the top a few hours later, the



Photo contributed by Teresa Potter

RRHS' chemistry teacher Teresa Brown Potter poses at the Colorado River, the half-way point on her 18-mile run through the Grand Canyon.

tired but happy teacher celebrated with her family at one of the canyon's restaurants. In all she had run 18 miles and covered nearly 9,000 feet of

vertical gain. "Well, at least there were only two hills the whole time," she joked.

Arizona's Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Wonders of the

Natural World. Up to 18 miles across with an average depth of one mile, the park is visited by nearly five million people each year.

Grades 3-5 track meet builds strength, character

By Mark Dittmar

Mountain View Elementary

"On your mark... get set... go!"

The Rich River Athletic Club held its 12th Annual Elementary School Track and Field Meet March 31 at the Rio Rico High School Track and Field Stadium. The purpose of the event was to help build the bodies and character of Santa Cruz County's youngest citizens.

More than 600 third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade boys and girls from Rio Rico and Nogales thrilled hundreds of family members, teachers, and peers as they participated in nearly two dozen 50-meter through 800-meter races, long jumps,

softball throws, and an impromptu relay race.

"I was pretty nervous," confessed Mt. View fifth grade student Paulina Fontes, the first place winner in the girls' division of the 100-meter dash, "but I just tried my best and well, I guess it worked out."

In addition to the afternoon's student events, an adult-miler, designed to inspire the youngsters was run by six community members and a teacher. "It was a lot of fun," said MVES' Lewis Hollander as he caught his breath at the finish, "but a mile sure seemed a lot shorter 20 years ago."

This year's Mountain View Elementary's first- through third-place winners

were:

Grade 5, first place: Paulina Fontes (100m); David Jauregui (100m and 400m); Jeshua Murrieta (200m); and Jocelyn Garcia (long jump); David Jauregui, Jamille Giron and Christopher Niebla (400m relay); and Sergio Ramirez (800m).

Grade 5, second place: Jeshua Murrieta (100m); Christopher Niebla (200m); Andrea Cano (200m); Kaylyn Coronado (long jump); and Jocelyn Garcia (soft ball throw).

Third place: Albert Bustamante (100m and 200m); Jamille Giron (100m and 400m); and Kaylyn Coronado (100m).

Grade 4, first place: Alexa Fernandez, Ariadne Tapia, and Ariann Tapia (400m



Photo by Mark Dittmar

Mt. View fifth graders Kaylyn Coronado, left, and Paulina Fontes congratulate one another after winning ribbons at the 2017 Rich River Track and Field Meet.

relay). Second place: Iliana Tadeo (long jump); and Santiago Rojo (800m). Third place: Fernanda Pena (400m).

Grade 3, first place: Santiago De La Riva (50m) and Jessence Oc-

tavio (soft ball throw). Second place: Robert Maldonado (50m) and Omar Ramirez (400m). Third place: Jonathon Cantua (400m).

"Working at the finish line I saw a lot of emotion," said

Michele Titcomb, the event's time-keeping assistant. "Joy, pride, determination, confidence, self-satisfaction...it was a very rewarding sight."



Photos by Mark Dittmar
Right: Irma Oliveros,
Mountain View's
teacher of the year,
reads after school
with fifth grader
Braulio Molina.

Left: Georgina
Frownfelter, Mountain
View's staff person of
the year, helps fifth
graders Eileen Acosta
and Angela Atrian
with their library as-
signments.

Mt. View names top teacher, staff member

By Mark Dittmar

Mountain View Elementary

In April, Irma Oliveros won recognition as Mountain View Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Here she shares some of her thoughts on education.

• How long have you been in education and in what grades have you taught?

For six years I've taught a range of students from kindergarten through tenth grade. For the last few years I've been teaching fourth grade.

• Why did you become a teacher?

I was fortunate to grow up in a family that valued education, and had a number of inspiring teachers who made me want to be like them. Teaching gives me the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives

of my students.

• Is there something that attracts you to fourth grade?

A fourth grader's curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm about almost everything at school attract me to this age-group. I also enjoy the challenge of helping these concrete thinkers learn at higher, more abstract levels.

• What is your philosophy in education?

My philosophy is simple: all children can be successful in school. To help make this happen, I have to teach using different approaches since not all children learn the same way. I also believe it's important to teach with enough enthusiasm that students are compelled to learn with equal excitement.

• What advice would you give to someone just

starting out in the field?

My advice would be to always look for the positive in your students; create a student-centered environment; and try to learn from other teachers. Collaboration is a key component of continuous improvement.

Gina Frownfelter, Mountain View's classified staff of the year, is known for her warm smile and welcoming heart. Here she shares some of her thoughts on being the school librarian.

• When did you start working in District 35 and what positions have you held?

I have been working in the district since 2008. Before transferring to the library as a media specialist, I worked as a reading interventionist for eight years.

• What are some of the less obvious ways the MVES library benefits its students?

In addition to the library being a place where students can find information, resources, and instruction, it helps them gain new knowledge, develops their enjoyment of reading and their social skills.

• Can you describe a typical day in the life of an elementary school librarian?

Students arrive at 7:10 a.m. to use our computers, read, work on their school assignments, check out books, or play educational board games. At 7:40 I begin teaching classes on how to use the library, do research projects, and access reference materials. I read to children, help them with book projects. The rest of the day I plan lessons and shelve and repair books.

It is a full day and very rewarding!

• What is one thing you do to cultivate a love for reading in MV students?

The key to inspiring children to love reading is to make the lessons fun, engaging, and purposeful. I like students to interact and participate as much as possible during library hour.

• Unlike a self-contained classroom teacher, you see every student in the school. What would you like them to remember most about their library experience when they leave MVES?

I want them to remember the library as the heart of our school, the place where they came to learn, socialize, and access information. Also to remember this as a place where they are always welcome.



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Knowledge, skill on view at conferences



By Patti Schmalzel

Rio Rico High School

The Rio Rico High School Career and Technical Education department offers 11 programs of study for students to become college and career ready before graduating.

Each program of study has a corresponding Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) for students to improve their skills in leadership and civic responsibility. Students plan and participate in a variety of career and service projects throughout the year.

During the spring semester, they have the option to compete at state-wide conferences within their CTSO area. These competitions give students the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skill development within

their program.

Careers Through Culinary Arts Program (CCAP)

competition was held on Feb. 4 and March 18 at Paradise Valley High School. Adriana Garcia was selected as a Top 10 Junior, placing first in Arizona. She won an all-expense paid trip to New York's Monroe College to participate in their culinary arts Boot Camp during August.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

competed at the Westin La Paloma on April 10-12, 2017. Results from this competition included:

Gold medal (fifth in state) culinary arts team event, Adriana Garcia, Alejandra Jaime, Maria Moreno.

Silver medal (second in state) baking and pastry, Victoria Mercado. Gold medal (third in state) front of the house, Victoria Soto. Silver medal front of the house, Ashley Quiroz.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

competed at Westin La Paloma on April 17-19



Photo by Patti Schmalzel

RRHS students from left, Alejandra Jaime, Maria Moreno, Adriana Garcia, Ashley Quiroz, Victoria Mercado and Victoria Soto won state at the April FCCLA State Competition.

2017. Results from this competition included: third place in accounting, Jonah McCoy.

FBLA also competed at Eastern Arizona College on Feb. 2. Results from this competition included these first place winners: network design, Isaac Herrera, Michael Chacon and Emilio Rojas; business calculations, Edward Urena; client service, Sebastian Valencia.

Sales presentation, Man-

uel Pena; global business, Valeria Arvizu and Manuel Pena. Second place in management information systems: Victoria Salcedo and Jesus Gonzalez.

Third place: computer problem solving, Carlos Ruentes; graphic design, Tyler Atkinson, Roberto Flores and Brandon Moreno; third place in teamwork, Viviana Banda, Aniza Estrada and Victor Rodriguez.

Future Health Professionals (HOSA)

competed at the Westin La Paloma April 19-21. Results for this were first place community awareness, Yamini Verma and Alejandra on CPR and first aid; third place community emergency response team, Leslie Encinas and Ruby Garcia. Both teams will compete at Nationals in Orlando, Fla., this summer.

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Future chefs excel in competition

By Tonya Yanez

Calabasas School



Photo by Carol Cullen

Here are the 2017 chef contestants, from left: Maria Jose Rojo (Mountain View, grade 4, banana muffins), Martin Echeverria Fuentes (Calabasas, grade 1, spaghetti), Asiela Martinez (San Cayetano, grade 4, gluten free breakfast burrito), Amelie Lopez (Mountain View, grade 5, sweet carrot waffles), Sophia Jaramillo Camargo (Calabasas, grade 4, salad of fruits, vegetables), Alyssa Martinez (San Cayetano, grade 3, gluten free apple pancakes), Melina Garcia-Tinoco (Mountain View, grade 3, mushroom eggs), Andrea Padilla (Calabasas, grade 4, greatest granola), Angel Barbosa (Mountain View, grade 3, mac ritz), Zxavier Huerta (Calabasas, grade 1, cheesy Italian sweet potato bites).

What do you want to be when you grow up? Many young students dream of becoming a fireman, a police officer, or soldier, a ballerina, or even a princess, but at Calabasas School, some students are hoping to be a chef!

Sodexo, a company working with the district to provide breakfast and lunch meals for students, created a competition to encourage students to think about possible career choices.

Javier Campos, Sodexo food service director and manager of the competition, said, "The competition is a child-friendly 'chef competition' in which students submit recipes.

"Finalists are chosen from each elementary school to create their recipes in a live competition. Entries are judged on taste, presentation, originality, healthiness, and ease of preparation."

Winners include:

SEE CHEFS / PAGE 14

Talented youth search strong at middle school

By Tonya Yanez

Calabasas School

Calabasas School is prepping their students to become future leaders. Recently, 14 students from Calabasas participated in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. They did so by taking the SATs along with high school seniors in November and January.

"Any middle school student who has the opportunity to take part in the SAT assessment puts themselves in a great position to do well once they are in high school," said Principal John Fanning. "This is a wonderful opportunity, and I am extremely proud of the students who took part in this initiative."

Seven seventh grade students and seven eighth grade students earned scores ranging from 810 to 1,020 out of a senior level test with the maximum score of 1,600.

Two eighth grade students qualified in both math and reading

to participate in Johns Hopkins summer programs, and a third qualified in math. Four seventh grade students qualified for summer programs in both math and reading, and one seventh grade student qualified in math.

"I believe that the SATs are important because it makes us more prepared for high school and less nervous about the test," said Alicia Cabrera, seventh grade participant. "It also helps us to see how much we know, what we need to focus on more, and to be more confident in ourselves."

Paula Enriquez, seventh grade, applied and was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of California at Santa Cruz for a three-week program in Physics of Sports and Literature.

"I am really excited to go to UCSC," said Enriquez. "I'm really happy I was accepted because it's a once in a lifetime opportunity that will help me a lot in high school. This motivates me to work harder."



Photo by Carol Cullen

The participants of the SAT testing this year are proud of their job well done. Kneeling from left: Diego S. Lizarraga, Maria Romero, Brandon D. Switalski, Vanya Gupta, Ruben Rojo. Back from left: Jesus Mercado, Fernando Villaescusa, Rodrico Valenzuela, America Mascareno, Alicia Cabrera, Sebastian Montanez, Paula Enriquez, Kathie Bailey (Teacher). Not pictured: Peyton Lunderville, Demetrio Tolan

Students portray notable persons from history



By Jennifer Alejos

Calabasas School

Kathie Bailey has had the distinct honor of teaching our gifted students at all of the elementary schools. She retired May 26 to spend more time with family, and she leaves us with a beautiful “Night of the Notables” annual event.

Her elementary students came to Cala-

basas School to present their research by stepping into the shoes of their esteemed person from history or current news.

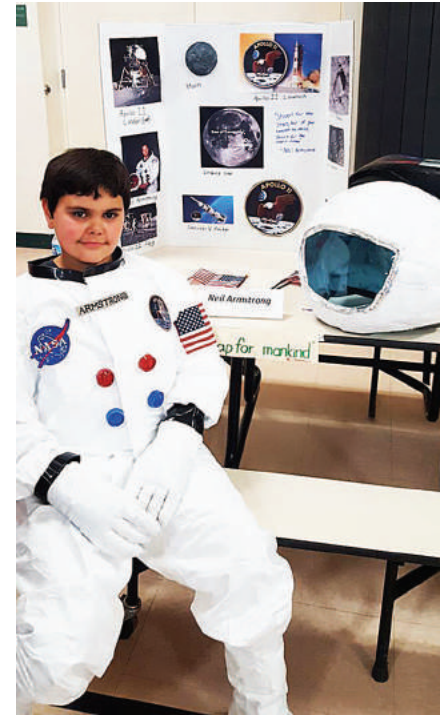
Georgia O’Keefe (portrayed by Brianna Bustamante, San Cayetano) and Julia Child (portrayed by Victoria Bustamante, Calabasas) graced the cafeteria with artwork and cupcakes.

Margaret Mead (portrayed by Johana Holman, San Cayetano), Rachel Carson (portrayed by Alexandra Hernandez, Calabasas), and Albert Einstein (portrayed by Hector Estrada, San Cayetano; and Sebastian Vejar, Mountain View) wowed the crowd with their knowledge of science.

Neil Armstrong (portrayed by Stefen

Kemp, Mountain View, and Angel Godinez, Calabasas) and Muhammed Ali (portrayed by David Juaregui, Mountain View) shared their triumphs of perseverance.

The students benefited from this thematic teaching unit by tying in their academic skills with their creativity. The teacher motivates and coaches them to use higher-level thinking skills to analyze information, evaluate what’s necessary for their project, and then bring their research to life with artwork, technology, or even presenting to an audience as a person they want to learn more about to succeed in life.



Photos by María Hernández

Left: Third grader at Calabasas, Marcelo Ibarra as Walt Disney, famous cartoonist and builder of imaginary worlds. Right: Fifth grader at Mountain View, Stefen Kemp as Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon.

Special-needs students benefit from dedicated care

By Jennifer Alejos

Calabasas School

If you step into Heather Wales’ special education classroom at Calabasas School, you might see students making ice cream, or learning about science, measuring, and volume.

The class is hands-on and full of love. The staff appreciates everyone’s gifts and personality. The students express and share that love with their own families and the rest of the school.

In April, they spent weeks cutting and building giant pom-pom flowers for staff appreciation day in May.

Among the staff, Tommy Romano, the middle school PE teacher, focuses on what they can do, not what they can’t. He involves them in activities at their level so they can play and have fun with the general education students.

From preschool to eighth grade at Calabasas, each child has a team of committed professional staff to help support him or her to gain the tools to be successful in school. The team, of course, includes the parent and the general education teacher, and if necessary, an interpreter.

The staff looks to the child’s needs in communication, such

as listening, understanding and expressing thoughts. They check for concept readiness with academics such as understanding the concepts of “same” and “different.”

They also address social/emotional skills, gross and fine motor skills, adaptive or life skills, and age appropriate development such as being able to attend to food, clothes, and bathroom needs.

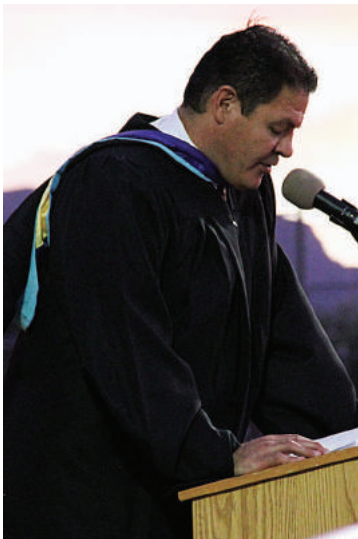
At home, the biggest support the child can receive is the family’s time and attention. Something as simple as reading stories together helps the child learn communication and how to interact with others.



Contributed photo

Representing preschool to eighth grade, here is the special education team. Jose Peraza is at front. The back row, from left, are Sheba Paspula, Sherly Kandikatla, Heather Wales (Huerta), Silvia Valenzuela, Rosa Maria Cardenas, Lizzy Naff and Shweta Dubey.

Largest-ever class graduates from RRHS



Photos by Carol Cullen

School District Superintendent David Verdugo, left, speaks during graduation which was held May 25. The school had 302 seniors graduate, the most ever. 2. Seniors Hallie DeWitt, left, and Allie Schadler show the thrill of the evening. 3. Janice Garcia (left) and Marlee Baxter enjoy the processional arrival. 4. Christian Armando Valencia, left, and Brianna Aguila pause a moment for a wave. 5. 'Mischief managed' is an eye-catching comment.



Yelitza H. Meza sings the national anthem as the JROTC presents the colors at the start of graduation. Center, Class Salutatorian Areli Diaz speaks to the seniors. Right, Class Valedictorian Jonah McCoy offers inspiration.

Rio Rico High School earns A+ for excellence



By Len Johnson

San Cayetano Elementary

Rio Rico High School has been named an A+ School of Excellence™ by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

Jodi Chesbro, the lead judge for the foundation, called Rio Rico High School “a gem.”

“In classes the judges observed excel-

lent teaching and engaged learning across the campus,” Chesbro said. “Graduation rates and daily attendance are at an all-time high. The staff are happy, the students are successful, and the leadership is extraordinary. Rio Rico High School deserves the A+ designation.”

Chesbro wrote a glowing report of RRHS to the foundation after visiting the campus for three days with three other judges.

Arizona’s high school graduation rate is 77.4 percent, according to the Arizona Department of Education. RRHS’s graduation rate is 92 percent.

“Students at Rio Rico are happy and

successful. With the introduction of Cambridge University (a challenging college preparatory curriculum), more than 78 percent of the students pass the difficult exams, compared with the national average of 20 percent.”

Earning the A+ award is a grueling and rigorous process. The written application is over 50 pages long.

Detailed accounts of all aspects of the school are documented, from test scores to school climate and community involvement.

The Arizona Educational Foundation named just 39 public schools A+ schools in 2017. According to

the Arizona Department of Education, there are 1,924 public schools in the state.

RRHS joins San Cayetano Elementary and Coatumundi Middle School as A+ schools from Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District. Calabasas was tapped as A+ in 2013.

“This award is about the heart of our staff and students,” said RRHS Principal Shelly Vroegh. “We stay positive and give each other and the students positive things to look forward to—that’s how you grow,” she said.

Vroegh joined the school in 2011. The A+ judges credited her for keeping teachers and bringing success

to the school. Vroegh, who can be seen at weekend RRHS sporting events and various other school functions, is quick to dish the praise off to her staff.

“They’re always striving to be better, and we’re still not there yet,” Vroegh said. “But I have to say that we didn’t realize all we’d accomplished until we read back the application. Then the impact of what was going on here hit us.”

Enrollment has climbed to 1,204 students, up from 1,040 three years ago, according to Vroegh.

While Vroegh is proud of higher level programs such as Cambridge, she also cited enrichment courses the school of-

fers that she believes is spurring enrollment and student success.

Those include Chinese, digital arts, 3-D modeling, psychology, art history, business, informational technology and a host of other electives and test preparation programs.

Veteran high school chemistry teacher Teresa Potter says she’s thankful for Vroegh’s leadership. Potter’s been at the high school since 1995.

“She’s persistent, tough when needed and spirit building,” Potter said. “Teachers, students and administration work optimally together to address our unique challenges—hence the A+ rating.”

After 20 years, campus trees show substantial growth

By Len Johnson

San Cayetano Elementary

Leo Felix recently strolled across San Cayetano Elementary’s large campus, admiring all the trees he planted there 20 years ago.

They are towering, park-like trees, providing shade and conversation pieces to all.

Some, like a massive cottonwood near the basketball courts, loom over 40 feet tall. It makes Felix proud. He planted that tree as a foot-tall seedling along with over 100 others at San Cayetano in 1997.

“I did it in a month’s time,” Felix said. “I got a little help from family, high

school kids, and a backhoe. It’s neat to see how they’ve grown up and taken shape around here.”

Felix planted Nogal (walnut) trees, for which the twin cities of Nogales were named. He also planted Cypress, Elm, Arizona pine and a variety of other species on the San Cayetano campus.

He planted about 50 others at Mountain View Elementary and Rio Rico High School.

“We needed more shade and I feel they set a mood,” Felix said. “After it rains, you can just feel these things breathe. The air is alive, it’s just great.”

Felix used a grant from the U.S. Depart-



Photo by Len Johnson

Leo Felix is dwarfed by a 40-foot-tall cottonwood he planted as a seedling on the San Cayetano campus 20 years ago.

ment of Agriculture to fund the project.

A life-long teacher and musician, Felix said he took off one summer in the late 90s to tour with his band.

He didn’t make it back in time to renew his teaching contract. So, he took a job as a school “greens-keeper.”

“At first I asked for a dozen or so trees,

but they had more and a group in Nogales helped me get funding, so we went for it. I just kept planting and planting.”

Felix went on to teach in Rio Rico and

Nogales. He loves southern Arizona and helps out with other community improvement projects in the U.S. and across the border in Nogales, Sonora.

Junior Honor Society builds strong character



By Renee Curren

Coatimundi MS

At Coatimundi Middle School we have a group of students who have committed themselves to extraordinary ideals of community and citizenship.

They are members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), an organization that considers itself “more than just an honor roll. (We) serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship... since 1929.”

Language arts and social studies teacher Claudia St. Clair has spear-headed NJHS as the chapter advisor for the past two years. She has been involved in National Honor Society since 1966 when she was inducted as a junior in high school.

St. Clair believes that when students become involved with NJHS, “they recognize that they are the future of our society.” By emphasizing the five main purposes of NJHS, “we promote and educate the entire person,” said St. Clair.



Photo by Claudia St. Clair

NJHS students present a check of \$1,294 to Crossroads Nogales Mission from their charitable donation drive at CTMS. Kneeling (front), are Sofia Villanes, Avrille Giron, America Chacon, and Yamileth Barcelo. First row standing, Paulina Soto, Karis Garcia, Francia Chacon, and Michelle Ochoa. Second row standing, Jose Chacon, Dagoberto Rodriguez, Melissa (Crossroads Mission), and Gabriella Rodriguez.

NJHS students are required to accumulate 20 hours of community service per quarter. This commitment has been met with a variety of activities that help our community, such as voluntary service at Crossroads Nogales Mission, helping with community clean-ups sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, hosting blood drives for the American Red Cross, and being active in student council, churches and sports.

St. Clair told of one particularly proud moment this fall when the CTMS chapter gave Crossroads Nogales Mission \$1,294 to use for holiday dinners. The money was raised through generous donations from Coatimundi students.

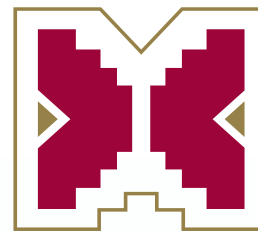
“My favorite community service has

been going to help at Crossroads Mission in Nogales,” says Francia Chacon, CTMS NJHS president. She credits her involvement as a source of self-confidence and leadership skills. “NJHS has definitely made me much more mature and responsible,” she said.

Chacon credits her older brother, Jose Chacon, as her inspiration to join NJHS. Jose, a former CTMS student, is now a Rio Rico High School NHS member. “His achievements in NJHS made me want to do the same,” she said.

Both of Francia’s older siblings, Jose and America, are former CTMS NJHS members and are regular RRHS NHS volunteers at Crossroads Nogales Mission on Saturday

SEE HONOR / PAGE 14



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Guest speakers highlight 8th grade transition

By Reneé Curren

Coatimundi MS

When the 2016-2017 school year was drawing to a close, eighth-grade students prepared for their transition from middle school to high school. Students look forward to the formal ceremony that recognizes this shift in enrollment.

Separate ceremonies for both Calabasas and Coatimundi Middle School were held at Rio Rico High School. The ceremony concluded with the high school principal accepting from the middle school principal the class of 2021 (261 students from both schools).

In May of each year, student excitement abounds. When asked to describe transition in one word, “exciting” was their first choice, followed by “fun,” “amazing,” “change,” “opportunity,” “achievement,” and even “nervous” and “scary.”

They seem to understand that their academic and community experiences in middle school

have prepared them for this transition to high school and they are ready.

“Coatimundi has been the perfect education for me to prepare for high school,” said one CTMS student, and another, “I feel like they prepared me well at Coatimundi Middle School.”

Others expressed apprehension at facing the increased academic demands and rigor saying, “I’m just barely getting through now,” and, “I’ve heard there is a lot of homework and responsibility.”

Some students are feeling confident because they will be joining older siblings and friends who will be able to support them as freshmen. Most are expecting to feel challenged and are hoping for support from their new teachers.

The person to motivate confidence and conviction in the transitioning eighth grade was their guest speaker, Allie Schadler, a former CTMS student. Schadler “optimizes the value of hard work...a



Photo by Reneé Curren

As part of their commitment to excellence and completion, CTMS eighth-grade students sign the Commitment to Graduate (C2G) banners displayed in their multi-purpose room. Here students gather for an informal photo op with their banners.

characteristic we consistently try to instill in our students,” said CTMS principal Lerona Dickson.

Two honored guests were also to be present during CTMS transition: Rosanna Gabaldon, Arizona

House Representative (District 2) and Ruben Reyes representing Congressman Raul Grijalva (District 3).

“The reward is seeing how the students have grown and developed since sixth grade,” said Dick-

son. “We have exceptional students and it is nice to see them advancing to the next stage of their educational life ... They are good kids and we are excited to celebrate their transition into high school!”

SEAMAN

Continued from Page 1

at Mountain View Elementary in between.

Elaine Lewis was principal at two of the schools Seaman taught at, Tubac and San Cayetano. She calls Seaman the “calm, underlying, steady heartbeat of the school.”

“She was diligent, prepared, creative, respectful and reliable,” Lewis remembered fondly. “She has quietly yet forcefully inspired, always maintaining the belief that each child can and will learn and will enjoy doing so.”

Every fall, Seaman would tell colleagues that she was always anxious to get back to school and was never tired of teaching.

The recent loss of her husband has prompted her to move to Iowa to be around family.

She’ll miss the district and the bonds formed here. “I feel we have more togetherness and family support in our district than in larger districts,” Seaman said. “We know each other by name, we call the superintendent by his first name—everyone is helping each other out.”

She has taught first, second and third grade in the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District at Tubac, San Cayetano and Mountain View Elementary.

For the last 15 years, she’s been a reading intervention teacher and, most recently, has managed San Cayetano’s reading intervention program.

“She really cares about what she does and gets kids reading,” said Lily Montenegro, San Cay-

etano first grade teacher. “She never quits on these kids and they all want to read with her.”

Kindergarten teacher Melinda Scanlan describes Seaman as “tenacious” and a “supportive leader.”

While Seaman is moving to the Midwest, she won’t be completely settled. She loves to travel, especially to places with wide open spaces, such as Alaska.

She also plans to spend a month each winter back in Santa Cruz County. A friend is providing her “cheap rent” in Tumacácori.

“It will be an adjustment, I know, going back to winter,” Seaman said with a smile. “That’s why I’ll be back every year. The weather and the people are tough to leave.”

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AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

Areli Diaz. Students of the year including the following: English, Jose Velasquez; math, Jonah McCoy; science, Diaz; social studies, Ruben Martinez; fine arts, Ritchie Brennan; Helpful Hawk, Adrian Valle; Spanish, Luis Daniel Romero.

Also, PE, Sean Fanning; computer maintenance, Isaac Herrera; culinary arts, Victoria Mercado; JROTC, James Quijada; law enforcement, Jose M. Rivas; nursing services/CAN, Paloma Orozco; sports medicine, Eyline Velasquez; and Cima SOAR, Ashley Quiroz.

The principal's award went to Alex Arizpe, and Josh Godinez won the assistant principal award.

Numerous local groups awarded scholarships to graduating seniors. The Shipley Family Foundation scholarship, worth \$1,000 each, went to Ruben Bojorquez, Clarissa De La Ossa, Luis Oviedo and Josh Manriquez.

The Rio Rico Rotary likewise awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Diaz, Justin Fischer, and Manuel Pena. Cristina Molina garnered a Tubac Rotary scholarship worth \$1,500. Winning \$1,000 Tubac Rotary awards were Analaura Villegas and Oviedo. A combined Rio Rico/Tubac Rotary Comeback Kid scholarship, worth \$1,000, was awarded to Martin Murrieta.

Sodexo's \$3,000 award went to Mercado. The Mariposa Community Health Center \$2,500 scholarships were given to Sam Sneed and Molina. Celine Alvarez and Jasmin Aguilar won \$1,000 Santa Cruz Realtor Benevolent Foundation Scholarships. The Santa Cruz County 4-H Scholarship, valued at \$2,000 each, was awarded to Marlee Baxter, Aaron Cluff and Halle DeWitt.

Cesar Castillo won the American Legion Madera Post 131 award, worth \$1,000. Baely Ahumada won the \$1,000 award from the VFW Santa Cruz Post 2066. Villegas won a \$500 award from the American Legion post. The Military Officers Association of America \$1,500 scholarship went to Quijada. Daniela Havenar won the \$500 LTC B. Tom Dingwall JROTC Scholarship.

Sneed won the \$1,000 Mediacom World Class Scholarship. Andres Quintero won the \$500 Alpha Gam-



Photo by Carol Cullen

Tubac and Rio Rico Rotary Clubs present scholarship awards. From left: Martin Murrieta (\$1000), Luis Oviedo (\$1000), Byron Thompson (Tubac Rotary), Areli Diaz (\$1500), Tony Vartola (Rio Rico Rotary), Analaura Villegas (\$1000), Manuel Peña (\$1000), Cristina Molina (\$1500), Justin Fischer (\$1000).

ma Rho award. Cristina Molina received the \$1,000 GFWC Nogales Women's Club Scholarship. Eyline Velasquez and Fischer won Unisource scholarships, worth \$1,500 each. Liberty Utilities awarded Isabel Campos a \$500 scholarship. Awards of \$1,000 each from the Rio Rico Property Owner's Association went to Brennan, Clarrisa Aguilar and De La Ossa.

Campos won a \$2,200 Bob Brubaker scholarship. Diaz won a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by Rich River Athletics Club. DeWitt, Luis Rubio and De La Ossa each won Santa Cruz County Cowbells scholarships worth \$1,000 each. The Green Valley Elks Lodge awarded Orozco an award worth \$880, and another to Villegas worth \$745. Villegas also won a \$2,000 Hi-Art Scholarship from the Tubac Center of the Arts.

The Asociacion de Maquiladores de Sonora awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Sneed, Aguilar, Bojorquez, Jacqueline Molina, and Villegas. Winners of the Jando Meza Memorial Scholarship, worth \$750 each, include Bojorquez, Victoria Lee Valencia, Rubio, DeWitt, German F. Arana, Fischer and Fanning.

Valeria Cabello won the \$1,000

Oaks Scholarship. The Santa Cruz County Community Foundation Endowed Scholarship, worth \$1,000, went to Victor Rodriguez. Tubac Fire Department awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Ruben Martinez. The \$1,000 Nogales Rotary Club - William I. Rothstein Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Quijada.

Ralph Romero, McCoy and Alexandra Schadler each won \$500 Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Scholarships. The Sgt. Alex Bermudez Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$500, went to Fanning and Rubio. Vaughn Francisco won the \$1,000 Friends of SCVUSD, CTE Scholarship. Aguilar won the MLK Essay Competition, worth \$750.

A \$5,000 scholarship provided by the Adelante Foundation went to Velasquez. Villegas won the \$1,500 Giumarra Companies' Scholarship. She, along with Valeria Torres, won \$1,000 Vanessa Huerta Foundation scholarships. The Nogales Fire Dept. awarded Aniza Estrada a \$1,000 scholarship.

University awards

Colleges and universities contributed many thousands of dollars in scholarship money this

year, as usual.

From the University of Arizona, Damian Chavira won the University Fine Arts Tuition Award, worth \$8,000, renewable for up to four years. He also won the UA Julius Humphrey Jazz Scholarship, valued at \$1,000. The following students won Wildcat Excellence awards: Karen Cruz, Brennan, Campos, Quijada and Jose Velasquez won \$8,000;

Celine Alvarez, DeWitt, Orozco, Gemma Rodriguez, Sneed, Zuleyka Tabaraz won \$5,000 each; Catherine Joy Demotica, Adlemy Yocupicio Herrera and Rafael Romero each won \$4,000; McCoy won an award valued at \$10,000; Keven Pierce won a \$3,500 award; Melanie Quintero-Cardenas won a \$2,500 prize; and Lizette Gonzalez won a \$2,000 award. Alicia Contreras won a one-time \$1,000 award.

McCoy and Alli Richardson won an Arizona State University award worth \$10,000. Other students with ASU scholarships included the following: Cruz, Campos, Molina and Brennan walked away with \$8,000 scholarships each; \$6,000 prizes went to Gonzalez, Ruben Bojorquez, Sneed, Orozco and Diaz; a \$3,000 award was

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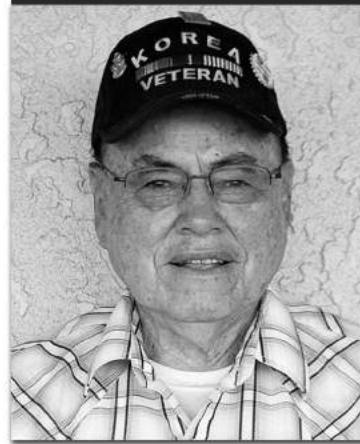
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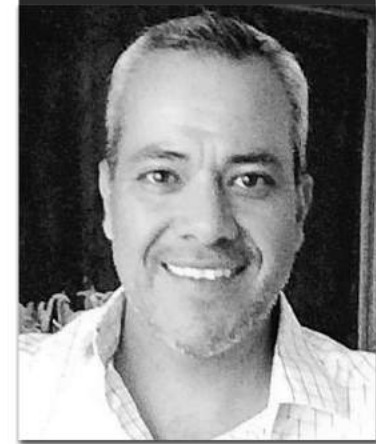
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AWARDS

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won by Romero; and \$2,000 awards were taken home by Yuliana Diaz, Alicia Contreras, Javier Cota and Eileen Acosta.

From Northern Arizona University, German Arana, Acosta, Rosalina Astrain, Magdiel Brencomo, Victoria Chacon, Yuliana Diaz, Lizette Gonzalez, Claudia Gracia, Manriquez, Molina, Rodriguez and Rafael Romero each won \$4,000 Dean's Scholarships.

NHS Lumberjack Scholarships worth more than \$10,000 went to Luis Quizada, Yocupicio Herrera, Cruz, DeWitt, Patrick Hays, Arlin Palafox and

Sneed. NHS Presidential Scholarships, valued at \$7,000 each, went to Alvarez, Valeria Arvizu, Brennan, Areli Diaz, Orozco, Victoria Salcedo and Eylene Velasquez.

Grand Canyon University was also very active in handing scholarships. The GCU 2017 President Scholarship, worth \$7,750, was won by Orozco, Yocupicio Herrera, Cruz, Francisco Vaughn, Areli Diaz, Sneed, Romero, Yulliana Diaz and Valeria Cabello. The university's Dean Scholarship, worth \$5,750, went to Emily Rivadeneyra, Fanning, Oviedo, De La Ossa, Valencia and Natalie Burgos.

The GCU Provost Scholarship, worth \$6,750, was awarded to Alvarez,

Anasofia Robles, Valeria Escobar, Chacon, Eylene Velasquez and Fischer. The GCU Faculty Scholarship, valued at \$4,750, went to Havenar, Acosta, Palafox and Massiel Mendoza. And the \$3,750 Antelope Scholarship was won by Ana Santacruz.

Athletic, military awards

A number of athletic scholarships were announced during the ceremony, as well. Janice Garcia and Oviedo won \$2,500 scholarships from Pima Community College. Valeria Torres and Manriquez won \$10,000 scholarships from Benedictine University in Arizona. Schadler

won a full-ride scholarship at the University of Washington amounting to \$50,000. Ulysses Puig and Jesus Vega won \$22,000 awards from Lindenwood University in Illinois.

Matthew Downs won a \$14,000 scholarship from Defiance College in Ohio. Baxter won a \$17,000 award from Tabor College in Kansas. De La Ossa won a \$6,300 scholarship from Valley City State University in North Dakota. Valencia won a \$14,000 award from Central Christian College in Kansas. Fischer won a \$2,000 grant from Paradise Valley Community College. And Arana and Martin Ochoa won \$12,000 scholarships from Arizona Christian.

A number of military scholarships were announced, too. Ahumada won a \$250,000 scholarship from the G.I. Bill. Carlos Varela garnered a \$149,000 G.I. Bill scholarship. Vaughn Franciso and Cooper Stern won \$100,000 awards from the U.S. Navy G.I. Bill.

The U.S. Marines Distinguished Athlete Award went to Schadler. Fischer was given the U.S. Marines Scholastic Excellence Award. The U.S. Marines Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence went to Brennan. And a Congressional Certificate of Recognition Award, from the office of Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva, went to Ahumada.

HONOR

Continued from Page 10

mornings. As St. Clair puts it, "Good habits die hard."

Students who would

like to be NJHS members must carry a 3.5 grade average and manage their way through a demanding application process that showcases for a faculty panel their willingness to work. The induction cer-

emony is filled with symbolic reverence of candles and white roses. A key note speaker is typically a previous CTMS NJHS member to connect with inductees as someone who has walked in their shoes.

St. Clair has added to the induction ceremony the JROTC color guard and sabre guard from Rio Rico High School, many of whom are CTMS NJHS alumni. They are more than formal decoration,

however. "I want the inductees to feel important," says St. Clair, and indeed they do. The CTMS jazz band also complements the event with background music before and after the ceremony.

Year	Student	School	Entry
2014	Dior Velez	San Cayetano	Pesto parmesan Italian sandwich
2015	Sandra Escobar	Peña Blanca	Salad
2016	Marcelo Ibarra Vallejo	Calabasas	Mexican huevo bagel
2017	Martin Echeverria Fuentes	Calabasas	Spaghetti

CHEF

Continued from Page 6

Heather Wales, a parent of a contestant said, "Watching my son participate in this event made me proud. He took on the challenge of preparing and cooking a yummy

but healthy snack against 11 other students and he did it without hesitation.

"He now wants to help out in the kitchen as often as possible. I believe that this event showed him that he can achieve anything he sets his mind to."

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Nogales International

Parents' 'tech' nights boost abilities, skills



By Tonya Yanez

Calabasas School

In order to keep up with the world of technology, Calabasas School has introduced a new program, "The Teching Out Santa Cruz Parent Night," and it's been very successful so far. Jennifer Prusak, district technology integration

specialist, is leader and creator of the program.

"The Teching Out Santa Cruz Parent Night" is an opportunity for parents to learn about the technology that their students are using in the district, and how they can help their child succeed at home using our digital tools.

It all started last year with staff members who were offered monthly tech training sessions in which they could share ideas, learn new strategies, and practice new learning techniques.

This year training was opened for parents as well. Calabasas has been the first site

to participate so far.

"If you are looking for ways to help your kids at home or just needing some technology knowledge yourself, next (school) year Calabasas will be holding these Tech Nights once a month and everyone is welcome," said Prusak.

The only thing you need to bring is "an eagerness to learn and a desire to have fun with technology," Prusak added, "We are very excited about the success and participation we've had so far. We hope to continue next year to help all of Santa Cruz in becoming more Tech savvy, and to help all of our students succeed."



Photo by John Fanning

The last tech night was so successful that they ran out of places for everyone.



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Digital media teacher arrives

By Patti Schmalzel

Rio Rico High School

Rio Rico High School staff welcomes Jesse Fahrenz as the new digital communications teacher in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department starting in August.

Fahrenz obtained his Bachelor of Arts in graphic design from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colo. He worked as an intern in a print shop where he designed and produced banners, billboards, and other large advertisements.

Fahrenz is excited to be teaching classes in graphic design and digital communications. Students in his classes will learn about the impact that increased use of digital media through advertising has on consumers.

They will also learn about the consumer's roles and responsibilities when using various forms of social media. His students will use computer software and digital/video cameras to communicate ideas "to others in the form of brochures, posters, and other



Photo by Patti Schmalzel

With a background in graphic design, Jesse Fahrenz will be teaching that subject along with digital communications at Rio Rico High School when school resumes in August.

class projects."

Fahrenz's students will learn how to provide "live streaming" of various announcements and activities for the district and will create the 2018 RRHS yearbook.

His wife, Monique, teaches third grade at San Cayetano Elementary School.

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