Specials Night: Celebrating art, music, PE, band and computers

By Renée Curren

A celebration recognizing the team of Specialists who provide structured lessons for students outside of their regular classroom at Peña Blanca was held after school in early May. This particular event was the first of its kind, a collaboration of Specialists, and will likely not be the last.

It was called Specials Night, recognizing Jennifer Alejos (art), Emily Stubenport (music), Isaac Davila (computers), Daniel Rodriguez (PE), and Doug Tidabeck (band). Library is also considered a Special but has been recognized year-round during Library Hour. The Folklorico dancers were part of the evening as a performing art.

The Peña Blanca cafeteria took on the feel and mood of a museum. Soft jazz played in the background. Rows of grade level art displays were set up for eye-level browsing. A bank of computers was set up with a master screen to experience the full impact of computer technology. Carefully arranged rows of chairs made for comfortable audience seating facing the stage for musicians, and an obstacle course was set up on the basketball court.

See Specials / Page 14

Regional science fair award nabbed by young students

By Carol Cullen

Yolanda Fuentes’ first grade class won the 3rd place SARSEF Grand Award in the Engineering, Physics and Mathematical Science category at the weeklong 2014 Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Fair held in March at the Tucson Convention Center.

The first grade class answered the science question, “Containers as Speakers -- Which container makes cell phone music the loudest?”

After a series of observations and careful measurements, the class concluded that a ceramic coffee mug proved

See Science / Page 14

INSIDE

Thanks to military 3
Student author praised 5
Healthy eating touted 7
Mileage club at MV 9
Scholarships listed 11

Verdugo is new superintendent

Page 3

Challenging science experiments

Page 6
Contributions by staff are key

By Rodney K. Rich
Superintendent
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

This is the third and last issue of the school year. It’s been another great year here at SCVUSD. Our theme for the district newsletter this year has been health, fitness and nutrition. This issue highlights many of the new initiatives in this area – initiatives that I hope eventually become individual lifelong habits.

You’ll read about ways in which our students stay active throughout the day: brain breaks at Mountain View, jazzercise at San Cayetano and Peña Blanca, the annual student-teacher basketball tournament at Coati mundi, and the year-long Rich River Relays at Coati mundi. Students at Mountain View are highlighted for their work in nutrition – how to build a better breakfast.

In addition to fitness, we always want to showcase our academic accomplishments. You’ll read about our winners in the elementary science fair at Peña Blanca and their eventual win at the regional competition. We’re especially proud of our Mountain View student and her winning essay on immigration, and the letters of appreciation written by students at Calabasas.

And, this is the “graduation” issue. We’re proud of the 260 students leaving our tutelage at Rio Rico High School, now entering the adult world of higher education or workplace. To them, we wish happiness and success.

And, it goes without saying, that none of this would be possible without the contributions of our superb teachers and staff. You’ll read about the “specials” teachers at Peña Blanca. Specials teachers provide instruction outside the regular classroom in areas such as P.E., art, band, computers, and library. Teacher of the year and staff member of the year from Calabasas are featured.

Finally, I am honored to introduce and welcome your incoming superintendent, David Verdugo. In his eight years with SCVUSD, he has worked hard to establish strong, respected professional relationships with our teachers, staff and community. I consider him a valued colleague, and am confident that he will lead SCVUSD to even higher levels of academic achievement than those we’ve achieved thus far.

As a final note, I wish to thank everyone for their support of and contributions to my beloved school district, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35. As Gail and I now spend more time with our children and grandchildren, our hearts will continue to be shared with the students of SCVUSD. Thank you for our time together.

SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 35

This newsletter is published at no cost to tax payers.

Thank you to the Nogales International and to advertisers for their support.

By Manuel C. Coppola
Publisher & Editor

To advertise in your school newsletter please contact:

Mariana Or Carmen
at the Nogales International:
520.375.5760

Wick Communications

268 W. View Point Drive, Nogales, Arizona 85621,
520.375.5760 Fax 520.761.3115
On the web:
www.nogalesinternational.com

Nogales International

Mission Statement

“We believe that everyone will experience successful learning every day.”

This newsletter is published at no cost to tax payers.

Thank you to the Nogales International and to advertisers for their support.

Publisher and editor
Mariana Or Carmen

Editor
Carol Cullen

Design and production
Priscilla Bolanos

Production and editing support
Kathleen Vandervoet
A bittersweet goodbye for middle school

By Tonya Latvala

An early April announcement made at Calabasas Middle School was bittersweet for many of the teachers and staff. The principal, David Verdugo, would not be joining them for another year as principal. Instead, he would be joining them as the new Superintendent of the school district.

Jani George, a seventh grade teacher, announced: “Mr. Verdugo will be sorely missed by all of us at CMS. He is a great leader, administrator, and above all, a great person.

“A quote by Jim Rohn comes to mind when I think of Dave, for he has all of these great attributes. ‘The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.’

“I wish and hope that his new position be all that he wished for and a whole lot more. Also may today’s success be the beginning of tomorrow’s achievements for him.”

This has been a long journey for Mr. Verdugo and the rest of the candidates for the position. A lengthy application process, philosophical essays and required certificate documentation narrowed the field to six finalists.

The six finalists also participated in an interview and a public forum. The SCVUSD No. 35 Governing Board made the final decision to select Mr. Verdugo as the next superintendent.

When asked about the process, Verdugo said, “The process was very detailed and provided me with the opportunity to share my ideas with the board and community about how to continue building on the current success of the district.”

Verdugo was also asked about his reaction when he was notified of his selection. “When I found out that I was the selection I was very excited and humbled. I know that the job is going to be a great challenge, but I know I am very fortunate to be working for one of the best school districts in Arizona.”

Verdugo said one of his first priorities will be developing positive relationships with teachers, staff, students and the community. “The school should be the centerpiece in the community where everyone feels connected, supported, and welcome, even community members who do not have children here. It should be everyone working together, not people working for any one person.”

Of course a job like Superintendent of a school district doesn’t come without concerns.

“The budget is always a concern,” said Verdugo. “I want to maintain the successful programs we have now and be able to keep the staff and teachers we employ. In order to do this, I will be looking into other ways to bring in revenue for the district and continue to look at ways we can be more efficient. It is my goal to support everyone as much as I can and help make SCVUSD No. 35 the best in Arizona.”

Students have the chance to say ‘thanks’

By Tonya Latvala

Students at Calabasas Middle School recently got a chance to say “thank you” and welcome home to military units coming home from deployment.

The idea to do this grew out of our class discussion about “heroes,” a language arts unit in my seventh-grade language arts classes.

Because I was planning to join others in San Diego to welcome home friends and family members who had been deployed, I thought this would be a great opportunity to talk with my students about the military, what they’ve done for us, and why we might consider our returning soldiers as heroes.

So as an opener for a lesson, we discussed the topic, and they then created thank-you and welcome-home note cards with a special note on the back. I eventually delivered the notes to the returning soldiers in San Diego.

The notes were small, but meaningful gesture that made a positive difference in someone else’s life. My students had other opportunities to learn this lesson.

They completed a “Pay it Forward” project. In this they learned that doing something as simple as opening a door for someone, smiling at them, or saying to have a good day, could change that person’s mood, day, or week. The same principle applied to taking 10 minutes to write a thank you note.

“It’s great to know that they (the military) will know people from outside the military support them,” said Jennifer Rojo, seventh grade student, “and that they are not alone in the fight for freedom.”

When given the index cards, the soldiers were shocked and pleased. I received a lot of “Oh, wow, thank you!” Their response meant so much to my students.
Two earn top awards at CMS

By Tonya Latvala

Calabasas Middle School announced their Teacher and Staff Member of the Year. Stan Gillman, seventh and eighth grade math teacher, was selected from among six nominees as Teacher of the Year. Heather Huerta, special education aide, was selected as Staff Member of the Year.

“This year’s nominees were the most we’ve received in seven years,” said Alma De La Riva, CMS administrative assistant. “This is great because it shows how our teachers are able to recognize each other’s hard work and accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom.”

“Education is the key to success! The teaching profession, I feel, is one of the most important in the world,” said Gillman. “I hold the future in my hands. My role, my responsibility as an educator, is to ensure my students get the best possible education they can, because they deserve it.

“I absolutely believe (know) that every student that walks through my door can learn. It is paramount that I figure out how to reach each and every one of them and inspire them to be the best they can be.”

“The quality of work performed by my colleagues at CMS is exceptional, therefore to be chosen by them for classified staff of the year is a humbling experience,” said Huerta. “I love my job and hope to grow with SCVUSD No. 35. The staff and students at CMS have encouraged me to pursue my own goals and to raise my expectations for myself.”

Also of note, Megan Padilla, seventh grade language arts teacher, was selected by her professors at the University of Arizona to receive the “Outstanding Master’s Student in the College of Education” award. Padilla is currently finishing her Master’s in Educational Administration.

Padilla said, “I was invited to serve on a panel of graduate students from the state universities at the Arizona School Administrators Conference. I spoke about my research and the Educational Leadership program. The purpose of the panel was to improve the educational leadership programs in Arizona by focusing on the strengths of the current programs and the areas where we wished we had learned more.”

Staff-student basketball game creates great memories

By Amanda Dunn

What do you remember most about school? Was it solving equations? That teacher who took an interest in your plans for the future? Or was it the encouragement of friends and fellow athletes as you made the final field goal?

School pride, as well as academics, plays an important role in the success of Coatimundi Middle School students.

A game of basketball was held at CTMS between the staff and the girls’ basketball team. The purpose was to create awareness for the 21st Century after school program, support the girls’ basketball team, and give staff and students a chance to show their school spirit.

Laleh Golafshani, art teacher, Jennifer Fischer, sixth grade social studies teacher, and several other students and staff members created positive posters to cheer both sides.

Excited students filled the multipurpose room with their own posters of athletes’ names and positive CTMS slogans. Teachers Leticia Fierro, Toni Schadler and Mary Beach supervised the event which began with a performance of our National Anthem by Wendy Noriega, seventh grade math teacher.

The girls’ basketball team put up a good fight against the staff, but in the end, they were unable to block the staff’s attacks on the basket.

With the support of our community, the help of the staff and the enthusiasm of its students, the event was a great success. These fun, engaging activities teach students how to cheer for one another in a positive way, and to promote student success through school pride.

1. From left, Leticia Fierro, Laleh Golafshani, Andrea Dominguez, Victor Sinohui, Jon Soto, Jesus Ibarra show their school pride by cheering positively.
2. Showing their basketball skills, from left, are Garret Comstock, Jenn Huerta, Shannon Payne, Amanda Dunn and Ray Meeker.
3. Cheering at the game are, from left, Pamela Godinez, Kiara Laborin, Katie Naff and Ana Espinoza.
Rich River Relays: triumph for teamwork

Coatimundi Middle School athletes showed great teamwork and good sportsmanship at Rich River Relays’ final track meet of the season. Thirty-four medals were earned by the Coatimundi team of talented students who divided their time between athletics and academics.

Track is considered to be an individual sport; however, Rich River Relays is a chance for athletes to work as a unit. Runners, jumpers and throwers are required to rely on one another in order to have a successful relay team.

The same is true for coaches and members of the community. Without parent involvement and volunteers from the community, meets like this one would not be possible.

“I appreciate Coatimundi coaches like Mrs. Schadler, head coach; Ms. Williams, throwing coach; and Ms. Dunn, assistant coach, because of their dedication to the success of our student athletes in all areas, academic and athletic,” said parent Luann Ahumada.

“It was fun running with the distance medley team because I was able to cheer for my friends and help them earn second place,” said Emmanuel Chanez, eighth grader. Coatimundi boys and girls were represented in the distance medley relay, a race in which each athlete runs a distance of 1200, 400, 800, and 1600 meters. The girls’ distance medley team earned first place.

“This young, inexperienced team improved throughout the season, and set a school record in the discus,” said volunteer throwing coach Christina Williams.

Samantha Renteria beat the school record of 54 feet, 9 inches, by throwing an amazing 56 feet, 7-1/2 inches. Participating in athletic events, clubs, and programs like 21st Century throughout the school year is just part of being a CTMS student.

Student athletes like Samantha Schadler and Marco Moreno balanced extracurricular activities, like National Junior Honor Society, band, and track with school work. Though sometimes overwhelming, they managed to finish strong at the final meet of the season.

Mt. View student’s writing chosen in contest

If the United States was not a nation of immigrants, what would it be? That’s a heady question to ponder. It’s one that Rachel Figueroa, fifth-grader at Mountain View Elementary, considered and was recognized for her thoughts.

Ernesto Portillo, Jr., recently wrote in his weekly (Tucson) Arizona Daily Star column, “Neto’s Tucson,” about an essay contest that immigration attorneys Gloria Goldman and her son, Mo Goldman, have sponsored for the last 17 years.

“Immigration is a life and death matter for Gloria Goldman, the daughter of Jewish immigrants and survivors of Nazi death camps,” wrote Portillo. “Others in her family perished in Auschwitz.”

Judging the entries was Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild who read all essays and selected the top ten. Figueroa’s was among the top 10 recognized.

Figueroa credits her teacher, Tracy Hall, for initiating the project and submitting her essay. She said it took her two days to complete, most of which was just thinking about the question. She wrote:

Have you ever considered that if the United States wasn’t a Nation of Immigrants it wouldn’t be the same? It wouldn’t be the same because our Nation is made up of other people from around the world. They come from the land mass on the other side of the universe.

The immigrants bring their culture, religion, foods, and stories to share with us. What have we shared with them? We have shared our freedom with the immigrants who immigrated to the United States.

Some immigrants might have been mistreated by rulers or kings in their country. Our freedom counts!

“This is important because America is made up of people from everywhere around the world,” said Figueroa. “They share their religion, culture and food which makes ours a better nation. In turn, we give them freedom.”
Program helps lay foundation for high school chemistry

By Carol Cullen

Eighth graders at SCVUSD are conducting experiments with hydrochloric acid – an acid produced in the digestive track of the human body, comparing the reaction with magnesium to the reaction with copper.

Calabasas eighth-grader Kevin Romero observed that hydrochloric acid mixed with magnesium produces a gas. Hydrochloric acid mixed with copper produces no reaction.

Why should Romero care about these results? “Because so often jewelry is made with copper,” said Romero. “It is important that there not be a chemical reaction with the human body [fluids]. If other metals, such as magnesium, are used the reaction would be a release of hydrogen gas. Not good for jewelry sales.”

Calabasas classmate Roberto Gonzalez agreed. “Our teacher demonstrated this reaction for us. We had to use goggles and step back because it [the reaction] was so bright. If a very reactive metal, such as magnesium, is close to fire, it could heat up and shine so much that it blinds you. So, nobody would want to wear anything made of magnesium because of how reactive it is.”

Eighth graders in the Cambridge program at Calabasas and Coatimundi Middle Schools are performing various experiments, such as testing hydrochloric acid on metals to predict the resulting products of the reactions and then translating results into real-world applications.

“Experiments such as these may lead to an interest in a career in chemical engineering,” said Coatimundi science teacher, Christina Williams. “At the very least, it lays a foundation for high school chemistry.”

The newly implemented advanced program in SCVUSD middle schools allows students opportunities to engage in inquiry-based, hands-on learning.

Similarly, seventh graders in the Cambridge program are tackling the human body, specifically the human circulatory system. In science classes, they are creating working models of the circulatory system to show how it interacts with two other human systems, the digestive and respiratory systems, to keep the human body alive.

“Students are learning how nourishment, rest, and exercise can improve their physical and mental performance and help them lead a long and healthy life,” said Wanda Glenn, Coatimundi seventh grade science teacher.

SCVUSD No. 35 is the only school district in Southern Arizona offering the advanced Cambridge program to middle school students.

The public is invited to attend the Summer Cambridge Camp Showcase taking place on Friday, July 11, from 11 a.m. to noon in the Calabasas Middle School cafeteria and the Coatimundi Middle School cafeteria. Middle school students will showcase their culminating work from the Cambridge Camp taking place July 8-11. For more information on Cambridge or the Summer Cambridge Camp Showcase, contact Alejandra Padilla at 375-8600.

Coatimundi seventh-grader Leslie Estrella displays her model of the human circulatory system.
This quarter, with funding from “Fuel Up to Play 60” and “Salud Por Vida” grants, Mountain View introduced a number of programs designed to educate its students on the value of healthy eating.

“We held both a Better Breakfast Week and a Wellness Week when each day the kids made different meals using all natural ingredients,” said Rhonda Kridler who orchestrated the events.

During the week hundreds of students made and consumed smoothies, fruit kabobs, and other non-traditional breakfasts in the school’s cafeteria. Later, lunches of sunflower seed bread sandwiches and veggie pita-pizzas were enjoyed by the youngsters. Sodexo Food Service employees helped broaden the students’ nutritional base of knowledge by allowing them to sample a slaw made of unusual ingredients such as kelp and bok choy.

Fifth graders took nutrition classes focusing on the main food groups and their benefits. Students learned where carbohydrates, proteins, and fats are found, and the vitamins and minerals assorted fruits and vegetables provide.

Avi Flores, 5th-grade student, summarized, “I can never forget 65332. That’s how many servings of each food group we should eat every day, like 6 servings of grains, 5 servings of vegetables” and so on.

Kridler beamed when she heard this. “My dream of making Santa Cruz County healthier one student at a time is happening,” she said.

The week ended with a school-wide assembly. The school’s mascot, “Claws,” made a surprise appearance challenging students to make a commitment to healthier eating. Claws then gathered hundreds of pledges now on display in the school foyer.

If “we are what we eat,” as the saying goes, Mountain View students will never have to prove what they’re made of; just watching what they pile on their lunch trays speaks volumes.

Thoughtful second grader Fernando Mendoza creates a balanced diet using a food group game. MVES places an emphasis on nutrition education.

Right: Third graders Mya Encinas, left, and Haley Higuera load their lunch trays with fresh vegetables during Mt. View’s Wellness Week.
On the day Jazzercize came to Peña Blanca, Special classes were cancelled and all staff were encouraged to come to school in workout clothes. May is National Fitness Month and the Jazzercize instructors were part of “Kids Get Fit Day.”

The certified instructors, Lou Jeong and Toni Norris, made the same visit last year. There were three interactive Jazzercize classes for age-appropriate participation and every grade level was encouraged to locate their resting heart rate compared to their working heart rate. They were also advised to participate in physical activity no less than one hour per day and to eat daily helpings of fresh vegetables and fruit.

Funding to bring the program to local schools comes from Salud Por Vida, a federally funded program. The office of Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo Velasquez administers the offerings locally. The Jazzercize classes engaged students with a combination of aerobic exercise, dance moves, and defense imitations. Music with bold, steady rhythm kept everyone together. Even the well-known Itsy Bitsy Spider tune was set to a heavy contagious beat for the kindergarten and first-grade class.

The best part of exercising alongside the students was watching them measure and overcome the personal risk of looking or feeling awkward so they could jump and reach and kick and flex in time with their peers. And then came the smiles. Every student was charged and invigorated at the end of their 50-minute workout and most gathered around the instructors to say “thank you” with a high-five!
When Ironman coach Tom Manzi learned about Mountain View's physical education (PE) program he was impressed. "You guys are doing a great job keeping these kids moving. That's how you build tomorrow's athletes."

The activities he referred to are varied and numerous. The Morning Mileage Club, a program that rewards children for running before school, has kept students fit for years. And then there's Mountain View's weekly Walk-to-School program that involves children and adults walking a mile to school instead of being driven. These are in addition to the regular PE classes held five days a week.

But now Mountain View coach Rhonda Kridler is raising the bar again by introducing three new programs: "Structured Recess," daily "Brain Breaks," and a "Flash Mob" dance. Each is designed to help keep hundreds of students on the move.

"Structured recess works like this," said volunteer Dagoberto Rodriguez. "Every Thursday, Coach K makes sure the Student Council volunteers and parent volunteers run games like tetherball, basketball, football, and pop-corn -- a game that requires students to work together to keep balls bouncing up and down in the middle of a parachute. It's a lot of fun."

"Brain Breaks" are brief activities performed during the school day that give students a rest from the rigors of study. "It used to be called recess," said third grade teacher, Michele Titcomb. "The kids get tired of sitting all day. They need to get up and move around."

The school maintains a Brain Break Resource Center on campus where teachers can find ideas for daily activities.

The idea behind "Flash Mob" is similar to Brain Breaks, but the activity is somewhat spontaneous. "After the morning announcements, I'll yell 'flash mob' and all the kids come pouring out of their classrooms and we dance around for a while," said Kridler. "The physical activity gets oxygen flowing to their brains and then the kids are better able to think."

Youngsters with healthy habits become healthy adults. "This is the primary goal behind Mt. View's continued emphasis on physical fitness," said Principal Manuel Carrillo. "Who knows, maybe some of them will excel in high school and win college scholarships."

"That's how it all starts. One day they're kids running around the field and the next thing you know they're all grown up doing Ironman competitions," said Manzi, with a wink and a grin.

If you would like to learn more about the physical activity programs at Mountain View, or would like to join Coach K's group of parent volunteers, please call 375-8400 during school hours.
Congratulations 2014 Graduates!

1. Seniors make the traditional walk down the switchback as they enter the field.
2. Lily Stern, Valedictorian, inspires classmates to value their “success” in terms of lasting memories.
3. Angelica Moreno and David Madrigal enter the field.
4. Steven Mabante’s decorated cap.
5. Sara Felix gets a hug while Evelyne Lopez looks on.

CHILD-PARENT CENTERS, INC.

IS HIRING!

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO JOIN OUR TEAM AT OUR RIO RICO HEAD START FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

COOK ASSISTANT/CUSTODIAN (25 HRS/WK)
TEACHER II/IV (35 HRS/WK)

Interviews will be conducted during the summer and positions will start September 2, 2014. For job specific information and application materials, please contact us by calling (520) 623-2512, press “0” for assistance OR send and email inquiry to employment@childparentcenters.org OR visit our website at www.childparentcenters.org

CHILD-PARENT CENTERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

RIO RICO Sanitation

Proudly serving Rio Rico and Tubac
Call Today 520-761-1604

• Street Friendly Trucks
• Courteous Staff
• Professional Drivers
• Bulk Service Available
• Locally Owned & Operated
• No Hidden Fees
• No Fuel Charge
• No Waste Fees
• No Admin Fees

Residential and commercial Sanitation Services
Seniors reap $1.2 million in awards, scholarships

By Fred Lewis

Rio Rico High School Class of 2014 students received approximately $1.2 million in scholarship money at the RRHS Annual Awards Night Ceremony on May 13, 2014. In addition, numerous awards and academic honors were bestowed upon the soon-to-be graduating seniors.

The awards ceremony was held in the RRHS cafeterium with many students, parents and community members present. The ceremony opened with the Presentation of Colors by the RRHS JROTC and the singing of our national anthem by senior, Katherine Rendon.

The evening was full of celebration as students, parents, staff, loved ones, community members and scholarship representatives honored the many accomplishments of students from the class of 2014. There were plenty of smiles and applause as students were recognized.

Each year the counseling staff at RRHS works hard to organize the Senior Awards Ceremony. During the year they encourage and help students apply for and receive scholarships and grants. Most students receiving a scholarship or grant had an assigned counselor involved in the process.

The following is a list of awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valedictorian</td>
<td>Lilyan Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salutatorian</td>
<td>Joel Leyva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 5%</td>
<td>Rodolfo Anaya, Rhys Betz, Jacqueline Castillo, Makayla Fischer, Shreya Gupta, Marley Henson, Jenny Lizarraga, Maria Navarro, Katherine Rendon, Valeria Teran, Karla Tovar, Hugo Valdez, Ellisette Vergara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal’s Award</td>
<td>Carlos Apodaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career / Technical Education (CTE)</td>
<td>Luis Yepiz, Joel Leyva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salutatorian</td>
<td>Shreya Gupta, Daniel Manjarrez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Marley Henson, Rodolfo Anaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>Daniella Esparza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>Hugo Valdez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Hawk</td>
<td>John Brewington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Lilyan Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Carlos Apodaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Christian Flores, Gabriela Leyva, Marina Soto, Rene Osuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Karla Tovar, Rodolfo Anaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Army National Scholar</td>
<td>Ben Noriega, Marley Henson, Jenny Lizarraga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Marines Corps Distinguished Athlete &amp; Scholastic Excellence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a list of many of the scholarships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of scholarship</th>
<th>Amount $</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State University National Hispanic Scholar Finalist</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>Jose Ramos, Karla De La Cruz, Keren Bojorquez, Mayra Campos, Vianey Valencia, Yahira Angulo, Valeria Teran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Achievement</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Ellisette Vergara, Katherine Rendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provost</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Award</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Ariana Del Cid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Award</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>John Brewington, Kate Suarez, Maria Gamas, Rhys Betz, Tyler Bauer, Paola Parra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Family Scholarship</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>Paola Parra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associacion de Maquiladoras</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>David Madrigal, Francisco Ovies, Valeria Teran, Luis Rodriguez, Max Bojorquez, Selene Tofani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Brubaker</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>Luis Yepiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embry Riddle Aeronautical University</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>Carlos Apodaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central AZ Community College</td>
<td>Academic Tuition &amp; Books</td>
<td>Marley Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Noriega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tyler Bauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Concert Band</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Andrea Van Duinen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Elks Concert Band</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Marley Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Youth Awards</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Ariana Del Cid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imagine America</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Ramiro Huerta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Utilities</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Luis Yepiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nogales Korean Association</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Valeria Teran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Arizona University Merit Scholarship</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>Keren Bojorquez, Karla De La Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumberjack Scholars</td>
<td>9,120</td>
<td>Rodolfo Anaya, Jacqueline Castillo, Marley Henson, David Lopez, Maria Navarro, Karla Tovar, Ellisette Vergara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidents Scholarship</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Katherine Rendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz County Exchange Club ACE Award</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Francisco Ovies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz Realtors Benevolent Foundation</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Juan Carlos Salmecdo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz Foundation – Top 5%</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Aaron Fanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Evelyne Lopez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAHF/C Karen Halverson Memorial</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Julia Echeverria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. Alex Bermudez Memorial</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Keren Bojorquez, Cynthia De La Riva, Evelyne Lopez, David Madrigal, Francisco Ovies, Vianey Valencia, Katherine Rendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodoso</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>John Brewington, Katherine Rendon, Benjamin Noriega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation College – South Dakota</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>Mark Ramirez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail Creek Veteran’s Gold Association</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Erick Quijada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Rico Rotary</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Lily Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Keren Bojorquez, Marley Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac Fire</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Andrea Fuentes, Selene Tofani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac Rotary</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Marley Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Kaya Fischer, Aaron Fanning,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac / Rio Rico Rotary Comeback Kid</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Francisco Ovies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Rico Property Owner’s Association</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Keren Bojorquez, Aaron Fanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Arizona Baird Scholarship</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Keren Bojorquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildcat Excellence</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Rodolfo Anaya, Rhys Betz, Jacqueline Castillo, Karla De La Cruz, Makayla Fischer, Paola Parra, Katherine Rendon, Lilyan Stern, Valeria Teran, Karla Tovar, Hugo Valdez, Ellisette Vergara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildcat Excellence</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Marley Henson, Maria C. Navarro, Lilyan Stern, Hugo Valdez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Hispanic Scholar</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>Joel Leyva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Merit Unisource</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Shreya Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado – Colorado Springs Wrestling Tuition</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Selene Tofani, John Brewington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Voice of Democracy</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Marley Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zonta Women in Public Affairs</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Selene Tofani</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RRHS counseling staff is a three member team composed of Lillian Bernal, Zulema Fragoso, and headed by Ami Kemp. The counseling team guides students through their academic, career and personal needs. Thanks to a focused and enduring effort many RRHS’ students received grants scholarships and awards.

Websites offer large amount of helpful information

By Fred Lewis

Have you visited the school district websites?
SCVUSD No. 35 has gone to great lengths to create high quality websites that reflect well on the district and its schools. The new websites, launched in January 2012, are a huge improvement over the old websites. They showcase the district’s new logo, and share a uniform layout making it easier to navigate through them.

The SCVUSD No. 35 district website can be accessed at http://www.santacruz.k12.az.us. The district website houses links to each of the schools, facilitating access through the district site. School websites can be accessed individually as well. Each has its own URL.

The websites have features allowing parents, students, teachers and other visitors to easily access student information and school resources. For example, parents and students can see grades and other important school related information through ParentVUE and StudentVUE. Parents interested in using this feature should contact the school’s parent liaison to receive an access code and instructions.

Other information available through the school websites include the school events calendar, monthly newsletter, cafeteria menu, student handbook, course catalog, emergency notices, bus routes, staff email, registration information, district policies, school policies and employment opportunities. You can also find information about the various departments and programs such as administration, athletics, counseling, CTE, transportation, etc.

There are links to digital resources tailored for students, parents and teachers embedded in the websites. For example, the links entitled “Student Web Resources” and “Teacher Web Resources” both house a wide variety of digital resources helpful for research, learning and teaching.

All SCVUSD school libraries are available online. You can access any one of the six school libraries and search for books and other resources located at the site. In addition, the school library websites have a virtual library attached with links to other off-campus digital resources.

Finally, SCVUSD and all its schools have a Facebook page. By signing on to Facebook you can see more of what is happening district-wide or at any particular school.

With the addition of this fleet of high-quality websites SCVUSD No. 35 and its schools present an attractive and user friendly presence to the world. These powerful tools open up possibilities for improved communication and participation in the SCVUSD No. 35 system. We encourage you to take full advantage of this powerful resource.
Europe and back for retiring superintendent

Rod Rich, SCVUSD superintendent for the past three years, is retiring at the end of the school year, June 30.

Along about the time Rich was teaching social studies in the 1970s, there was a popular song on the radio that said, “I’ve never been to Spain, but I kind of like the music.”

He likes more than just the music in Spain. He was so influenced by a Spanish cultural exchange student he and his wife, Gail, hosted that he and his wife, Gail, hosted that he is spending a month in Spain this summer. Then, it’s on to Italy and France.

The couple will stay with the former student’s family. In October, they’ll return to a town settled by the Spanish—Tubac.

“I want to broaden my world. When I get back, I’d like to read, volunteer, maybe pick up golf again,” Rich said. “But I’ll continue to work in education.”

Rich and his wife, Gail, have been in the district for 10 years. Both have served as principals, and both have played major roles in transforming once-struggling schools.

When Rich took over as principal at Calabasas Middle School, the school was deemed “in improvement,” according to No Child Left Behind, a national plan that mandated levels of annual academic growth. When he left, the school was out of its improvement status.

Wife Gail showed the same results at San Cayetano Elementary, a school which continues to set district records for state AIMS test achievement.

Rich is passionate about the district and pledges to work further on the foundation he’s pioneered called Friends of Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35.

The foundation raises money for scholarships for Rio Rico High School students. This year, the top 15 students received $500 each.

“It may not sound like a lot, but it’s a start,” Rich said. “We want that foundation to grow. Anything we can do to get kids to college is key.”

Rich has also been part of a plan that allows high school students to test out of high school early and move on to junior college. If students pass a Cambridge International exam, they could choose to leave high school and go to college as early as 15 years of age.

“We need to address this,” Rich said. “Can families benefit if their kids go to community college early? Could it be financially more viable for them, saving on tuition and housing costs?”

Rich leaves the district proud of the six schools’ results. Four out of the six are at or approaching the state average in standardized test scores.

“Our students are as smart as kids anywhere,” he said.

Rich will also do part-time consulting work for Curriculum Management Systems, a private company that audits how curriculum is being practiced in the classroom.

“I want to volunteer in education, too,” Rich said. “I want to remain here and be a part of what’s going on.”

Rich has spent a total of 41 years in education. He started teaching social studies in Kankakee, Illinois, which is about an hour south of Chicago. His time there shaped his view of community-based learning for both students and teachers.

“I have to stay involved in education...it’s what I know and love,” Rich said.

He added that he also is looking forward to hiking and spending more time with his grandchildren.

Wellness activity Jazzercise fires up students

By Len Johnson

For an entire day this spring, district cafeterias and gyms thumped with an aerobic dance that students never seem to get enough of—jazzercise.

“Jazzercise has stood the test of time,” said Toni Norris, who leads huge groups of students for an hour each, hour after hour. “It’s been around for 40 years, yet the music is modern and the moves are always fresh. People still love it.”

Norris adds that Jazzercise is all about keeping kids wanting to move.

“Man, I’m tired, but it’s a lot of fun,” said Auri Flores, San Cayetano Elementary second grader. He and a gym full of 100 students bobbed, jumped and laughed without stopping.

Jazzercise combines jazz dance, aerobic training, Pilates, yoga and kick boxing moves for a total body workout. Kids stay with it because it’s fun. It’s choreographed to hit music, which also connects with students.

It burns around 600 calories in an hour—more than light swimming or running. Jazzercise is brought into SCVUSD schools every spring as a way to promote healthy lifestyles.

Salud Por Vida a federally funded program through the Educational Support Services of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, Alfredo I. Velasquez. It teams up with the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition in honor of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.

It’s part of a wellness plan that includes free dental screenings, lunches and additional elementary exercise programs such as fun runs, bike rodeos and after school fitness clubs.

“I do this because it’s a great time and I believe in it,” Norris said. “There’s so much energy in the room and it’s exciting to watch.”

“Jazzercise has stood the test of time,” says Toni Norris, who leads groups of students for an hour each, hour after hour.
Youth excel at Peña Blanca Science Fair

By Carol Cullen

Do solar panels work differently when charged with sunlight or flashlights? Ask Daniel Astrain, fourth grader at Peña Blanca Elementary. He won first place at Peña Blanca’s science fair, but only after he proved himself wrong.

Using the scientific method, Astrain was surprised to learn that solar panels work better with sunlight than with flashlights. He had hypothesized otherwise. He started his work thinking that solar panels do better with flashlights.

After numerous methodical experiments, observations and data recording sessions, Astrain rejected his own hypothesis. Solar panels perform better – longer, more efficiently – with sunlight than with flashlights.

He wasn’t disappointed. He learned something new, and it was convincing. His work may have proved that his hypothesis was wrong, but his methodology won first prize.

Knowing the answer to this question is important “so people can figure it out [before] an emergency. [Knowing the answer] keeps people from fighting” when there is a crisis, said Astrain. “They can be prepared.” His teacher agreed.

“Daniel has a very good grasp of the scientific method. His writing is clear and concise,” said his teacher, Anabel Aguilar. “He is incorporating a lot of subjects in his project, particularly math and writing.”

This is the second year Peña Blanca Elementary has hosted a science fair for its students. This year there were 108 entries from all grade levels, pre-k through fifth grade. Entries were submitted by individuals, partners, small groups and class. Renée Curren, Peña Blanca librarian, has organized the fair for both years.

“I am passionate about quality education, especially science and social studies, and believe the Science Fair is one way to support students in these content areas as well as discovery and higher order thinking,” said Curren.

“I’ve organized the science fair now for two years with the full support and encouragement of Peña Blanca staff members and will continue to do so as long as I am in the district.”

Winning second place was fourth grader, Julian Riesgo. He answered the question, “Which ball goes the farthest when thrown – a baseball or softball?” In his research, he found the baseball travels the farthest because it is lighter, weighing less than the softball. His teacher is Erika Barré.

Third place was won by fifth grade partners, Joaquin Valenzuela and Jose Valenzuela. Working together they investigated and learned what happens to a flower when it is placed in colored water. Specifically, they sought to understand how dye affects the color of a white carnation. Their teacher is Nely Martinez.

These winners, along with seven other top winning entries from Peña Blanca, participated in the regional science fair: 2014 Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) in Tucson.

The original purpose for Specials Night was to give students’ families a chance to see how much their child’s school experience is enriched by having Specials classes available. Every class at every grade level spends 30 to 40 minutes at a different Specials class every day.

The favorite part of the evening for the Specialist was seeing their students perform. “Students presented themselves professionally and maturely and that made me proud of them,” said Stubenport.

A program for the evening was sent home to announce Specials Night and it was better attended than originally expected.

Students who came with their families were given a punch card to verify their attendance and earn a dress down coupon for later in the week. Booster parents under the direction of Irma Velez, parent liaison, supported the event with delicious food items for sale.

Principal Ivonne Ferreira helped with creative ways to announce the event. Expressing her gratitude to all the Specials for all their hard work, she said, “The show was phenomenal… all the students shined, thanks to you.”

We do if we don’t have power or a speaker to listen to the music?” “This sparked our interest and our experiment began.”

What’s next for the first grade investigators?

“The students are now interested in the size of each container and would like to extend our science experiment by using the same volume to see if it makes a difference,” said Fuentes.

“I am so proud of our students,” said Principal Ivonne Ferreira. “They all worked so hard to make their exhibit a winning exhibit. More importantly, this event has sparked their interest and curiosity to do more – to seek answers to more questions – to be young scientists. I see it in their faces, and hear it in their voices. It’s exciting.”

Peña Blanca Elementary is the only school at SCVUSD currently hosting a science fair. It is the hope of Renée Curren, Peña Blanca librarian and fair organizer, that other schools will be inspired to join next year.

“It’s great that we’ve been able to expand the science fair to a new campus,” said Steve Schadler, Director of Curriculum. “I’d still like to see this type of fair become a district-wide event. Congratulations to all the students and staff at Peña Blanca that made this happen.”

In addition to a trophy and blue ribbons for each of the 25 students, the first grade class was awarded a $25 gift certificate.

There were 1,716 entries in this year’s fair representing 4,800 students from Southern Arizona.
The Hermosa Project is:

- Expected to be one of the largest silver mines in the United States when in production

- Projected to provide 350 direct jobs, $4 billion in revenues and approximately $350 million in tax revenues over its 18-year mine life

- Estimated to produce 15.5 million ounces of silver for the first five years or 8 million ounces of silver annually over the mine’s life. Producing over 7.2 billion pounds of manganese (critical for electric car batteries)

The Hermosa and adjoining Harshaw mining districts were first discovered in the late 1870s and mined into the mid 1960s.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Hermosa Project, visit www.WildcatSilver.com.

*All data is current as of October 2013. For the most recent information, please visit www.WildcatSilver.com.
“All our dreams can come true... if we have the courage to pursue them.”