remodelan centro de vecindario

Por Ashley Nowe
El Independiente

Briana Ortiz de once años de edad no puede decidir cual es la renovación preferida en la House of Neighborly Service (HNS). De hecho, ella adora todo. “Me gustan las plantas y los grandes árboles,” dice Briana mientras juega en el nuevo jardín reformado. “Ah, pero lo que realmente me gusta de aquí son todas las plantas nuevas.”

El centro del vecindario, que antes estuvo en ruinas y servía tanto para jóvenes como para personas mayores, ha recibido una segunda oportunidad gracias al Arizona Builders’ Alliance (ABA).

El grupo donó aproximadamente $100,000 en materiales y mano de obra, renovando el centro desde junio hasta diciembre del 2004.

Desde el mes pasado, trabajadores, voluntarios y otros participantes han gorrado de las nuevas ventanas, que incluyen desde un techo fijo bajadores, voluntarios y otros participantes han gorrado de las nuevas ventanas, que incluyen desde un techo fijo hasta nuevas ventanas sin hoyos.

Todo este proyecto ha significado tanto. Es inmenso,” dijo Kimberly Sierra, directora ejecutiva de House of Neighborly Service. “Habían tantas cosas que estaban arminadas.”

El centro no lucrativo localizado en 243 W. 33rd Street, ha estado ahí por casi 60 años y no cubría las necesidades básicas tales como un sistema de aire acondicionado en la cocina y puertas que funcionaran adecuadamente.

Aunque el centro era viejo, el vandalismo jugó un papel importante para empezar su condición.

Con las nuevas ventanas, el vandalismo en el centro ha ocurrido con menos frecuencia. Además, una cerca de seguridad ha sido instalada alrededor de la aparcamiento que es utilizada para recoger niños para el programa después de la escuela. La aparcamiento ya no tiene que ser guardada en un lugar cerca de la casa por temor al vandalismo, debido al sistema de seguridad implantado.

El HNS tiene un programa después de la escuela para después de la escuela para niños de la escuela primaria. Este programa permite que los niños tengan ayuda con la tarea, aprendan habilidades de la vida diaria y mejoren su participación en actividades físicas.

El centro también ofrece a miembros de la comunidad mayores de edad con programas tales como “Senior Brown Bag” en la cual los empleados entregan comida a los vecinos más necesitados. Las personas mayores también pueden venir al centro.

Las Artes grant gives a second chance

By Jennifer Phillips
El Independiente

Two-dozen high school dropouts will soon have the opportunity to earn their GEDs, along with a chance for a better future, thanks to a Youth Works Arizona Grant from the Governor’s Office of Children, Youth and Families.

Las Artes Learning Center, an educational program for school dropouts 16 to 21 years old, received the grant totaling $59,487.

Las Artes, located at 23 W. 27th St., was one of four organizations to receive the grant money. It competed with 13 other statewide applicants, and was the only organization in Pima County to earn the grant, according to Tammy Paz-Combs, the operations manager for the Governor’s Office of Children, Youth and Families.

“The grant has real stiff competition,” said Las Artes Program Manager George Yubeta. “But, it seemed everything they wanted, we were already doing.”

The Youth Works Arizona Grant helps out-of-school youth to earn a GED, enter the workforce and advance to post-secondary education.

“This program’s small student-to-teacher ratio has made her studies less stressful and allowed her to get her priorities straight.”

Las Artes students create various community artworks in and beyond South Tucson.

Verdugo has worked with her classmates to create large tile mosaic murals that will appear along South 10th Avenue in South Tucson. However, the grant could only fund the program’s eight-week GED component to help reverse this likelihood.

Lissette Verdugo is a young, single mother determined to become a nurse. Thanks to Las Artes, Verdugo said she will earn her key to success in just a few weeks.

“I’m getting my GED,” said Verdugo. “South Tucson has drugs, violence and crime, but in the center of it all is Las Artes, a place where I can make something of myself.”

Verdugo said the program’s small student-to-teacher ratio has made her studies less stressful and allowed her to get her priorities straight.

Las Artes students create various community artworks in and beyond South Tucson.

Verdugo has worked with her classmates to create large tile mosaic murals that will appear along South 10th Avenue in South Tucson. However, the grant could only fund the program’s eight-week GED component.
Prop. 200 causing problems for victims of domestic violence

By Lindsay Aungst

Many victims of domestic violence are hesitant about seeking help because they are unaware of their rights, said experts. Illegal or newly immigrated victims are the most fearful of speaking up, said Valerie Hink, attorney with Southern Arizona Legal Aid.

Proposition 200 has encouraged many victims to keep quiet, Joy Soler, program coordinator of Casa Amparo emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, said. “I think Prop 200 has further complicated the issue,” Soler said. “Now victims are even more afraid than ever to speak up. They don’t think they have any rights as undocumented immigrants and they do.”

The controversial Prop 200, which passed with a 56 percent majority vote in November, requires residents of Arizona to prove they are citizens in order to vote or receive any public services. It also requires government workers to report known illegal immigrants or face fines and/or jail time.

Jim Vilbusea, a South Tucson Police Detective, said many victims don’t know their rights. Officers therefore provide information for victims at the scene. “When they’re new here to the United States or they’re here illegally they don’t know what protections are out there, so the responding officer reminds them what rights they have,” Vilbusea said. “We try to let victims know there are ways out there to establish a better life.”

The Immigration and Nationality Act includes provisions that protect those domestic violence victims abused by a parent or spouse who is a legal citizen. It allows immigrant victims, regardless of their status, to apply for a self-petition for citizenship, Hink said. “These are people who would be able to immigrate through their lawful citizen spouse or parent,” Hink said. “But if there is abuse, frequently the citizen will withhold or threaten to withhold the immigration benefit. This law allows them to apply for lawful immigration status on their own.”

Another right immigrants are unaware of is protected under the Violence Against Women Act. This protection allows victims, regardless of who the perpetrator is, to apply for a U-Visa, Hink said. A U-Visa addresses non-citizen victims of substantial abuse who are willing to cooperate with law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting the crime, according to WomensLaw.org, a website.

Colorful mural to help rehabilitate community spirit

By Jen Schuman

South Tucson will soon have images of bright colors and hope emitting off an institution usually seen as a place of distress and struggle.

The Salvation Army’s Tucson Adult Rehabilitation Center is embarking on a project that will include artists from all over the city to create a mural of hope on one of its walls. Director of Personnel, John M. Edgemon, is helping get the center ready to tackle this massive project.

“We are looking for something sobering, spiritual, colorful, fun,” Edgemon said. “We’re willing to let someone (an artist) cut lose here.”

The center, located at 2716 S. 6th Ave., serves to rehabilitate severely addicted men six months at a time. Edgemon said, “It’s a real ambitious, aggressive treatment program,” he said. “The most important thing is we don’t take a dime for this.”

During the time, the men are in the rehabilitation center, and they are not referred to as patients or inmates, but beneficiaries because they are “benefitting off of what we have to offer,” Edgemon said.

One of the ways this can be achieved is by expressing rebirth through rehabilitation, Edgemon said. It is the ideal that the center is looking to portray on the outside wall.

The project is expected to take off as soon as artists donate their time and the materials needed are obtained. The artists who will be creating the work will also come from within the program itself.

“There are some guys with incredible talent here,” Edgemon said.

Captain Timothy Rockey of the center is also very excited about the upcoming art project. “There’s not a lot of color and not a lot of encouragement,” Rockey said. The mural “is a statement about something that is bright and hopeful,” he said.

The mural will most likely depict religious images, he said. It is also important that the community gets involved.

“What we are looking for is to solicit artists to give us samples of their work and vision,” Rockey said.

The center is also looking for people to donate supplies for the project, like paints, mosaic and scaffolds, he said.

The possibility to transform and re-grow is the message the center is planning to convey.

Remodeled center helps to brighten community

By Ashley Nowe

Eleven-year-old Briana Ortiz can’t decide what her favorite renovation is at the House of Neighborly Service. In fact, she loves just about everything.

“I like the tires and the big trees,” she said while playing in the newly landscaped yard. “Oh, but what’s really cool around here are all the new plants.”

The once dilapidated non-profit neighborhood center, which serves both youth and seniors, was given a second chance thanks to the Arizona Builders’ Alliance.

The ABA donated about $100,000 in materials and labor, renovating the center from June until early December 2004. Over the last month employees, volunteers, and participants have been enjoying the new amenities, which include everything from a fixed roof to new windows without holes.

“This whole project has meant so much. It’s just huge,” said Kimberly Sierra, executive director of House of Neighborly Service. “There were so many things that were falling apart.”

The center, located at 243 W. 33rd Street, has been around for almost 60 years and lacked basic necessities like a cooling system in the kitchen and functional doors.

Though the center was old, vandalism played a major factor in its worsening condition.

With its new barred windows, vandalism has occurred less frequently at the center. In addition, a security gate was installed around the van that is used to bring children to and from the center.

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By Matthew Wolf

EL INDEPENDIENTE

The Arizona Virtual Academy’s (AZVA) headquarters, located on 1840 E. Benson Highway, provides a modern way of schooling. The AZVA is one that focuses on personal and academic growth combined with parental interaction. Founded in July 2003 by Program Director Mary Gifford, AZVA has created an alternative method of schooling for students who look for something other than the normal trend of hopping on a school bus and traveling to class.

“We deliver everything to the kids,” Gifford said. “We are ready to serve all to class.

This program, similar to those run by the government and state educational organizations, offers a packed curriculum that covers all the required subject matter a child needs to progress their education. Courses include language arts/English, math, science, history, art and music. What separates AZVA from other public schools is its unique system of operations. One of 14 virtual schools in the state of Arizona, AZVA has the largest enrollment at 706 students.

AZVA caters to students starting at age five, up to the eighth grade level. Gifford and her team of educational experts constructed a program that can be completed at home and online. They go so far as to lend computers to enrolled students who are otherwise unequipped. They also provide textbooks and instructional materials which are sent directly to the student’s home in order to complete the program.

Because AZVA is a publicly funded school, there is no tuition or textbook fees required throughout the program. This allows parents and their children to excel academically without carrying the financial burden. Some might argue that this is a form of homeschooling but, in fact it’s considered a public school full of certified teachers.

“We have 16 regular and special education certified teachers,” Gifford said. “They act as the first point of contact for families of our program. There are curriculum experts who also schedule conferences, view progress and attendance online, and proctor tests such as the Stanford Achievement Test. This specific type of schooling allows parents to become directly involved with their child’s academic course load, enabling them to view first-hand their child’s strengths and weaknesses.

“We want to be honest with parents,” Gifford said. “They need to be involved to ensure the curriculum is being used and followed correctly.”

Even though all school work is completed within the home away from other students, AZVA has found a way to impact social interaction between students in the program. AZVA offers field trips for enrolled students, giving each child the opportunity to make friends and visit places such as museums, zoos and other historical sites. AZVA allows students to work at their own pace, giving them an alternative method of learning about academics and the world that surrounds it.

More Info

Arizona Virtual Academy can be reached toll free at (866) 339-4947 or through their website at http://www.azva.com

Lawmaker: Scrap AIMS requirement

By Marcia Gaysue

EL INDEPENDIENTE

The high school class of 2006 will not have to pass the Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards test to graduate if State Representative Theodore Downing, D-Tucson, gets House Bill 2492 approved.

Downing wants to use AIMS as a market-based tool and have test results show up on diplomas or transcripts that a student would like based on the test scores and the company’s needs.

“My plan is cost free and maybe a few phone calls,” Downing said. “Major employers in Phoenix like the idea. When I mention it, I see a twinkle in their eyes.”

Downing knows he cannot eliminate the AIMS test because of the No Child-Left-Behind law. President Bush signed Jan. 8, 2002.

No-Child-Left Behind requires all the states to have a test every student must take to measure academic progress. Because of the law, Arizona has been developing a test to meet federal standards and boost its ranking in the educational system.

Arizona is ranked 49 out of 50 states for educational spending per child, beating only Utah. The national average of money spent on each child in the US is $8,208. Arizona falls below that only spending $5,347 per child.

Many administrators have mixed feelings about Downing’s proposal.

“I am in favor of some version of the test to measure what students have learned, but not to immediately say you need to pass the test,” said Michael Beck, assistant principal for Pueblo High Magnet School.

Teachers at the elementary and middle school levels find themselves trying to gear their students harder to prepare them for the AIMS tests. Teachers are aware of the growing pressure high school juniors face everyday.

“I have to say our curriculum is more focused,” said Patricia Mentz, principal of Mission View Elementary School.

“Some of the positive things about AIMS (it) is that we focus on what gets writing, and our students improved in their writing dramatically,” she said.

The top schools are the area where most students fail.

Tom Horne, Arizona State’s Attorney General, wants to go to college,” Figueroa said.

You would think that educators would come to an agreement about what we would hope exit skills are from high school,” she said.

Although the AIMS test is added stress for students, Lisa A. Valencia, a mother of two children, likes the idea of the test because too many students are leaving high school not having the skills they need.

She does not agree with Downing’s AIMS proposal.

“I don’t agree with employers hiring someone based on school,” Valencia said. “Students learn life long lessons once they leave school anyways.”

Vanessa believes parents should be told to show the toughness of the test.

“I probably wouldn’t pass the test,” she said.

Principal Mentz agrees.

I doubt very many adults would pass the AIMS.

What happens if a student graduates but fails to pass the test? Downing wants to make it available that the individual has the right to come back and retake the AIMS test anytime in their life. It will be a way for them to re-establish themselves in the workplace.

I want to turn lemons into lemonade,” Downing said.

Although the writing and reading section of the AIMS test is scheduled for Feb. 22 and 23. The make-up dates for those portions of the test are March 1 to 2.

Mathematics will be testing April 12 with make-up taking place April 19.

Free tax help

By John de Dios

EL INDEPENDIENTE

On Jan. 18, 2005, the Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Task Force opened seven new tax prep services sites all over Southern Arizona.

The tax preparation sites offer free assistance to low-income workers who qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from the government.

“The EITC is the largest mechanism to lift people out of poverty,” said Erin Markley, EITC project manager with United Way. “The IRS estimates about 15 percent of the people who qualify for EITC don’t apply. In Pima County, that’s roughly about $15 - to - $20 - million.”

The seven assistance sites will have bilingual volunteers who have many years of experience. Some sites are open every day, while others are open on specific days. Last year, the six sites completed over 1,000 returns for more than $1 million in overall federal and state tax credits, Markley said.

Among the other members of the EITC Task Force, include the City of Tucson, Pima County and other groups that donated money to help fund the sites and raise awareness within the community.

For more information contact Erin Markley at (520)903-9000 ext. 305 or visit www.unityway-tucson.org.
Continúa de página 1

por comidas saludables o para par- ticipar en las diferentes activi- dades artesanales.

El centro fue fundado por la Iglesia Presbiteriana, donaciones y agencias del Condado Pima, por lo cual estos programas son gratis para el público, según dijo Sierra. Cada año los miembros de ABA donan tiempo, materiales y dinero al solicitante escogido. La organi- zación también tiene subsidios silvestres y otros tipos de recua- dación de fondos para ayudar en varios proyectos alrededor del sur de Arizona.

"Nosotros escogimos HNS basados en el tipo de necesidades que tenían y también porque trata mucho con niños lo cual es muy importante para nosotros," dijo Preston Achilles, presidente de ABA y dueño de la compañía aérea acondicionado Achilles. "Nosotros escogimos el grupo con más necesidades y es importante que ellos dediquen su trabajo a a - a personas.

Cientos de niños participan en los programas del centro o simple- mente vienen al centro a jugar.

"Yo vengo aquí casi todos los días. Es como si viviera aquí," dijo Ortiz. "Todos son muy amables y vivo tan cerca, que puedo venir aquí todo el tiempo." El programa después de la escuela también ya tiene un salón de computación que esta funcio- nando gracias a la finalización del trabajo eléctrico de ABA. "Es muy importante que tengan un salón de computación porque tenemos muchos niños en edad escolar," dijo un empleado de HNS, Stephanie Ruiz. "Ellos tendrán la oportunidad de usar sus trabajos y proyectos de ciencias en las computadoras.

Entre los cambios, la renovación de la cocina fue uno de los que recibió cambios más drásticos en el centro. Recibió una nueva estufa, alacenas de acero inoxidable, armarios, fre- gaderos y piso nuevo.

Paul Hoffmann presidente del American Installation and Stainless y un miembro de ABA, donó más de $15,000 para hacer y montar aparatos de cocina de acero inoxidable. Otras adiciones incluyen techos acústicos para la casa multiusos, cortinas, paredes nuevamente pintadas e incluso un jardín comunitario.

"Nos sentimos muy bien al constatar los cambios, en vez de solo mandar un cheque," dijo Dan Cavanaugh, director de Southern Arizona ABA. "Teníamos más de 100 toneladas de material. Tú lo ves, nosotros lo hicimos." Sierra dijo que desde la final- ización de las renovaciones el mes pasado, la actitud de la comunidad tuvo un giro en el centro, y en la participación de los vecinos con la remodelación. "Los niños preguntaban porque otros centros eran mejores que el de nosotros," dijo Sierra. "Ahora esto mejora su imagen del centro y por eso, su orgullo crece."

BORDER VIOLENCE
New technologies help agents on border
Continued from 1

following the assault, Adame said. If this trend continues, it will put them at around 300, way over the numbers in the past few years," Jose Garza, spokesperson for the Tucson sector Border patrol, said. This increase in violence against Border Patrol agents is linked to the improved enforcement efforts on the border.

"Most assaults are by alien or drug smugglers who just get frus- trated, generate a little anger and get their cargo north. They lash out at agents when we try to apprehend them," Garza said.

Currently the Tucson sector of the U.S. Border Patrol has over 2,100 agents, but that number already made 114,000 arrests since October.

"Smuggling organizations are definitely feeling the heat," Adame said.

Smugglers are referring to other tactics to get their cargo into the United States. They are less will- ing to comply with Border Patrol agents and are refusing to give up without a fight. Individuals are resisting arrest and will attempt to run away from agents to escape arrest, Garza said.

A new strategy on border control developed by the Department of Homeland Security is now being applied by the Tucson Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol.

This strategy focuses largely on technology. Improvements in technology will bridge the gap between the agents in the field and the detection of illegal entries, Adame said.

The Tucson sector of the U.S. Border Patrol has added the use of sensors, drones, night vision and improved upon the video surveil- lance used to detect individuals try- ing to cross the border, Garza said.

The cameras have changed from analog to digital so the pictures are clearer and can be taken from a greater distance, Adame said. The number of helicopters available for the border patrol's use also increased from 11 to the current number of 16.

"The combination of the increased number of Border Patrol agents, and the improvements in technology, has made smugglers more desperate. "There are more of us out there," Garza said. "Getting cargo in has become harder, so they fight us. That is why assaults have increased.

Smugglers are trying to get a combination of people and drugs across the border. The U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson sector's main inter- est is people, but they also deal with narcotics.

The Tucson sector of the U.S. Border Patrol holds its agents safety as a top priority, ensuring their agents are highly trained before going out into the field. Each Border Patrol agent must attend the academy for 19 weeks. Their primary focus is to learn Spanish. It is a requirement to know Spanish before entering the program, but prior to graduation they must also be able to carry on a con- versation, Adame said.

The agents are trained in firearms and this training continues throughout their employment. Border Patrol agents are all authorized to carry shot guns as well as automat- ic weapons such as the M-4, Adame said. The agents are also being equipped with new tactics to ensure their protection.

Some Border Patrol agents are supplied with a pepper spray launcher that they are trained to use when being barricaded by rocks, Garza said. "The pepper spray launcher is a paintball gun augmented to shoot little round pellets filled with pow- der. Once the pellets make contact, they saturate the area, irritating the sinuses and eyes," Garza said.

This tactic was introduced in 2001 and has been very successful in reducing the number of violent incidents using rocks. It provides a form of defense for the agents with- out escalating to the use of deadly force.

"The pepper launcher provides us with a non-lethal defense tactic to counteract the violence of our agents," Garza said.

Border Patrol agents can ensure their safety by being vigilant and always being aware of their sur- roundings, Adame said.

Too often, the agent is alone and outnumbered. Many situations consist of one agent trying to detain 20 individuals. Border Patrol agents must always control the sit- uation, Adame said.

Robin Hoover, president of Humane Borders, has a different take on the increased number of Border Patrol agents. He sees a connection between the increased number of agents with the increased number of deaths in the desert.

"The new grant really helps us out," Yubeta said. "We always need funds that support the educational part of the program. Every little bit helps."

LAS ARTES
Grant gives opportunities to high school dropouts
Continued from 1 and not the arts, Yubeta said. "Las Artes is not just about learning as an artist, but also learning important life skills," Yubeta said. According to Yubeta, $27,000 of the grant will be used for student wages.

Students work 30 hours a week during a six-month pro- gram. Their weekly incentives range from $50 to $100 depend- ing on the learning phase. Students can also earn additional bonuses if they successfully complete the program and main- tain high attendance rates.

These payments motivated Verdugo to come to class and learn important life skills.

"I never had a job before, and this sort of became my first," said Verdugo, who joined Las Artes after seeing how fast her sister attained a GED from the program. "It taught me to be punctual and to work hard."

Approximately $2,400 is set aside for student bus passes, counseling, and other supportive services. At least $1,600 is reserved for supplies like the GED tests, Yubeta said.

Las Artes voluntarily offered to match the $19,500 that pays the program's GED instructors, case managers, program man- agers and job-developer salaries, including fringe benefits.

Various performance objectives are planned to meet the grant requirements by June next year, according to a Las Artes press release.

Las Artes predicts that 20 of the 24 students enrolled will complete the GED program by the end of June 2005, with 17 of those students obtaining their GED by the end of September 2005. Eight students with GEDs would then progress to an institu- tion for post-secondary education or training by March 2006, while 12 students with GEDs would be employed by December 2005.

Las Artes can renew the grant up to one year if it satisfies these goals.

Yubeta expects Las Artes to achieve even higher success rates next year.

"Graduation gives the younger students motivation," Yubeta said. "They see all the accomplishments of those gradua- ting and want to be graduates themselves one day." Youth Works Arizona Grant is not the largest Las Artes has received.

The $28 million Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Movement funded Las Artes for five years in an effort to decrease high school dropout rates, encourage secondary educa- tion and increase employment.

However, it is now six months away from expiring, Yubeta said. "The new grant really helps us out," Yubeta said. "We always need funds that support the educational part of the program. We will always need funds that support the educational part of the program. Every little bit helps."
Proyectan desarrollar parque lineal

**Por Altaira Citron**

La ciudad de Sur Tucson puede esperar una nueva y bonita decoración, con oportunidades recreativas y una conexión con el centro de Tucson, mientras planes para un nuevo parque reúnen impulso.

Este proyecto que plantea remodelar un segmento de 2 1/4 millas del antiguo línea de ferrocarril El Paso y Southwestern fue agradeciblemente recibido por el alcalde de Sur Tucson y por los miembros del concejo después de la introducción inicial en Octubre del 2004. Si todo va bien, la construcción estará realizada para el 2007.

Este trecho está situado al este del Interestatal 10. Recorriendo desde el Parque Estevan en el norte del Barrio Dunbar Spring hasta aproximadamente la esquina de Euclid y la Calle 40th en Sur Tucson. La Coalición El Paso y Southwestern Greenway desarrolló la propuesta greenway. La coalición está compuesta de representantes de asociaciones vecinales que serán beneficiadas del proyecto y miembros de la Asociación Pima County Trails.

La meta primordial es unir las comunidades, edificios históricos, oficinas y otras cosas culturales del centro de Tucson hacia los de Sur Tucson por medio de un parque lineal multi-usos, dijo Daphne Madison, residente de Barrio Viejo y presidenta de la coalición. Madison dice que sus vecinos apoyan la iniciativa porque el parque lineal multi-usos, incluyendo fondos de Transportation Enhancement proporcionados por el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona.

La coalición de este proyecto fue presentado al Instituto Drachman de la Universidad de Arizona para mayor desarrollo. El Instituto es una unidad de investigaciones y servicios públicos de la facultad de arquitectura y arquitectura pasajista. Dicho instituto se está enfocando en cómo preservar y modernizar el vía. El director del instituto Coryk Poster dijo que el greenway no solo servirá como un propósito contemplativo sino también comemorativo por el pasado del sur de Arizona.

El grupo de planificación también sentará un reporte y diseño final en la reunión con el alcalde de Tucson y el City Council a mediados de mayo de este año. Han planeado también tener tres reuniones con la comunidad en diferentes lugares alrededor de la ciudad entre estos días hasta mayo con ubicaciones aún no determinadas. Estas reuniones serán hechas para mantener al público informado sobre las metas del proyecto y de cualquier dificultad que surja. “Nos gustaría mantenernos firmes con la alineación del ferrocarril, pero algunos obstáculos pueden surgir. Entonces discutiremos cómo abordar las alternativas y soluciones con la ayuda del público,” dijo Poster. Asuntos con respecto a propietarios de tierras y contratos de edificios existentes son algunos de los problemas de planificación que Poster anticipa podrían complicar la preocupación al público. “Por 30 años han habido charlas de construir un parque lineal,” dijo Richard Salazar, el director de planificación de la ciudad de Sur Tucson. Salaz apoya el greenway y las añadiduras en el area.

Anderson explicó que la financiación para el proyecto vendría de una combinación de finanzas, incluyendo fondos de Transportation Enhancement proporcionados por el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona.

**Salvation Army supports mural**

Continued from page 2

send, Rockey said. “There’s always transformation and hope.”

Desk supervisor Ron Creson is a recent graduate of the program who, after his stay at the center, decided to work permanently in a detox program in order to help people in a similar situation.

The project will bring out a lot of good in South Tucson, he said, and he too, is very excited about the start of it. “I don’t see a whole lot more," he said. "I don’t see a lot of better downs here." People who are a part of the center and the program are willing to help and participate in any way possible, Creson said. “There’s a lot of artistic people here,” he said. “When you’ve been here for a while, you’re more willing to give something back.” Whether or not it has a great effect on the city of South Tucson, “at least it will brighten someone’s day,” Creson said.

People in the community are looking forward to this new artistic addition. Michael Hernandez, owner of Alfonso’s Carnitas y Vihio restaurant, embraces the idea of this project.

His restaurant is located at 2801 S. Sixth Ave., directly across the street from the rehabilitation center’s empty wall, which is soon to be decorated.

“People who play them up, if it’s a part mural, would be great,” Hernandez said. Optimism and inspiration are two of the main concepts of the project, and this is exactly what Hernandez wants to see. “The South Side needs a lot more of that stuff,” he said. “To lift up spirits.”

**Want to help?**

Contact Information: If you would have interest in participating by donating time or materials, please contact:

**John M. Edgemon (520) 624-1741 Ext. 204**
Continued from page 2

used to pick children up for the after school program. After the van was vandalized repeatedly, Sierra and the staff kept it a neat by house, but now it can be stored next to the center again.

The HNS has an after school program for children kindergarten through the 8th grade. The programs allow children to get help with homework, learn life skills and participate in physical activities.

The center also provides older members of the community with programs like the Senior Brown Bag, where staff members deliver meals to neighbors in need. Seniors also can come to the center for healthy meals or to participate in different arts and crafts.

HNS is funded by the Presbyterian Church, donations, and Pima County Outsides Agencies, so all programs are free to the public, Sierra said.

Each year ABA members donate time, supplies, and money to a chosen applicant. The organization also holds silent auctions and other fundraisers to aid in various projects around Southern Arizona.

Hoffman says the responsibility to inform victims lies with first responders such as police and emergency room personnel. Police policies for handling these cases are good, however, they aren’t always followed.

“In a given situation you can’t be sure that the victim of a crime who is undocumented will in fact learn about these protections and will in fact be referred to the right providers,” she said.

Soler says many assaulted women are denied access to information by their abusers.

“We have women in our center who are immigrants who have been afraid to come forth because they don’t know if they have rights in this country because the abuser will control their access to information,” Soler said. “That’s something that happens a lot with the program participants at Casa Amaparo.”

Casa Amaparo is a shelter in South Tucson run through the Brewster Center that is geared towards Spanish-speaking women and children. The staff is bilingual and useful to the public, Sierra said.

“Kids would ask why other centers look better than ours,” Sierra said. “Now this boosts the way they feel about it and increases pride.”

Paul Hoffman, president of American Instillation and Stainless and ABA member, donated over $15,000 toward making and installing stainless steal kitchen appliances.

“It was a pretty awesome project,” Hoffman said. “It brought a tear to my eye to see the least.”

Other additions include an acoustic ceiling in the multipurpose home, which creates a quieter environment for children to do homework, new brighter lights, flooring, blinks, newly painted walls and even a community garden.

“We feel good seeing the difference up front, rather than just sending a check,” said Dan Cavanagh, Southern Arizona ABA director. “We had over 100 tons of material. You see it, we did it.”

Sierra said that since the completion of the renovations last month, the community’s attitude has changed and there were no incidences of vandalism, which used to happen regularly. She attributes this to the community’s newfound pride in the center and the involvement of neighbors with the remodelling.

“Kids would ask why other centers look better than ours,” Sierra said. “Now this boosts the way they feel about it and increases pride.”

The Brewster Center is located at 2711 E. Broadway Blvd and provides basic necessities to victims such as food, clothing, shelter, support groups and a 24-hour crisis hotline at 622-6347 or 746-1501.

Need Help?

The project proposal was entrusted to the University of Arizona’s Drachman Institute for further development with the support of the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway Coalition, the affected neighborhoods, City of Tucson, South Tucson and Río Nuevo staffs.

The Institute, a research and public service unit of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, is focusing on how to both preserve and modernize the rail corridor.

Institute Director Corky Poster said the greenway will serve a contemporary purpose while commemoration the Southwestern Arizona’s past.

His planning group will present a final concept and design report at a Tucson Mayor and City Council meeting in mid-May of this year. It has also planned to hold three community meetings at different sites around the city between now and May at locations and times not yet determined.

VIOLENCE

Prop 200 bad for victims of violence

Continued from page 2

designed to provide legal information for women in domestic violence situations.

These laws help remove the fear of illegal immigrants, to the extent that it’s possible. It’s our job to make people aware that these entities exist,” Hink said.

Hink says the responsibility to inform victims lies with first responders such as police and emergency personnel. Police policies for handling these cases are good, however, they aren’t always followed.

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SEE GREENWAY/8
Pueblo High's boys soccer steps up its game

By Ryan Clay
EL INDEPENDIENTE

For years the Pueblo High School boys soccer team has played the role of underdog. This season, however, the Warriors have turning some heads in Arizona 4A soccer.

This season began no one seemed to give the Pueblo High School boys soccer team much of a chance in the competitive Kino 4A Region. It seemed like Pueblo Head Coach Steve La Turco was the only one who thought his team could compete.

Of the 16 players on the team, 10 of them are seniors. La Turco says experience and chemistry have played a huge role in the success the Warriors have found this season. Adding to the cohesion, the seniors on the team have been together since their freshman year.

A victory over Catalina Foothills High School on Jan. 11 during Kino Region play proved to be a huge highlight for Pueblo. Catalina Foothills was a favorite in the Kino Region and one of the top teams in the city.

The schools also operate on two drastically different athletic budgets.

The Pueblo High boys soccer team budget this year was $400 said Michael Beck, Pueblo's Assistant Principal. This figure is significantly less than the $4,800 allocated for the Catalina boys soccer team as reported by Catalina Foothills High Athletic Director Terry Lantz.

"This year, we spent about $400 on boys soccer. Last year, however, we spent about $1500 to buy new uniforms," Lantz said.

The differences between Pueblo and Catalina Foothills extend to their rosters. Stand the two teams next to each other toe-to-toe and it is easy to notice the overall size advantage Catalina has over Pueblo. With 11 people on the field at any one time, Catalina Foothills also has 12 players ready to come off the bench, compared to Pueblo's six.

On Jan. 24 at Sabino High School, Pueblo High School won a Kino 4A Region tie-breaker playoff game against Catalina Foothills that ended with a 6-5 shootout.

The tie-breaker was a mini game composed of two 10-minute halves. After regulation the score was tied 0-0, with Pueblo going on to win with penalty kicks. This set up a third match on Jan. 25.

25 years of helping the needy in Pima County

By Matthew Bassin
EL INDEPENDIENTE

The Pima County Community Action Agency has been helping families and other groups in need of assistance for 25 years.

Program Director for 18 years, Rosamaria Diaz has dedicated herself towards helping people live a better life.

"This was all started with President (Lyndon) Johnson's war on poverty program," Diaz said. "We are one of the few programs still around. We provided the seed funding for the Legal Aid program, the Head Start program, and the neighborhood youth services."

The P.C.C.A.A receives funding from Hopiing Grants, the Department of Commerce, as well as Block Grants from Washington D.C. The money from these grants only go to community action agencies.

"There are 11 community action agencies in Arizona," Diaz said. "The amount of money the agencies receive depends on the poverty rates, the population, and the unemployment rates of the city or county the agency is in."

The amount of money people are able to receive from these grants is based on income and personal needs, Diaz said.

"We provide services such as rental payments, so people do not get evicted," Diaz said. "We can pay for their utilities such as gas, electric and water. We also have grants that pay for a person's tools or to replace broken appliances."

There are guidelines and restrictions on each particular grant, which prevents people from taking advantage of them.

"A person living by themself cannot make more than $970 in one month if they want to receive most of our grants, and no more than $1,164 for grants such as replacing their tools," Diaz said.

Since opening 25 years ago the P.C.C.A.A. Has has a great impact in Pima County. One person who has used its services is 53-year-old Vito "Vito" DelVecchio.

Vito was an ice cream salesman for over 15 years before he was involved in a serious motorcycle accident a year ago.

"I was riding my motorcycle one night, and there was a person driving crazy on the road with his lights off," Vito said. "So I did the reasonable thing, and pulled over. The car then turned its headlights on and started driving normal so I figured it was safe to ride."

Today, all Vito says he remembers is waking up from a coma in the hospital and finding out it had been three weeks since he was hit and run over by the car.

"I broke every bone on the left side of my body," Vito said. "Both of my lungs collapsed so I was on a machine for a week, I had 5 surgeries over the summer, and was in a wheelchair for six months."

Vito, who currently walks with a cane, said once he was able to leave the hospital he found himself coming home to a table full of bills that he could not pay.

His only transportation is Van Tran because he does not own a car. However, at times he runs out of tickets for the Van Tran, and is not able to make some of his physical therapy appointments. The appointments are paid for by a scholarship his doctor’s office was able to get him at the YMCA.

"He's my hero," Vito said. "Dr. (Hector) Garcia is the only one who helped me when I was in pain. During my summer of surgeries, they had to put some screws in my left knee, and they messed up and my knee had a giant bump on the side of it."

Vito went to the University Medical Center three times, with a note from Dr. Garcia explaining the condition of his knee. It took him literally passing out from the pain for the people at the hospital to realize the severity of his injuries.

It has been almost a year since his accident, but Vito says the progress is going slow.

"Most people tell me they are amazed that I am even walking," Vito said. "But I used to be a professional boxer, so I'm tough and I have my pride."

Diaz heard about Vito’s accident and started helping right away.

The agency took care of two water bills for me," Vito said. "They also took care of an electric bill, paid rent for one month, and they are paying for my glassess, since the accident left me with double vision."

Norma Gallegos, program coordinator of the P.C.C.A.A., is doing her best to provide for people like Vito.

"We've tried to help as much as we're allowed to," Gallegos said. "And if we can't do it for them directly, then we have other agencies that we fund that can."

Gallegos says that while P.C.C.A.A. has a limited amount of money, it's main goal is to help as many people as it can.

"I love what I do," Gallegos said "I love helping people, and if someone needs help I want to help them."
Police Beat

By Sarah Mitchell
EL INDEPENDIENTE

A woman was cited for possession of marijuana at her home in the 2100 block of South Fifth Avenue on Jan. 24. Police on bike patrol detected an odor of marijuana coming from a residential area.

Police followed the odor and found three women in the front yard where the odor was strongest. One of the women appeared to be holding something resembling a cigarette, which she threw behind a nearby storage closet when she saw the police.

When questioned, the woman denied having any drugs, until the police informed her she would only receive a ticket for the offense if she showed them where the illegal substance was.

The woman then admitted to using marijuana and gave police the item she had thrown behind the storage closet.

... A man was arrested for giving false information to law enforcement at the El Camino Hotel, 297 E. Benson Highway, after hitting a police patrol vehicle on Jan. 21.

Police witnessed two vehicles in the parking lot. There were four passengers sitting in one of the vehicles and the other vehicle was occupied.

While attempting to run a check on the license plates of the two vehicles, the driver of the occupied vehicle put the vehicle in reverse without checking behind him and backed into the police patrol vehicle.

The man was hurt, but when police tried to document the incident, the driver was unable to provide a driver’s license or proof of identification.

The man verbally gave his name, but police did not find a record matching that name or two additional names that he gave. Police arrested the man and took him to the Pima County Jail.

Officials identified the man from a mug shot and found he had an outstanding warrant from the Tucson Police Department.

He was served the warrant in jail.

... A man was arrested for extreme DUI at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and 36th Street on Jan. 23.

Police pulled the man over when they saw him driving erratically.

When asked if he had been drinking, the man told police he had only two beers in the previous hour.

Police administered a field sobriety test and the report stated the man “poorly.”

The report also said the man had wetted blood-shot eyes, a pale face, slurred speech, and a strong smell of alcohol on his breath.

To be charged with extreme DUI, a person’s blood alcohol content must be higher than 0.15 percent.

... A man was arrested for aggravated DUI and driving on a suspended license in front of the Discount Tire Warehouse in Tucson and Nogales.

Police stopped the vehicle after it crossed the yellow lines in the road.

A hunting knife and a BB gun were found and taken from the vehicle.

A police check showed the man, had prior DUI convictions and had spent time in jail for at least one.

To be charged with aggravated DUI, person must have at least two prior DUI convictions within the 60 months prior to arrest.

Tie breaker breaks hearts

Continued from page 7

between Pueblo and Catalina Foothills in the opening game of the Kino 4A Region playoffs.

Pueblo was now the favorite, having won the first two games against Catalina Foothills. If Pueblo were to win, they would finally prove to Catalina Foothills and everyone else that they belonged among the elite in 4A soccer.

The boys were ready for the rematch with Catalina Foothills. Head Coach Steve La Turco was confident his team would be ready to play against their new rivals.

“I think we’re more intimidated by the Salpointes than we are by Foothills cause we don’t play them often. Foothills is in our backyard, we see them every year,” La Turco said. Despite the size and number disadvantage, Pueblo came out and played Catalina Foothills with expected confidence. The budding rivalry between the two schools is evident when watching players slide, tackle, and knock each other over for the ball.

Many of the Catalina Foothills players displayed frustrations on the field with verbal outbursts causing the referee to hand out several yellow cards. If a player receives two yellow cards, they are dealt a red card and ejected from the game.

With Pueblo’s leading scorer, Frank Ayon out of the game with a badly injured finger, Catalina Foothills adjusted and focused more on their offensive game.

“You could see the tilt in momentum [after Frank went down]. They made some adjustments which caused us to be back on our heels,” said La Turco.

As the game wound down Pueblo had one last chance to tie the game but Catalina Foothills goalkeeper Giuseppe DeMasi every goal attempt made by the Warriors.

After the game the Pueblo players were not down, their confidence remained high. The players knew that in years past they would not have frustrated Catalina Foothills, and after playing a physical and intense game with them they knew they had come a long way.

One of the forwards for Pueblo, Eddi Estrada summed up the gener al morale of the warriors: “It’s a tough loss, but they’re a good team.”