**Violence Halts Shoppers at Border**

By Claire Conrad

José Villalobos has worked a large corner curio shop in Nogales, Sonora, for 25 years. For the past two, the number of American customers coming in to buy trinkets like baskets and bright, colorful flowers has dropped. The store was largely empty on a recent Saturday afternoon.

“This is the worst year,” Villalobos said in Spanish. “People are staying in the U.S.”

Villalobos is not the only merchant in Nogales seeing a marked decrease in traffic from U.S. customers.

Zaira Acuña, who works at Dental Casablanca in Nogales, has seen a drastic drop in the number of clients coming to Nogales for dental work. On the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 29, the dentist office was empty except for Acuña.

The bilingual dentist office, which caters mainly to American clients, had as many as 10 appointments each day just a few months ago. Now there are only two or three per day, Acuña shrugged.

“There’s no work,” Acuña said in Spanish. “They aren’t coming any more.”

For those who cater to United States visitors, such as merchants, dentists and pharmacy workers, there has been a drastic reduction in business in recent months.

Many in Nogales blame the financial crisis in the U.S. economy and the recent reports of a surge in drug violence in Mexico for the drastic drop in commerce in the city.

Drug violence in Mexico, particularly in the state of Sonora, has made headlines in the U.S. as brazen murders and executions have surged in recent years.

There were 6,285 drug-related deaths in Mexico from Jan. 1, 2007 to Oct. 31, 2008, according to data obtained from data provided by Reforma newspaper.

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**I’m Dreaming of a Green Xmas?**

By Tanya Radisavljevic

While battling for the deals on black Friday, pacing up and down the aisles for the blue light savings, and staring at the red lights on the commutes home it is important to focus on the most important color this season: green. While the economy is, say, slightly short of perfect, it is important to stay green during this holiday season.

And who would argue against a greener Christmas?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average person uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products per year.

In an effort to try and decrease this number, the following are a few colorful tips to keep in mind during this holiday season.

Brown. Take reusable or recycled bags to the store. Keep bags in the car or by the front door and grab them on your way out. Using recycled bags instead of new bags created with new paper generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water, according to EPA.

Gold. After the presents have been opened and the New Year has passed don’t throw the tree in the garbage. Instead, make an effort to buy a tree with remaining roots. Not only are you adding green to the planet but you’re keeping the artificial non-biodegradable plastics

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**Former Cops to Clean up Corruption**

By Michael K. Rich

Wesley Hand had grown accustomed to sitting on the beach drinking beer and watching the sunset near his home on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It was a place that was both beautiful to the eye and a joy to live. But he said he couldn’t spend the rest of life like that.

So when then former South Tucson Police officer got a call from South Tucson Manager Richard Garcia, who had worked for the department from 1972 until 1993, that there were problems, Hand has seen other issues.

Hand turned over the handling of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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**Legends**

**Number of ‘Drug Killings’ in Mexico**

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State and national totals of cartel-related slayings in Mexico (“ejecuciones” and “execuciones”) from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2008.

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**No habrá nacimiento en casa cordova este año**

Como otra opción, visite el museo.
At 115 Pounds, Islas Leads Pueblo Wrestling

By Ari Wasserman

Walking around the campus of Pueblo High School, Abraham Islas doesn’t fit the profile of an athlete. However, Islas, who weighs all of 115 pounds and stands 5-foot-7 if he isn’t wearing his wrestling shoes, is the most important athlete at Pueblo.

He often finds himself defending his size to naysayers who don’t believe he is an athlete.

“If I tell people I wrestle they don’t believe me because I am small,” said Islas, who is the captain of the wrestling team. “Most people think I am too small to wrestle.”

The senior is a returning state champion from last season, both individually and as part of the Warriors squad, who won the state title for the first time since 1992.

What makes Islas important is the successes he brings to a school that has certainly found itself down in other athletic endeavors.

This season, Islas returns to Pueblo after they lost six seniors from last year’s squad. He returns not only as a leader but a captain who will play an integral role in the team’s success if they want to repeat as state champions.

“He is a tremendous leader, he’s got great skill. He’s a great teacher, he never slacks off,” said teammate and Lopez are confident collegiate wrestling will be hard (without Islas).

Translation and Interpretation

South Tucson’s Bilingual Newspaper

El Independiente encourages letters from all its readers, but reserves the right to edit correspondence for grammar, style, clarity and length.

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News Editor
Clare Conrad

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By Elena Cruz

A week of honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe will end with a festival at St. Augustine Cathedral in downtown Tucson on Saturday December 13.

“The bishop wants to do a closing to the end of the week long celebration of Our Lady to enhance the important message of family,” said Celia Roman of the Diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Commission.

The celebration will also bring together parishes from more than nine countries, 75 in total. A mass on Dec 12 for Our Lady will begin with a procession led by the oldest church in Tucson. The Saturday event will feature Aztec and Yaqui dance performances.

The event is free to everyone, and begins at 10:30 a.m. Festivities will continue outside St. Augustine Cathedral, 192 S. Stone Ave., and will end at 4 p.m.

For more information call Celia Roman at 326-4744.
La construcción pone un alto al Nacimiento

Por Jenny Mayer

El Independiente

El Nacimiento pone un alto al Nacimiento en la Casa Cordova, pero la construcción se ha retrasado más de lo que anticipábamos, dice Meredith Hayes, directora de Primavera Works.


Primavera Works at Capacity

Economy Affecting Non-profits

By David Rodriguez

Local non-profit organizations have jumped in to help Tucsonans caught in the economic meltdown. But some have become overwhelmed by the demand for services and have had to cut back on such organizations as Primavera Works.

The nonprofit, which is a comprehensive job placement program for homeless and “near-homeless” people, has stopped accepting new clients because there are few jobs these days to pair with the increasing number of job seekers. They have had to turn away as many as 80 people a week, simply unable to offer them even hope of work.

“We’re still committed to helping the homeless, and will do the best we can in helping them,” said Renee Bibby, marketing coordinator with Primavera. “It’s tough to do that at the moment.”

However, people in Primavera’s shelters will still able to participate in the program in which case managers work one-on-one with clients to find suitable jobs. More than 200 people are on a waiting list to receive services when the program restarts.

“It is a big waiting list, and we’re hoping that it’s not long term,” said Karen Caldwell, director of workforce development at Primavera.

With the economy in recession, few companies are hiring. While the organization does place some workers in temporary jobs, its ultimate goal is to find permanent placement for its clients.

Primavera Works not only finds jobs for those in the program, the organization supports them with transportation, food, water and safety items, if needed.

Workshops are also available to build job skills and develop resumes.

Caldwell said she does not know how long Primavera Works will be unable to accept new clients.

They will evaluate the issue on a month-to-month basis.

Meanwhile, the organization is doing its best to drum up jobs for its clients by working its contacts and supporters, and marketing its program with public service announcements on local television.

The need to cut the program has impacted not only clients, but the Primavera Works staff, said Caldwell.

“It’s overwhelming to many of the staff because we’ve never had to turn anyone away.”

Primavera Works helps clients because there are few jobs for homeless and “near-homeless” people, has stopped accepting new clients, and managers work one-on-one with homeless or low income families looking to make ends meet.

Students Learn Where to Find Health Info

By Summer Watterson

Juniors and seniors at Sunnyside High School have the opportunity to earn money and credits for learning how to find health information that may help their families and peers.

Wellness Education Search, a University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Sciences program, pairs Sunnyside students with UA graduate students to educate teens on the best ways to find health information on issues they are facing, such as acne, diabetes, Human Papilloma Virus and its vaccination.

Annabelle Núñez, WE Search co-adviser and assistant librarian at the Arizona Health Services Library, says WE Search students work on different projects and activities, including field trips to different libraries in the community and digital stories about health issues, which she says they are hoping to post online.

Núñez says the goal of the program, which is in its third year at Sunnyside, is for students to raise health awareness in their communities and become “health advisers” to their friends and families, while exposing the teens to higher education. As a UA program, Núñez says the long-term goal is to introduce students to the world of medical librarians.

Students can participate in the week long WE Search Institute which takes place in July.

WE Search provides transportation to the UA Health Sciences Library and other locations where students will work on producing a Power Point to present to their peers and families.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in WE Search over an entire semester, where they work on digital stories and other presentations and have the opportunity to earn up to $1,000 and semester credit for a full class.

The money is given in increments over the semester as students meet their goals and responsibilities.

Núñez says the mentors guide the students and keep them on track so they can make the full $1,000.

Núñez says a lot of students join because they have the opportunity to be paid, but once the program begins they start becoming interested in everything they are learning.

“They start to feel good that they can help their friends and family,” she says.

WE Search will start recruiting for the summer program this spring, but students who seek more information can call Núñez at 626-7508 or see the career center at the high school.

The process of entering the program, application, orientation and permission slips from parents.

Núñez says any student can join, but the program primarily targets Hispanic and American Indian students.

The graduate students are part of the SIRLS Knowledge River Program which seeks to teach graduate students about Hispanic and American Indian needs in the library system.

Jana Bradley, director of SIRLS, says WE Search gives Knowledge River students real experience in the community.

“It’s really preparing them for what they are going to do,” she says.

Knowledge River students also receive money for school on a UA assistantship for participating in WE Search.

El Independiente now online at elindenerews.com

Several workers within the Primavera Works program help clean up local parks around Tucson. Primavera Works helps find temporary jobs for homeless or low income families looking to make ends meet.
Leaving Poverty Behind Because She Can

By Matthew Garcia

In the back space of a parking lot on Tucson’s southwest side, a class of 20 grade school students line up as they prepare for physical education on a small, asphalt field, outside of the Arizona Academy of Leadership.

“Are you ready Emillius?” asks teacher Randiesa Riggs. “Or your mark, get set, go.”

Three young boys dart out to a bunch of hurdles, the first of four obstacles. They throw them around their waists and start twisting their bodies.

Fifteen minutes later Riggs is running the obstacle course herself. “Don’t give up Reyes, don’t give up, Reyes, don’t give up!”

She blue bends over the finish line and droopy arms in disappointment arbeit in place.

She looks around the students who hid in the back of the lines, hoping they would be skipped, and passes them some words of encouragement as she puts them up front for the next run.

“Who does my t-shirt say?” Riggs asks.

“I can do all things,” the students mumble.

Riggs has made it her life goal to help students find many beliefs understand and embrace these five words.

Riggs, 31, is the founder of the non-profit organization I Can Do All Things, whose objective is nothing short of revolutionizing society’s mindset through volunteerism by teaching people that they don’t have to be poor.

A Ph.D. candidate and 12-year Marine Corps veteran, Riggs has overcome incredible odds in her life that influenced her to teach others that no matter how bad their situation is, they can make a difference.

Riggs was born in Los Angeles, Calif., and raised by her mother and stepfather. Her family became homeless when she was 12 years old.

In the next seven years, life in hotels on skid row in downtown L.A. was anything but encouraging.

“We may get pushed out of windows, people get killed, my mom and dad would be missing for weeks,” she says.

In high school, Riggs spent the rent money on drugs, putting Randiesa and her two brothers out on the street, worrying about running a brown garbage bags with a few clothes and blankets.

Riggs would often spend her time alone at school, in the library or running track—anything to avoid the drugs at home. She started smoking by the age of 12 and continued to do so until the age of 16.

Without mentor or guidance, Riggs overcame a suicide attempt and managed to maintain her grades in order to graduate from high school with honors. However, none of it seemed to matter because she never imagined that she could live any other lifestyle than poverty.

After high school, Riggs took up a job at Burger King.

“I was so irritated…the fact that some- how other people could, you know, they could make it,” she says. “I thought that they could have some breaks that I wasn’t being given.”

Riggs has to, she says.

“I can’t say that I’m proud of myself,” Riggs says.

However, she is looking to end her job soon in order to focus more of her time on ICDAT, which she currently spends an unpaid 60 to 70 hours per week leading. Finding direction and a peaceful place to eat and sleep while changing their perceptions about financial stability and success. It will also teach them survival skills, and most of all, assist them with the transition into college.

“Instead of thinking poorly, remove them from the generational poverty they come from and teach them something new,” Riggs says.

While teaching at APEX, a school near the airport, students would tell her that they wanted to be a pharmacist’s technician. They didn’t know that they could be the pharma-acist, she says.

“I thought the reason why I’m in college right now,” says 18-year-old Jessica Bennett, an assistant of Riggs with ICDAT.

At Burger King at Burger King, Riggs decided that she was getting out of poverty and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Having faced some of the toughest chal- lenges in her life, Riggs was ready to take on anything. She passed boot camp with ease, but would soon be confronted with sit- uations that she never anticipated. Raped twice in the Marines, Riggs says she also faced unrelenting discrimination as an African-American female.

“She is a very aggressive, outgoing young lady,” says Wanda Reed, a close friend who considered the daughter “has no heart.”

Riggs had a goal in mind in the Marines, however, to become an officer. Taking advantage of her options, Riggs attended the U of A while undergoing extensive training at Fort Huachuca.

After 12 years of service and passing official- er candidate school despite a broken foot bolted onto her neck, that she recovered from, Riggs decided to return to school for a masters degree in 2006.

Throughout her military career, Riggs decided to go back to college and finish her masters degree in 2006.

Reddy to redirect her energy, Riggs took a job as a teacher at APEX.

In Riggs’ Midvale home on Tucson’s southwest side, more than 20 women of all ages gather at four tables laden with cookie supplies. The lesson for the day’s Sister Circle meeting is making gingerbread women and understanding the correlation between looking good on the outside while having ingredients on the inside that they want to forget about.

“The purpose of Sister Circle is to build self esteem in women, as well as teach them about public health, life skills and cultural practices,” says Riggs. In a receding economy, a mother can always sell some cookies if she has to, she says.

Riggs is currently looking for a leader for the Fathers Being Fathers program. It teach- es men that it is better to stay a parent than to leave their child.

The program teaches conflict resolution and provides time for men to hang out with other men while bringing their kids along, says Riggs.

The current challenge that Riggs faces is her attempt to expand ICDAT by purchasing a ranch on Tucson’s west side. It will house the 16 to 24 year-old students and provide a larger meeting space for the other programs.

But the program has not gotten funding to pay for the ranch and if it’s going to expand, it will need experienced volunteers to offer their skills as teachers or leaders.

By the community helping ICDAT, it is helping itself by improving individuals to become productive citizens and lowering crime rates by taking troubled kids off the streets, she says.

“If ICDAT can get the funding, Riggs would like to open the ranch as early as 2009. Although this larger goal remains close at hand, Riggs achievements are evident in the influence that she has on others.

Reed is also looking for grants to open Ms. Wanda’s House, a shelter for pregnant girls.

Some people say that it’s Riggs personal- ity that draws in. “She makes you feel good about helping,” says Kiley White.

Jennifer Moss is one among many indi- viduals that Riggs influenced to continue higher education.

“She knows how to bring out the best in you,” says Moss.

However, it’s a mutual feeling as to just how much Riggs can accomplish.

“Whatever I’m seeing her do now is only the beginning,” says Reed.

500 Kids to Recieve Bikes for Christmas

By Dani Pfeiffer

The 13th Annual Grand Christmas Party is looking for volunteers to help assemble bikes for children this Christmas. The program is seeking younger who are willing. Organizations have chosen 500 children to receive new bikes thanks to the program. A new bike and helmet, provided by Tucson Medical Center as a gift.

Last year, the fundraiser exceeded their goal of $20,000 in four hours and drew 250 volunteers.

The volunteers assembled the bikes in an hour and ten minutes.

Chairman Jesse Lugo hopes this year will bring out as many volunteers.

“We’ve never had a problem raising the money, but this year, with the economy, we’re hoping for the same as last,” Lugo said.

“In these economic times, we understand if people can’t give but we’re looking for volunteers,” Lugo said.

Volunteers are needed Dec. 13 at the Latin American Social Club, 437 F. 26th St., from 8 a.m. to noon.

The party where the children will be presented with their bikes and helmets will be held on Dec. 14 at the same location.

Checks for donations can be made out to Grand Christmas Party and sent to P.O. Box 26363, Tucson, AZ. 85726. Lugo can be reached at 322-0714.
La economía, la violencia afecta el turismo

By Claire Conrad

La economía en el sur de Tucson ha experimentado una reducción drástica del volumen de negocio en meses recientes.

En Nogales, muchas personas atribuyen la reducción drástica a las fuerzas combinadas de la crisis económica estadounidense y las recientes noticias sobre el aumento en la violencia relacionada con las drogas en México.

El Departamento de Estado estadounidense publicó una alerta por turistas en lugares públicos como centros comerciales y, específicamente, advirtió que no se usará la Carretera 15 entre Nogales y Hermosillo.

Pero las noticias sobre tiroteos en lugares públicos, como centros comerciales y, específicamente, advirtió que no se usará la Carretera 15 entre Nogales y Hermosillo.

En el centro de Nogales y la muerte de Juan Manuel Pabón Félix, jefe de policía del estado de Sonora, el 2 de noviembre, se han publicado en los titulares de los medios de comunicación en ambos lados de la frontera.

La violencia relacionada con las drogas en México ha aumentado en años recientes, según el gobierno mexicano, se ha incrementado en años recientes, según el gobierno mexicano, se ha incrementado, hecho que ha causado fragmentaciones y luchas por el poder entre los carteles, dijo David Shirak, director del Instituto de Estudios Fronterizos (Trans-Border Institute) de la Universidad de San Diego. Antes de junio la tienda, que acepta dólares y pesos pero que es más frecuentada por ciudadanos estadounidenses, facturaba de $800 a $1,500 al día. Ahora solamente factura un promedio de $200.

La economía en Nogales, Sonora, dice Villalobos. “Y traigan a sus amigos.”

Linda Baker, manager of Guillermo’s Double L. Restaurant on South Fourth Avenue, says business slowed down during the summer, but with winter coming it’s starting to pick up again. Flores says his parents had his days trying to get the best service to the few customers who do come in, and when no one’s in the shop he says, “I pretty much look for a nap.”

Some businesses are hopeful that the situation will get better as the weather cools and Tucson’s busy winter season nears.

Flu shots are recommended for people aged 6 months to 19 years old, pregnant women, people 50 years old or older, people with chronic medical conditions, people who live in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, and those who live with or care for people who are at risk of contracting the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Favor to the owners because the economy is so bad. He says the owners recently closed down the Fourth Avenue location because they needed cheaper rent. Flores says his parents had his days trying to get the best service to the few customers who do come in, and when no one’s in the shop he says, “I pretty much look for a nap.”

Some businesses are hopeful that the situation will get better as the weather cools and Tucson’s busy winter season nears.

Botas el Mudo, located on South Sixth Avenue, is one of the South Tucson businesses feeling the effects of the slump in the U.S. economy.
**La ciudad propone limpiar la jefatura de policía**

Por Michael K. Rich

Traducido por Anders T. Peterson

La ciudad va a traer a ex agentes para modificar las normas policiales

Hasta que se llegue a acordar, el ex agente del ex departamento de policía de Túcson, Floy H. Byrn cuenta con el respaldo de la ciudad para modificar las normas de policiales. El ex agente se retiró del servicio en 1985, y tiene una larga historia de trabajo con los oficiales de policía de Túcson.

Byrn ha trabajado en la jefatura desde 1995 y había ascendido a ser agente de jefe antes de ser despedido en octubre de este año.

Las normas de policiales se han visto afectadas por el escándalo en el departamento de policía, lo que ha llevado a un aumento en la cantidad de casos de violencia y corrupción.

Byrn cree que es necesario hacer cambios en las normas de policiales para mejorar el servicio y disminuir el número de casos de violencia.

**Going Green this Holiday Season**

By Jenny Mayner

For the first time in 30 years, the nativity scene at La Casa Cordova will not be on display this holiday season.

María Luisa Tena, creator of El Nacimiento, crafted the scene to tell holiday stories and settings from Mexican folk life. She has collected 800 figurines from markets in Mexico over the past 30 years.

“Actually we are making it better, the whole house historic, better for next year and for the people who have visited us,” Tena said.

Natividad Scene Canceled

In place of El Nacimiento, the theme is “Narrating the Way,” following the Star of Bethlehem, Tena said.

“We’ve got your golden gift, but an afternoon full of valuable reading material,” Tena said.

The glass will be reused for local stores. Online shopping is a great option because it is not being green. Non-local companies do not save the planet but it also saves you time!

“Adopt something! An animal, an ocean, or even a family. Check out Tiffany’s for you, and buy locally.”

Tena has collected 800 figurines from markets in Mexico over the past 30 years.

“Actually we are making it better, the whole house historic, better for next year and for the people who have visited us,” Tena said.

Imagery from the beach, the mountains, and the malls for gifts. There are several other options you may not be familiar with.

Adopt something! An animal, an ocean, or even a family. Check out Tiffany’s for you, and buy locally.

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“Adopt something! An animal, an ocean, or even a family. Check out Tiffany’s for you, and buy locally.”

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Youth ‘Get it’ When it Comes to Giving

By Colleen Keefe

Recent news of an official recession hasn’t dampened the spirits or efforts of many young philanthropists in the community for this holiday season. In fact, it may even have inspired them.

Across Tucson, students have banded together to make the holidays a bit more festive for people who might be suffering this season. Students at Mission View Elementary partnered with their parents by washing dishes, packing tortillas and do their homework. They were then able to contribute to their community.

We have a big focus on the word ‘empathy,’ being able to put yourself in someone else’s shoes,” says Terri Polan, principal at Mary Meredith K-12. “When we say to students, ‘Put yourself in someone else’s shoes,’ there is always somebody needier,” says the six-year-old Bianay Kristal of Elvira Neighborhood says it all.

The feedback I got was wonderful. It set the tone to go off negative note.”

We sold something like $300 that day,” says Jessica Alderete, youth program coordinator. “A lot of the kids also receive food boxes, because their families are struggling.

‘I don’t think we’re gonna be advertising for folks having meals at the Mercado because of the shaky economy, but they both say the bakery has made it through rough times and hope their presence in San Agustín is a real gift.”

The family has long dreamed of expanding the business in an area closer to downtown.

According to Terri Polan, principal at Mary Meredith, the overall experience was a success for both the volunteer performers and parents.

“They themselves are recipients. It seems to have mastered the lesson. According to Terri Polan, principal at Mary Meredith, the overall experience was a success for both the volunteer performers and recipients.

They are the leaders of the childhood, according to her placemat must have felt an element of gratitude, whether it was a simple thank you note, we see it as a big, huge missing piece in society now,” Hoover explains.

As usual, the general message to the students is to put yourself in someone else’s shoes.

Economically, our students are generally on the receiving end. We want to be able to have that balance, that while they are very wealthy, they are also very needful, that there is always somebody needier,” says Terri Polan, principal at Mary Meredith.

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“I think if you looked in some of the kids faces you could see they were relaxed and gave up some of their inhibitions,” Polan says. “The feedback, I got was wonderful. It set the tone to go off negative note.”

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“Youth ‘Get it’ When it Comes to Giving

South-Side Panaderia Gets Ready to Expand

By Tess Martinez

When Antonio and Marta Franco opened La Estrella bakery on Halloween in 1986, the profits from their first day of business were less than they and their four children had hoped for.

By Tess Martinez

The Franco family, who came to Tucson from Jalisco, Mexico, learned the business by running an uncle’s bakery, El Rio Panaderia, for two years before opening La Estrella.

In those days, the couple made $100 per week running the business almost single-handedly.

But their daughters remember how their parents were somehow able to make it through those first few rough years.

“I remember we ate chicken soup, beans, rice and tortillas,” Montaño says. “That’s what we survived with as kids. And occasionally we had sandwiches.”

The family lives in their home in Barrio Hollywood. But Erica and Montaño say they really grew up in La Estrella, where they spent their childhood playing behind the counter and chasing each other through the store.

All four kids started working at the bakery by early ages.

“I was 11 and I was running the cash register,” Montaño says. After school, they would sit by the front counter and do their homework.

After homework, they pitched in to help their parents by washing dishes, packing tortillas and helping whatever way they could.

The Franco Family, here at their panadería at 2516 S. 12th Ave, will be selling their pastries and tortillas at the new Mercado San Agustín when it opens next year.

“This was our home,” Franco says. “When we opened here, every day we would be together. Basically, our whole lives were here.”

The family has long dreamed of expanding the business in an area closer to downtown.

They are finally getting that chance next year.

The Mercado will be located downtown in the city center, and is scheduled to open in June 2010.

But shoppers can get a preview of what the Mercado will have to offer at the Holiday Bazaar, where vendors including La Estrella will be from Dec. 12 to 24 in a big tent on the corner of West Congress and Avenue del Convento.

The bazaar is open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

The sisters agree it’s a risky time to try to expand because of the shaky economy, but they both say the bakery has made it through rough times and hope their presence in San Agustín will help.

“I look at our annual statements from years ago,” Montaño says. “And I realize how hard our parents worked. They were smart, they put away money over time so they didn’t get to see their families a lot,” says seventh grader and dancer Christine Kevichusa.

The Folklorico group plans to dance at a nursing home sometime during the Christmas holiday.

For Thanksgiving, kids attending the Folklorico group and the Youth Center collected food for Casa Maria, a charity that helps to feed needy families, and Casa San Juan, which tends to the needs of elderly people.

The youth plan to do the same for Christmas, but will also deliver boxes of food and written inspirational messages to the children who will distribute the boxes to the holidays, says Jessica Alderete, youth program coordinator.

“Together, approximately 40 children from the center will dance and walk in the Downtown Parade of Lights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and if that’s not enough, the center’s Youth to Youth program, which promotes a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle, will have a one day lock-in as an alternative to a potentially risky time during the winter break.

The center will be open for more information, call the center at 792-9251.

There are many benefits in contributing.


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Las Posadas Procession

Las posada procession by Carrillo Intermediate Magnet Schoo, 440 S. Main Ave, will have food and music beginning at 5:30 p.m. The posada procession begins at 7:30. Children from different schools will enact the journey of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter on Christmas Eve. For more information call 225-1200.

Dec. 12-14

Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair

Come and enjoy the cool weather and arts and crafts at the semi annual Fourth Avenue Street Fair, an eclectic mix of art, food, and performances. The three-day event is free. For more information call 624-5004 or visit www.fourthavenue.org.

Dec. 13

Christmas Character Community Parade

Join the Christmas Character Community for a parade and toy drive at Reid Park. New, unwrapped toys or $5 donations will be collected for Toys for Tots. The parade begins at 3 p.m. and will be followed by music, food and entertainment at Ramada 14. For more information call 358-7991.

Dec. 13

Downtown Parade of Lights

The 14th annual Parade of Lights is back to bring Christmas cheer. Come and see lights, music and performers take part in the parade. The parade begins at Fourth Avenue and 17th Street and ends at Armory Park. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. at Armory Park and the parade starts at 6 p.m. For more information call Brandi Hagar at 547-3338 or go to www.downtown Tucson.org/downtown_parade_of_lights.

Dec. 13

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

St. Augustine Cathedral is holding a celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 10:30 a.m. The celebration includes food, entertainment, a procession, a mass and a re-enactment of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information call 326-4744.

Dec. 13- Dec. 27

Winterhaven Festival of Lights

The 58th annual Winterhaven Festival of Lights is here again. Come and see houses in the neighbor- bood decorated for the Christmas season. This year houses will be using LED lights, which use less energy. Visitors can drive, walk or take a horse carriage ride through the neighborhood. The festival is free but food donations will be accepted and given to the Tucson Community Food Bank. For more information call 881-4483 or visit www.winterhaven-festival.org.

Dec. 20

Family Time at MOCA

Come join MOCA for a special workshop on how to incorporate art projects in daily family activities. Local artists Natalie Nguyen and Denise Urethra will lead the workshop for this month’s family time at MOCA. The price is $5 for families and free for MOCA family members. For more information call 624-5019.

Dec. 31

First Night

Come and enjoy a family friendly New Years’ Eve in Downtown Tucson. First Night is a New Year’s celebration with arts and culture. Different venues including the Tucson Convention Center and Tucson Children’s Museum will have free events. Other venues will have paid entertainment. The cost for adults is $12, $6 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. The paid admission gives access to all of the participating venues. The event begins at 4 p.m. and ends at midnight with a grand finale. For more information call 547-3338 or go to www.down townmuseum.org/first_night.

Jan. 3

Three Kings Festival

The Tucson Children’s Museum is having a festival to celebrate the arrival of the Three Kings. The event will showcase the traditions of the Three Kings celebrated in Mexico and around the world. The festival is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 792-9985. Traducido por: Ernesto Amaya

12 de Dic.

Procesión Las Posadas

La procesión Las Posadas de la Carrillo Intermediate Magnet Schoo, 440 S. Main Ave, ofrecerá comida y música a partir de las 5:30. La procesión comienza a las 7:30. Los niños de Carrillo representarán el viaje de María y José que buscaron refugio en la Nochebuena. Si desea más información llame al 358-7991.

13 de Dic.

Desfile de luces en el centro de la ciudad

El 14º Desfile de Luces está aquí para contribuir a la alegría navideña. Venga y vea las luces, música y actores que participan en el desfile. El desfile comienza en Stone Avenue y 17th Street y termina en Armory Park. Las festividades empiezan a las 4 p.m. en Armory Park y el desfile comienza a las 6 p.m. Si desea más información llame a Brandi Hagar al 547-3338 o vaya a www.downtown Tucson.org/downtown_parade_of_lights.

13 de Dic.

Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

La Catedral de San Agustín ofrecerá una celebración para honrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a las 10:30 a.m. La celebración incluye comida, entretenimiento, una proyección y una representación de la apari- ción de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Si desea más información llame al 225-6744.

13-17 de Dic.

Festival de Luces Winterhaven


20 de Dic.

Hora Familiar en MOCA

Venga y tómense MOCA para un taller especial sobre cómo incorporar proyectos artísticos a las actividades familiares diarios. Las artistas locales Natalie Nguyen y Denise Urethra se encargarán del taller para la hora familiar de MOCA este mes. El precio es de $5 para familias y gratis para los familiares de los miembros de MOCA. Si desea más información llame al 624-5019.

31 de Dic.

Primera Noche

Venga y disfrute de un treinta y uno de diciembre inolvidable y en familia en el centro de Tucson. Primera Noche es un evento para toda la familia y no estén envueltos, para Toys for Tots. Se recogerán juguetes nuevos, que no estén envueltos, para Toys for Tots.

El desfile comienza a las 3 p.m. y habrá música, comida y entretenimiento en la Ramada 14. Si desea más información llame al 358-7991.

En 3 de Ene.

Festival de los Tres Reyes Magos

El Tucson Children’s Museum tendrá un festival para celebrar la llegada de los Reyes Magos. El evento incluirá la tradición de los Reyes Magos, como se celebra en México y por todo el mundo del mundo. El festival es de la 1 p.m. hasta las 4 p.m. Si desea más información llame al 792-9985.