More Women, Children Homeless

By Jessica Maruccioni

A car accident put Jeanne Cote out of work for several months, and when she was finally ready to return to her job, it was no longer available.

Now she is forced to turn to Casa Maria’s soup kitchen when she runs out of food stamps. “I have a variety of experiences and I’ve been out looking for jobs, but there is nothing,” Cote said. “There are a lot of people out here with skills, but they are sitting closed doors left right.”

Cote has a 1-year-old daughter and her husband, Michael Schoeneck, is on disability. “They are not homeless yet, but Schoeneck’s entire monthly Social Security check goes toward rent.

Across Tucson, people have lost their jobs and are struggling to stay in their homes and feed their families, but more and more families are becoming homeless and living on the streets. “Because they are not sitting on street corners, begging with their kids in tow, people underestimate the number of families that are homeless,” said Jennifer Anderson, director of programs for New Beginnings for Women and Children, an organization dedicated to helping homeless women and children in Tucson.

Anderson added that before the economy crashed, they were at full capacity, but now, the number of families needing assistance has been “steady or increasing for about a year.”

The Tucson Planning Council “Homeless Families” report page 6

South Side Neighborhoods More Stable, Experience Fewer Foreclosure Problems

By Michael Luke

Manny Grijalva chuckles at his current situation. He struggles to make money as a busboy at Old Pueblo Grille and is a self-proclaimed “nervous wreck” when bill due dates approach.

But one bill he doesn’t have to worry about is a mortgage on his house.

His south side home was paid for by his grandparents more than 50 years ago. He notes that the people he grew up with have much higher paying jobs, but struggle to make their house payments.

Like other areas of Tucson, the south side has foreclosures, but the impact is less than might be expected because of the greater number of older homes in the area.

The older neighborhoods in south side Tucson are more stable. Hostiles are often in families for generations. Fewer new houses have been built, and as a result, fewer mortgages and fewer foreclosures.

In contrast, the newly developed areas in the northwest and southeast have high foreclosure rates largely because they have so many new home mortgages.

“Parts of town that expanded the most are the ones that are really being affected right now,” said Jeri Szach, of Szach Realty.

As of January 2009, Arizona and Nevada had two of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. According to Szach, both states were hit with migration points and they experienced rapidly expanding new housing projects.

Phoenix and Tucson grew over the past decade causing the need for new housing construction. From 2000 to 2007 alone, Tucson’s population increased by nearly 40,000 while Phoenix increased by more than 230,000.

Currently, 50 percent of all houses on the market in Phoenix and 15 percent in Tucson are foreclosed, according to data from the National Realtors Association.

Szach points out that many people in Tucson who received ill-advised loans were looking to move into the rapidly developing southeast and northwest sides of Tucson. The south side of Tucson didn’t undergo nearly as much development.

“There are many people on the south side of Tucson who are absolutely benefiting from the large amount of older houses in that area,” Szach said. “Many older houses are especially prevalent in the south part of Tucson, and a lot of those homes tend to have been in the family for along time.”

Grijalva feels blessed to be living in his south side home. He has a tremendous bond with many of the people in his neighborhood. “I love this area,” Grijalva said. “It may look a little run down to outsiders, but a lot of people are happy they have an older house because that’s one less bill to pay.”

In fact, Grijalva realizes how much more difficult his life would be if he faced a monthly mortgage. “I have no clue where I would live or if I would be on the street.”

Border Patrol’s New Scanner Nabs Drugs, Human Contraband

By Lourdes Villarreal

The U.S. Border Patrol has an innovative new tool to catch smugglers – X-ray vision.

The agency has implemented X-ray technology at the Interstate 19 checkpoint south of Tucson to detect contraband.

The Border Patrol inspects vehicles for hidden drugs, humans and other contraband with a mobile device loaded on a Ford F-550 chassis called the Z Backscatter Van.

The van looks like a horse trailer stalled on the side of the road. A scanner mounted inside provides better shape and accuracy of what is inside the vehicle they want to inspect.

“It finds the exact location, its quicker, it’s more assertive in what we are looking for,” said Mario Escalante, public information officer for the Border Patrol’s Tucson Sector.

The Backscatter radiation van drives around a vehicle emitting a beam of an X-ray, which bounces back to the system. Since the device was deployed in February, it has detected 2,969 passengers are told to leave their vehicles while the scan is in progress.

Since the device was deployed in February, it has detected 2,969 pounds of marijuana, 31 pounds of cocaine and 17 pounds of heroin and seven concealed illegal immigrants.

The Border Patrol currently has four of these devices — one in Arizona, one in California and two in Texas.
By Kelly Grove

Garcia was sentenced; $454,963.45 in $200 monthly city, court documents show.

Richard Robles Garcia, a former lieutenant, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for embezzling more than $550,000 from the police department and the city, court documents show. Garcia was also ordered by the U.S. District Court to pay $343,963.45 in $200 monthly installments for his crimes.

It will take many lifetimes for Garcia to repay the city, said Enrique Serna, South Tucson city manager.

“We were victimized again,” he said. “There’s no real restitution.”

Garcia’s actions may have added to the burden the city is facing, he said. Half of the more than $550,000 Garcia stole would have gone to South Tucson’s general fund.

Garcia pleaded guilty Jan. 26 to embezzlement, he said. Half of the more than $550,000 Garcia stole would have gone to South Tucson’s general fund.

At risk of closing last fall because of a lack of funding, the House of Neighborly Service has found renewed life through the financial and volunteer support from Our Family Services.

Today, the House of Neighborly Service (HNS), 243 W. 33 St., has a long legacy of serving the South Tucson area.

In 1948, the organization operated successfully through donations until 2008 when a $50,000 budget shortfall forced it to close in September.

The organization reopened early this year after Our Family Service moved quickly to handle its operations and keep its programs running.

“Our family shares a like vision with The House of Neighborly Service, striving to make South Tucson a better place to grow up and grow old,” said Arlene Lopez, HNS board member.

Lopez added that Our Family Services is running the programs with grants received from Pima County, but allows the HNS to retain control of its board and overall direction.

In 2008, even with its funding issues, the HNS provided more than 200 hours of tutoring for more than 50 South Tucson children and 1,229 hours of prevention and awareness and recreation services for hundreds of children.

They also provided 3,526 meals, a dozen field trips and thousands of bags of groceries for more than 150 seniors.

The HNS offers a number of regular programs that focus on improving literacy and socialization and enhancing quality of life.

Among these is a seniors’ program. Two days a week, seniors meet to gather and socialize, according to Arlene Lopez, HNS board member.

Currently, more than 30 seniors participate.

“The seniors program is wonderful,” Lopez said. “I sometimes join them in their activities and I always have a great time.”

The HNS also offers a popular after school program for elementary-aged kids focused on improving literacy and socialization skills. A computer literacy program for teenagers meets every after school.

“I’ve been coming to the House of Neighborly Service for three years now and, I really like it,” said 13-year-old, Ricardo Martinez.

The HNS also has a youth program that teaches kids how to build self-esteem, teamwork and socialization skills all through jump-roping, playing basketball and painting.

“The House of Neighborly Service is wonderful and has always been in my life, I can’t imagine what it would be like without it.”

By Kelly Grove

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**Patrulla Fronteriza adapta la inspección de alta tecnología**

Por Lourdes Villareal

Traducido por Nabil Hourieh, Jr.

La patrulla fronteriza de los EE.UU. tiene una nueva herramienta innovadora para capturar a los contrabandistas – un rayo X. La agencia ha implementado la tecnología en el punto de inspección de la Interstate-19 (Carretera interestatal 19) en el sur de Texas para detectar el contrabando. La patrulla fronteriza inspecciona los vehículos para detectar drogas escondidas, seres humanos u otras clases de contrabando con un aparato móvil llamado Z Backscatter Van, colocado en el chasis de una camioneta Ford F-550.

El Z Backscatter Van parece ser simplemente un tráiler para transportar caballos que está atascado al lado de la carretera, pero el escáner instalado dentro de esta furgoneta puede detectar las drogas debajo de la fachada de lo que hay dentro del vehículo que desean inspeccionar, y con más precisión.

“Encuentra el lugar exacto, es más rápido y más específico que lo que estamos buscando”, dice Mario Escalante, el agente de información pública para la patrulla fronteriza del sector de Túscen. “La furgoneta con radiación retrodispersiva se desplaza alrededor de un vehículo y emite un rayo X, que rebota de regreso al sistema. Al recopilar la información, se transmite y se presenta en un computador portátil localizado dentro de la furgoneta.”

“Escanea el material orgánico, rebota y le da forma”, dijo Escalante. “La radiación que emite la furgoneta es mínima, el equivalente a un examen de rayos X del pecho.”

Pero todavía, por razones de seguridad, se les instruye a los pasajeros que abandonen el vehículo por un momento y se levanten el peluquín para una mejor inspección.

Desde su introducción en febrero, este aparato ha detectado 2,969 libras de marihuana, 31 libras de cocaína, 17 libras de heroína y 7 inmigrantes ilegales resultados.

La patrulla fronteriza tiene cuatro de estos aparatos en su posesión, uno en Arizona, dos en Texas y uno en California.

**Pueblo High School Club Attends Robotics World Championship**

By Kathleen Stevens

The Pueblo High School Robotics Club placed 88th out of 300 with their robot, Flavor of the Month, at this year’s VEX Robotics World Championship. The operators of Flavor of the Month, Daniel Carrillo, president of the team, and Carlos Salaz on the Southside Presbyterian Church.

Every Monday, Clinica Amistad offers free primary and preventive healthcare to those without insurance at the WIC office near Southside Presbyterian Church. The clinic, located at 1631 S. 10th Ave., offers a variety of services including urgent care and medications along with physical therapy and acupuncture.

Doctors and nurses are also available to give nutritional and health advice.

The staff of volunteers includes doctors, physician’s assistants, nurses and Spanish interpreters all working on a volunteer basis.

Many college students from the University of Arizona and Pima Community College work as interpreters at the clinic. The clinic is always looking for interpreters.

Every day except Monday afternoon, the clinic is known as the Women, Infant and Children office.

For more information call 520-237-5434.
FRONTERAS. Sonora – This country demands patience. “In Mexico, you never get anything done on the first trip, there’s always a surprise,” Alice Valenzuela often says of her adopted homeland.

It also requires faith. “Whenever there’s a problem, we have to keep coming back, over and over, for the next miracle,” she says. “That’s the best thing to do. You can’t rely on flawed human beings.”

In Fronteras, a small town about 40 miles south of the U.S. border at Douglas, Ariz., the long-awaited miracle is jobs. When the town’s only industry, a Levolor window blinds factory, that employed 435 people, closed in 2002, its people were left praying for answers.

Three years later, some of those prayers have been answered. But in Fronteras, divine intervention only follows human sweat – and tears.

The Valenzuelas
Alice Valenzuela easily refers to herself as a “gringo.” “I’m in the only one around, usually,” she says. She has broken down on lonely roads in the Sonora countryside and been known to pass by a power pole whose faces she herself can’t remember. The sort-of strangers always stop to offer her a lift. In these parts, it’s hard to forget Alice Valenzuela.

Even though she may not look like her neighbors, she calls Fronteras home. “I’m Mexican now,” she says. “I love where I live. I want to die here.”

Valenzuela and her husband, Roberto, 58, live an hour outside Fronteras on the ranch Roberto inherited from his father. In this rural part of the country, the spaces are wide-open; things are far apart. With only 1,500 people, Fronteras is the size of the county of only 7,000; it’s the biggest thing around. The Valenzuelas met as students at the University of Arizona. After more than a decade working in Northern California – Roberto as an executive for Hewlett-Packard; Alice as a newspaper publisher – the couple returned to Mexico to raise a family. They planned to live in the ranch for a few years and then maybe move back to the United States where their children would go to school. Instead, they never left.

In their second career, the newly minted ranchers won a reputation for their charity efforts and volunteer work in the state. The women of Fronteras naturally turned to the Valenzuelas when the few jobs vanished with Levolor and people were left hungry.

When trouble hit Fronteras, when the few jobs vanished and people were left hungry, the women of the town turned to the Valenzuelas.

Alice Valenzuela balked at first. The ranch was already struggling through an extended drought. She and Roberto had their own problems to deal with, she said, without looking at the crushing problems facing Fronteras. “I said, we’re going out of business and you want us to create jobs,” she told them. Fronteras doesn’t have enough paved roads, that it doesn’t have restaurants, that it would take three years, maybe five, to find any company willing to invest in the town.

“Your company is going out of business and you want us to create jobs?” Ingenthron said.

“Where?”

Ingenthron is the president of American Retroworks Inc., a recycling and consulting company. He’s made a 20-year career in the industry in both the public and private sectors. His specialty is electronics recycling and he is a recognized expert in the field.

The friend, Mike Rohrbach, a Bisbee philanthropist, told Ingenthron that he had found the perfect place for Ingenthron to expand his electronics recycling business. Rohrbach told Ingenthron about a group of women in the town who had formed a collective that was trying to bring jobs to the area.

It was the same group of women who had met with the Valenzuelas.

Ingenthron had toyed with the idea of recycling in Mexico in the past, but he wasn’t interested. “It just sounded like a crazy far-fetched idea,” Ingenthron said. “I told him no.”

Ingenthron visited Fronteras, but he wasn’t sold. He told Rohrbach and the Valenzuelas that they would have to hire him as a consultant. If they wanted his help, they’d have to pay him a $5,000 retainer check.

“I honestly thought they would go away,” Ingenthron said.

A few days later, Ingenthron found a check in the mail. He was floored. These women were serious.

He flew to Mexico to give them their check back – and go into business.

“I don’t know if it was their prayers or what – but I had to try,” he said.

Miracle Number 18

After meeting with the Valenzuelas, the women of Fronteras formed a non-profit collective. The Valenzuelas laid out two conditions – everyone does their fair share and not one penny be paid in bribes.

“No one has any expectation of clean government here,” Alice Valenzuela says. “That’s why we hired this man.”

The women tried first with a restaurant. The Valenzuelas thought the cooperative might be able to promote tourism in Fronteras. They won a $40,000 grant from the government’s agricultural extension for economic development in the town. They sold tamales to a Sombrereto Club in Phoenix. It wasn’t enough.

When Ingenthron came to Fronteras, it seemed like a prayer had been answered.

“Miracle number 18,” Alice Valenzuela calls it, though she admits she’s kept lost count.

The women would move Ingenthron’s recycling business into the old Levolor plant, which they’d taken over. The Levolor factory itself sat in an abandoned school – the building is used to being recycled. The women would disassemble computers, televisions and other electronics imported into Mexico, break them down into their usable parts, salvaging valuables like copper and plastics, and then sell that scrap.

But there was a catch. Every single piece of every computer imported into Mexico had to be documented and logged for make and model – an impossible amount of paperwork.

The only way out of the problem was to change federal law. Alice Valenzuela said they did.

Red Tape

Members of the collective met with Sonora’s freshman senator – Alfonso Elías Serrano – who had been a friend and acquaintance of the Valenzuelas.

They asked him to help change the law. Serrano said it would be easier to get $1 million for an industrial park. Appropriations are one thing – bureaucracy is another, he said. But he promised to try.

A year and a half later, the phone rang.

“Get to Mexico City. I’m sorry it’s taken this long,” Serrano said.

The Valenzuelas met with representatives of the treasury and the economic development ministry. Officials told them that the ministries had sigandatory power to change the law, but that it would take time – and more meetings. They would have to come back.

On another trip, another meeting – this time in the boardroom of a 40-story office building – assembled government officials prepared to lay down their verdict. A tremendous clout of men in suits and ties were laying down business cards.

Valenzuela had a bad feeling.

“I thought, ‘No, no. The more
Employees at Retroworks de México, including Myrta Rico Armenta (left), disassemble computers into their component parts to be recycled.

"Fronteras" continued from pg. 4

people involved, the worse." ... "It’s an over-whelming bureaucracy."

“We don’t want Mexico to become a dumping ground,” they told Valenzuela.

“How do we know you won’t just resell these computers, in violation of the law?,” they asked.

Valenzuela almost broke down, thinking it was a lost cause.

“I’m a tough broad. My husband has only seen me cry about three times in 33 years of marriage,” she said. “How about sooner? How about September, Independence Day?”

The deed was done.

“In Mexico, you never get anything done where people will come to the Tejido group, embraced the task of designing plans to renovate the humble town to attract tourists, while preserving its history and taking advantage of the land that is available.

“We have been developing a conceptual master plan and giving ideas for an agriculture research center, appropriate locations for [trash] and drainage patterns, said Matt Bossler, a landscape architecture graduate student.

Although everyone on the team would agree the town is in dire need of a facelift, the most important thing is to stimulate job opportunities so families don’t have to be separated.

“If you have a plan, you can create opportunities for themselves,” Frederickson said.

He said he hopes to employ at least 1,000 people, at Fronteras and elsewhere, in the next five years.

“We’re just getting started,” he said.

The new plans also include ideas for an agriculture research center, a hotel and an art complex.

Frederickson said, “We’re working on diversifying the economy so dad can come home.”

Many of the Chicas, including Mercado and Armenta, have worked illegally in the past.

And the women have stood up to him in the past. At a town meeting, the women demanded that he create more jobs because so many people in town were unemployed.

“One of the people in the audience told us to be braves (fierce),” said Virginia Ponce Mercado who works in the recycling plant.

“Because we didn’t give a damn. What we wanted were jobs for Fronteras, to lead dignified lives,” Mercado said.

The name stuck. The women are now known in Fronteras as Las Chicas Bravas.

The power may be off, but the women have cleared the pigeon nests out of the former abandoned building. It took three trips to Nogales, Sonora, to secure the proper tax numbers, but the Chicas keep going. They have no other choice.

“We all have to keep going for the same reason,” said Myrta Rico Armenta, who also works in the factory. “So that everything we’ve done is worth it all.”

Looking to the Future

Americans ought to care about what happens in Fronteras, Alice Valenzuela says, it’s on our doorstep. Times are better for the Chicas, but times are still hard. For most of Fronteras, it’s an uphill struggle, she says.

“If you want a job in Fronteras, you can work for a local drug dealer, or jump the border and work illegally,” Alice Valenzuela says.

Many of the Chicas, including Mercado and Armenta, have worked illegally in the United States.

“We needed something to motivate us to stay here in Fronteras,” Mercado said.

Ingenthon hopes to expand the relatively small recycling operation in Fronteras. For now, the plant employs six of the Chicas.

“But that’s the way it started up here (in Vermont), five years ago – with me and a cardboard box,” he said.

He said he hopes to employ at least 1,000 people, at Fronteras and elsewhere, in the next few years.

“We’re just getting started,” he said. Others believe, the Chicas are 50 percent shareholders in the new company, Retroworks de México.

“I tell them I want them to become executives some day,” Alice Valenzuela says.

But for the Chicas, a steady job is a prayer answered.

“I know I will wake up every morning and I will have enough money to get by,” Armenta said.

“We really didn’t have anything before... I hope in other towns there are chicas bravas like us.”

University Architecture Students Design Plan for Fronteras

By Taylor Avery

The small pueblo that splutter the US-Mexico border are hot spots for drug traffickers and coyotes but also for innovative ideas.

Employees at Retroworks de México, including Myrta Rico Armenta (left), disassemble computers into their component parts to be recycled.

The Valenzuelas hope to apply for grant money with the new design plans to help make the town a tourist destination.

“If you have a plan, you can propose it and get funding,” Alice Valenzuela said.

The new plans also include ideas for an agriculture research center, a hotel and an art complex.

Frederickson said, “Where poop goes is always important.”

One of the things we did is go around the town looking at the appropriate locations for [trash] and drainage patterns, said Matt Bossler, a landscape architecture graduate student.

Although everyone on the team would agree the town is in dire need of a facelift, the most important thing is to stimulate job opportunities so families don’t have to be separated.

“If you want dad around, you have to create jobs,” Frederickson said. “We’re working on diversifying the economy so dad can come home.”

The team hopes to provide the people and the town of Fronteras with the tools they need to create opportunities for themselves.

“Socially we think in a simplis-tic way... if we put in a Holiday Inn then all the money goes to Memphis,” Frederickson said, "but if we can get them to generate a system of bed and breakfast places, then the whole family benefits.”

He has made a career out of helping struggling, small towns prosper by using natural resources and adding a few simple solutions. But he admits it’s rare that he ever sees his plans come to fruition.

“If this town is a real success you’d have 10 to 20 percent of your work gets done,” he says.

“I have to tell my students, ‘look guys we’re just opening the doors for possibilities.’”

In early May the project will come to a close when Frederickson and his students present Alice and Roberto Valenzuela with a book of all the potential renovations.

The responsibility will then fall on the people of Fronteras to use the plans and create a better future for the town.

“It’s going to go somewhere,” Valenzuela said. “Tejido group is just one piece.”

For more reporting from Fronteras, go online to www.elindependiente.com

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“We really didn’t have anything before... I hope in other towns there are chicas bravas like us.”
For the homeless counts the lack of any visible homeless people and those in shelters every January, and the number has been increasing in each. In 2008, there were approximately 3,100 homeless in the year. In 2009, the number increased to 3,652.

The current number is estimated to be over 5,000 in the city area, according to Leslie Carlson, coordinator for the Plan to End Homelessness in Pima County. Some people aren’t seen because they occur in gardens or in cars for protection and others are temporarily staying with friends or family.

“When I talk to people who work every day with the homeless, every single person that I talk to, they say the number of the increase is newly homeless and families.”

Shelters around Tucson report that the number of homeless families is on the rise, even though single men are still the highest percentage of the homeless population. Tamara McElwee, public relations director for the Salvation Army, said they have seen almost a 70 percent increase in people needing assistance since the beginning of the fall. She said many people need help because they have lost their jobs or had their hours cut, because of the recession. “And it’s mainly that people are still being laid off or in cars for protection and others are temporarily staying with friends or family.”

Sunnyside has about the same percentage of homeless families as in Pima County. Carlson said.

Each school district is required by the U.S. Department of Education to have a homeless liaison to work with and track the homeless students and provide transportation and money for food and supplies.

In the Sunnyside School District there are 666 students considered homeless so far this year, said Andrea Foster, the homeless liaison. Of those 666 students, 531 have temporarily moved in with family and 131 are in shelters, 14 live in motels and 20 are unsheltered.

During the last school year, there were 1,387 students considered homeless in TUSD and already this school year there are 1,141.

As more people lose their jobs and face the loss of homelessness is beginning to change.

“When we say ‘homeless,’ people usually think of a man on the street or someone that smells,” Foster said. “But that is not the situation anymore.”

During the last school year, there were 1,387 students considered homeless in TUSD and already this school year there are 1,141.

Economy Creates Homeless Families

Through a series of bad events, from losing their jobs or having to cut hours, many are thrown into homelessness. “And it’s mainly that people are still being laid off or in cars for protection and others are temporarily staying with friends or family.”

“The number of families needing assistance since the beginning of the fall. She said many people need help because they have lost their jobs or had their hours cut, because of the recession.”

Robert Foster is the Homeless Liaison for the Sunnyside School District.

Foster reported that there are 666 students considered homeless as of this date, said Andrea Foster, the homeless liaison. Of those 666 students, 531 have temporarily moved in with family and 131 are in shelters, 14 live in motels and 20 are unsheltered.

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City Cuts Budget; Peace Garden’s Youth Employment Program Off

By Veronica Cruz

The desert landscape of the Manny Herrera Jr. Park is an expanse of washed out greens and brown browns. One corner of the park is burning with blossoming snapdragons shaded by large trees, providing a welcoming atmosphere to the neighborhood kids.

In the Sunnyside Peace Garden, 5901 S.iesta Ave, blooms of yellow flowers and greens are thriving because it’s a safe place. “It’s a safe place,” Quintero will soon run out of money to continue her work.

“We need to keep going and I need to keep helping kids.”

Quintero said. “We need to keep going and I need to keep helping kids.”

When parents lose jobs, children suffer.

In the 2007 to 2008 school year, there were 3,561 homeless children in Pima County. Carlson said.

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The Teens Learn to Budget, Save and Take Responsibility

The teens learn “how to budget, how to have responsibility and how to work ethic,” Quintero said. “We thought ‘how do we reach these kids?’

She had been thinking about gardening as a way to help the kids and her ideas were confirmed when the students started to show an active role in keeping the park clean.

“We wanted to reach kids who had no discipline,” Quintero said. “We wanted to know about respect.”

Quintero received a lot of help from the community. “We received a lot of vegetables and fruits, the community offered what they could, such as lights and a table made by a student in his welding class, to help start the garden.

Since then, the garden has become home to a variety of flowers and vegetables including strawberries, peas, peppers, tomatoes and eggplant. The kids who come to the garden are welcome to pick and take home any of the food that grows there.

“Kids love to go in there because they know they are going to get something,” Quintero said. “I want it to be the place they can go to for peace.”

Quintero wrote a children’s book, “In the Peace Garden” and all of the proceeds from the book will go to help continue her work.

The book is available at Book Passage, booksellers and can be purchased at bookstores.

“The book is helping them,” said Quintero who is also applying for a grant to help cover the costs of the kids’ activities.
Carrillo Students Promote History of El Tiradito

By Ryan Timothy Greer

Suzanne Miles realized the importance of a good education when she was growing up, widowod at 32 and raising three daughters, go back to school to get her library science degree.

“It was tough, but we didn’t know that we were being raised by a single parent,” Miles said. “We weren’t identified as victims or anything.”

Miles got her bachelor’s degree in speech, and a master’s in communication. Finally she went on to the University of Arizona to complete a doctorate in philosophy with a minor in higher education.

Now, the League of United Latin American Citizens has honored her for her exceptional community leadership.

In March, Miles, 56, received the National Presidential Community Service Award, LULAC’s most prestigious honor, alongside Nicholas I. Clement, Manuel L. Isquierdo, Louis Hollingsworth, Armando de Leon, Hollingsworth, Armando de Leon, Manuel L. Isquierdo, Louis Hollingsworth, Armando de Leon, Thomas W. Warne and Steve Leal.


Thomas W. Warne and Steve Leal.


The story of El Tiradito has many versions. The students participating in the after school program at La Pilita Museum like Gabriel Lujan tell a “PG” version of the original story during their tours.

The current site of El Tiradito is its third location. The story says that the young lover was killed in the middle of the street and that the women of the barrio put flowers and candles on the spot where he died. This caused traffic problems and the site has been moved twice since then.

“If you light a candle and it stays lit all night, the wish you made comes true,” said Gabriel Lujan, a participant in La Pilita’s after-school program, while giving a tour of El Tiradito.

The young tour guides tell people to “speak in a quiet voice” as El Tiradito is a “very sacred place.”

Go to www.elindenews.com for a multimedia slideshow about El Tiradito accompanied by the children’s version of the story.

LULAC Award Honors Tucson Educator

By Ryan Timothy Greer

Suzanne Miles received the National Presidential Community Service Award the League of United Latin American Citizens this year.

Miles plans to take more time in retirement to be an advocate for the arts.

“Just get so immersed in your job sometimes that you kind of move those things aside,” she said.

“I knew I needed to start out in a small market in order to move up,” she said.

She moved to Anchorage and Fairbanks, Ala., to take jobs with ABC and CBS.

Miles also noted that pursuing high-level degrees helped her gain ground in her career. She pointed out that the generation of her children, Miles Mason, 28, and Matara Mason, 26, are not seeking the higher-level degrees that Miles’s generation aspired to gain.

Unfortunately, we have state legislators who don’t value education, she said. “If that message is left state and nationwide then we won’t value education as much as we should.”

Miles also said that the message portrayed by state legislators is the reason why other countries are beginning to move ahead of the U.S. in terms of education.

Miles began teaching speech and communication at Pima Community College in 1988. She’s spent the last 24 years working her way from adjunct professor to provost and vice chancellor for PCC.

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Miles studied Jeane Kirkpatrick, the first official female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, while completing her doctoral dissertation, and was influenced by her success.

Kirkpatrick had her Ph.D. she was never introduced as Dr. Kirkpatrick, but was always referred to as Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

“She walked that balance between grace and strong leadership,” Miles said.

Miles married Robert Mason 34 years ago and they have two children. Looking back, Miles said she wishes she had taken more time from work to focus on family and the arts.

“Just get so immersed in your job sometimes that you kind of move those things aside,” she said.

Miles plans to take more time in retirement to be an advocate for the arts.

Miles was eager to pursue a career in radio or television.

“She said, you can go into radio and television, but heads up, there aren’t many women who get their doctorates and have leadership positions in the media,” Miles said.

At that point she shifted her focus on education.

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**Lohse Family YMCA**

El Campamento Wannago es para niños de 5 a 11 años de edad, de 25 centavos para menores y $1 para adultos. Los programas de verano incluyen clases de natación y clavados, polo acuático y variedad de clases de acuicultura. El Deportamento de Parques de Tucson dispone de personal salvavidas e instructores para realizar las actividades acuáticas con seguridad, y emplea a casi 300 salvavidas, instructores y supervisores del albercal cada año. Para encontrar una alberca cercana, llame al 573-4245 o visite tucson.gov/parksandrec/aquatics.php.

Del 1 al 26 de agosto

**Santa Rosa**

El Campamento Schoolz Out es para menores de 5 a 11 años de edad, de 25 centavos para menores y $1 para adultos. Los campistas también participarán en eventos educacionales, natación, proyectos de servicio, arte, música y trabajo en equipo. El campamento cuesta de $10 a $153 semanales y las horas de campamento son de 7 a.m. a 6 p.m. Si desea más información llame al 623-5290 o visite tucson.gov/parksandrec/santarosa.php.

Del 1 al 3 de agosto

**Loshe Family YMCA**

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Del 1 al 3 de agosto

**Quincie Douglas**

El Club de Adolescentes Double Digits es para pre-adolescentes de 10 a 13 años de edad, de martes a jueves, de 5:30 a 7 p.m. El club es gratuito y los participantes participarán en deportes, natación, viajes y cocina. Si desea más información llame al 573-3933 o visite elindy.ua@gmail.com.

Del 1 al 3 de agosto

**Schoolz Out Camp**

El Campamento Schoolz Out es para menores de 5 a 11 años de edad, de 25 centavos para menores y $1 para adultos. Los campistas también participarán en eventos educacionales, natación, proyectos de servicio, arte, música y trabajo en equipo. El campamento cuesta de $10 a $153 semanales y las horas de campamento son de 7 a.m. a 6 p.m. Si desea más información llame al 623-5290 o visite tucson.gov/parksandrec/santarosa.php.

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