Empleados pierden sueldo por huelga

Por Martin McClarron
Traducido por Teresa Lorenz

Algunas familias empleadas por Asarco podrían tener una temporada navideña menos que perfecta ya que muchos empleados en huelga, y hasta los jubilados, buscan la ayuda pública. Casi cada uno de los 1,500 empleados de Asarco ha perdido un promedio de $7,500 de sueldo desde el comienzo de la huelga el 4 de julio, según un anuncio de la compañía.

“Nunca se recibe un sueldo durante una huelga. Han cancelado todos nuestros beneficios,” dijo Stephen LaGrande, un electricista de Asarco. LaGrande ha trabajado en la industria de minería por más de 30 años, dedicando 14 años a la compañía de minería de cobre, fundición sillos de sus empleados y de los jubilados,” dijo Yarter. “Yo había pagado $1.500. Los otros no son tan afortunados. “Hemos entregado mucho. Mis hijos vendieron lo que muchos jóvenes dan por sentado,” dijo Cheryl Kessler, madre soltera de tres hijos y empleada de Asarco de 9 años. Sus hijos vendieron sus videojuegos de X-box y sus discos compactos para darle $100 para ayudarla con las cuentas.

La huelga de Asarco también afecta a los jubilados. Chuck Yarter, jubilado de Asarco, trabajó por la compañía de minería por 34 años. Desde su jubilación hace cinco años, ha visto la reducción de los costos de Asarco a su expensas. “En 2000, me garantizamos mi pensión y mis beneficios médicos. En 2003, rompieron esa promesa,” dijo Yarter. El jubilado vio su prima $250 al mes, mientras que su descuento de $300 alcanzó $1.500. “Asarco roba el dinero de los bolsillos de sus empleados y de los jubilados,” dijo Yarter. “Yo habia pagado por adelantado por mi pensión con más 34 años de trabajo.”

Chuck Yarter, jubilado de Asarco, trabajó por la compañía de minería de cobre, fundición Leches.

Bilingual classes outperform English-only counterparts

By Kristin Howell

Jose Lopez Samaniego is lucky. The 10-year-old Mexican native is receiving a rare opportunity, enrolled in a bilingual classroom at Ochoa Elementary School.

Jose does not speak English. Since the bilingual education initiative Proposition 203 was passed in 2000, Spanish-speaking students have been forced to learn the language in a strictly-English environment.

Although Ochua has a bilingual classroom at every grade level, attending that class requires the student to be proficient in both languages. Students who do not know English are sent to an English-only class, said Ochua’s principal, Heidi Aranda.

Fortunately for Jose, students above the age of nine are allowed into the bilingual program, giving him a better chance to learn a language he barely understands.

“All the work he does is in English, but he gets a lot of help,” said Jose’s teacher, Marco Ruiz. “Like today, he says he needs help, and I am going to help him during lunch.”

In a recent study on the effectiveness of Prop. 203, researchers at Arizona State University found that students who learned English in a bilingual setting outperformed those placed in English-only programs.

The study also concluded that there is no evidence to support the idea that bilingual students are performing worse than monolingual students. In fact, the study found that bilingual students were more likely to achieve proficiency in both languages than monolingual students.

Bilingual classes outperform English-only counterparts

See “Bilingual” page 6

PHOTO BY DEAN KNUTH

PHOTO BY MARY EULER

PHOTO BY HEIDI ARANDA

PHOTO BY KARL ELLIS

PHOTO BY JANETE VILLASANTE

PHOTO BY GARY LECHES

PHOTO BY KARL ELLIS

PHOTO BY KARL ELLIS
Strikers grapple with lost wages

By Martin McClarron

Some Asarco families could have a less-than-perfect holiday season as many striking employees and even retirees are looking for public assistance.

Nearly 1,500 Asarco employees have each lost an average of $7,500 in wages since the strike began on July 4, according to a company press release.

“Back wages never come on a strike. They’ve cancelled all our benefits,” said Stephen La Grande, an electrician for Asarco.

La Grande has worked in the mining industry for over 30 years, dedicating 14 of those to the Tuscon-based copper mining, smelting, and refining company. He explained that after working the industry as long as he has, he knows to put money away for times like these.

“Either you have money for a strike, or you can take a really nice vacation,” said La Grande.

Others are not as fortunate.

“We’ve given up a lot. My kids are giving up what so many take for granted,” said Cheryl Kreider, a single mother of three and 9-year Asarco employee. “I had prepaid for that (pension) with my 34 years of work,” he added.

Chuck Yarter, an Asarco retiree, worked for the mining company for 34 years. Since retiring five years ago, he has watched Asarco cut costs at his expense.

“In 2000, they guaranteed my pension and medical benefits. In 2003, they broke that promise,” said Yarter. The retiree saw his original $8 per month medical premium climb to $250 per month, while his $300 yearly deductible reached $1,500.

“Some of the things they did were against U.S. law.”

“Some of them have even gone on welfare,” he said.

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“Some of the things they did were against U.S. law.”

“The community had an opportunity to hear first-hand the effect of the Asarco strike on October 10, when the Citizen’s Advisory Board held a town hall meeting at First Christian Church, 740 E. Speedway Blvd.”

“I think Asarco has shown a complete disregard for the public’s interest, using unfair labor practices and disregard for their environmental obligations,” said Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, who spoke at the event.

Elias sympathized with the retirees of the company. “We've given up a lot. My kids are giving up what so many take for granted,” said Cheryl Kreider, a single mother of three and 9-year Asarco employee. “It's nothing to do with wages or money. It has to do with decent, or eye-level negotiating.”

“Some of them have even gone on welfare,” said Stephen La Grande, an electrician for Asarco.

“Either you have money for a strike, or you can take a really nice vacation,” said La Grande.

By Nicole Lynn

Traducido por Melissa Jeffries

En South Tucson, un programa único para la eliminación de tatuajes ofrece a los residentes la oportunidad de rescindir sus historiales personales.

Desde 1994, la Casa de Servicios Vecinales (HNS, Health of Neighborhood Services), ubicada en el 243 W. 33rd St., ofrece su programa Segunda Oportunidad para la Eliminación de Tatuajes (SCTR, Second Chance Tattoo Removal), desarrollado para hombres y mujeres. El programa SCTR está examinando formas de expandirse. Están buscando voluntarios, incluyendo cirujanos plásticos o dermatólogos. En el futuro la HNS busca tener su propio equipo láser para eliminar tatuajes, dijo Kimberly Sierra-Cajas, la directora ejecutiva de la HNS.

“Es como un plan de tratamiento, ellos firman un contrato y tienen una cantidad de tiempo específico para curar cada uno de los requisitos, y yo me asocio de que lo hagan,” dijo Isaac Villegas Durrin, el coordinador del programa SCTR, que informa sobre el progreso de cada caso.

Durrin creció en South Tucson y es un antiguo miembro de una pandilla.

“Estar encarnado de poder volver aquí y trabajar,” dijo Durrin. “Yo he estado del otro lado, drogas, pandilleros, y yo creo que el impacto es mayor si lo has experimentado personalmente.”

Los requisitos del programa incluyen obtener un Título de Educación Básica (GED, General Education Diploma) si el solicitante no lo tiene, completar un programa de formación profesional, servicio comunitario y recomendaciones para cualquier otro tratamiento que pueda necesitar, como programas destinados a los padres o programas por consumo de drogas o alcohol. Los miembros también tienen que dar presentaciones sobre cómo evitar las pandillas a los jóvenes de la ciudad.

“En este momento hay de cinco a seis miembros inscritos en el programa. La lista de espera es larga y sólo hay dos doctores involucrados en el programa: el Dr. Gerald Goldberg y la Dra. Jody Comstock, que siguen los tratamientos desde de sus oficinas.”

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Helen Denn, una enfermera registrada, realiza la mayoría de los tratamientos en la oficina de la Dra. Comstock. Según Denn, “dependiendo del dolor se necesitan de cinco a siete tratamientos cada seis u ocho semanas.”

El tratamiento es generalmente seguro. Pero como el láser traspasa la piel para extirpar el pigmento, después de un tratamiento queda una herida abierta y existe un riesgo de infección, dijo Denn.

“Yo creo que es un servicio maravilloso. Es fenomé- nal ver a los jóvenes cambiar sus vidas gracias a esta oportunidad,” dijo Denn.

The strike has helped push copper prices to all-time highs, from $1.54 per pound to hovering near the $2 mark—figures of little value to families who are depending on Asarco paychecks to pay the bills.
Women and teens get help with HIV/AIDS prevention

By Sara Greulich

Hispanic women and teens in South Tucson have a statistically high risk for acquiring HIV/AIDS. Recently, local teens were equipped with information on awareness of the deadly virus through the South Tucson Prevention Coalition.

The program included 125 teenagers from South Tucson and provided substance abuse education and tips on HIV prevention, said Project Coordinator Michele Orduna. The prevention coalition was developed with federal funding.

The 72-hour, after-school program was held over a six-week period. Information about HIV/AIDS prevention and substance abuse was bolstered by a cultural segment, group activities, dialogue and role playing, Orduna said.

“It was culturally appropriate for the youth,” she said.

The program was run by a facilitator, but attending teens were given ample opportunity to discuss issues, ask questions, and share their knowledge.

The educational effort seems to have paid off. “Preliminary evidence shows that HIV knowledge has gone up and alcohol use has decreased,” said Orduna. “They liked it and want to see more for their peers.”

HIV/AIDS is quickly spreading among the Hispanic community, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hispanics accounted for 20 percent of AIDS cases in 2002 even though they constitute only 14 percent of the U.S. population.

In 2001, Hispanics were found to be three times more likely to die from the disease than infected Caucasians were.

“The disparity has to be addressed,” said Orduna.

The development of the prevention coalition program was a group effort which included the city of South Tucson and the University of Arizona. The three safe havens in town: House of Neighborly Service, Project YES, and the John Valenzuela Youth Center, all played major roles as well, said Orduna.

Through the program, many young people became engaged in volunteer activities in the community, said Kim Sierra-Cajas, House of Neighborly Service executive director.

One segment of the program focused on empowerment through assisting younger children. Some participants began tutoring. “One girl has been volunteering every day tutoring elementary kids,” said Sierra-Cajas.

Another group of teens decided they wanted to continue meeting every week, along with representatives from each of the safe havens. They have since formed their own youth group to continue sharing information and discussing issues relating to HIV and substance abuse.

Recently, the House of Neighborly Service sent that fledgling group to California to take part in a Youth-to-Youth conference given by the National Youth Leadership Conferences, said Sierra-Cajas.

The teens are now starting to plan fundraisers so they can go back next year, she said.

Meanwhile, the House of Neighborly Services is also expanding its activities to include the development of education at community events. Sierra-Cajas says their first event will be their annual Halloween festival on October 29 from 6-10 p.m. at the House of Neighborly Service, located at 243 W. 33rd St.

Barber Chris Perez gives a haircut to Joshua Lopez. His shop, Chris’s Barber Shop, 2103 S. Sixth Ave., cuts hair in all styles but specializes in family and children’s haircuts. The shop has been in business for two years and is currently searching for a second stylist to complement Perez.

 Парадижесу ан таамата /

 obstacles Gallery — St. Philip’s Plaza, 4320 N. Campbell Ave., No. 130. Twenty-seven artists are featured in a variety of media during the current exhibit, “Recuerdos/Remembrances,” which runs through Nov. 5. Visitors to the exhibit are invited to participate in the community art project, “Recuerdos de Tucson,” by leaving an offering or remembrance on the altar designed by Elizabeth Frank.

Obsidian Gallery has presented contemporary art to Tucson for nine years, from artists from all over the U.S. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. Free. Contact 577-3598 or email info@obsidian-gallery.com.

Tohono Chul Park — 7356 N. Paseo del Norte. The exhibit currently features contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs, fine crafts and mixed media interpretations that deal with death, loss and remembrance for “Dia de Los Muertos,” which will be on display from Sept. 1-Nov. 6. The exhibit will showcase artworks created by Southwestern artists paying homage to this observance. Visitors are invited to honor a loved one by contributing a token remembrance (nonperishable) for the Community Altar commemorating Dia de Los Muertos, or by leaving a loved one’s name on a recuerdo, or memory card. Tohono Chul Park is listed by National Geographic Traveler as one of the top 22 Secret Gardens in the U.S. and Canada, and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The park’s café is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 21. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. $5 discounts available. Contact 742-6455 or visit www.TohonoChulPark.org.

Danielle Kruse

PHOTO BY TIM SCHULTZ

Traducido por Melissa Jeffries

José López Samaniego es un niño con suerte. El mexicano de diez años de edad está reci biendo una rara oportunidad, formar parte de una clase bilingüe en la escuela primaria Ochoa.

José no habla inglés. Desde que se aprobó la iniciativa de educación bilingüe Proposición 203 en el año 2000, los estudiantes hispanohablantes han tenido que aprender inglés en un ambiente enteramente en inglés.

Aunque la escuela Ochoa tiene una clase bilingüe para cada grado, asistir a esa clase requiere que el estudiante domine ambos idiomas. Los estudiantes que no hablan inglés están obligados a asistir a clases impartidas solamente en inglés, dijo la directora de la escuela Ochoa, Heidi Aranda.

Afortunadamente para José, estudiantes de más de nueve años están permitidos en el programa bilingüe, dándole a José una mejor oportunidad para aprender un idioma que apenas entiende.

“Todo el trabajo que hace es en inglés, pero recibe mucha ayuda,” afirmó Marco Ruiz, el maestro de José. “Como hoy, él me dijo que necesita ayuda, y voy a ayudarle durante el almuerzo.”

En un estudio reciente sobre la efectividad de la Proposición 203, investigadores de la Universidad Estatal de Arizona (Arizona State University) encontraron que los estudiantes que aprenden inglés en un ambiente bilingüe tienen más éxito que los que están en programas solamente de habla inglesa.

En dicho estudio también llegaron a la conclusión que no hay evidencias para apoyar el método de inmersión en el idioma inglés, y sugirió que la Legislatura Estatal de Arizona (Arizona State Legislature) debe revisar de nuevo el funcionamiento de este método.

Ruiz, quien enseña el cuarto y quinto grado en la escuela Ochoa, está de acuerdo con las conclusiones de los investigadores. El cree que la Proposición 203 crea una situación en la que el estudiante o bien avanza en las clases donde solo se habla inglés, o se confunde completamente y no puede mantenerse con el plan de estudios.

“Si eres un estudiante de habla hispana y el maestro no habla español, no es bilingüe, este estudiante tiene que pensar en otros recursos que le ayuden en la clase, o se pierde completamente,” dijo Ruiz.

La directora Aranda describió a una familia que se mudó de México hace un año e inscribió a sus dos hijos en la escuela Ochoa. Ambos niños fueron enviados a clases diferentes de inmersión en inglés.

El maestro de uno de los niños habla español, y puede ayudar al alumno con la tarea y comprensión de las clases. Este estudiante tiene éxito en la clase gracias a la ayuda extra en su lengua natal. El maestro de su hermana no habla español, y la niña no entiende y tiene problemas con sus estudios, dijo Aranda.

Ruiz, quien ha enseñado en el sistema educativo durante muchos años, cree que la propuesta ha ayudado y a la vez perjudicado al Distrito Escolar Unificado de Tucson (TUSD, Tucson Unified School District) a y sus estudiantes.

Dice Ruiz que antes de la Proposición 203, el programa bilingüe del TUSD carecía de continuidad y estructura. Cada escuela tenía un plan de estudios diferente para sus clases bilingües, y esta desorganización hizo inefectivo el programa. La Proposición 203 ofrece el orden y regulación que necesitaba el TUSD para que funcione eficientemente.

“Yo les enseño a los niños la importancia de aprender inglés,” dice Ruiz. “Yo les digo, no pierdan su lengua natal, no pierdan su cultura, no olviden quienes son y sus identidades, pero tienen que aprender el inglés.”

Local art exhibits honor loved ones

PHOTO BY TIM SCHULTZ

En vez de tener clases solamente en inglés, los estudiantes que hablan español deben recibir una educación bilingüe más estructurada, explicó Ruiz. “Con un patrón y procedimiento estandarizado, el estudiante puede progresar en una escuela que tenga la misma estructura educativa en cada grado, dijo él.

Por estos motivos Ruiz cree que su clase bilingüe, junto con otras en el distrito, tienen una creciente importancia hoy en día.

“Yo quería aprender los dos idiomas,” dice Gallego. “Es mejor porque cuando crezca, tal vez tenga que hablar los dos idiomas.”

Para Ruiz, la educación bilingüe es más que el currículo y los planes para la clase, tiene que ver con la cultura y el desarrollo.

“Yo les enseño a los niños la importancia de aprender inglés,” dice Ruiz. “Yo les digo, no pierdan su lengua natal, no pierdan su cultura, no olviden quienes son y sus identidades, pero tienen que aprender el inglés.”
Tortilla making still cherished art form

By Rebecca Garcia

Warm, hot off the grill, and smothered with butter is just one way to eat them. Others prefer them wrapped around their favorite meat or with rice and beans. Some enjoy them plain. Nicknamed the “bread of Mexico,” the tortilla has found a special home here in South Tucson at a special bakery.

“Traditionally, the corn tortilla is the mainstay of a Mexican diet. While that has remained true, the flour tortilla has become more popular in northern Mexico and the United States, becoming the foundation of border cooking and friendship.”

At Food City, 2950 S. Sixth Ave., the tortilla’s popularity is evident in customer testimony.

Customer Tony Gavalingo likes Food City tortillas “because they’re freshly made.” Gavalingo says he prefers flour tortillas, and likes his tortillas “inside out; whatever I have in the house I slap on them, it’s like eating a slice of bread.”

Rito Isais, manager of the Food City tortilla factory, has been making tortillas for seven years. Isais believes people enjoy Food City’s own brand of flour and corn tortillas. Dos Ranchitos, because, “our tortillas are fresher, we grind our own corn, and plus it doesn’t have all the preservatives. People like the fresh taste.”

Erika Sanchez, mother of three young boys, agrees. “I know they don’t have chemicals and are authentic,” she said. “Like my mom used to make.”

Even though machines, such as hoppers and mixers, are used to help prepare and cook the tortillas, it all starts with human hands – validating it as an art form. Isais maneuvers around the factory and its large machines with grace and ease, while reading the obvious pride he takes in his work.

With cooking temperatures reaching 660 degrees, two large fans help to keep the factory comfortable. Tradition marachi music echoes throughout the pint-sized work area that manages to produce 1,200 dozen tortillas per day.

“Too many people eat duros with salsa,” says Isais. He believes duros should be eaten by themselves, the traditional way.

“Too many people use them wrapped around their favorite meat,” says Isais. He believes duros should be eaten by themselves, the traditional way.

“Erika Sanchez

Piñatas yield sweets and success

By Georgeanne Barrett

Working in the small back room of her party supply shop, Oralia Najera quickly takes brightly colored pieces of crepe paper and glues them to a half-finished piñata, using lumpy paste from a small Styrofoam bowl.

Up front, figures of Spiderman, Darth Vader, and Cinderella keep watch over the glass cases of candy and the piñatas coating the ceiling.

Neatly laid between a beauty salon and a shuttle service, Karel Piñatas and Party Supply, 4302 S. Sixth Ave., offers an extensive selection of hand made piñatas, from the standard six-pointed star, to cans of Tecate and characters from the film The Incredibles.

Najera, 42, opened her shop in South Tucson four years ago, while she was selling candy from her home. She had the idea to make her own piñatas when a friend asked her to decorate one.

Najera uses the traditional method of paper-mâché and balloons to make piñatas. However, she also uses fiberglass molds, paper, and close with masking tape. Papier-mâché and balloons to make piñatas. However, she also uses fiberglass molds, paper, and close with masking tape.

Najera’s custom-ordered piñatas generally require three days to complete. The busiest time of the year is February through April, when people receive money from their tax returns and spend a little extra on things like piñatas, says Najera.

People prefer her small shop and handmade piñatas because their prices are more reasonable, says Najera. She charges $30 for a large piñata, $20 for a medium, and $10 for the small piñatas. She also sells sticks, decorated in tissue paper, to whack the piñatas for $2.99.

Piñatas are often shaped in the traditional six-pointed star, which is filled with candy and toys. Children form a circle and take turns hitting the piñata with a stick, until it breaks open and showers the goodies for children to snatch up.

Most piñatas are made into the shape of human or animal figures. In Mexico, piñatas are often shaped in the traditional six-pointed star, which represents the devil. By hitting the star and breaking it open, the devil is made to let go of the good things he has taken.

Piñatas used for hundreds of years to celebrate special occasions. Traditionally, the piñata is a container made from straw, paper-mâché or clay, which is filled with candy and toys. Children form a circle and take turns hitting the piñata with a stick, until it breaks open and showers the goodies for children to snatch up.

Workers at the Food City tortilla factory package fresh corn tortillas. The shop produces around 1,200 dozen tortillas per day.

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Francisco Almada, a U.S. Marine stationed in California, shops at Food City for their tortillas. “I come from the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to buy tortillas down here,” he said. “Food City brand tortillas: they’re the best in town.”

DIRECTIONS TO MAKE A SIMPLE PIÑATA:

2 cups flour
3 cups water
1 balloon
newspaper strip
candy

· Mix the flour and water into a smooth paste
· Blow up the balloon
· Dip newspaper into strips
· Cover the balloon with three layers of newspaper

· When the paste dries, pop the balloon and decorate with the crepe paper
· Put candy in the open hole, and close with masking tape or more paper-mâché strips
· Hang with string
The “Pan de México” hechas como las hacía mamá

By Rebecca Garcia

Calentitas, directamente desde la parilla y cubiertas con manteca, es solamente una manera de comerlas. Otros las prefieren mazahar (con arroz y frijoles).

Some do not want to participate in the program, and one just wants a second chance to do well in school.

We are working with hard-core kids. Some do drugs and some are dysfunctional,” Yubeta said.

Students learn the essential skills of team work and cooperation, crucial aspects of an employer. A student at the GED program recently received her GED. “I am really excited,” she said. “I only took me ten weeks to complete. Now I have a job at a day-care center.”

Food City Dos Ranchitos because “nuestras tortillas son más frescas, molemos nuestro propio maíz, y además, no tiene esa temperatura agradable en la fábrica. Música mariachi tradicional exuda el orgullo que obviamente tiene por su trabajo.”

The GED program promotes life skills

By Teresa Yi

When he was little, George Yubeta used to walk to Ochoa Elementary School every day appreciating his surroundings.

Today, Las Artes boasts not only a full-time GED program, but also trains students with skills they will need for future employment.

Las Artes started out as a humble summer program without a GED component eight years ago, as a place where students could create murals for South Tucson. Because of its success with the community, Las Artes founder Art Eckstrom and others, including George Yubeta, decided to get funding for its expansion.

Today the school has a wide variety of students. Some are homeless, some are former gang members, and some just want a second chance to do well in school.

Algunos las prefieren solas. Apodada el “pan de México,” la tortilla ha encontrado un hogar especial aquí en South Tucson. Algunos las prefieren envueltas en su carne favorita o con arroz y frijoles. La mantequilla es solamente una manera de comerlas. Otros las prefieren como las hacía mamá.

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Some do not want to participate in the program, and one just wants a second chance to do well in school.

We are working with hard-core kids. Some do drugs and some are dysfunctional,” Yubeta said.

The students are required to wear Las Artes T-shirts, since program officials do not want participants wearing gang-related colors, such as red and blue, that may lead to fights between students who have histories of gang affiliations.

Ismael Orozco, who has been living on his own since the age of 16, recently entered the program. “I want to open a business in the future,” Chavez said, as he discussed his dream job. “I want to drive around in a Dodge Ram, play golf all day, and have people do my work.”

The pre-GED level is for students who score between the fifth and seventh-grade level. Each level takes eight weeks to complete depending on the student’s learning ability, Dunlap said.

“Some kids produce quality work,” said Carlos Valenzuela, a Las Artes artist looking around the art room.

These tortillas are all handmade. She is here to make a difference in their community. “It’s a dream come true.”

Yubeta wishes Las Artes could be open seven days a week so students do not have to opportunity to slide back into self-defeating behaviors with old friends.

“Sometimes they put up a front to protect themselves and survive in their neighborhoods,” Yubeta said. “But somehow, they feel safe doing things here.”

Could it be because of its success, Las Artes has become a model for other places, such as in Maricopa County, where a similar program has been established.

The program has helped more than 2,000 students obtain their GED, and more than 1,200 students are still enrolled. The program provides classes and it’s easier than regular high school, Yubeta said. “I want to eventually find a job.”

Students rarely drop out of Las Artes, unless they return to their neighborhoods to hang out over the weekend and “get locked up,” Yubeta said.

Over the years, Las Artes has provided students with skills they will need for future employment.

Some are going to trade schools and it’s easier than regular high school, Yubeta said. “I want to eventually find a job.”

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Las Artes’ instructors knew he was still smoking marijuana and responded immediately by bringing in the student’s mother in an attempt to reach a resolution. They gave the student a choice to go to counseling, which Las Artes would pay for, while continuing to earn his GED, or he could choose to not attend at all, Yubeta said. “The instructors we have are very dedicated. We don’t give up on the kids.”

Because the student realized the importance of having his GED, he decided to stick with the program, and earned his certificate in just a few weeks. He is now enrolled at Pima Community College and works part-time at Church’s Chicken.

“Getting success leads to other successes,” Yubeta said. “We show them that they can do it.”

Martin Chavez, 20, who has been living on his own since the age of 16, recently entered the program. “I want to open a business in the future,” Chavez said, as he discussed his dream job. “I want to drive around in a Dodge Ram, play golf all day, and have people do my work.”

Panchito Guzman, 16, is also looking forward to a brighter future. He says after repeatedly being suspended he dropped out of high school after two years.

“This has helped me because it has smaller classes and it’s easier than regular high school,” Guzman said. “I want to eventually find a job.”

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Huelguistas y jubilados enfreten tiempos difíciles

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Yarter dice que algunos de sus antiguos colegas no han sido tan afortunados. “Algunos han continuado con AHCCCS (El Sistema de la Contención del Costo de la Asistencia Medica de Arizona) mientras que otros han conseguido la asistencia social,” dijo.

Ian Robertson, Vicepresidente de los Trabajadores Unidos de Acero de América, sección 937, quiere que el público preste atención a la huelga y el impacto hacia los trabajadores.

“Estamos obviamente en una lucha con esta compañía y queremos que la comunidad lo entienda,” dijo Robertson. Esta comunidad tuvo la oportunidad de oír de primera mano lo efectos de la huelga de Asarco, el 10 de octubre, cuando la Junta Consultiva de los Ciudadanos llevo acabo una reunión del municipio en First Christian Church, 740 al este del Hullevar Speedway.

“Creo que Asarco ha mostrado una desatención comple- ta hacia los intereses del público, utilizando prácticas lab- orales injustas y negligencia hacia sus obligaciones ambi- entales,” dijo el Supervisor del Distrito de Pima, Richard Elias, quien tomó la palabra en la reunión.

Elias simpatizó con los jubilados de la compañía a los cuales se han cortado las pensiones y los beneficios.


Elias dijo que los males de los trabajadores originan en las partes más altas de la compañía. “Muestra mala geren- cia que resuelta en prácticas laborales engañosas,” dijo.

Se invitó formalmente a la reunión al director de Asarco, Daniel Tellechea, pero negó la invitación diciendo que no mandaría un representante de la compañía, la cual Asarco, Daniel Tellechea, pero negó la invitación diciendo que no mandaría un representante de la compañía, la cual Grupo México, el conglomerado industrial basado en México, compró en 1999.

“Desde el día que la compraron, ha estado un desliza- miento hacia abajo,” dijo John Evance, veterano de minera de 30 años y empleado de Asarco. “No es caso ni de suel- do ni de dinero. Tiene que ver con la negociación decente o acordada.”

“Asarco se está muriendo de un parásito y se llama el Grupo México,” dijo Yarter, acordándose con Evance. “Algunas cosas que hicieron fueron en contra de la ley de los EE.UU.”

Los huelguistas han acusado a Asarco con prácticas lab- orales injustas, intimidación alegada de los trabajadores y negligencia de las obligaciones ambientales.

Asarco entabló por la bancarrota de sección 11 el 9 de agosto, un movimiento que los sindicatos afirman fue para evitar el pago de sueldos perdidos y compensación a los jubilados.

La huelga ha ayudado subir los precios de cobre a alturas jamás alcanzadas, desde $1,54 a la libra hasta casi $2—precios de poco valor a las familias que dependen del cheque de sueldo para pagar las cuentas.

Hispanic history for October

By Marcee McKernan

October 12, 1492 - Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, landing on the island of Guanahani, which he baptized San Salvador (today Watling Island). This day is still a Mexican National holiday. “Dia de La Raza.”

October 22, 1575 - Aguaclaviles is founded. October 23, 1821 - Mexican Independence is proclaimed.

October 19, 1847 - Following an intense bombardment of the port by ships of the Mexican women are civilians, not soldiers.

October 4, 1974 - A National Military fac- tory is created, for the production of arms. Arms production is placed in the hands of civilians, not soldiers.

October 12, 1918 - An outbreak of Spanish influenza hits the city of Monterrey.

October 17, 1953 - Mexican women are accorded the full rights of citizenship, including the right to vote in elections and to hold elected office.

October 4, 1974 - The Territory of Southern Baja California is officially declared a state, as of October 8.

Bilingual teachers say both languages important

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English-immersion method of education, and suggested the Arizona State Legislature should take a closer look at whether the plan is working.

“Ruíz, who teaches fourth and fifth grade at Ochoa, agrees with the conclusions of the researchers. He says Prop. 203 creates a “sink or swim” situation, where the student either flourishes in the English-only class, or becomes completely confused and is unable to keep up with the curriculum.

“If you are a Spanish-dominant student and the teacher does not speak a word of Spanish, is not bilingual, then that student has to think of other resources to help him or her in the classroom, or else they are com- pletely lost,” said Ruíz.

Principal Aranda described a family who moved from Mexico about a year ago and enrolled two children at Ochoa. Both of the children were sent to different English- im mersed classrooms.

One student’s teacher speaks Spanish, and is able to help with the homework and pre- prehension. The student is succeeding in the classroom because of the extra help in his native language. His sister’s teacher does not speak Spanish, and she is lost and struggling with her studies, said Aranda.

Ruíz, who has taught in the system for many years, believes the proposition has both helped and harmed the Tucson Unified School District and its students.

He says that before Proposition 203, the TUSD bilingual program lacked continuity and structure. Every school had a different curriculum for their bilingual classrooms, and the disorganization made the program ineffective. Prop. 203 provided the order and regulation that TUSD needed to run effi- ciently.

However, Proposition 203 created prob- lems for Spanish-only students in the state by creating a dichotomy of culture and lan- guage, said Ruíz.

“Proposition [203] downplays the impor- tance of being bilingual and bi-literate,” said Ruíz. “Especially when we are in the region of our country so close to the border, and being bilingual offers you so many more opportunities. So I see [speaking only English] as a disadvantage.”

Instead of having an English-only class- room, students who speak Spanish should receive a more structured bilingual educa- tion, explained Ruíz. With the guidelines and procedure standardized, a student can progress in a school with the same structure of education in each grade level, he said.

This is why Ruíz believes that his bilingui- al class, along with others in the district, have a growing importance.

Alejandro Gallego, a fifth grader in his class who speaks Spanish at home, appreci- ates the significance of understanding both English and Spanish.

“I want to learn both languages,” Gallego says. “Because it’s more better because when you grow up, you might have to speak both languages.”

For Ruíz, bilingual education is more than curriculum and lesson plans, it is about cul- ture and growth.

“I teach the kids the importance of learn- ing English,” Ruíz says. “[I tell them], don’t lose your native tongue, don’t lose your cul- ture, don’t lose who you are and your identi- ty, but you have to learn English.”
Mientras el viento sopla por el cabello de la audiencia y hace que la capa de plástico ondee, la boca de Octavio Tovar se vea mientras canta una historia, su guitarra en sus brazos y la letra amarrada volando frente a él. Él no sabía que la historia de su abuela le podría ganar $250, el premio del primer lugar, al participar en el concurso de corridos de este año.

Tovar, 46, es uno de seis can- tantes locales que participaron en el concurso anual de corridos que se lleva acabo durante el festival de “Tucson Meet Yourself” en el Parque Presidio.

“Fue una sorpresa para mí, los competidores son buenos también, pero cuenta mucho ser el compiti- dor”, dice él.

Poético por naturaleza, el corrido es un género de música en que las canciones reflejan experiencias de la vida real. Corridos viene de la palabra córse, y las canciones son líneas continuas que usualmente narran historias de familia, héroes locales, eventos significativos y por supuesto el amor—viejo y nuevo.

El género se desarrolló durante el siglo 19, cuando los vaqueros cruzaron el país cantando corridos sobre su trabajo, la vida en el oeste y las aventuras de los vaqueros. Los corridos son cantados con acompañamiento de una variedad de instrumentos, incluyendo la guitarra, la batería y los tambores.

Removal program is of fering resi- dents a way to remove tattoos and their restrictions. “It is like a treatment plan. They sign a contract and have a spe- cific number of sessions before they can be considered to have completed treatment, said Issac Villegas Durgin, the program coordi- nator. “I love that I get to come back and perform more,” said Durgin.

“Sometimes it is not the best decision, getting a tattoo,” said Durgin. “I did not want my son to grow up hating his father,” dice él. “I love that I get to come back and perform more,” said Durgin.

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― By Dustin Seppala

For an ordinance to become effective, it must be read three times at a city council meeting and then voted on by the council. According to City Manager Fernando Castro, an ordinance’s second and third readings cannot occur in the same meeting. The council is expected to read all three ordi- nances for the third time October 24, and will vote on them imme- diate. But not everyone is happy with the ordinance. "I see a lot of potential in these stores," said Luttrell. “Some of them are community-based and really help out with development in the city.”

Seasoned political veterans appeared at the Oct. 17 meeting to show their support for the ordi- nance limiting large retail establishments.

Unlike Green and Luttrell, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias does not want to see a large store like Wal-Mart South Tucson, and supports the regula- tion limiting them. “I think that by adopting this ordinance you have the ability to decide what’s best for the citizens of your city,” said Eckstrom to the city council.

Both the sexually oriented businesses and payroll loan center members of the Wal-Mart representatives, at the meeting, which he said demonstrated the company’s lack of involvement in the city.

“I think that by adopting this ordinance you have the ability to decide what’s best for the citizens of your city,” said Eckstrom to the city council. They’ll get stuck with strict limitations, which he said demonstrated the company’s lack of involvement in the city.

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For the past few weeks, the face of a jolly jester has been slowly emerging from a mishmash of plastic bottles, clay, plastic bags and newspaper at a downtown-area workshop conducted two nights a week.

The jester mask, six times larger than life, will be worn by its creator Chris Bishop in the All Souls Procession Nov. 6, as a tribute to deceased loved ones.

Reflecting hints of the Mexican holiday El Día de los Muertos in a Mardi-Gras style, the procession also incorporates autumnal rites of Caribbean, African, Celtic and Latin cultures.

“It's always been kind of a mix, to give it its own identity,” said Matt Cotten, one of the event's organizers. Though the All Souls Procession has Mexican roots, each participant’s ancestry and personal style contributes to the event's overall mood – often incorporating various European traditions, Cotten explained amidst the night's chosen music: the blaring sounds of Gogol Bordello, a Ukranian-gypsy-punk band.

The All Souls Procession grew out of art teacher Susan Johnson's remembrance of her late father, and today is a means for people to absorb and express their feelings for the dead while honoring the lives they lived.

While many workshop participants will create masks and puppets symbolizing or resembling a lost loved one, some choose less-specific characters, like Bishop's jester.

“Since I've lost too many friends and relatives, I couldn't pick one of them,” Bishop said. “He's going to represent all of them... with a smile.”

Bishop, a New-Jersey transplant, first encountered the workshop last year, drawn by the participants who were the age of her late son. They handed Bishop a bunch of trash and told her to get to work.

“I thought they were messing with the old lady’s head,” she said, before she real-ized what the “trash” ultimately could become. That year, Bishop's mask was an old man.

“I couldn't wait for this year,” said Bishop, who works as an office manager for a computer-graphics company. “It's fun—you get your hands dirty!”

Bishop will be one of thousands marching south at 6 p.m. from Fourth Avenue and University Boulevard, snaking through downtown and gathering in an empty lot at Stone Avenue and Franklin Street. Here, staged performances will include music, dance, and demonstrations by Flam Chen, a self-titled pyrotechnic theater troupe.

Helping organize the procession, along with other local artist groups like Tucson Puppet Works and Flam Chen, is a 10-year-old collective of artists, teachers and community activists called Many Mouths, One Stomach.

“A New Orleans, voodoo-inspired theme will characterize this year’s All Souls Procession,” said Charles Swanson of Many Mouths, One Stomach, using his fingers to strain a goopy papier-mâché liquid from pieces of newspaper. He is one of about 30 workshop patrons stationed at spotlight tables under a tent in the dirt parking lot of Tucson Puppet Works at 44 W. Sixth St.

These workers – artists, if only for this event – often come in clusters and sip Tecate beer while letting their creative impulses take over.

Cotten, also a member of Many Mouths, One Stomach, got involved with the festivities nearly 10 years ago when he began performing for money using fire and puppets during the “Downtown Saturday Night” events.

This year, Cotten’s mask will be a portrait of his father, who passed away more than a year ago. The mask will sit atop PVC pipes that extend up from a backpack to create a character almost 14 feet tall – a typical sight at the procession.

On any other night, sights like this, or like Bishop’s towering jester bobbing down the street, would be given serious sideways glances by passers-by.

Nov. 6, however, the rules don't apply as procession participants and spectators blend to form one of Tucson’s most unique celebrations.