

Douglas Dispatch

75 CENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014 | WWW.DOUGLASDISPATCH.COM

VOL. 116, NO. 46



Douglas officers seize 269 lbs of marijuana
See Page A5

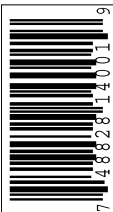
Lady Bulldogs roll in opener

See Page A8



WEATHER

Sunny.
Tomorrow's high: 70;
Tomorrow's low: 39.
More weather, A5



City hosts Christmas parade



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Santa Claus and his helpers helped kick off the holiday season in Douglas by being in the Christmas parade.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Douglas High School's Spike appeared and danced with the DHS cheerleaders.

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Douglas residents packed along G Ave. Saturday night for Douglas' annual Christmas parade.

The theme this year was Candy Land.

There were 50 entries this year, up 22 from last year and the parade lasted over an hour.

The floats were judged. First, second and third place winners were not available at press time.

The highlight of the parade was the arrival of Santa Claus who was in the last float of the parade.

The event officially kicks off the Christmas season in Douglas.

Another city event is scheduled for Dec. 20 starting at 10 a.m. and running throughout the day in front of the

See PARADE, Page A10

Crowd turns out for Thanksgiving Day event

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Hundreds of local residents turned out Thanksgiving Day for what is becoming a family tradition in many local households, the Douglas Run/Walk for the Cure Turkey Trot.

The event, which is held at AirportPark each year, featured three races for the youth followed by the traditional 5K run/walk.

For organizer Linda Gomez this year marked her 14th year of being cancer free.

Many families who took part in the event have at one time, all been helped by Gomez.

Several individuals publicly thanked Gomez Thanksgiving Day pledging their continued support for the event.

The Duarte family was one of the families taking part in the Turkey Trot. Their family has been adversely affected by this deadly disease.

At the start of the event lanterns were released as a last wish and in memory of Tanya Duarte's mom,

Carolyn Wall a former Douglas resident and a Douglas Dispatch reporter who died of cancer in May.

Tanya's brother, Aaron, is also battling late stage cancer.

Carlee and Pablo Duarte are both cancer survivors. Laura Duarte, sister of Douglas Police Officer Jose Duarte as well as Pablo and Jesus is currently undergoing chemo for breast cancer and wasn't feeling well enough to attend the Turkey Trot Thanksgiving Day.

The mother of Jose, Pablo, Jesus and Laura, Paula Duarte, is a breast cancer survivor and her mother is also a cancer survivor.

In recent years the Duarte family has had several family members pass away due to cancer, most recently Maribel Ruelas and Lupe Duarte.

The Duarte family said they are very grateful for the services provided by the Turkey Trot and hope to continue supporting the events for years to come.

See THANKSGIVING, Page A10



PHOTOS BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH

At the start of the event lanterns were released as a last wish and in memory of Tanya Duarte's mom, Carolyn Wall a former Douglas resident and a Douglas Dispatch reporter who died of cancer in May. In the photo above Jennifer Thomas and her son Gabriel Owen light a lantern as other families joined in and released lanterns into the air in memory of loved ones they had lost to cancer.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Kim and Kristi Cormier were among the group of 100 plus runners that took part in the 5K event Thanksgiving Day.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Event organizer Linda Gomez honors Jose Loreto and Martha Castillon who were the top male and female runners in last Thursday's Douglas Run/Walk for the Cure Turkey Trot.

Thanksgiving Eve fire

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

A Thanksgiving Eve fire in a storage shed behind the El Burron restaurant on Cochise Ave. forced the evacuation of customers and staff who were eating at the restaurant.

The call came in around 9:40 p.m. of smoke in the area. When firefighters arrived they found smoke coming from the shed behind the restaurant. The shed contained

charcoal El Burron used to cook the food.

Firefighters cut off the doors to the shed and removed the bags of charcoal extinguishing the smoke in a matter of minutes.

There was no damage to El Burron and no injuries. The shed the charcoal was in was damaged however.

Firefighters left the scene around 10:30 p.m.

The restaurant reopened a short while later.



PHOTOS BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Firefighters cut the doors off to a storage shed behind the El Burron restaurant on Cochise Ave. last Wednesday night. The shed contained charcoal that had caught fire.

Consulate of Mexico supports immigration reform

AALIYAH MONTOYA
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

The Mexican Consulate is making sure all information on Obama's new immigration reform proposal is distributed to the community. They are following changes as they are being made, all valid available information can be accessed through the Consulate.

A "deal" has been proposed by Obama's executive decision on immigration reform. Those who have been in America for more than five years, who have children who were born in the U.S., who register, pass a criminal background check, and agree to begin paying taxes will be able to apply to stay in the country temporarily without fear of deportation.

This will not apply to undocumented immigrants who have come to the U.S. recently, or to those who come illegally in the future.

President Obama's immigration reform proposal has four principles the first being the strengthening of border security. The number of active Border Patrol agents is at its highest; border security is said to be at its strongest with the lowest amount of immigrants crossing the border illegally since the 1970s.

This reform is expected to improve partnerships with law enforcement in border communities to make cities like Douglas among the safest in the country.

According to the White House official website, although drug-related violence has increased in Mexico, border towns in Arizona, including Douglas have had flat crime rates.

Other principles are streamlining legal immigration, earning citizenship, and putting a stop to employers hiring

undocumented workers.

There will be several tools made available to prepare applicants for the path to citizenship. The process will involve passing a background check, paying taxes, paying a penalty, and learning English.

It is important for those who will be affected to know that this policy won't take effect until Jan. 2015. All information has not been released from the government yet.

Things to be cautious of are attorneys, or people claiming they can give their assistance in return for money.

"The most important thing at this time is to acknowledge, is that we don't know everything just yet," Jorge E. Montes of the Mexican Consulate in Douglas said. "Be aware of fraud. We are inviting people to be in touch with the Consul; we can give them ways to access the information they need."

Mayor Danny Ortega Jr. feels that the immigration reform is not the perfect solution, but it is a step in the right direction.

"It's going to better our relationship with Mexico," Ortega said. "Many of these people are productive members of society and we hope that this will not only open doors for them, but also for economic development, and visas for people who want to come here, shop, and visit the U.S."

For additional assistance contact the Mexican Consulate at 520 364-3107, or stop by their office located at 1324 G Ave. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Centro de Información de Actualidad Migratoria, a center for migratory information can also be reached seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. through U.S. line 1-855-463-6395 and Mexico line 001-520-623-7874.

OBITUARIES

George Albert Nelson
Feb. 23, 1927 – Nov. 27, 2014

George Albert Nelson, 87, passed away November 27, 2014 in Eagar, AZ. He was born on February 23, 1927 in Bisbee, Arizona to Leonard and Ida Nelson.

He married his sweetheart Evelyn Alice Sanders on June 19, 1949 at the Sanders Ranch in Turkey Creek in the Chiricahua Mts. He was blessed with seven children: Doris (Jim) Huff, Vernal, Utah; Debra (Mike) Hill, Eagar; Dorothy (Robert) Virden, New Mexico; Doug (Lisa) Nelson, Peoria; Darlene (Arlin) Waters, Eagar; and Danell (Keith) Culp, Hereford, Texas.

George is preceded in death by his sweetheart Evelyn Nelson and son David Nelson; his parents, brothers James, Orval, and Paul Nelson, sister Blanche, and grandson Joel Nelson. He is survived by his six children, 21 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, three sisters: Alice, Louis, and Pauline, and sisters-in-law Ann, Linda, and Peggy.

He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, holding many callings. He served a mission in 1997 in the Birmingham Alabama Mission; serving the people of Fayette. His love for the Gospel was abundant and he provided service to many people and has been a wonderful example for all who knew him. George served in the Navy from 1941 through April of 1946. Once he returned from World



War II, he worked for AT&T, then for Phelps Dodge for many years in the underground copper mine in Bisbee and Prescott, AZ.

He worked the family farm in Elfrida. He also worked for Spitler Land & Cattle. Later he worked for Dusty A-7 Ranch in Pomerene, AZ; retiring in the summer of 1997. George also owned the bowling alley in Benson for many years; teaching many grandkids the love of bowling. George and Evelyn relocated to Eagar, AZ in 2000 where they were able to be involved with family and church and their love of the mountains. They enjoyed their retirement years traveling and spending time with all their children and seeing the grandkids and loved ones. George will be missed by so many. He was taken home on a beautiful, glorious Thanksgiving Day.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, EagarStakeCenter. Burnham Mortuary, Eagar, handled the arrangements.

To send an online condolence to his family, please visit www.burnhammortuary.com.

OBITUARIES

Guillermina “Minnie” Estrada
March 7, 1936 – November 29, 2014

Guillermina “Minnie” Estrada passed away on Saturday, November 29, 2014 at the NorthwestMedicalCenter in Tucson.

Minnie was born on March 7, 1936 in Douglas to Francisco and Benita Del Rio Moreno. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gilberto Estrada, brother Robert Meraz and sister Bertha Garcia. She is survived by her four children Marvin, Monica, Albert and Gary, 10 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers

Edward Meraz, David Meraz and sister Vicky Encinas.

A Rosary for Minnie will be recited at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at St. Bernard’s Church in Pirtleville. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated following the Mass at 10:30 a.m. also at St. Bernard’s Church. Burial of her ashes will follow at CalvaryCemetery.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at brownpagemortuary.com

Brown Page Mortuary is in charge of arrangements, 364-3434.

BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Anaiz Rodriguez

Andrea Anaiz Rodriguez turned 13-years old Nov. 28. She is the daughter of Selena and Frank Ballesteros and Andres Rodriguez of Douglas. Her sister is Francelia Ballesteros. Her grandparents are Ramona Amaya, Ana Alicia Rodriguez and Pati and Ernesto Lopez. Her great grandparents are Ramona and Guillermo Santa Maria. Her godparents are Marisela and Alex Flores of Douglas.



Happy Birthday Princess we are very proud of you! Love you lots!

CALENDAR

Dec. 4: Pre-School story time at the Douglas Library at 10:15 a.m.

Dec. 7: Cochise County Historical Society luncheon/annual meeting at the historic Gadsden Hotel located at 1046 G Avenue. Event starts at 11 a.m. For more information contact POC Bill Pakinkis at (520) 266-5266.

Dec. 9: Christmas movie ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas (live action)’ in the Children’s Room at the Douglas Library at 4 p.m.

Dec.11: Naturalization 101 Information Session from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Douglas Public Library on 10th Street. Seating is first come, first serve. Doors open at 10:15 a.m. For more information visit www.uscis.gov/citizenship. The event is free to the public.

Dec. 11: Pre-School story time at the Douglas Library at 10:15 a.m.

Dec. 11: Crochet Club at the Douglas Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 12: Teen Christmas acoustic concert, ages 12-17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Douglas Library

Dec. 12: Ornament decorating event, ages 0-12 from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Limited supply! Must pre-register at the front desk.

Dec. 16: Teen Wrapping Party: In partnership with the City of Douglas Fire Department, will be collecting various donation items needed for elderly residents at Cyprus Inn and Haven of Douglas. at the Douglas Library at 4 p.m. When you bring in donations you will be entered into a raffle for a holiday stocking.

Dec. 18: Pre-School story time with Joan Reichel at the Douglas Library at 10:15 p.m.

Dec. 19: Special Polar Express night with Santa at the Douglas Library from 5 to 7 p.m. Come

see the library transform into the Polar Express Station, where we will share hot chocolate and a story with Santa. Wear your PJ’s!

Dec. 20: Downtown Christmas event starting at 10 a.m. on G Ave.

Dec. 23: Christmas movie night ‘The Polar Express’ at the Douglas Library at 4 p.m.

Dec. 31: Knights of Columbus New Year’s Eve Dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall on F Ave. Admission is \$15 per person, no children please. Music provided by La Familia. Bring your own beverage. Call 364-8839 or 364-3670 for more information.

Ongoing: Light the D meeting every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Held in the Douglas High School Library. Everyone is welcomed.

Ongoing: Douglas Rotary Club every Tuesday 12-1 p.m. at El Alamo Restaurant located at 1449 G Ave. Weight Watchers every Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Douglas Government Center for more information call (520) 364-3953.

Ongoing: Monday nights at the American Legion Hamburger Night from 5 -7 p.m. stop by and eat or call (520) 364-5171 to place your order to go.

Ongoing: Tuesday nights, American Legion Taco Tuesdays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 4 -7 p.m. to place your order call (520) 364-5171.

Ongoing: Al-Anon Family Group weekly meeting will be held every Monday at the Douglas Library meeting room. The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope, in order to solve their common problems. Meetings will be held from 7 – 8:15 p.m. there is no charge to participate in these meetings. For further information contact Lea at (520) 805-0086.

Ongoing: The Douglas-Williams House Museum is open Saturday and Sundays from 12 noon – 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12 noon – 4p.m. For information call (520) 364-7370.

Pets of the Week



Hello there and a belated Happy Thanksgiving. We are this week’s Douglas Dispatch Pets of the Week.

I am a female mixed breed mutt while my friend is a female Chihuahua.

Both of us were brought to the Douglas Animal Shelter last week after being found on the streets of Douglas. The nice people are hoping you will help us find a new forever home. We both are very

playful, friendly and healthy and love to play fetch and just run around the yard.

Neither of us have had our shots and have not been spayed.

There are approximately 15 dogs and one kitten still here at the Douglas Animal Shelter. We all would like to go to a forever home where we can be loved and love you back.

Last week’s pet of the week was adopted shortly after his picture came out in the paper, lucky dog. I am hoping the same will happen for us.

If you, or if you know of someone who is willing to adopt us or one of our other friends here please stop by the Douglas Animal Shelter at 2017 N. Rogers Ave. or call (520) 364-7567.

You can also visit us on Facebook under the Douglas Animal Shelter.

Please come by and see us and help us find forever homes.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Antonia Rodriguez and her son George Lopez enjoyed their Thanksgiving lunch as well as quality time with family.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Veronica Price visited with her sister, Martha Elliott to celebrate Thanksgiving one day early, on Nov. 26.

Haven of Douglas celebrates Thanksgiving

BY AALIYAH MONTOYA
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Families joined their loved ones at Haven of Douglas care facility to enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

This is an annual event that staff has put together for 17 years now through their dietary service. According to Social Service and Activities Coordinator, Cecy Valencia they served 35 families in attendance, an estimated total of 180 people.

Served was a traditional Thanksgiving feast of mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, stuffing, sweet potatoes, hot rolls, and

of course turkey. The highlight for residents was dessert, everyone was able to choose from three delicious pies, Apple, Cherry, or Pumpkin. The luncheon is always held the day before Thanksgiving, so families can spend extra time with their loved one during the holiday.

“From our family to theirs, we wish them all a happy holidays,” Valencia said.

All families are welcome and encouraged to attend Haven Health’s Christmas party held on Dec. 24at 10 a.m. at 1400 San Antonio Ave.

Be Seen Today!

The Doctor Is In.

Ravichandra Boyella, M.D.
Cardiologist

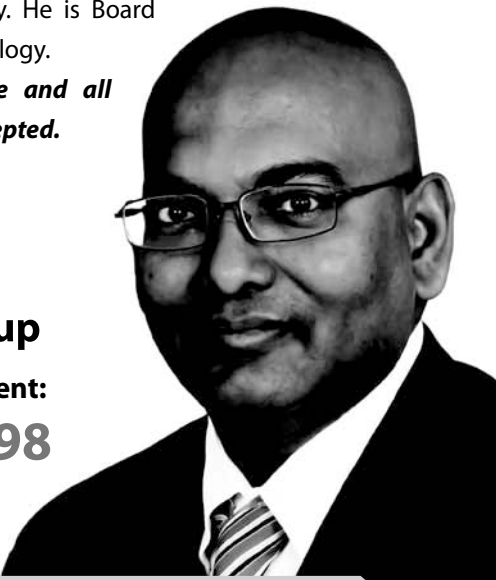
Dr. Boyella provides a wide variety of cardiology services, including the treatment of hypertension, heart failure management, peripheral vascular imaging and testing, diagnostic and interventional procedures, as well as venous pathology, including venous reflux disease diagnosis and treatment (e.g., varicose veins).

Dr. Boyella is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease, and Echocardiography. He is Board Eligible in Interventional Cardiology.

New patients are welcome and all major insurance plans are accepted.

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The Doctor Is In

Dr. Jarrett Hamilton provides care for a variety of conditions and injuries of the foot, ankle or related leg structures.

We are offering appointments in Douglas at the Chiricahua Clinic located at 100 F Avenue from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on these dates:

December 11 and 30

Most insurance plans accepted including AHCCCS.

Call 520-515-7480 to schedule an appointment.



Sierra Vista Medical Group

www.svmedicalgroup.org



Teen Night Masquerade Dance Friday

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

There will be a Teen Night Masquerade Dance this coming Friday at the Bushmasters Club on Dolores Ave. The event will run from 7-10 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person. You must be between the ages of 13-18 to enter and school ID or a valid photo ID will be required.

Dress to impress. Mask is not required but encouraged. A prize for the best dress participant will be given at the end of the dance. Music will be provided by Black Crown Entertainment. For more information log onto their facebook page under facebook.com/blackcrownent520.

Douglas Public Library has Food for Fines program

In an effort to help the local Food Bank the Douglas Public Library is offering a food for fines exchange. From now until Dec. 13, you can pay for a portion of your library fines with food. At \$1 per item, you can pay up to \$5 of your fines with non-perishable

food items. All items will be donated to the local holiday food drive. All items must be non-perishable and must be donated in variety. No more than two of the same item will be accepted. Food must also not be expired.



Photo by Bruce Whetten/Douglas Dispatch The staff of Douglas Rides. From left to right, Juan Cardenas, Martin Flores, Juan Rojas, Patty Ortiz, Jessica Urrea, Jose Juan Sanchez, Rodolfo Cassillas and Humberto Rivera.

Douglas Rides shows increase in riders

BY AALIYAH MONTOYA
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Going on three years since their take over from Catholic Community Services, Douglas Rides Transit has had a 60 percent increase in riders averaging, 6,600 per month. The transit has two weekly routes. One covers 25 bus stops, Monday through Friday, throughout Pirtleville and Bay Acres. The second route runs Monday through Saturday and covers 26 bus stops throughout midtown Douglas. There is a third route that operates every other Friday that caters to Elfrida and McNeal. The remaining days of operation for 2014 are Friday Dec. 12 and 6 and every other Friday following, beginning Jan. 9. On Saturdays, when only the Midtown route operates, those who cannot get to a midtown stop can call by 4 p.m. the day prior, and

schedule a deviated pick-up. Three routes catering to Cochise College, operate Monday through Thursday, during the school session. Beginning Dec. 1 through Jan. 4, the 'Bisbee Connect' portion of Douglas Rides will add a route with a stop in Naco. A full list of routes can be accessed through the cities website www.douglasaz.org, under 'Community News & Events' or at the Douglas Visitors Center, 345 16th street. As for fees, The Pirtleville/Bay Acres, Midtown, and Elfrida/McNeal routes cost \$1 for adults (ages 18-59), \$50 for seniors (ages 60 and over) and those who are disabled, \$.75 for students (ages 7-18), and free for riders ages 6 and under with accompaniment of an adult. For the Cochise College routes, fees range from \$1.50 to \$3.00 for non-students, and free

for students with an ID. Riders over 60 years-old or with a disability, who live within city limits, can apply for an unlimited free rides card, with a small monthly donation. The program also offers 'Dial-A-Ride' which is door-to-door service for those ages 60 and over with a card, and those disabled, who cannot reach a bus stop. According to City Manager, Carlos De La Torre, "the City of Douglas is making an effort to promote holiday shopping in the Douglas community by extending discount opportunities for out of town shoppers that visit from Bisbee or Mexico through the Douglas Rides program." Several businesses in Douglas have coordinated with Douglas Rides, making sure riders have access to all of the best deals in town. Including Wal-

CRH helps needy families

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

For years the staff at Southeast Arizona Medical Center has been helping local families by donating a complete turkey dinner to them at Thanksgiving. Now, under new owner, Cochise Regional Hospital, the old tradition has continued and once again four local families were de-

livered a complete turkey dinner the day before Thanksgiving. The 100 plus employees of CRH donated various amounts of money which was then used to go out and purchase the Thanksgiving Day items. The staff at CRH say they enjoy doing this and it's their way of giving back to those in need.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH The staff at Cochise Regional Hospital show off the four Thanksgiving Day dinners (minus the turkeys) that were delivered Wednesday afternoon to local families in need. Pictured from left to right are Scott Anderson, Evelyn Arvizu, Concepcion Valenzuela, Alex Bustillos, Elizabeth Mitchell, William Tardibuono, Dora Coronado (front center), Lorraine Ballesteros, Samantha Tardibuono, Maria Figueroa, Lorena Martinez and Brenda Lopez.

Sarah Marley prepares food boxes for needy families

BY AALIYAH MONTOYA
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

The Student Council at Sarah Marley Elementary did its part in spreading holiday cheer this Thanksgiving. The students prepared 13 boxes, each filled

with Thanksgiving favorites: canned foods, boxes of pasta, stuffing and even a turkey. They began preparing and gathering donations over a month ago. From each classroom, one student and

their family was chosen to receive a Thanksgiving gift box. "Thank you to everyone who helped out," said Student Council sponsor Mrs. Brenda Moreno. "A special thanks to Sarah Marley students and PTSO as well, for all of their hard work and dedication."



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH Pictured about are Student council sponsors Mr. Edmund Garcia and Mrs. Brenda Moreno, PTSO President Mrs. Rubio, Sarah Marley Principle Claudia Leon and student council sponsor Mrs. Mendoza. Student council members are left to right: Luis Gonzales, Naydelin Luna, Lexie Otero, Venecia Torres, Jesus Portillo, Frida Rubio, Mia Acuña, and Mia Meza. The group worked together in preparing 13 food boxes for needy families at Sarah Marley Elementary.

DFD toy drive Saturday

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Douglas firefighters will be at Wal-Mart Saturday from 1-6 p.m. collecting items for the upcoming holiday season. People donating can drop off jackets, non-perishable food items and toys. Items donated will stay in Douglas and be used to help needy families in the community. If you are unable to donate Saturday items may be dropped off at the Douglas Fire Station on 10th Street.

EL ALAMO RESTAURANT

A circular logo for El Alamo Restaurant. It says "MONDAY - SUNDAY" around the top, "OPEN" in the center, and "8:00AM - 8:00PM" around the bottom. There is also a small "XNUV 84206" text.

We offer daily specials.

1449 G. AVENUE DOUGLAS, AZ, 856007

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A logo for Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. featuring a heart shape with a person inside.

Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.

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Douglas - 520-364-3285

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A small black and white photo of Pablo Xibille, Sales Executive.

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A small black and white photo of Carlos Flores, Service Advisor.

The Toyota logo.

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Why the insensitive, insulting letter, but no explanation?

Dear Editor:

Months ago, Mrs. Sheila Rogers, Superintendent, released a letter to “Taxpayers within Douglas Unified School District” about the 2014-2015 tax rate, but never acknowledged the increase is huge, for some property owners a doubling and more.

The reason for this huge increase is not explained, though Mrs. Rogers made several illogical attempts.

Mrs. Rogers’ letter is insensitive, insincere, inaccurate and insulting to all residents.

Mrs. Rogers wrote “we,” the Administration “have been given a difficult situation to manage” as though no one else is affected! It didn’t seem “difficult” for her to recommend the huge increase. Apparent from a recent radio interview, she neither pays local property tax, nor understands how tax rates are figured and the effect on taxpayers and our entire local economy, especially on those

with limited incomes.

Though given “best advice” more than once, Mrs. Rogers failed to replace her letter to explain the huge increase and take responsibility for Administration inaction which partly caused this. Why won’t Mrs. Rogers acknowledge her letter’s insensitivity, and sympathize though belatedly with those who pay the price for her unexplained action?

And worse is yet to come! At the November 7 Board meeting the Administration stated again with no explanation in addition to the remaining \$1,000,000, we owe \$900,000 more! The tax rate for 2015-2016 is projected to be \$8.60+ per \$100 assessed valuation, more than the present \$6.19!

Surely Mrs. Rogers’ legacy will adversely affect future Boards, our community and its children for years to come.

Sincerely,
Michael F. Nava,
Douglas Resident

Correction to Dispatch story

Dear Editor:

In reference to American Legion Auxiliary ‘Apples for DUSD Staff’ in Nov. 26 edition on Page A7.

Thank you for sending Aaliyah to report on our American Education Week activity. She did a great job! We appreciate your willingness to publicize our community and

school activities. Although I have been Unit President, the current President of American Auxiliary, Fred Hilburn Unit 11 is Jennie Molina.

Once again thank you for your support for the American Legion Family and our Programs.

Karen Smith

Fourth grade class looking for information

Dear Editor:

The Fourth Grade at Aviston Elementary, located in southern Illinois, is learning about the United States and the different environments, climates, resources, and highlights found in each region.

The kids in the class think it would be fun to receive postcards, souvenirs resources, or any information about our great country from each of the 50 states.

We hope that people who read this letter will be interested in

mailing our class items pertaining to their state.

Our Address: 4th Grade @ Aviston Elementary, 350 South Hill Street, Aviston, Illinois 62216.

A sincere “Thank You” to anyone who is able to contribute!

We appreciate the excitement you will add to our learning experience.

Sincerely
Mrs. Niemeyer
4th Grade teacher at Aviston Elementary

Thanks to those who helped make event a success

Dear Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us with the fundraising events. Without the generous support of the community, organizations, and businesses the events would not have been possible.

We would like to thank the City of Douglas, Josue Lopez, Jasmine Lopez, Rosie Mendoza, Sebastian Franco, Anissa Elena Morales, Christina Aparicio, the bands-Settle The Sun, Section 8’s, Before I Die, Ending December, and the Scented Trashbags for making the House of Hope Annual Halloween Fest a success.

We would also like to thank Raquel Swanson from EZRA Fitness Center, Marilu Tacho, The Fitness Center from Agua Prieta for having a Zumbathon and DJ Legacy for providing the music to help raise funds for the House of

Hope.

Jumelle’s Dance Studio held a fashion show “Glam Night” where her students modeled clothing and danced.

Thank you to Sarina Montano, Salvador Ocano, Illusion’s Boutique, Coleman’s, Jasmine Lopez, DJ Leonardo Montano, Monce Montano, El Consulado de Mexico, Koral’s Salon, Marylu’s Salon, Jose Salon and Carol’s Salon.

Also thank you to Julia Gamboa, manager of Stage for having a fundraiser and donating all the proceeds to House of Hope in the amount of \$652.60.

Thank you for your time, dedication support, hard work and effort in helping the families of domestic violence. You are all greatly appreciated

Respectfully,
House of Hope Staff
P.O. Box 1218
Douglas, AZ 85608
(520) 364-2465

Library collecting items for elderly

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

The Douglas Fire Department and the Douglas Public Library have joined forces in an effort to collect gloves, socks, scarves, slippers, puzzles, picture frames and other trinkets for the elderly residents at both the Cypress Inn as well as the Haven of Douglas care

facilities.

For every donation brought into the library the person will be entered into a raffle for a holiday stocking filled with goodies.

December 15 is the final day to make a donation.

Anyone wanting more information may call 417-7352.

‘Tis the season to get scammed

BY SIERRA VISTA HERALD

It’s the right time of the year to be concerned about criminals running scams that are trying to dupe people out of personal information, and ultimately their money.

There’s no “off-season” when it comes to scam artists. In September federal agents speaking in Phoenix announced that callers posing as representatives of the Internal Revenue Service have stolen \$80,000 from Arizona residents this year. Across the country they reported 1,100 people have been victims, to the tune of \$5 million.

In October an elderly woman in Sierra Vista fell victim to a “jury duty” scam that cost her \$6,500 when she followed the instructions of a sophisticated caller who directed her through the steps of turning over her money to prevent being “arrested” by authorities. The sheriff’s department reported later that the con artist knew the names of local county officials and offered a convincing line that created the fear necessary to swindle the woman.

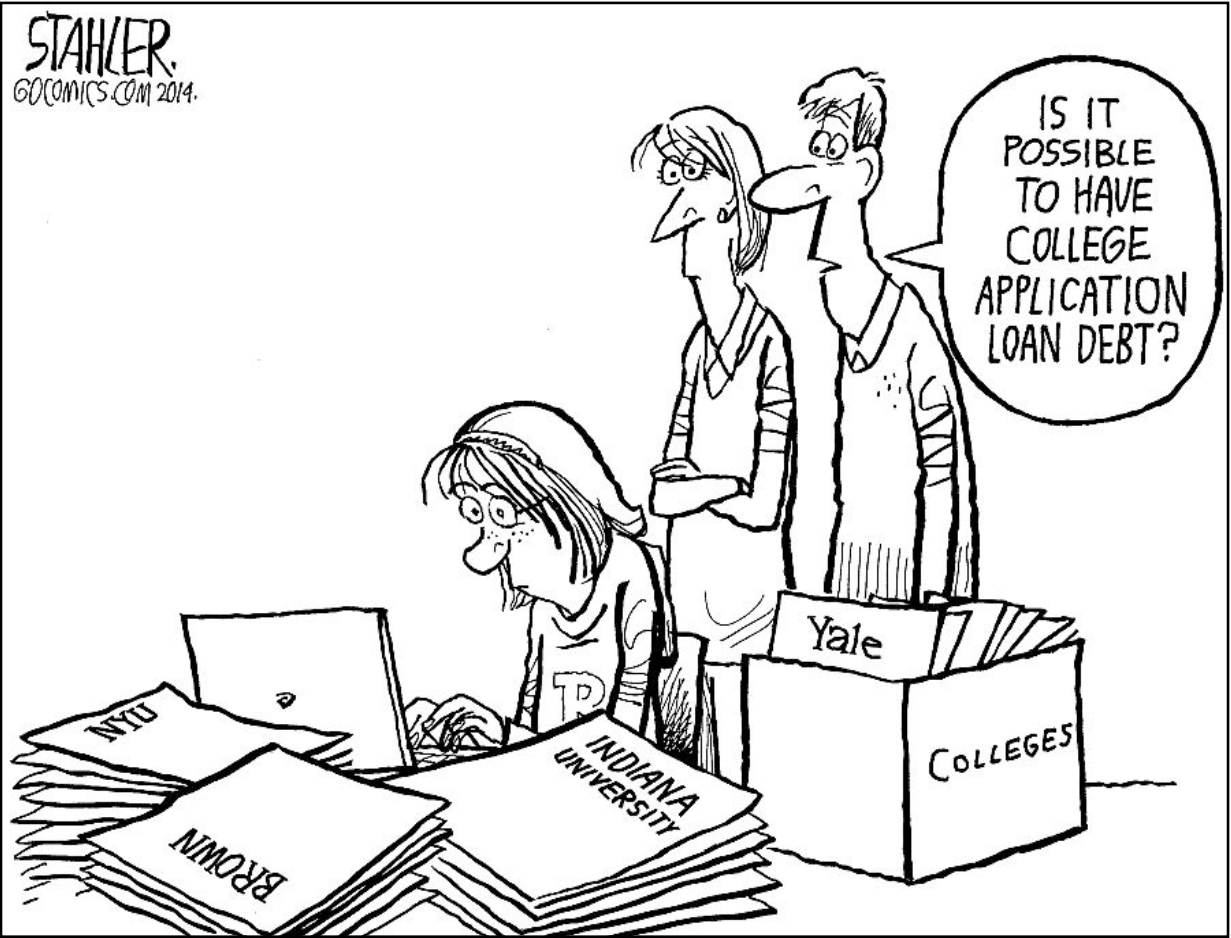
During the holiday season when thoughts turn to fellowship, getting gifts ready for Christmas and welcoming friends and

family, authorities report criminals count on the hectic nature of the season. They rely on the idea that people will expect the unexpected during the build-up to Christmas.

The Better Business Bureau, which keeps tabs on the latest schemes aimed at tricking people out of their money, reports that a common scam this time of year is the “fraudulent delivery con.” The victim receives an email or a telephone call from a supposed representative of a well-known delivery company stating they have a package and need more information to deliver. That’s when they convince the victim to turn over their credit card or other precious financial information to complete the scam.

Local police get phone calls on a regular basis notifying them of these cons, but the sheer number and the fact the perpetrators are usually calling from somewhere far away make it virtually impossible to pursue these criminals.

The best anecdote is to be vigilant, keep up with warnings issued by the authorities, and remember the age-old adage: “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.”



Census data show households still struggling

BY ROBERT CARREIRA, COCHISE COLLEGE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH | HERALD/REVIEW

In 2013, median household income in Cochise County was \$46,647 according to data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. That was up from \$43,252 in 2012. Adjusting for inflation, median household income in Cochise County increased 6.3 percent in 2013.

Despite the increase, Cochise County’s median household income last year was still down from 2007—the year prior to the Great Recession. In 2007, median household income countywide was \$44,499. Taking inflation into account, median household income last year was down 7.5 percent from seven years ago.

Other measures of income saw similar trends, with 2013 levels higher than 2012 but still lower than before the recession began. Median family income, which was \$56,857 in 2013, was up 9.6 percent from 2012 but still down 5.9 percent from 2007, after the inflation adjustment.

Per capita income countywide last year was \$24,093, up 5.5 percent from 2012 but down 2.4 percent from 2007.

Despite income levels that were lower last year than in 2007, median earnings for workers countywide in 2013 were higher than both 2012 and 2007 levels. Full-time, year-round median earnings were \$43,160 in 2013, up 10.7 percent from 2012 and up 8.2 percent from seven years ago, after adjusting for inflation.

In 2013, 19.1 percent of Cochise County’s population lived below the poverty line. That was up from 18.7 percent in 2012 and 15.5 percent in 2007 before the recession began.

The poverty rate for the elderly last year was 13 percent, up from 12.3 percent in 2012 and 7.6 percent seven years ago.

For children, the poverty rate last year was 27 percent, up from 26.4 percent in 2012 and 26.2 percent in 2007.

The highest rates of poverty in Cochise County are among single mothers. In 2013, 43.5 percent of households led by single moms lived below the poverty line, up from 39.5 percent in 2012 but down from 61.1 percent in 2007.

For married-couple families with children, the poverty rate last year was 17.8 percent, which was up from 15.3 percent in 2012 (and

more than double the rate of 8.3 percent back in 2007).

In 2013, 3.3 percent of Cochise County households received cash public assistance income, up from 2.2 percent in 2012 and 2 percent in 2007.

Of Cochise County households, 15.1 percent received food stamp assistance in 2013, down from 16.3 percent in 2012, but up significantly from 9.3 percent in 2007.

In Cochise County, 12.2 percent of the population was without health insurance in 2013. That was down from 13.8 percent in 2012, but up from 9.9 percent in 2009, the first year data were published. The uninsured rate for children in Cochise County was 11.1 percent in 2013, down from 11.8 percent in 2012 but up from 6.3 percent in 2009.

In 2013, 53.5 percent of small children (six years old and younger) in Cochise County had all parents working or looking for work, down from 65.4 percent in 2012, but up from 49.8 percent in 2007.

One of the most effective pathways out of poverty and to higher income is education. In 2013, 24.5 percent of Cochise County residents had a bachelor’s degree

or higher, up from 23.6 percent in 2012 and 19.9 percent in 2007.

In 2013, 25.2 percent of Cochise County residents were enrolled in college or graduate school, down from 29.3 percent in 2012, but up from 23 percent in 2007.

The home ownership rate countywide last year was 70.4 percent, up from 66.2 percent in 2012 and 69.8 percent in 2007. The median value of owner-occupied homes in Cochise County last year was \$150,000, up from \$140,700 in 2012, but down from \$156,100 in 2007.

About 27.7 percent of homeowners with a mortgage in Cochise County paid 30 percent or more of their income toward housing costs in 2013, down from 30.2 percent of homeowners in 2012.

While homeownership has become more affordable, the rental market countywide has become more unaffordable. The median monthly rent in Cochise County in 2013 was \$802, which includes utilities. That was up from \$732 in 2012. Nearly 52 percent of renters countywide paid 30 percent or more of their income toward housing costs in 2013, up from 44 percent the year prior.

Douglas officers seize 269 lbs of marijuana, arrest 2

Two male U.S. citizens were apprehended Nov. 22 in two separate incidents for attempting to smuggle a total of 269 pounds of marijuana into the United States through the Port of Douglas.

Customs and Border Protection officers from the Office of Field Operations referred a 2001 BMW for an inspection after the 35-year-old driver displayed suspicious behavior. After officers instructed the

man to open the rear cargo door of his vehicle for inspection, they discovered 172 packages of marijuana concealed under the rear cargo floor. Officers subsequently removed 240 pounds of mari-

juana, worth almost \$120,000, concealed throughout the vehicle, including the engine compartment. In another smuggling attempt, officers referred a 21-year-old male U.S. citizen for an

inspection of his 2004 Chrysler Pacifica. Inside the vehicle, officers found 18 packages of marijuana under the third-row seat, beneath firewood. Officers removed nearly 30 pounds of marijuana worth al-

most \$15,000. In both cases, officers seized the drugs and vehicles, and turned the men over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.



Photos courtesy Department of Homeland Security Officers at the Douglas Port of Entry discovered 172 packages of marijuana worth almost \$120,000, concealed throughout the vehicle, including the engine compartment during a stop Nov. 22. The driver of the vehicle was arrested.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 12/3	Thu 12/4	Fri 12/5	Sat 12/6	Sun 12/7
75/48	70/39	72/42	71/37	68/37
Cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Showers. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:01 AM Sunset 5:14 PM	Sunrise 7:01 AM Sunset 5:14 PM	Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 5:15 PM	Sunrise 7:03 AM Sunset 5:15 PM	Sunrise 7:04 AM Sunset 5:15 PM

AmericanProfile

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Arizona At A Glance

Moon Phases

First Nov 29	Full Dec 6
Last Dec 14	New Dec 22

UV Index

Day	Index	Level
Wed 12/3	2	Low
Thu 12/4	3	Moderate
Fri 12/5	4	Moderate
Sat 12/6	2	Low
Sun 12/7	4	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Flagstaff	44	30	
Phoenix	68	57	
Tucson	74	57	
Yuma	80	60	
Douglas	75	48	

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	65	48	cloudy
Boston	55	35	rain
Chicago	34	22	sunny
Dallas	64	54	cloudy
Denver	48	32	pt sunny
Kayenta	55	39	rain
Kingman	50	50	rain
Lake Havasu	72	58	rain
Las Vegas, NV	62	49	cloudy
Mt. Lemmon	64	47	cloudy
Nogales	73	51	cloudy
Oracle	65	53	cloudy
Page	56	37	rain
Phoenix	68	57	rain
Pinetop	55	38	cloudy
Prescott	53	40	rain
Quartzite	74	55	rain
Safford	70	53	cloudy
Sells	77	55	cloudy
Show Low	55	38	cloudy
Sierra Vista	70	51	cloudy
Tuba City	65	41	rain
Tucson	74	57	cloudy
Wilcox	69	49	cloudy
Yuma	80	60	cloudy

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Police Department

Public Auction December 6, 2014

Registration 9:00 am Auction starts 10:00 am

Location: City of Douglas Impound Yard * City Maintenance Facility*

2701 North Sulphur Springs Road Douglas AZ

Terms: Vehicles are sold to the Highest Bidder. Payments are accepted in cash, personal check, money orders, cashier's check, or certified check made payable to the City of Douglas. Bidders Must be of legal age (18). All bidders MUST Register before the Auction starts on December 6, 2014. There is no cost to register. All vehicles will start with a minimum bid. Vehicle not receiving the minimum bid will not be sold.

The City of Douglas will charge a 8.9% sales tax on all vehicles.

1 **2000 Chevrolet 2500** Single Cab P/U White

2 **1999 Buick Century** 4DSD Green

3 **1998 Ford F-150** Single Cab P/U Gold

4 **1999 Chevrolet 1500** Extended Cab P/U Silver

5 **1982 GMC 1500** Single Cab P/U White

6 **2003 Chrysler Sebring** 4DSD Silver

7 **2004 Pontiac Grand Prix** 4DSD White

8 **1994 Ford F-150** Extended Cab P/U White

9 **2001 Chrysler** 4DSD Silver

10 **1996 Chevrolet Monte Carlo** 2DSD White

11 **1993 Plymouth Voyager** Van White

12 **1997 Chevrolet Lumina** 4DSD White

13 **2000 Ford F-150** Extended Cab P/U Grey

14 **2002 Dodge Durango** 4DSW White

15 **1990 Lexus** 4DSD Blue

16 **1998 Buick Riviera** 4DSD Brown

17 **2005 GMC Sierra** Single Cab P/U White

18 **2004 Chevrolet Impala** 4DSD Gold

19 **2002 Ford Expedition** 4DSW Gray

NOTE: Inspection of the vehicles will be permitted ONLY on Friday, December 5, 2014 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the above location. Vehicles are sold "As Is" there are NO WARRANTIES either expressed or implied as to the mechanical condition, serviceability, safety, actual mileage or ability to comply with Federal, State, or Local Law or regulation, including but not limited to the ability to pass emissions test. The purchaser will be responsible for making any repairs in order to meet the regulations of the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division. Published: November 26 & December 3, 2014.

***** ALL SALES ARE FINAL *****

**** FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE DOUGLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT 520-417-7550****

Lady Bulldog kickers drop opener in overtime

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

It was a frustrating start to the 2014 soccer season as the Douglas Lady Bulldogs soccer team hosted the Nogales Lady Apaches at Armando DeLucas Stadium Nov. 24.

Douglas trailed early, led late and then lost the match 4-3 in overtime.

In the first half Nogales pretty much controlled the tempo before scoring with just over two minutes remaining in the half taking a 1-0 lead.

Nogales maintained that lead until Crystal Munoz scored with 9:57 left in the match tying the score at 1-1.

A little over two minutes later Yadira Cuevas scored for Douglas giving the Lady Bulldogs a 2-1 edge. Cuevas was injured on the play and would leave the match with a concussion. She would not return.

Douglas was 75 seconds away from winning the match when a defensive let down happened and Nogales scored tying the contest at 2-2 and sending

it into overtime.

In soccer overtime consists of two 10-minute halves; there is no sudden death.

In the first half of overtime Nogales scored back to back goals taking a 4-2 lead. Munoz would score later for Douglas cutting the Lad Apaches lead to 4-3.

Douglas would finish the match with nine shots on goal while Nogales had seven.

"This was a tough one to swallow," Douglas' coach Mario Romero said. "We had some mental breakdowns that hurt us. It's just growing pains."

Romero has 10 returning players from last year but says he had to rebuild his entire defense.

"We are working with some new players from junior varsity that are learning where they need to be on the field," he said.

Normally the Lady Bulldogs start with the Brandon Bean tournament but that tournament was pushed back a week and Douglas

opened with a conference match which counts in the standings. The tournaments don't count.

Ironically Nogales returns to Douglas next Monday to play the Lady Bulldogs once again in the first round of the Brandon Bean.

Coach Romero is frustrated by the fact that match won't mean anything since tournaments don't count in the standings and so whatever adjustments he makes against Nogales really won't matter.

"We just have to take this and move on," he said. "The girls battled, they fought back and I was happy with that."

The Brandon Bean continues all this week. On Tuesday, Dec. 9 the Lady Bulldogs are at Rio Rico, Wednesday, Dec. 10 they host Empire and on Thursday, Dec. 11 they are at Palo Verde.

In junior varsity play Nov. 24 the Lady Bulldogs scored two late goals against Nogales' JV's to post a 2-0 win.

Yani Espinosa and Celeste Dominguez each had goals for Douglas.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Yadira Cuevas plays the ball off her body in the second half of the Lady Bulldogs season opener with Nogales Nov. 24. Cuevas' goal in the second half would give Douglas a 2-1 lead. The Lady Bulldogs would go on to fall 4-3 in overtime.

Lady Bulldogs roll in opener

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

BISBEE – The Douglas Lady Bulldogs rolled past the Bisbee Pumas in their season opener Nov. 25 winning 55-17.

Douglas got off to a quick start over a Bisbee team that had a roster made up almost entirely of players who saw little to no significant playing time a year ago jumping out to a 23-5 first quarter lead which increased to 38-10 at the half.

In the second half the Lady Bulldogs slowed things down a little

and outscored Bisbee 17-7 coming away with a commanding open night win.

Veronica Barraza led Douglas in scoring with 21 points, Nancy Rodriguez had 20 and Crystal Zamora chipped in 10.

The Lady Bulldogs which have three stronger opponents this week facing Tucson High on Tuesday, Sahuarita on Thursday before hosting Flowing Wells Friday at 7 p.m. in their home opener.

In junior varsity play Douglas was defeated 31-30.



WICK NEWS SERVICE DOUGLAS

Crystal Zamora scored 10 points in the Lady Bulldogs 55-17 win over the Bisbee Pumas Nov. 25.

Bulldog matmen begin season 0-3

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

The Douglas High School wrestling team helped break in the redone Douglas High School gym Nov. 25 hosting Buena, Rio Rico and Nogales in a four-way multiple.

Douglas lost all three matches dropping the opener to Buena 84-0, then losing to Rio Rico 48-24 before falling 72-6 to Nogales.

Buena was 3-0 on the day beating Nogales 54-24 and Rio Rico 51-18 after spanking Douglas.

The Bulldogs went into the match having six open classes and only eight wrestlers. DHS wrestling coach Richard Ross said the open classes were a result of either injuries or ineligibility.

The Bulldogs were open at 106, 113, 120, 160, 170 and 220 pounds.

At 126 pounds Aaron Mahtapene was 0-3 on the day.

Lynette Ambriz, wrestling at 132-pounds, was 1-2 on the day losing by fall to Buena and Nogales while winning by forfeit over Rio Rico.

Nathan Romero at 138, was 1-2 on the day winning his match with Rio Rico by pin while losing by pin to Buena and Nogales.

At 145-pounds Andres Garcia was 0-3 getting pinned in all three of his matches.

Mark Perez was 0-3 at 152; Fausto Noriega 0-3 at 182; Carlos Estrada was 1-2 at 195 pounds winning by pin against Rio Rico.

Alexis Lamadrid was 0-3 at 285-pounds.

The DHS wrestlers are in Tucson today taking on Sahuarita and Desert View in a triangular match. This Friday and Saturday the Bulldogs will wrestle in the Pueblo Invitational.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Bulldog wrestler Nathan Romero goes for the pin in his 138-pound match with Rio Rico Nov. 25. Romero won his match in a 48-24 Douglas loss to the Hawks. The Bulldogs also fell to Nogales and Buena.

Blue Devils begin season at Boyd Baker tournament

BY BRUCE WHETTEN
DOUGLAS DISPATCH

The Valley Union Blue Devils kicked off the 2014 basketball season last week playing four games in three days at the Boyd Baker Small School Invitational.

Valley Union went 3-1 at the tournament.

The Blue Devils opened up against Baboquivari Nov. 24 and were defeated 64-60.

Arthur Cummings led Valley Union in scoring with 18 points while Vidal Urtuzuaz-

tegui and Junior Gamez each followed with 13.

Valley Union coach John Batty said this was a tough game chemistry wise.

"We had trouble finding our identity especially on the defensive end," he said. "We had

a very nice run where we were down eight and within a matter of three minutes, went up by nine. Foul trouble was a major factor. Lopez and Gamez sat most of the game and eventually

See BLUE DEVILS, Page A9



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 • Bleaching
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 • Bonding
 • Tooth Colored Fillings

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THANKSGIVING

CONTINUED FROM A1

Gomez said this year's event was a tremendous success.

"Every year the day after the event I wonder if I'll be able to continue putting on the kind of Turkey Trot that I expect," she said. "Since we've grown so much over the years it almost consumes me the month before Thanksgiving. Thank goodness Lisa and George Watkins (my daughter and son in law) took a couple of days off to give me a hand."

Gomez said they deliver the t-shirts to large groups and businesses and that takes a couple of days.

"Putting on the Turkey Trot is kind of like childbirth," she said. "You forget all the hard work a few months down the road and you are ready to tackle it again in a year."

Gomez said her daughter Nicole Mariscal has cross country experience now which she didn't have 13 years ago and her help is huge and David Bond is a wonderful mentor.

"The Douglas Run/

Walk for the Cure is a year long labor of love," Gomez added.

In the 5K run/walk DouglasHigh School cross country runner Jesus Loreto was the overall male winner turning in a time of 17-minutes, nine seconds. Second place went to Ricky Melendez and third was taken by Roman Ovando. These were also the top three runners in the male 15-19 division.

Martha Castillon was the overall female winner finishing with a time of 22:44. Second place went to Stacey Aguayo and third Emeri Melendez who won the race in 2012.

There were eight different age categories for the male and female divisions and the top three runners in each division received prizes.

In the male 11-14 age division: Alejandro Duarte was first, Ivan Pacheco second and Konnor Cormier third. In the female division Missy Pacheco was first. There were no second or third place runners.

In the female 15-19 race, Emeri Meldez was first, Kiara Hernan-

dez second and Kaycie Cormier third.

In the 20-29 division, in the male category, David Melendez was first, David Chavez second and Israel Villalobos third. Aguayo won the female division for this age group followed by Kristi and Kim Cormier.

In the 30-39 division, Luis Pedroza, Francisco Pedroza and Luis Galindo were the top three male runners while Ashleigh White, Erica Chavez and Sandy Ramirez were first, second and third in the female division.

In the male 40-49 division, Francisco Loreto was first, Roy Luna second and George Watkins third. Castillon, the overall female winner, was also the top winner for her age group. Nicole Mariscal was second and Rosala Aguirre third.

In the 50-59 age group, Neil Lora was first, Carl Pirtle second and David Arzate third. Ana Maye was the lone female runner.

In the 60 and over division Donna Foster was the top female runner while Ruben Teran, Art Aguayo and

Michael Feranto were first, second and third in the male category.

The day began with kids, ages 2-4, running in the 40-yard dash. The top 10 finishers were: Jay Dee Godoy, Elliott Pedroza, Justin Tartaglia, Gavin Ochoa, Antonio Bryan, Emilian Gomez, Nicolas Salinas, Zooey Garrison, Luis Fernanda Martinez and Mila Godoy.

In the 5-8 year old 400 meter race the top 10 runners were: Ezlynn Swanson, Benton Hickman, Angelica Romero, Natalia Serratos, Gustavo Hurtado, Zarib Rodriguez, David Toscano, Jayden Bode, Adan Fuentes and Kenny Nelson.

In the 9-12 800-meter run the top 10 were: Alan Ochoa, Missy Pacheco, Francisco Pedroza, Diego Galindo, America Rojas, Jose Loreto, Diego Martinez, Nomar Ochoa, Trevor Hickman and Julian Arciniega.

Donations can still be made to the Douglas Run/Walk by contacting Gomez through her website at www.douglasturkeytrot.org.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Tricia Vasquez shows the back of her sons AJ's shirt which had a message in memory of his two grandpas Eddie Valdez and Frank Vasquez.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Linda Gomez cheers as her daughter Nicole Gomez Mariscal crosses the finish line Thursday. Nicole helped her mom put on the Thanksgiving Day event which is now in its 13th year.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Linda Gomez cheers on Ezlynn Swanson who won the 5-8 year old 400 meter race.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

Linda Gomez and a group of Douglas youth led the group in the signing of the national anthem prior to the start of the Turkey Trot.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH DOUGLAS

The Duarte family, who has been adversely affected by cancer, posed for a group photo before the start of the Turkey Trot. Pictured above are Carlee Duarte, Gloria Levesque, Richard Levesque, Tanya Duarte, Jose Duarte, Pablo Duarte, Pamela Duarte, Dominique Duarte, Pammy Duarte and Alex Duarte. Kneeling are Makenzie Duarte, Jesus Duarte, Gehrig Duarte and Pablito Duarte.

One of five Arizonans already overextended

HOWARD FISCHER,
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — So as you pull out that credit card for that holiday purchase, you might ask yourself if you're already overextended.

One out of five Arizonans already is, according to the financial advice web site WalletHub. That's how many are spending more than they make.

And that's the ninth highest figure in the entire country.

So how do we manage to do that?

Well, there's credit cards. And auto loans.

WalletHub figures the average credit card and auto debt for Arizonans at more than 17 percent of what we make.

That figure computes out to the sixth highest in the country. Topping the list are New Mexico and Utah.

On the other side of the equation, Arizonans are not putting a lot aside.

The study shows that the average Arizonan has less than 12 percent of annual income stocked away in savings. That's 33rd in the nation.

So what are Arizonans spending all that money on?

A lot of it is keeping a roof overhead, the heat out in the summer and the cold out in the winter.

WalletHub figures Arizonans spend probably one dollar out of

every seven on housing and utilities. After adjusting for income and cost of living, only the residents of New Mexico, Idaho, Utah and Virginia spend more.

Some of that may be a simple function of size. WalletHub says the average residence in Arizona is 1,846 square feet, in the Top 10 nationwide.

At the other end of the scale on housing and utility costs is Alaska. But that is after adjusting for the higher salaries up there and the fact that lots of stuff costs more.

We're also above the national average in what we spend at grocery stores.

In fact, in the broad category of all other personal expenses, Arizonans manage to spend close to half of what they earn, ranking residents here No. 9 in the nation.

Yet Arizonans spend far less than a lot of other folks on gasoline.

Maybe that's because of the fact that we're just not as car crazy as we think. WalletHub says the average Arizonan has just 1.7 vehicles, putting the state among the 10 with the fewest cars and trucks per person.

WalletHub spokesman Raz Daraban said the purpose and timing of the report was not specifically to find out which states have the

biggest holiday spenders.

"Rather, in the context of this one month spending madness called the 'holiday season,' we wanted to provide an overall picture regarding the spending habits of the consumers living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia," he said. And Daraban said that was adjusted to take into account the different salaries and costs of living in different states.

"The aim was to raise awareness about America's addiction to debt and spending, not just on holidays but all year round," he said.

Arizona specific data:

Issue / Value / Ranking (1 is highest)

Per capita spending on:

Off-premises food & beverages / 6.97% / 21*

Gasoline & other fuel / 3.07% / 32*

Housing & utilities / 16.51% / 5*

All other personal expenses / 47.36% / 9*

Per capita auto & credit card debt / 17.39% / 6*

Annual consumer savings account averages / 11.88% / 33*

* Adjusted for income and cost of living

Number of cars per household / 1.7 / 42

Average home square feet / 1,846 / 9

Percent of population spending more than they make / 20% / 9
— Source: WalletHub

Biggest spenders (adjusted for income and cost of living)

- 1 — Mississippi
- 2 — Idaho
- 3 — New Mexico
- 4 — Alabama
- 5 — Utah

16 — Arizona

- 47 — Maryland
- 48 — California
- 49 — Massachusetts
- 50 — New York
- 51 — District of Columbia

Biggest spenders (unadjusted)

- 1 — North Dakota
- 2 — Vermont
- 3 — New Hampshire
- 4 — Alaska
- 5 — Connecticut

40 — Arizona

- 47 — Ohio
- 48 — Michigan
- 49 — Kentucky
- 50 — South Carolina
- 51 — West Virginia

— Source: WalletHub

BLUE DEVILS

CONTINUED FROM A8

fouled out."

Valley Union came back on Nov. 25 and beat PuschRidgeChristianAcademy 59-42.

Sean Hahn led VU in scoring with 16 points, Gamez followed with 14 points and Isaac Lopez contributed 11.

The Blue Devils then faced Tohono O'Pdham later that afternoon and came away with a 78-38 dominating win.

"No let down from the previous matchup with Pusch Ridge earlier in the day," Coach Batty said. "The little things led to great success. ... Cummings looked good offensively. ... Lopez was spectacular running the floor and taking the ball to the rack. Gamez was able to dominate a few defensive possessions and (Jaret) Luzania played his usual hard nosed game."

Valley Union closed out the tournament with a 68-41 win over Desert Christian.

Cummings had 19 points to lead the Blue Devils. Lopez followed

with 16.

"The first half was spent finding a rhythm," Coach Batty said after the game. "In the second half, we found our motor; excellent team defense with great rotations. Offensive transition was stellar, and the offensive penetration for the score or for the assist was great."

The coach added his team can still use a lot more patience on the offensive end, but it's a work in progress.

"Cummings was the engine in the second half; he was able to finish strong to the bucket, he got to the line, and he fed Lopez for quite a few easy buckets," the coach said. "Jacob Romero really stepped up on both ends of the court. It was a nice way to finish the tournament."

Valley Union has three games this road games week. The Blue Devils were at Immaculate Heart on Tuesday, will be at St. David on Thursday and will be on the road again Saturday taking on Bowie/San Simon.



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PARADE

CONTINUED FROM A1

GovernmentCenter on G Ave. An ice skating rink will be available for those wishing to try their hand at ice skating. Santa will also be on hand to visit with the local youth one last time. There will also be free hot dogs, hot chocolate and pop corn available for the kids.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Joe Carlson Principal Melissa Rodriguez appeared with her school dressed as a cupcake.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
The Joe Carlson elementary students stopped in front of the Gadsden Hotel and sang and danced for the judges.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
The Douglas High School band performed several holiday numbers.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Southwest Gas had one of its trucks decorated as Rudolph.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Little Miss Poppy Harley Gonzales waves to the crowd during Saturday's parade.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
BB's Dance Academy had a semitrailer full of kids dressed up.



PHOTO BY BRUCE WHETTEN/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
The Sunnyside Fire Department had some of its youth dressed up as candy.



PHOTO BY AALIYAH MONTOYA/DOUGLAS DISPATCH
Kids along the parade route had lots of candy thrown their way.

Community volunteers are needed to provide free tax help in Douglas

BY BRUCE WHETTEN DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Last year in Douglas, several local residents gave back to the community as tax volunteers by preparing, at no cost, federal and state of Arizona individual income tax returns through the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. "The IRS and its partners are looking for volunteers that are interested in taking a little time to learn about taxes and then helping others by preparing federal and state income tax returns for free," said IRS spokesperson, Bill Brunson. "Volunteers are certified to prepare simple, non-business tax returns for people with low to moderate incomes. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to volunteer. There is a role for anyone who is interested and wants to help give back to their community." Anyone can be a volunteer and bilingual volunteers are particularly needed. Volunteers can help in various capacities: return preparer, greeter, screener, instructor, and quality reviewer. Volunteers will be provided with free training materials on how to prepare basic individual income tax returns and how to file them electronically. Instruction will cover both federal and State of Arizona individual income tax returns. Training will be held during the first three Fridays of Jan. 2015 or volunteers may study online, using IRS's interactive Link & Learn Taxes course to obtain their volunteer certification. The Link & Learn program is an interactive course that teaches all of the basics needed to prepare simple income tax returns accurately for individuals. Once certified, volunteers can spend as little as three to four hours per week volunteering between the months of January and April. To volunteer, please contact Eryka Estrada at (520) 264-6789. More information about the IRS volunteer tax preparation program is available at www.irs.gov, keywords 'Tax Volunteer'.



Seated from left are: BONITA REYES, ANITA ELLEDGE, TALENA HUNT, AND JOSHUA BOT; Standing from left are: ROBIN TAYLOR, ROBERT DYKES, ALBERT GARCIA, RAY BINGHAM, AND KAYLA BOOKMAN.

Building a Healthier Future from the Inside Out

At Sierra Vista Regional Health Center, we promise to bring a new level of quality care for you and your family. The most visible symbol of our promise is a new hospital with advanced technology opening in the spring of 2015! As we build a new hospital, we're also building from the inside out, with a fresh commitment to provide extraordinary care close to home. Our team, staff, nurses, physicians, and board of trustees have been working diligently to take

healthcare to a new level of excellence. We are proud of our achievements and will continue to bring our patients and their families enhanced healthcare for our region.

Together, our commitment is to build a healthier future for all of Cochise County, Fort Huachuca, and the surrounding communities.



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