



Your guide to the upcoming high school football season

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Eloy to host Pinal voting rights event

March to be held on anniversary of 'I Have a Dream' speech

By DAVID CHURCH Staff Writer

ELOY — The March On for Voting Rights event will be a gathering of people to raise awareness of voting rights for citizens in multiple locations around the country.

The event will take place Saturday, which is the 58th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech.

breakfast in the morning, a lunch in the afternoon, guest speakers throughout the day, music and a chance to give people the information they need about voting rights in the state.

Vice Mayor Andrew Rodriguez represented the city of Eloy in a meeting with city officials from Coolidge and Casa Grande.

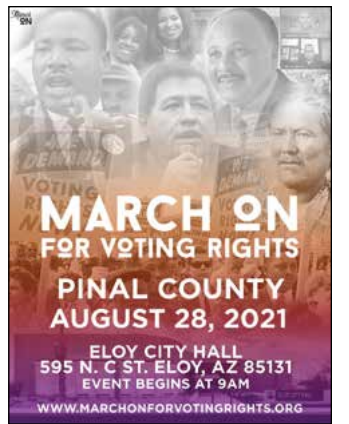
"It's important for us to have this event, because a lot of people are scared to vote, and there are people who lost their rights, and they don't have access to the people that can help them," Rodriguez said.

nal County, because with everything that happens, you either have to go to Phoenix or Tucson. So having an event like this in Pinal County is great."

Rodriguez also discussed his happiness about the event taking place in Eloy so residents of the city can get more information on voting.

"It's going to be a really good event, I hope everybody comes out and shows up for a little bit just to see what's going on," Rodriguez said.

The event will start at 9 a.m. Saturday at Eloy City Hall.



Courtesy of Skydive Tanay

Justin Price and the rest of Team USA are introduced in earlier this month at Skydive Tanay in Kemerovo, Russia.

Eloy skydiver captures bronze medal in Russia Competition, friendships provide extra thrills

By DAVID CHURCH Staff Writer

ELOY — Skydive Arizona's reputation as a global destination for the sport has more to stand on after a local diver competed halfway around the globe.

Justin Price was born in Houston but has lived in Eloy and been a part of Skydive Arizona for the past 10 years.

Earlier this month, Price competed at

the 2021 International Skydiving Commission World Canopy Piloting Championships in Kemerovo, Russia.

"I wanted to be a little noticeable, rep the USA flag, just try to stand out, and nobody cared. The people there were really nice," Price said.

Skydiving runs in Price's blood — his parents competed in the sport, and he would regularly accompany his parents to drop zones to watch them perform.

"I know nothing better. Every weekend my parents would go have fun, doing formation skydives and teaching people. They became my first instructors," Price said.

The Eloy skydiver made his first jump when he was 16, and although he had ideas of going into a different career field

— Price, Page 4

Hall of Famer Zapata recalls glory on diamond

By MARIA VASQUEZ Staff Writer

ELOY — Santa Cruz Valley has produced a lot of state champion teams as well as many extra ordinary athletes.

While many athletes today decide to concentrate solely on one sport during high school, those at Santa Cruz often do the opposite. Many Dust Devils are busy throughout the school year jumping from one sport season to the next.



The recent Retro Zapata Rewind podcast episode features Chris Zapata, a former football, basketball and baseball player for Santa Cruz in the mid-1970s.

"The thinking in those days at Santa Cruz was during football season you played football," Zapata said.

Zapata's first love was basketball; he nailed a shot from a great distance during recess in the fourth grade.

— Zapata, Page 6



Listen to the podcast online at PinalCentral.com.

Eloy officials, residents brainstorm ideas for Main Street

City aims to create vision for future downtown growth

By DAVID CHURCH Staff Writer

ELOY — The city recently hosted a community visioning event to get public input for ideas of what should become of Eloy's Main Street and downtown area.

The event Aug. 12 was held by the city of Eloy as well as Local First Arizona, a nonprofit organization that helps cities with community and economic development

throughout Arizona. Kimber Lanning, CEO at Local First Arizona, discussed how she can help Eloy establish its vision for the city.

"We are really trying to assist the leadership at this city to make critical decisions on how to grow Main Street and how to get people back to Main Street," Lanning said.

One of the main activities discussed at the event was a five-year plan. Attendees

were tasked with creating ideas of what they would like to see in the Eloy downtown area. Some ideas shared included a farmers market, more dining options and a community swimming pool.

Lanning was very happy with the responses from members of the community as well as the engagement from those who attended the event.

"My mind was blown. I was so excited about the turnout and the wonderful conversations," Lanning said.

was an A-plus event."

Eloy Vice Mayor and Executive Director of Eloy Chamber of Commerce Andrew Rodriguez was in attendance as well. The Eloy native spoke about where he wants to see Eloy in five years as well as the role he can play to help shape a better future for the city.

"All of the ideas that were brought up tonight are very realistic. I see Eloy doubling in size, both commercial and residential," Rodriguez said.

— Main Street, Page 6



David Church/PinalCentral

Eloy residents brainstormed ideas Aug. 12 at City Hall for what they would like to see on Main Street and in the downtown area.

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