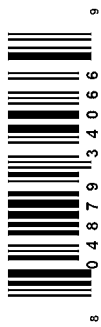


Volunteers ready the Little League field

Page 8

Mila Besich-Lira | Superior Sun



A community publication of Copperarea.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Frustrated with mayor's refusal to resign

I am writing this letter in frustration that it is so hard for Mayor Valenzuela to do the right thing and resign from his post as Mayor of Superior. His 'defense' in Thursday night's Town Council meeting was that the cash advances made on the town credit card eight times were 'mistakes'. He refuses to step down even when everyone from the Town Council to the Townspeople expressed they have lost faith in him and cannot believe anything he does or says.

I have tried for three weeks to get the District Attorney's office in Pinal County to find out who is responsible for handling an investigation. Just this week, they finally said it would be the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. I had to make three phone calls to the Sheriff's office, before I finally spoke to a lieutenant in the criminal investigation office who said they could conduct an investigation if the State doesn't do one. Jayme is employed by the PCSO but in a special capacity. He serves at the discretion of Sheriff Babeu and was rehired by him in 2008 when the PCSO had let him go in 2002 for not performing his duties. Evidently, Sheriff Babeu is the only one who can fire Mr. Valenzuela. The sheriff is running for Congress and employing a man who is facing felony charges. This

cannot be a good thing for Mr. Babeu.

There are others in town who have tried to get the attention of the Attorney General's office but were told only the Town could instigate an investigation. It might be co-incidence, but the Special Assistant Attorney General is Chris Derosé and he happened to be Paul Babeu's campaign manager in 2012 when the sheriff ran for Congress then. The current District Attorney is Mr. Voyles who ran with Paul Babeu on a joint ticket in 2012 for the DA/Sheriff. Is Mayor Valenzuela being protected

by Sheriff Babeu? If you are employed by the County, does that absolve you from doing anything wrong?

The Attorney General's office has turned a blind eye to the public's Open Meeting Law complaints made against Mayor Valenzuela in the past three years, is that a coincidence too?

Who's in charge here? It certainly isn't the people of Superior!

/s/ Nancy Vogler
Superior

Time to clean house for a 'new Superior'

I believe the citizens and taxpayers of Superior deserve to know what's going on with our Mayor, Jayme Valenzuela.

On Dec. 9, the Council and the audience were informed that 2 or more cash withdrawals had been made at ATM machines with a Town debit card. A number of questions and comments were made but only after the manager explained that there were only 2 cards, the Town having one and the Mayor having one, did he admit he made the withdrawals. He said it was a mistake because the Town card and his personal card had the same pin number. During the conversation he was directly asked if it was just the one time and he said yes, two withdrawals but just the one time. He further said that he had paid it back to the Town. The manager confirmed that he had paid it back and there were receipts. When asked at Town

Hall for the receipts showing that he paid it back people were told that the receipts had disappeared. There was no offer to pull the bank deposit records to show that the money paid back was ever deposited in the bank.

I requested, and reviewed, bank statements from November 2011 through November 2015. In a very quick review I found that there were a total of 8 cash withdrawals from ATMs, beginning August 2013 and ending December 2014, totaling \$2,323 plus bank fees. I believe that it is highly unlikely that this "mistake" could have been made 8 different times. On Dec. 15, 2015, one week after the Council meeting, the \$2,323.00 was paid back to the Town of Superior by the Mayor.

At the Jan. 14 Council meeting the independent auditors called in to review the transactions, confirmed the dollar amount that had been withdrawn. They further did a "sampling" of other charges made on Town debit cards and found approximately 50% of these charges did not

Continued on page 3

The Superior Sun

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James Carnes.....Advertising Manager
Michael Carnes.....General Manager
Jennifer Carnes.....Managing Editor
Mila Besich-Lira.....Reporter
John Hernandez.....Reporter

Email:

jenniferc@MinerSunBasin.com;
cbnsun@MinerSunBasin.com;
michaelc@MinerSunBasin.com

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OBITUARY

Sarah Maldonado Ramos

Sarah Maldonado Ramos (retired R.N.), 81, passed away peacefully Tuesday evening, Jan. 5, 2016 surrounded by family.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Arturo L. Ramos; three surviving siblings, four daughters, eight grandchildren and a newborn great-granddaughter.

Sarah's life was dedicated to her faith, family, friends and nursing.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at Hansen Desert Hills Mortuary, 6500 E. Bell, Scottsdale, AZ 85254 with a reception immediately following. Burial services scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at Fairview Cemetery, 300 W. Sunset, Superior, Arizona. Visit hansenmortuary.com for condolences.



LETTER

Continued from page 2

have receipts.

The Mayor was asked many times, including 3 times by Council members, to resign from his position. He continued to insist that he did nothing wrong, that he had paid it all back and refused to step down. The Council voted to request a criminal investigation by DPS. Hopefully, they will uncover and report the truth.

In the meantime, we have a mess at Town Hall. The Town Manager submitted her notice the day after the Council meetings. I do not believe she has done anything wrong or illegal but we need a manager that has a better handle on our money.

It appears that the bank statements have not been reconciled for many, many months. It also appears that

there are very few checks and balances in place to prevent this from happening again.

In my opinion, it's time to clean house! This is a "NEW SUPERIOR", with hopes and plans for an improved Town with good schools, clean neighborhoods, jobs and a great place to raise a family. In the past 10 years many people have worked hard to change the reputation that Superior had as a drug haven with nowhere to go but down hill. It's no longer acceptable to be complacent with things just because "it's always been that way". If we work together we can have a wonderful thriving community that we are proud to be a part of. Hopefully, the citizens of Superior can convince Mayor Valenzuela to step down and let us move forward. Whether he is guilty or innocent the

people will never be able to trust him, believe him or respect him. We simply can't have a leader like that and expect to improve our Town.

If he continues to refuse to step down for the good of the Town I see no alternative than to begin a recall process, which will cost the taxpayers (us) another several thousand dollars. I appreciate all of your help in this effort. Although the rebuilding will be a lot of work, when it's over I believe that we will have a stronger and better community.

This is my personal opinion and not that of the Superior Chamber of Commerce.

/s/ Sue Anderson
Resident, business owner and taxpayer

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Council members, citizens demand Mayor Valenzuela resign for misuse of town bank cards

"I made a mistake," Valenzuela pleads as Council enacted new safeguards against personal withdrawals

By **James J. Hodl**
Superior Sun

Calls for Superior Mayor Jayme Valenzuela to resign erupted from both Town Council members and angry citizens in the overflow crowd at the Jan. 14 Council meeting following the reading of an auditor's report that confirmed Valenzuela had used the town bank card eight times since 2012 to withdraw \$2,300 for personal use.

But Mayor Valenzuela countered that he had not done anything wrong and would not resign, prompting talk of a possible recall election.

The Town Council responded by voting to request that the Arizona Department of Public Safety to conduct a criminal investigation into the findings of the

auditor's report, and to adopt tighter controls over the use of town credit and debit cards. The Council also voted to begin the search for a new Town Manager with a financial background to replace current manager Margaret Gaston, who was criticized for the tardiness in which the card withdrawals were discovered.

Scott Powell of the auditing firm Colby & Powell PLC delivered the report, which found the withdrawals by Valenzuela were double what was reported by former Superior Town Clerk Rachelle Sanchez at the December 2015 meeting. Sanchez, who reported discovering four of the withdrawals from the town debit card some months earlier, made her discovery public as the Town Council considered retaining her as Town Clerk beyond her six-month probationary period. Mayor

Valenzuela cast the deciding vote not to retain Sanchez.

The auditor's report found that all eight withdrawals were made on a town debit card issued to the mayor for town business. Because the card issued by the Bank of the West is processed by a third-party firm, all the auditor could secure was the address of the ATMs where the card was used but not the business at that location. These locations included the towns of Chandler, Gilbert and Florence.

While Mayor Valenzuela said he had used the town card by mistake in place of his own and had refunded the withdrawals before the December Council meeting, Powell noted that the refunds were actually made in two checks after that meeting; the last the day before the January meeting.

The report did not sit well with some Council members.

"I'm disappointed in you, Mayor," said Council member Michael Alonzo. "You said this was a one-time occurrence; that the mistake resulted from similar PIN numbers between yours and the town's. But you lied to us. You made all-cash withdrawals and half the receipts are missing.

"Your lack of accountability in this matter is unacceptable," Alonzo continued. "This was not a mistake. You hid this from us. There is no justification for what you did and for repaying only after the matter was brought up. What you did was stealing from the town," he added, prompting loud applause from the more than 100 citizens who attended the Council meeting.

"You have lost the trust of this community and the town staff. How can we ask a bank to loan us money if we cannot show we properly use what funds we have? How

Continued on page 10

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Superior Police Report

According to state law, police may arrest suspected offenders by two methods. The suspect may be physically taken into the department and booked into jail, or the arresting officer may write a citation and release the suspect to appear in court later. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Only criminal citations are listed. All damage amounts are estimates. Items are given to The Superior Sun by the Superior Police Department and reflect information available at the time the report is compiled.

Jan. 10

Brittany S. Rawlings, 23, Superior, was arrested in the area of Magma Ave. and Copper St. and was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was cited and released.

Jan. 14

Sarah K. Brixey, 63, Miami, was arrested in the area of Hwy. 60 and Western Ave. and was charged with failure to show ID, open container of alcohol and driving while under the influence of alcohol. She was cited and released.

An accident without injuries was reported in the area of Main St.

Child abuse was reported in the 1500 block of Sunset Dr.

Calls not listed include traffic stop (8), welfare check (2), disturbance (23), alarm drop (4), animal complaint (1), suspicious activity (5), 911 hang-up (1), medical (2), parking violation (1), citizen assist (3), utility problem (1), civil matter (1), trespassing (1), threatening (2) and agency assist (2).

Citizens are reminded to call Silent Witness at 1-800-358-INFO, Crime Stop at 689-5611 or the Information Tip Line

at 520-827-0065 if they have information that may help the police department in solving a crime.

The Superior Police and Fire Departments have contracted all dispatch services to the Pinal County Sheriff (POLICE) and Florence PD (FIRE). As a result of these changes, you need to know some new phone numbers.

- Emergency (Police – Fire – Medical) 911
- Police Non-Emergency 520-866-5111
- Police Department Business 520-689-5255

Superior Needs a New Mayor

I normally don't get involved in the politics of other small towns outside the Tri-Community but the actions of Mayor Jayme Valenzuela in Superior are deplorable. The Mayor used the town's credit and debit card to ring up over \$2,000 for personal use including cash withdrawals at a casino. After he gets caught he pays it back and says it's OK, he has done nothing wrong. His refusal to step down as mayor after the Town Council and some citizens of Superior demanded his resignation is pure arrogance. His refusal to admit that what he did was wrong, not to mention illegal, then call it a mistake and expect the citizens of Superior to believe his excuses is delusional.

This is bigger than Superior. Jayme Valenzuela is a Jail Commander for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The taxpayers of Pinal County pay his \$70,000 plus annual salary. He is held to higher ethical standards as a member of the Sheriff's office. A jail commander is expected to set an example for his staff and the inmates at the jail as well as the public. Valenzuela was a deputy for many years and if he doesn't know right from wrong by now, when will he? He has embarrassed the Town of Superior and his actions may make people question the integrity of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

Valenzuela was hired by Sheriff Paul Babeu after the Sheriff was elected in 2008. Valenzuela ran for Sheriff in the primary that election year as a Democrat but was defeated by Chris Vasquez. Valenzuela then supported Babeu, a Republican.

If Valenzuela has any integrity left he will



DRY HEAT

By John Hernandez
Copper Area News

resign and let the Town of Superior move forward. The Town Council needs to make sure this gets investigated, take away his town debit/credit card and tell him the bank is closed!

Author's Note:

I have been given the opportunity to express my opinion and viewpoints on politics, national, state, and local issues as well as life in general. I hope to inform you as well as entertain you, make you smile or make you mad. I will use humor, sarcasm and occasionally anger to express my views. My intention is to hold politicians accountable sometimes bringing some heat on them and if my views make you angry or hot, remember that like my humor, it is a dry heat. These opinions are entirely my own and do not reflect the views of Copper Area News Publishers.

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In Your Biz

Wild Cow Art Gallery

For well over a decade, community leaders and those searching for other ways to sustain the economy in Superior shared many ideas. One of the ongoing thoughts was to attract artists to move and work in Superior. Superior is now home to many artists, a few studios and now two art galleries are open to the public in Downtown Superior. Wild Cow Art Gallery on Magma is this week's In Your Biz profile.

How did they find Superior: Boonie LeBlanc remembered Superior after spending much time camping at the Oak

Flats with his family as a child. About five years ago, he visited and saw that there was not too much going on but decided to move into the area. He and his husband Andre LeBlanc are happy to have found a gallery space to show and sell art work of the budding artists who are part of their Cactus Moon Foundation as well as sell donated art. **More than just a gallery:** The Wild Cow Art Gallery is partner to the Cactus Moon Foundation which funds artists who are ready to start promoting their art for a business opportunity. The foundation is a

non-profit organization and they use their funds to help artists grow their business and be able to afford to attend various art shows and be presented in galleries all over the United States. The Cactus Moon foundation provides the funding for the shows as well as living expenses for the artist. The artists in turn donate some of their art to be sold at the Wild Cow Gallery. So far Boonie and Andre are pleased with the sales at the gallery. Even without a sign on the building the gallery is attracting visitors from throughout the state. Andre serves as the treasurer of the board for Cactus Moon foundation so it is relieving to see the gallery doing well.

Boonie encourages everyone to drop in and visit and even those budding artists are encouraged to drop in and ask how to present themselves to the Cactus Moon Foundation for their support in promoting their art. "Even if artists are not chosen by the foundation for full funding we can help them learn what is needed to grow their art business," Boonie said.

While most local consumers are not always

buying art for their homes, the gallery does offer art classes. Currently local artist Chuck Davidson is teaching painting classes on Friday afternoons from 3-5 p.m.; the cost for the class is \$25.

Sage Advice for a new business

owner: Boonie has some advice for new business owners: "Be open regular hours, offer monthly sales and always give good customer service."

Hours of Operation: Wild Cow Art Gallery is located at 16 Magma Ave they are open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday noon-4:30 p.m. They are closed on Mondays but can open by appointment if needed.

The "In Your Biz" column is sponsored weekly by the Superior Chamber of Commerce in an effort to further promote their business members. To learn more about the Superior Chamber of Commerce you can visit their website www.superiorarizonachamber.org or call them at 520-689-0200. The Chamber meets the third Friday of every month at their building 165 Main St. in Superior, Arizona.



Boonie and Andre LeBlanc are pictured at their gallery.



A view of the art in the Wild Cow Art Gallery.

Superior's Salcido signs with PVCC

By Andrew Luberda
Superior Sun

Superior High School senior Gabby Salcido recently announced that she has signed with Paradise Valley Community College to play for the Pumas' softball team.

Salcido, primarily a shortstop on the Panthers' 2015 State Championship team, chose PVCC over some other schools that offered her.

"The school just fit me really well," Salcido said about her choice. "It's a very small school and didn't want to start off at a big school. (PVCC) just felt like home. The coaches are really nice. There is tutoring (available) and the school really helps with academics. It's a really good school and I never considered any other schools once I visited (PVCC)."

In addition to her soon-to-be four-year varsity career at Superior, Salcido also played travel softball over the last three seasons for the Phoenix Heat, AZ Lady Dragons 97, and the Arizona Hot Shots.

PVCC coaches have indicated that she'll play her natural shortstop position for the Pumas.

Salcido credits her travel experience for exposing her to colleges throughout the state. She also acknowledged some schools approached her and some Panthers' teammates after last year's State Championship game.

As a junior, Salcido batted .562 with eight doubles, six triples, five HR, 31 RBI, a 1.291 slugging percentage, and a 1.924 OPS. She led the Panthers in triples, HR, RBI, and SLG Pct. Her batting average was the second highest on the team, just behind 2015 graduate Cierra Navarrette's .589.

Her career numbers at Superior are equally impressive: .503 BA, 14 doubles, nine triples, 17 HR, 67 RBI, a 1.038

slugging percentage, and a 1.618 OPS.

Salcido's parents – Dora and Joseph – have played a big role in her softball success, both serving as coaches during her playing career.

"My mom will have coached me all four years in high school and it was awesome to experience winning a state championship with my team and having my mom on the same field as (us)" Salcido told the Superior Sun. "My dad also coached me in little league and senior league. He's been very instrumental in keeping me focused. We always work out on the field and hitting too. I've loved having both of them as parents and as coaches."

In addition to earning her degree, Salcido hopes to continue her collegiate softball career after she's done at PVCC. She may have a leg up on other Division I recruits across the nation considering Pumas' head coach Nick Candrea is the brother of current University of Arizona head coach Mike Candrea.

Salcido, who plans to study Nursing, was asked what she's most looking forward to about attending PVCC.

"Just playing at the next level and being exposed to other big schools," she responded.

But before she's off to start the next chapter of her softball career and life, Salcido is anxious defend last year's state title with her Superior teammates.

"I just hope our last year is the best year and we finish on a good note," she said. "I'm really excited to play with these girls again for the last time."

"It's going to be exciting."

Indeed it will, Gabby.
Now and later.



Gabby Salcido (right) signing her NLI with PVCC head coach Nick Candrea.



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Panthers' eight-game winning streak snapped

By Andrew Luberda
Superior Sun

The No. 19-ranked Superior boys' basketball team extended its winning streak to a season-best eight games

after wins against rival Ray and Duncan last Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. But the streak ended there after a 60 – 58 loss at home to No. 14 Ft. Thomas last Friday.

The loss was the Panthers' first in Section IV, leaving them with a 4 – 1 record in sectional play, while the

Apaches improved their sectional record to 4 – 1.

Sophomore Marcos Bueno (19) and junior Austin Navarrette each scored in double figures in the Panthers' 45 – 33 rivalry win against Ray. Bueno recorded a double-double in the game after pulling down 10 rebounds to go with his 19 points. He also had a game-high five steals.

Junior Jalon Murray grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds, helping the Panthers win their ninth game of the season.

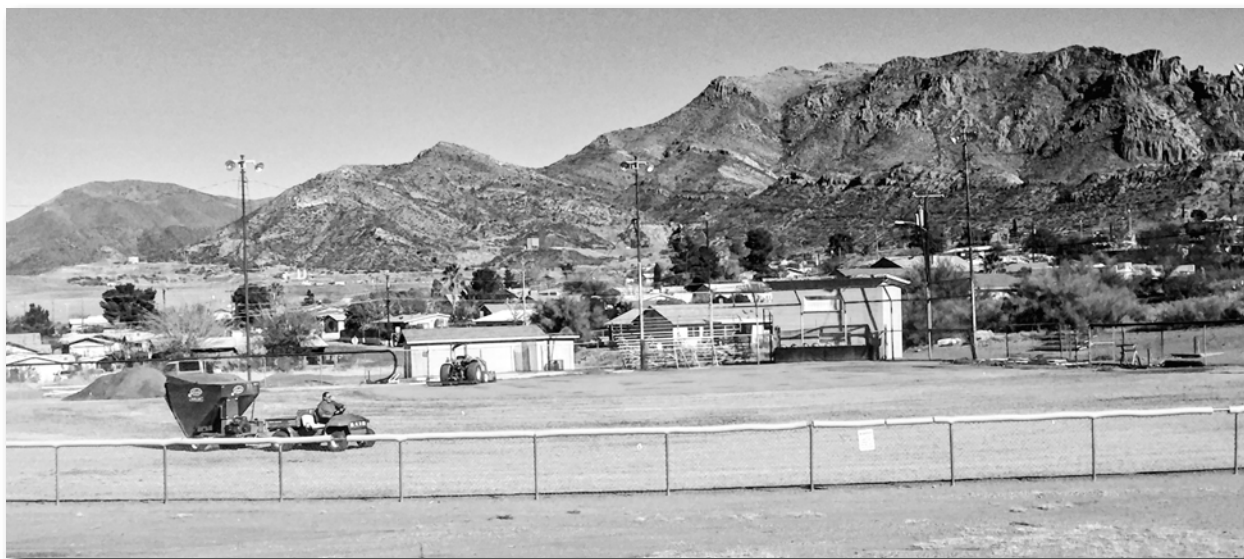
Bueno (20), Murray (17), and Nicolaus Cruz (13) combined to score 50 of the Panthers' total points against Duncan in a 59 – 51 victory. Navarrette, Jesse Lopez, and Andrew Lopez accounted for Superior's other nine points.

Murray had a monster performance in the win, recording 17 rebounds in addition to his 17 points. The junior is now averaging 10 points and more than nine rebounds – nearly a double-double – per game this season.

The Panthers play four of their final six games against potential playoff teams. Two of those four games are against top-ranked San Carlos, including the first matchup between the teams this Friday at San Carlos.

Upcoming schedule: Jan. 19 at Santa Cruz Valley, Jan. 22 at San Manuel, Jan. 27 vs. Miami, and Jan. 29 at Ray. All games are scheduled for 7 p.m.

Getting ready for Little League



Volunteers are prepping the field for the beginning of the Superior Little League season. Registration will be held at the Superior Junior Senior High School multipurpose room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dates for registration are January 15th, 20th, and 27th; February 2nd, 8th, 18th, 22nd and 26th; March 4th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, and the 25th. The last day to register for T-Ball is Feb. 26.

Lady Panthers drop three-straight last week

By Andrew Luberda
Superior Sun

The Superior girls' basketball team suffered three-straight lopsided losses last week to teams all in the top seven of the most recent AIA rankings.

No. 7 Ray, No. 4 Duncan, and No. 3 Ft. Thomas each handily defeated the Panthers.

In last Tuesday's 59 – 37 loss to Ray, freshman Lindsay Ketron scored a team-high 10 points and senior Phalitee Thomas added eight points. Thomas and junior Maribel Castro each grabbed a team-high six rebounds in defeat.

The Panthers' recorded 16 steals against the Lady Cats, including three each by Ketron, Thomas, and Silvia Longoria.

The Panthers have six games remaining in their season, four of them against ranked teams, beginning Jan. 19 at No. 18 Santa Cruz Valley.

Upcoming schedule: Jan. 22 at San Manuel, Jan. 27 vs. Miami, Jan. 29 at Ray. All games are scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

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Superior Senior Center News

The Superior Senior Center, 360 W. Main St., invites seniors to join the center and enjoy a nice meal and great company. Meals are \$2 for adults 55 and over. Under 55 is \$4.

Gemini Hospice is offering a blood pressure clinic every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. This is conducted at the Superior Senior Center at 360 W Main. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Bingo is every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

The menu for the Superior Senior center for the week of Jan. 25-28 is:

- Monday: Chicken Salad, Cucumber w/Tomato, Tomato Soup, Wheat Bread, Apple Sauce
 - Tuesday: Beef Stew, Refried Beans, Spinach Salad, Ambrosia
 - Wednesday: Red Enchiladas, Beans, Spinach, Spanish Rice, Orange
 - Thursday: spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Peas w/ Pearl Onions, Garlic Bread, Jell-O w/ Fruit
- Need a ride to the center? Call 689-5182.

SUPERIOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Presbyterian Church of Superior

100 Magma Ave., Superior

520-689-2631

Worship Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
All are welcome.

Anonymous prayer box located at
Save Money Market.
We will pray for you!

Superior Harvest Church

Hill St. & Stone Ave., Superior

Pastor Albert M. Rodriguez
480-354-4499 H
480-329-3647 C

Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 5 p.m.

Victory in Jesus

Calvary Superior

921 S. Belmont Ave., Superior

Pastor Rudy Paredes
480-917-8950

Sunday Service 5 p.m.
Thursday Service 7 p.m.

info@calvarychandler.com
www.calvarychandler.com

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

11 Church Ave., Superior

Fr. Samuel Jandeh
520-689-2250

Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m.
Saturday 5 p.m. • Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.
Confession: Sat. 4-4:45 p.m. or by req.
www.stfrancissuperior.org

Family Life Christian Center

56 Kellner Ave., Superior

Pastors Dennis & Sandy VanGorp
520-689-2202

Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Everyone is Welcome
Assembly of God

**Advertise
Your Church
Here!**

To be included in the weekly church listing, call the Superior Sun at 520-363-5554.

THIS 'N THAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY 20 Little League Registration to Begin

Superior Little League T-Ball and regular seasons registrations will begin Friday, Jan. 15, from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Superior Jr/Sr High School Multipurpose room. Registrations will also be held Jan. 20 and 27. For more information, contact Virginia Alonzo at 480-215-9144, Sonia Estatico at 520-827-9771, Martin Navarrette at 928-701-7451 or email questions superiorlittleleagueaz@gmail.com. Organizers are looking for coaches for T-Ball and all other divisions, if interested please come to fill out a volunteer form.

21 Free Good Grief Workshop

Gemini Hospice will be sponsoring a free, eight-week Grief Workshop at the Superior Senior Citizen's Center, 360 W. Main St. in Superior. The workshop will start Jan. 21, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating or have any questions please call Connie at Gemini Outreach, 520-689-0104.

26 RFCU Plans Annual Meeting

Ray Federal Credit Union's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Kearny Elks Lodge, starting at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and there will be a free raffle for door prizes.

30-31 Superior Home Tour

On Jan. 30 and 31, the Superior Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Home and Building Tour at 165 W. Main St. in Superior, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come see an eclectic assortment of renovated homes, learn what businesses used to be in our old buildings on Main St., enjoy a pancake breakfast, view Antique and Art shows, and watch the famous Mata Ortiz potters from Mexico as they craft, fire and sell their wares. In addition, join a group for a guided hike, relax and enjoy live music, and take a peek behind the Main St. buildings to see "colors galore" in progress. Ticket costs are \$12, presale tickets are \$10. Call 520-827-1773. For details and schedule, go to www.superiorarizonachamber.org, or call 520-689-0200.

FEBRUARY

5 Free Art Therapy at Gemini Hospice

Gemini Hospice's Feb. 5 First Friday Social will be held from 10 a.m. - noon, and, will include coffee, snacks, a door prize, and Leslie Martin of the Copper Gecko sharing her artistic talents. All by way of facilitating a journey into the world of art therapy.

10 School Board Meeting Change

The Superior School Board meeting has been changed from Feb. 3 to Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be in the JFK Auditorium.

Chamber Seeking Miners' Families for AL Mining Fest

The Superior Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for Apache Leap Mining Festival, on Friday, March 11- Sunday, March 13, "Celebrating Miners". They are looking for families of miners that would like to be Co-Grand Marshal Families. Please contact the Superior Chamber of Commerce at 520-689-0200 or Pamela Rabago at 520-827-4500.

ON THE AGENDA

SUPERIOR TOWN COUNCIL: The Superior Town Council meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the old Roosevelt School Auditorium.

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB: The Superior Optimist Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at Edwardo's Pizza at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the club can contact JoAnn Besch at 520-827-0592.

SUPERIOR SENIOR CENTER: The Superior Senior Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A hot nutritious lunch is provided at noon. Bingo is played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 10:30 a.m. Come in and join us for lunch or Bingo. You do not need to be a senior to join us, but must be over 21 to play Bingo. Need a ride to the center? Call 520-689-5182.

SUPERIOR ROTARY CLUB: The Superior Rotary Club is the oldest service club in Superior that is still in service today. If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian you can join them at their weekly meeting on Tuesdays at noon at Los Hermanos Restaurant.

SUPERIOR SCHOOL BOARD: Regular meetings of the Superior School District Governing Board are held at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium, at Kennedy Elementary School, 1500 Sunset Drive in Superior, usually on the first Wednesday of each month.

SUPERIOR, ARIZONA COWBOY ROUND-UP ASSOC: Anyone interested in joining the Superior, Arizona Cowboy Round-up Association should call Sandra Doyle at 509-936-0604.

Submit information to CBNSUN@minersunbasin.com or call 520-363-5554. Listings are free. The Superior Sun reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions. Submissions are due the Friday before Wednesday publication.

Resolution Copper kicks off 2016 with community update

By Mila Besich-Lira
Superior Sun

Community members from throughout the Copper Corridor region attended an update meeting about the Resolution Copper project last week. The update covered many issues pertaining to the project including safety, leadership changes and El Niño weather conditions.

The company reported that once again they have earned a Sentinel of Safety Award by the National Mining Association. Resolution Copper worked more than 80,000 hours without a lost time injury or illness. The Core Processing facility and Water Treatment continue to operate without any major incidents or injuries.

The company announced that it will be hiring several local employees for Environmental Technicians in the Environmental permitting and compliance departments and another Native American Affairs liaison.

Another topic of discussion was the safety precautions the mine has put into affect to prevent from any environmental issues caused by El Niño. The company has increased their storm water management capacity to manage heavier rains, installed two million dollars in pumps and pipes to divert water to storage areas.

Resolution Copper management also unveiled a new score card to demonstrate the sustainable value within the local community. The score card will be advertised publicly and will show how many local employees are working, community giving, safety and environmental concerns. The scorecard is available at the Resolution Copper Main Street office.

The company has five main areas of focus for the 2016 including safety, permitting the project and engineering the study, continued reclamation, Construction phase and engineering work on shaft nine and to continue strong engagement with the local communities.



COUNCIL

Continued from page 4

can we justify raising taxes to balance the budget if we don't have the people's trust?

"There is only one way to start restoring that trust. Resign!" Alonzo told Mayor Valenzuela, to more applause from the audience.

Upset that word of the ATM withdrawals was not reported to the Council until Dec. 9, Council member Mila Besich-Lira asked Powell when they were first discovered. When told the third week of November, Besich-Lira fumed, "We took the word that the town staff was working hard to watch our money. Being too busy isn't an excuse. This is going to affect our credibility in the community."

She added, "Mayor, you like our community. Then do what is best for the community. Resign so we can move forward."

While Council member Stephen Estatico refused to pass judgment, he asked Mayor Valenzuela to "do what is best for Superior. As much as I feel, I must ask you to resign."

Vice Mayor Olga Lopez bristled about being blindsided by the report of the Mayor's transgression, she chastised the town staff under Town Manager Margaret Gaston for not telling the Council sooner.

Responding to the report and Council members, Mayor Valenzuela admitted he made a mistake, apologized for it, and noted that he had returned the \$2,300 plus \$45.50 in transaction fees incurred while using ATMs not operated by the Bank of the West. Valenzuela noted that until he was elected mayor Superior government never conducted audits, which he said "were important" in catching wrongdoing. He thanked Town Manager Gaston for her hard work and having to endure all the personal attacks since the withdrawals became known.

He concluded, "I remain committed to working for what is in the best interests of Superior. Thanks to those who never doubted my commitment and integrity. I made a

mistake." He did not mention resignation in his comments, prompting Councilman Alonzo to express disbelief that the withdrawals were merely a mistake and to renew his call for Valenzuela to resign.

Council member Besich-Lira then moved that the Council adopt as policy the safeguards against fraudulent card use proposed by Powell after reading the auditor's report. These included having the mayor and other Superior government officials to sign out town credit or debit cards, stating what the intended use would be. Receipts would be presented when the card is returned, verifying that it was used for the stated purpose. Two staffers would be required to verify that the necessary invoices or receipts were received with the card. The date and time of when a card is checked out or returned would be mandatory. Debit card transactions would need to be reconciled every month

on the town's General Ledger.

The proposal was adopted unanimously by the Council.

Immediately afterwards, the Council voted to request that the Arizona Department of Public Safety conduct a criminal investigation on the misuse of all town bank cards (not just the mayor's) described in the auditor's report.

Also on the agenda was a proposal for Superior government to post the positions of Town Manager and Financial Director for possible hire. After Councilman Estatico noted that Superior doesn't have funds for two positions, it was voted that the two positions be combined and posted as a single position. The measure was adopted unanimously.

Calls for Mayor Valenzuela to resign continued into the Public Comments section near the end of the meeting. Among those lending their voice to the chorus was Superior Chamber of Commerce President Sue Anderson, and residents Pamela

Dalton-Rebago and Nancy Vogler.

"Considering all that has been revealed, the people can never trust you again. Your only choice is to resign," Anderson told Mayor Valenzuela, speaking as a resident of Superior and not as president of the Chamber.

Dalton-Rebago went further, praising Rachele Sanchez for uncovering what was being covered up. She called for an investigation of how the cover-up occurred, and criticized town attorney Stephen Cooper for ruling in December that it wasn't a conflict of interest for Valenzuela to cast the deciding vote to fire Sanchez.

Vogler noted that when Valenzuela ran for Pinal County Sheriff in 2008, he told the Arizona Republic that the most important asset a candidate could have was integrity and that a candidate's downfall was arrogance. Yet she now found him without integrity and arrogantly denying any wrongdoing. She asked how Superior could find

honest employees if they fire people like Sanchez.

Citizen Sonny Sansom went so far as to suggest than Sanchez be hired as the new Town Manager during his comment.

The biggest tongue lashing came appropriately from Marilee Lasch, who told Valenzuela, "I voted for you in the recall election because you stressed integrity and that you said you'd find out what was going wrong with town finances. Instead you took our money. That is a crime. Even if you give it back, it is still theft. Resign and leave with dignity. I'm sorry I voted for you."

Weather

Date	High	Low	Pcp
Jan 11	58	31	.01
Jan 12	64	30	
Jan 13	66	33	
Jan 14	64	32	
Jan 15	58	33	
Jan 16	61	33	
Jan 17	68	33	.04

Weather readings
courtesy Boyce
Thompson Arboretum.

(520) 363-5554

Deadline Friday at 5 pm

CLASSIFIED

Deadline Friday at 5 pm



Write your own word ad

1. Choose Your Classified Section

Using the index choose the section that best fits your ad

2. Write your ad

Minimum word is 15 words for \$4.20. Every word there after is 28¢.

3. Circle your Attention Getter (optional)

ONE of these graphics can be added to your word ad for additional \$2.00



4. Add up total cost

We charge by the word. A word is anything with a space before or after it. Punctuation is free. Phone numbers with area codes and prices are considered 1 word each.

	\$4.20	For the first 15 words. Minimum charge
+ (_____ X 28¢)	_____	Number of additional words. (If ad has more than 15 words.)
	_____	Attention Getter \$2.00
=	<input type="text"/>	Cost for your word ad for one week.
X	_____	Number of weeks to run the ad
=	<input type="text"/>	Total cost of ad

4. Send the Ad to the Copper Basin News/Superior Sun

Call (520) 363-5554 or mail this coupon in to Copper Basin News, P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85237. You may send check or money order. *No Cash Please.*

You may pay with Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

CC# _____ Expir: _____

5. Your Information (Required to place ad)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

1. Automobile

WANTED: Old Mercedes 190SL, 280SL, Jaguar XKE, ANY Porsche or pre-1972 Sportscar/Convertible! ANY CONDITION! Collector brings trailer & cash. FAIR OFFERS! Mike call/text 520-977-1110. (AZCAN)

Advertise your Vehicle with a Picture for as little as **\$13.00**

Make Cash and Sell Fast!
Call (520) 363-5554



10. Business Services

HOWELL'S TAX SERVICE LLC

Opening Jan. 27th
Tuesdays 5pm-8pm
Mon-Wed-Thurs-Fri 10am-5pm
Saturdays BY APPT.
3 MILES SOUTH OF MAMMOTH AT THE RR TRACKS.

CALL 520-487-2415

Also helping with your **MEDICARE QUESTIONS!**

Independent Agent

Call 520-363-5554 to place your ad.

10. Business Services

Color Copies
Why travel out of town for color copies? We can offer high quality at competitive prices.

8 1/2"x11 - \$0.85
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11x17 - \$1.60

GLOSSY PAPER AVAILABLE FOR PHOTOS. JUST BRING US YOUR ORIGINALS & YOU'LL BE AMAZED AT THE QUALITY.
Copper Basin News
366 Aiden Rd., Kearny
(520) 363-5554

16. Financial Services

SOCIAL SECURITY Disability Benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We can help! WIN or Pay nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-960-3595 to start your application today! (AZCAN)

18. Fitness/Beauty

Viagra! 52 Pills for Only \$99.00. Your #1 trusted provider for 10 years. Insured and Guaranteed Delivery. Call today 1-888-403-8610. (AZCAN)

Oxygen Concentrator. InogenOne - Regain Independence. Enjoy Greater Mobility. NO more Tanks! 100% Portable Long-Lasting Battery. Try it RISK-FREE! For Cash Buyers Call 1-800-998-1641. (AZCAN)

20. Help Wanted

ADVERTISE YOUR JOB Opening in 77 AZ newspapers. Reach more than 2 million readers for ONLY \$330! Call this newspaper or visit: www.classifiedarizona.com. (AZCAN)

EARN \$500 A-DAY: Insurance Agents needed - Leads, No Cold Calls - Commissions Paid Daily - Lifetime Renewals - Complete Training - Health & Dental Insurance - Life License Required. Call 1-888-713-6020. (AZCAN)

The Superior Sun is seeking carriers for various routes in Superior. Call 480-620-5401. Ask for James.

20. Help Wanted

The Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District No. 41 is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Middle School Baseball Coach

Show of Interest Questionnaire may be picked up at the District Office - Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Lydia Martinez, Athletic Director at 520-591-3549 or 520-356-7876 Ext. 1311.

Deadline for applications: 12 Noon - Monday, January 25, 2016

45. Misc.

Switch to DIRECTV and get a FREE Whole-Home Genie HD/DVR upgrade. Starting at \$19.99/mo. FREE 3 months of HBO, SHOWTIME & STARZ. New Customers Only. Don't settle for cable. Call Now 1-800-404-9329. (AZCAN)

DISH NETWORK: Get MORE for LESS! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months!) PLUS Bundle & SAVE (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) CALL Now 1-800-318-1693. (AZCAN)

65. Musical Instruments

GUITAR WANTED! Local musician will pay up to \$12,500 for pre-1975 Gibson, Fender, Martin and Gretsch guitars. Fender amplifiers also. Call toll-free! 1-800-995-1217. (AZCAN)

67. Notices

REWARD
for information on the person who knocked down my fence and damaged my shed. Happened on Dec. 22 between 6-6:30 p.m. 510 Lime St. in Superior. 520-689-5712



80. Rentals

Call (520) 363-5554 to place your ad.

Dalton Realty
520-689-5201
Superior, Kearny & Top of the World Rentals

HOMES FOR RENT
SUPERIOR RENTALS Anderson Rentals LLC
Nice homes. Good prices. 602-625-3151 or sasedona@gmail.com

For Sale

(By Owner)
308 Greenwich Kearny, AZ

Freshly cleaned and refurbished throughout. Brick home with secure fenced backyard. Large separate storage building. Covered back patio. 3 bedroom, one bathroom. Central A/C and heat. Carport and lots of driveway parking. Includes refrigerator/freezer, gas range, washer & dryer, ceiling fans in each room and blinds on all windows.

\$53,900

To see, call:
520-363-9824
928-812-1751
928-242-5845

100. Real Estate

ADVERTISE YOUR HOME, property or business for sale in 77 AZ newspapers. Reach more than 2 million readers for ONLY \$330! Call this newspaper or visit: www.classifiedarizona.com. (AZCAN)



Resolution Copper hiring locally

Resolution Copper is committed to creating jobs that benefit our local community. We invite applications for the following Superior based contract positions. Contract appointments are for a fixed term of one year and extendable as business needs dictate.

- Environmental Technician - Environmental Permitting
- Environmental Technician - Environmental Compliance
- Native American Affairs Liaison

Preference will be given to experienced candidates in the relevant field. For full job descriptions and resume submittal instructions, visit www.resolutioncopper.com/about-us/careers/

Applications will be accepted until filled.



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