

## **JONATHAN CLARK**

Associated Press clips

AP-AZ DRUG LORD HOUSE

### **House of alleged drug lord set on fire**

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - The opulent home of an alleged Mexican drug lord who was arrested in Tucson earlier this month was gutted by an arson fire, officials in Naco, Mexico said.

The Naco house belonging to Carlos "Calichi" Molinares Nunez was set ablaze by an arsonist who doused the interior with gasoline at about 5:30 a.m. Monday, according to Fire Chief Jose Gutierrez. Moments later, a second, three-story building within the Molinares compound was ignited by a Molotov cocktail, possibly thrown from the street outside.

Fire officials said Sonora state police are investigating the blaze.

Gutierrez said security at the home was so tight firefighters had to battle the flames from the street outside until a Mexican army Humvee broke down a gate.

"We dont know if it was for robbery or just to cause damage," Gutierrez said. "But it was intentional."

The U.S. Attorney's office announced last week that Molinares was arrested on Dec. 9. He was indicted on two charges \_ continuing a criminal enterprise and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana \_ and is facing a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence.

Molinares allegedly oversaw an operation that smuggled thousands of pounds of marijuana into Arizona for distribution throughout the U.S. Officials believe he used his well-guarded home, which occupies half a city block in the otherwise run-down Colonia Colosio neighborhood, as a command center.

Gutierrez said it appeared no one was home at the time of the fire. No serious injuries were reported among the 18 firefighters from Naco, Mexico; Naco, Ariz.; and the San Jose Fire Department in Bisbee who battled the blaze.

Family members were allowed into the home to remove personal items at mid-morning. Fire officials gave a reporter from the Sierra Vista Herald a tour Monday afternoon.

The inside of the home appeared completely gutted, with charred timbers still smoking and some spewing small flames. In what appeared to be a recreation room, a massive flat-screen television set had melted and buckled from the heat, while a wood-paneled bar stood blackened and smoldering.

A federal grand jury in Tucson last month also indicted Luis Alfonso Carillo-Landavazo and Luis Carlos Quijada-Soto.

Carillo-Landavazo was an upper-level manager in charge of the distribution of marijuana from Mexico to Tucson and Phoenix, court records allege.

Quijada-Soto was alleged to be responsible for obtaining the vehicles used by the ring and securing drug stash houses in Tucson.

#### AP-AZ BOUNTY HUNTERS

##### **Accused bounty hunters freed because of lack of evidence**

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - Mexican authorities have released five U.S. citizens accused of trying to kidnap two men in Mexico.

A U.S. consular official said Friday a Mexican prosecutor found a lack of evidence in the case.

Phoenix-area residents Raul Arellanes Valdez, 31, Harold Lewis, 48, Ricardo Polanco, 49, and Polanco's two sons were accused of capturing two Mexican citizens as they were walking down a street Wednesday morning.

The men and one of the sons were released Thursday evening, said Jim Bredeck, vice consul in Nogales, Sonora. The fifth member of the group, a 13-year-old boy, was turned over to family members on Wednesday.

Bredeck said all five have returned to the United States.

Roberto Bejarano, chief of the Sonora state police investigative unit in Naco, Mexico, said earlier in the week that the suspects loaded two men into a pickup truck at gunpoint, tied their feet together and told them they were U.S. officials. But, he said the two men struggled with their captors and were able to jump from the truck just before it crossed into the United States.

A short time later, Bejarano said, the five alleged bounty hunters returned to Naco, Mexico, wearing new sets of clothing but driving the same pickup.

Police spotted the vehicle and arrested the men.

One of the men, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Sierra Vista Herald that he and his four companions went to Mexico to retrieve stolen vehicles, not the people who stole them. He said the two men who accused the group of taking them at gunpoint had made up the story.

Bredeck said U.S. consular officials had taken an active interest in the case from the time Mexican authorities first notified them of the arrests.

"Whenever American citizens are detained or arrested overseas, we express an interest in the case," he said. "And in this case, it seems to have turned out very favorably, so we are relieved."

#### AP-AZ NACO DISCRIMINATION

##### **Naco school discriminated against disabled, Spanish-speakers**

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP) - A federal investigation found that a southern Arizona school discriminated against students with disabilities and parents who speak Spanish but

rejected claims that administrators violated federal law by doing random checks at the Mexican border to make sure students were U.S. residents.

The ruling by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights found that the Naco Elementary School hadn't met its legal obligations to provide disabled students with individualized education plans. The school also didn't provide non-English-speaking parents with school materials they could read or translate at board meetings.

The school signed an agreement with the education department agreeing to fix the problems, according to Patricia Marsh, the school superintendent. A new special education teacher has been hired, and a staff member will be trained to interpret for parents.

In a letter outlining the civil rights office findings, Office of Civil Rights attorney Nicole Huggins said school administrators had not unfairly singled out Hispanics when they performed random border checks and home visits on 25 students suspected of living in Naco, Mexico, during the 2004-2005 school year. The students were U.S. citizens but their parents were told they would have to pay tuition or leave the school because they lived outside the district.

Because the town and school were so small, Huggins wrote that school officials were aware of the family situations of almost all Naco Elementary students and were acting on first-hand knowledge when they investigated some students.

Phoenix-based civil rights activist Silverio Garcia complained about the issues in May, 2005, and accused the education department of "chickening out" on the border checks.

"They didn't want to get into it politically, mainly because of the very anti-immigrant climate in Arizona and the United States right now," he said.

Garcia also said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne encouraged public school officials along the border to assume the role of federal immigration officials. He said he would continue to fight school border checks in Naco, Douglas, Nogales and San Luis.

Horne said he tells school officials they should monitor border crossings and said the practice is legal.

"If they are residents of Arizona, even if they are here illegally, we are going to educate them," Horne said. "But if they are residents of Mexico and they cross the border to go to school, the state is not going to pay for that."

Marsh said she stopped monitoring the border crossing after taking over the district and has no plans to reinstate it.

"I've been advised by the Arizona School Boards Association that it is not something that you want to do," Marsh said. "As a school district superintendent, you are not a law enforcement agent."

Naco Elementary School requires its students to demonstrate proof of residency before enrolling, Marsh said. Once that is done, she does not feel compelled to perform supplemental checks.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the school had an enrollment of 255 students, 249 of whom were Hispanic. Twenty-three students were identified as having disabilities.

#### AP-AZ AGENT ASSAULT

#### **Cochise County man arrested for alleged assault on border agent**

BISBEE – A Bisbee Junction man is facing federal charges after he allegedly tackled a Border Patrol agent who had just shot his dog.

Gil Nelson, 47, made an initial appearance Wednesday at U.S. District Court in Tucson on charges that he interfered with Border Patrol Agent Jeremy Poser while Poser was performing his official duties, and that he inflicted bodily injury on Poser by fighting with him and spraining his left little finger.

According to a complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Poser was responding Tuesday afternoon to an activated sensor in a wash near the end of Box Turtle Lane when two dogs ran toward him.

"Poser started to walk backwards but the dogs kept running towards (him)," the complaint says. "Poser felt threatened and shot one of the dogs with his service weapon."

The injured dog, which turned out to be Nelson's 16-month-old mixed-breed, Yogi, ran toward Nelson's home. A short time later, the complaint says, Nelson came running out of the house toward Poser, yelling.

Nelson allegedly jumped on Poser and put the agent in a headlock while pulling back on his finger. Poser then pepper sprayed Nelson, who let the agent go before grabbing Poser's hat and sunglasses and running back inside the house.

After additional Border Patrol agents arrived at the scene, Nelson came back out of the house and was arrested.

According to Wyn Hornbuckle, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona, Nelson remains in custody pending a detention hearing on Friday.

Nelson's friend Debbie Norman told the Herald/Review that she was visiting Nelson at his home on Tuesday when the incident occurred.

"All of a sudden, it sounded like someone had fired a cannon," Norman said. "The windows rattled and we heard the dog scream."

Nelson ran out of the house, Norman said, while she and another woman followed. When she got outside, Norman saw a Border Patrol agent running away down a wash with Nelson behind him.

"Mr. Nelson screamed at him, the guy turned around and Mr. Nelson knocked the gun out of the guy's hand," Norman said. "The guy maced Mr. Nelson, who fell on the ground, and the guy got on his radio and said he had just been attacked by three citizens."

Norman says she saw blood spatter evidence suggesting that the dog was shot less than a foot away from Nelson's house, not in the wash, approximately 15 feet away. And she said that the path of the bullet, which entered from behind Yogi's right front leg, exited near his shoulder and struck him in the chin, showed that the dog was shot while running away from Poser, not at him.

"The windows of the house were open," Norman said. "The dog never barked and never growled. This is not an attack animal."

Gerren Geiger, the veterinarian who treated Yogi, did not return messages requesting verification of Norman's description of the wounds.

### **Minutemen hire contractor to finish border fence**

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - The Minutemen civilian border-patrol group has hired a contractor to finish building 10 miles of fence along the Mexican border.

Construction on the fence began May 27, when about 150 supporters turned out for the groundbreaking, but the number of volunteers then dwindled.

"We don't want to put up something that will just be a symbol," said Al Garza, the group's executive director. "We want to make sure it's permanent, properly structured and done right."

As few as four people were observed working on the fence recently, said Cecile Lumer of the humanitarian aid group Citizens for Border Solutions.

"From the beginning, the numbers they have projected have always fallen very short of the reality," Lumer said.

One of the ranch owners, Jack Ladd, said he hoped the fence would keep Mexican livestock off his property, but he doubted it would keep people out.

"We want to make it clear that while we oppose illegal immigration, we weren't necessarily trying to keep Mexicans off the land," he said.

### AP-WST BORDER RANCH

#### **Border rancher more concerned about disease from illegal crossers**

By JONATHAN CLARK  
Sierra Vista Herald

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - Back in the 1970s, it was a major event when a Mexican cow would wander on to the Palominas border-front ranch of Jack Ladd and his son, John.

But after tightened border security in San Diego and El Paso began to funnel illegal immigration through Arizona in the early 1990s, holes began to appear more regularly along the 10 miles of barbed-wire fence separating the ranch from Mexico.

The holes, cut by individual migrants or blasted out by fence-crashing vehicles, also created an easy passageway for cattle. So, in an effort to keep Mexican cows out and their own cows in, the Ladds would devote an entire day each week to repairing the breaches.

About three years ago, they gave up.

"We'd start down in Naco and work west, but by the time we'd get to the end of the fence, the stuff we'd fixed would already be cut again," John Ladd said.

Federal authorities told him barbed wire was useless in stopping human traffic, and so the government was not interested in replacing it. During the past 2 1/2 years, Ladd said he has returned 468 cows to Mexico.

Then, last spring, he got a call from the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps offering to build a border barrier on the ranch.

"I told them, 'If you want to put up a barbed-wire fence with a vehicle barrier, let's do it,'" Ladd said.

In May, the Minutemen broke ground on 2 1/2 miles of a reinforced, five-strand range fence on the Ladds' 14,000-acre ranch. And while the group's volunteers eventually ran out of steam and had to hire a contractor to finish the job, the fence was completed.

"They put up a fence and it's working," Ladd said. "I don't have a lot of people coming through that area now, and I don't have any cows coming through."

Dr. Gary Thrasher, a Palominas veterinarian who specializes in cattle herd health, said stray cows are a major concern for ranchers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. There are at least 30 serious health problems that can affect local herds, he said, and since most cows have not been exposed to all the illnesses, they haven't developed a natural resistance.

Furthermore, Thrasher said there are at least 10 foreign illnesses that pose a risk to local cattle due to unregulated human traffic across the border. Possibly the most dangerous is foot-and-mouth disease.

And because many undocumented immigrants begin their journeys with flights to Mexico City or Hermosillo, they arrive in Arizona within days of leaving home.

"The first time their feet touch the ground is here," Thrasher said. "And there's no customs agent asking them, 'Have you spent time on a farm?'"

Thrasher said a major foot-and-mouth outbreak could virtually destroy the livestock industry in the United States, which makes it imperative for ranchers like Ladd to keep stray cows and undocumented immigrants away from their herds.

Ranchers on the Mexican side of the border are just as concerned about stray cows and migrants as their American counterparts, Thrasher said.

In addition to the health risks, there are secondary problems associated with unreliable fencing, Thrasher and Ladd said. Stray cows cost ranchers extra in supplemental feed, which runs up to \$800 per ton. And when pastures become unusable because of human traffic, ranchers are forced to overgraze their few secure areas.

"Disease is a problem, but the inability to properly manage their herds will put ranchers out of business," Thrasher said.

Ironically, Ladd said, just a few years back he had one of his sons build a fence to keep out the Minutemen. But after the Minutemen launched their campaign in April 2005, Ladd noticed the flow of migrants across his land had slowed to a trickle. And he was impressed.

So when illegal immigrants began once again to cross his ranch near the end of 2005, Ladd was ready to give the Minutemen another chance \_ though he wasn't interested in the 14-foot, Israeli-style barrier the group was pushing.

Ladd feels frustrated when people see the group building a fence on his ranch and assume he is prejudiced against migrants.

What gets overlooked, he says, is the security of cattle herds \_ the principal concern of ranchers \_ which is jeopardized by a porous border.

"It's irritating because people don't understand all of the faucets being opened because of illegal immigration," he said. "These illegal immigrants come through, and everything else follows them right through the holes."

#### AP-AZ MINUTEMEN LAWSUIT

##### **Man sues Minutemen over fence**

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP) - A Phoenix-area man who mortgaged his home in order to help the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps build a border fence in Cochise County is now suing the group for fraud and breach of contract.

The complaint was filed last week in Maricopa County Superior Court, accusing Minutemen officials of falsely promising to build a multi-layered security barrier on a southern Arizona ranch based on a design used in Israel.

The lawsuit by Jim Campbell, a retired homebuilder and Air Force veteran from Fountain Hills, said he took out a loan on his home and donated \$100,000 to the project last year. The donation was contingent on the money being used to build a 10-mile security fence on the Palominas ranch of John and Jack Ladd, the suit says.

But the Ladds eventually rejected the plan in favor of a more traditional range fence. The Minutemen, a grassroots group opposed to illegal immigration, then decided to build the high-tech fence on another rancher's land near Bisbee.

Campbell's suit asks for \$1.2 million in damages.

Minutemen President Chris Simcox said he was puzzled by the suit because Campbell not only donated the money but also bought \$60,000 worth of steel tubing for the project and had it delivered.

Those tubes were used to build the first segment of fencing on the second ranch, owned by Richard Hodges, and the remaining \$40,000 was used to purchase steel panels for the barrier.

"That steel is in the ground," Simcox said. "His \$100,000 is sitting out there on the Hodges ranch. We've showed good faith."

Simcox acknowledged that work on Hodges' fence had stalled, but he promised it would begin again as soon as the necessary funds are raised.

"I'm sorry it has not gone as quickly as we had thought, but you can only erect as much fence as you have the donations for," he said.

Besides the Minutemen group, the suit also names Diener Consultants, a Chicago-based fundraising organization, and the Minutemen-affiliated Declaration Alliance, a Virginia-based charity founded by conservative activist Alan Keyes.

#### AP-AZ TEACHER'S AIDE SEX

#### **Sierra Vista school aide facing nine sex charges**

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - A teacher's aide at a school here has been arrested on nine felony counts for alleged sexual contact with two female students.

The Apache Middle School aide, Kenneth Boughton, 25, has been suspended twice previously for inappropriate behavior, Sierra Vista School District officials confirmed, and was again placed on leave this week after his arrest.

Sierra Vista Police booked Boughton into jail Thursday on four counts of child molestation, four counts of sexual contact with a minor and one count of sexual abuse. He is being held without bond at the Cochise County Jail.

Police say they believe that Boughton was sexually involved with the two female students for "an extended period of time," but they have released few other details.

"Right now, the investigation is still fairly sensitive, and obviously, considering the ages of the victims involved, we want to protect their privacy," said Detective Nick Lamay, the lead investigator in the case. The girls, ages 13 and 15, were students at the school but were not being taught or tutored by Boughton.

District officials released Boughton's personnel file on Friday after a public records request from the Sierra Vista Herald newspaper.

Boughton was hired in January, 2006, and has since been disciplined for fighting with a student, having alcohol on his breath while at a school function and making inappropriate comments to students, the file shows.

Just two months after being hired at Apache, he was suspended without pay for 10 days for an incident where he pulled a student's shirt over his head during a class. Besides the physical actions, Boughton also verbally threatened the student, according to a memo from William L. Roach, assistant superintendent of schools. He was again suspended in March, 2006, for an incident at a school band concert where he made inappropriate remarks to a girl. He also smelled of alcohol, reports show.

After returning from suspension on March 19, he received a letter from Principal Jeff Spencer reminding him that "on several occasions" he had been counseled about his behavior with students or having alcohol on his breath while at school or at school functions.

Spencer also wrote that he had warned Boughton about telling off-color jokes to students and failing to avoid "the appearance of inappropriate behavior with students."

Boughton has not been fired by the district because the allegations against him are still under investigation, spokeswoman Donna Avina said. "The police don't want to make a mistake, and we don't want to make a mistake, either," she said.

Court records show that Boughton pleaded guilty to reckless driving in Sierra Vista Justice Court on Feb. 22, 2006, as part of a plea agreement that saw three drunk driving charges against him dropped.

Avina noted that Boughton's criminal conviction came after he was hired at Apache Middle School, and that he would have passed a background check before being hired.

Boughton worked during the 2004-2005 school year as a teacher's aide at the Town and Country Elementary School, also a part of the Sierra Vista School District.

AP-AZ COFFEE COLLECTIVE, ADV11

### **Sonora roaster helps keep farmers from migrating**

By JONATHAN CLARK

Sierra Vista Herald

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - When the price for a sack of coffee beans fell 75 percent to 350 pesos (about \$32) during the late 1980s, Daniel Cifuentes did what many young men in the coffee-growing communities of Chiapas were forced to do: He migrated in search of a living wage.

And while some Chiapan migrants ended up in Mexico City or the United States, others like Cifuentes found work in the maquiladoras, or assembly plants, that fill the towns and cities along Mexico's northern border. Cifuentes, now 40, landed a job at a maquiladora in Agua Prieta, where he was fatefully introduced one day to Mark Adams, a pastor with the Presbyterian border ministry, Frontera de Cristo.

"When Mark asked me what we did back in Chiapas, I told him that we cultivated coffee for export," Cifuentes said. "But when I told him how low the price had dropped, he was surprised. He asked, 'Why is the price so low if a cup of coffee in the U.S. costs two, three or even four dollars?' "

Cifuentes explained to Adams that a large part of the problem was the buyers who served as intermediaries between the farmers and multinational coffee exporters. These middlemen, whom Chiapans call coyotes \_ the same term used in the north for migrant smugglers \_ often lowballed small farmers in order to keep a larger portion of the sale price for themselves.

The answer to Adams seemed clear: Cut out the middleman and create a cooperative where farmers controlled both the cultivation and the sale of their product. And so in May 2002, Adams, his wife Miriam, Cifuentes and Frontera de Cristo member Tommy Bassett, went to Cifuentes' village of Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, and presented a group of growers with a plan.

Cifuentes would put together a group in the gritty Colonia Pueblo Nuevo neighborhood of Agua Prieta to roast coffee beans and sell them to customers in the United States. The roasters would purchase the beans directly from the Salvador Urbina farmers and ship them from Chiapas at no cost to the growers. And best of all, they would pay \$130 per sack.

"Mark was very confident, but I have to admit, I didn't believe it would really happen," Cifuentes said. "The people in the community believed it even less, but they were so sick of being dependent on the coyotes that they were willing to give it a try."

And thus was born Just Coffee, a coffee-producing collective modeled on the Fair Trade principle that farmers should be paid a just price for their products. It was a fitting solution for Salvador Urbina, a town blessed with rich, volcanic soils that offer prime conditions for organic coffee farming.

"We have great natural resources, that's not the problem," Cifuentes said. "We just need to be able to sell our products for a just price."

When they receive a just price for their coffee, he says, the people of Salvador Urbina no longer have to migrate in search of a living wage.

"That's the idea, and that's our vision \_ to reduce the amount of migration from the community," he said. "Now, people are staying, and others are returning."

When Just Coffee first started out, co-op members roasted beans over an open fire using a comal, a traditional cast-iron skillet used for cooking tortillas.

"That was not the correct way to roast coffee, and you could tell by the flavor," Cifuentes said. "We had to improve our quality."

And so with a loan from Fronteras de Cristo, Just Coffee bought its first real coffee roaster for \$10,000 in November 2002. The purchase paid immediate dividends, in terms of both quality and production.

When sales went up to 40,000 pounds in 2005, it became clear that the original 12-pound-capacity roaster could not meet the growing demand. Taking out another loan, Just Coffee bought its new \$30,000 machine and inaugurated it in February.

As its sales have grown, so too has Just Coffee's impact on its local community. After starting out with 25 member families, the collective has now grown to include 35 families, or about 20 percent of Salvador Urbina's population.

In addition to the \$130 that Just Coffee pays for each 100-pound sack of beans (a price that exceeds the \$1.26 per pound standard for Fair Trade certification), the cooperative also provides health benefits for all member families. Furthermore, the collective has a profit-sharing program and donates to community projects such as the construction of new schools.

Cifuentes reports that local buyers recently upped their purchase price to 800 pesos (about \$75) per 100-pound sack.

"Many people say that Just Coffee is helping to drive prices up," he said. "If that is true, we won't let our guard down. We will make our prices go up to keep the coyotes from dropping theirs."

Fair Trade-certified coffee is a rapidly growing market in the United States. According to Transfair, the entity that certifies Fair Trade products in the U.S., American retailers sold 44 million pounds or \$500 million of Fair Trade coffee in 2005, a figure that represents an average year-over-year growth of nearly 90 percent since 1998.

Much of Just Coffee's sales is done by church groups, but they also do consumer-direct mail-order through their Web site. Thanks to those types of sales, Just Coffee now has a rapidly expanding customer base that covers 49 states (North Dakota is the one holdout, Gonzalez says).

In Arizona, food co-ops, farmer's markets and independent cafes and restaurants add to the distribution chain to help make this state the largest market for Just Coffee. In terms of Arizona micro-markets, Gonzalez says Tucson is the largest, followed by Green Valley, Phoenix and then Sierra Vista and Bisbee.

Roy Goodman has been a vital cog in the local distribution network practically since Just Coffee began doing business in 2002. But now after having successfully introduced the product to a number of local outlets, he is content to drive to Douglas every couple of weeks and pick up 20 pounds of Just Coffee for sale at his table at the Bisbee Farmer's Market.

"I think a lot of other people like that idea as well. They don't mind spending a dollar or two more to know that people can live in good conditions and not have to die crossing the desert."

AP-AZ TOPIC: MEXICAN JOURNALIST

### **Naco, Sonora newspaper faces risks of border journalism**

By JONATHAN CLARK

Sierra Vista Herald

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - Rodolfo Santos, publisher and editor of El Mirador newspaper in Naco, Mexico is not the kind of journalist to pull his punches.

Earlier this year, Santos ran a blistering expose of abuse at a local orphanage in which director Miguel Angel Ramos, the man allegedly responsible for the misdeeds, was regularly referred to as Hitler.

A year prior, El Mirador was relentless in its efforts to uncover corruption on the part of Nacos' then-mayor, Vicente Torres.

Still, there is one area of malfeasance that even Santos is unwilling to expose: organized crime.

"To publish stories about narcotics trafficking or migrant smuggling would put us and our families in danger," he said. "We publish the press releases we get from the authorities on drug arrests, but otherwise, we have to be careful."

Santos' reluctance to tangle with drug cartels and smugglers is not unusual in Mexico, where many journalists self-censor their work on organized crime out of safety concerns.

According to a 2005 report by the international watchdog group Reporters Without Borders, Mexico is now the most dangerous nation in the Americas for journalists. Last year, says the group, two Mexican journalists were killed and a third went missing as a result of their work. Three others were murdered in 2004, including Francisco Javier Ortiz Franco, a well-known anti-cartel editorialist with the Tijuana weekly, Zeta.

In February, the administration of President Vicente Fox announced it was naming a special prosecutor to investigate crimes against journalists. The new office, however, does not prosecute cases involving drug traffickers or organized crime \_ those offenses are still the domain of the overworked deputy attorney general for organized crime. It is not just drug-related reporting that gets Mexican journalists in trouble, either.

Unflattering portrayals of the nation's political and economic elite can also earn reprisals. In a case evocative of El Mirador's campaign against the Naco orphanage director, columnist and author Lydia Cacho was arrested last December on libel charges after she accused a prominent businessman of pedophilia.

Still, Santos says, such cases are becoming less and less frequent. He notes Cacho is now free while her accusers face conspiracy charges.

Life for investigative journalists is much better now, he believes, than it was during the 71-year reign of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which ended with Fox's historic presidential victory in 2000.

"Today, with the government of Fox, we have much more freedom of the press," Santos said. "We can criticize the government and we can do it at the federal, state and local levels."

In addition, he said, the Mexican press can now play an important role as a community watchdog and he points to El Mirador's expose of Ramos and Torres as evidence.

A front room in the modest single-level house that Santos, 43, shares with his wife and three children in the Naco town center does double duty as El Mirador's headquarters and a shop selling uniforms for schoolchildren.

El Mirador, which roughly translated means The Viewpoint, is preparing to celebrate its third anniversary in July. It is, Santos explains, Naco's first permanent newspaper.

"There have been a few others, but they just published a few times and stopped," he said. "But that's not what journalism is \_ serious journalism requires consistency and dedication."

While El Mirador has made its name with its investigative work, it remains a community newspaper. The newspaper also features school news, cultural events, quinceanos celebrations, and even a recent report by Santos' 13-year-old son, Garael, on a possible local discovery of the chupacabras, a mythic horned creature that feasts on the blood of domesticated animals.

Santos founded the newspaper after working as a reporter in Agua Prieta. He does a bit of everything at the paper: editing, design, advertising, circulation, photography and reporting. It is an all-consuming job, and with little financial reward. But he loves the work and the service that a free press provides the people of Naco.

"Journalism is fascinating, it's interesting and it's important," he said. "The people of Naco like and respect El Mirador, and we respect the people as well."

Still, Santos does not forget that his job can be a risky one.

"Here in Mexico, we journalists have to work with a lot of caution," he said.

AP-BZ AZ TOPIC: BORDER BUDDIES

### **Unlikely friends find common ground in water**

By JONATHAN CLARK

Sierra Vista Herald

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - Cecile Lumer and Manuel "Sharky" Baylon certainly make for an unlikely pair of friends.

Lumer, a 69-year-old Ph.D. and native New Yorker, is a semiretired botanist and grandmother of three. After a stint on the faculty at Eastern New Mexico University, she moved in 1995 to Old Bisbee, where she now lives quietly in a bungalow shared with three cats.

Baylon, 27, is a recovering addict from the mean streets of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where he said it is just as easy to buy drugs as it is to buy a carton of milk.

Baylon's head is shaven, with the exception of one long strip of hair that hangs down in back, and his torso is adorned with several tattoos, including a menacing skeleton/dragon motif on his left bicep.

About a year-and-a-half ago, Baylon came to Naco, Mexico \_ 20 miles from Sierra Vista \_ and entered the local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in hopes of kicking his habit for good.

Yet while their life stories are dramatically different, Lumer and Baylon, now neighbors on opposite sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, have still managed to find some common ground. And they found it through water.

Lumer is a member of the humanitarian aid group Citizens for Border Solutions. Alarmed by the growing number of migrant deaths in Arizona, the organization began setting up emergency water stations in the local desert four years ago. Last year, the rehab center started doing the same. Now, the two groups have joined forces to distribute water.

According to Raymundo Pineda, the center's director, the project offers big benefits for his clients.

"It's a form of therapy," he said. "It helps to occupy their minds so they aren't thinking about using drugs."

Furthermore, he said, by doing something positive for others, the recovering addicts develop a better sense of self-esteem and responsibility.

The alliance with the rehab center has also been advantageous for Citizens for Border Solutions. When it put out water for migrants on the U.S. side of the border, its aid stations were routinely vandalized. Now with their water stations on the Mexican side of the border, the vandalism has stopped.

There has been another benefit as well: the program has created new cross-border personal relationships.

When she goes out to help restock water stations, Lumer said she looks forward as much to seeing friends like Baylon as she does to providing migrant aid.

On a recent trip, Lumer, Baylon, Pineda and three other crew members piled into a well-worn 1993 Ford F-150 pickup, donated by the Frontera de Cristo Presbyterian ministry in Douglas and outfitted with a massive plastic water tank.

After a brief pit stop at the Naco public works headquarters to fill the tank with water donated by the city, the truck rumbled west out of town and into the desert.

The rehab center currently maintains eight water stations along a path stretching to a point about 2 miles east of the San Pedro River.

Lumer and Baylon have an unusual way of communicating. Lumer speaks to Baylon in English, while Baylon, who knows a fair amount of English himself, responds mostly in Spanish or Spanglish.

Though not much of a speaker, Lumer said she understands a bit of Spanish, and the two get along fine.

In addition to their work together on the water stations, Lumer has been teaching Baylon how to use e-mail. In between their once-a-week water runs \_ the group

from the rehab center goes out twice each week, but Lumer and a colleague are currently alternating trips \_ the two stay in touch via the Internet.

Baylon admitted that his friendship with Lumer surprises him, but he said she arrived "like an angel" in his life." Everyone needs that person who they can count on for support," he said.

Lumer gets on his case at times about working too much \_ Baylon also puts in long hours at a Naco tortilleria - but he said it makes him feel good to know she cares.

"She has become someone who really inspires me to stay away from drugs," he said. "If I were to go back to drugs, I would feel like I let her down."

After the group finished its water station run and the truck pulled back into the rehab center, the guys made a quick dash for the shade of the building's interior. Baylon, however, lingered behind.

"Come here and give me a hug," Lumer said to him after the two exchanged good-byes.

Baylon, wearing the expression of a kid being forced to hug his mom after being dropped off at school, reluctantly obeyed.

Still, as he hugged, he couldn't help but grin just a little.

AP-AZ TOPIC: ENGLISH CENTER

### **English is big at Naco, Sonora rehab center**

By JONATHAN CLARK

Sierra Vista Herald

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) - Some teachers might be taken aback if a man burst suddenly into their classroom with a box of apples and started tossing them out to students.

But Sandi Riggs, an English teacher at a Mexican drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic known by its Spanish acronym CRREDA, used the intrusion as an opportunity to reinforce a lesson about verbs.

"What's he doing?" she asked her class, which at that moment numbered 18 men and two women, ranging in age from 15 to 53.

When they couldn't think of the verb, she coached them. "He's throwing apples," she said, and asked them to repeat.

For the past two and a half months, the 66-year-old has been making a weekly trek across the border from her home in Bisbee to teach English to clinic residents in Naco in the Mexican state of Sonora. A retired Cochise College instructor with 44 years of English teaching experience, she was at a friend's birthday party when she first heard about the fledgling English class that needed a teacher.

Since she had been looking for an activity that fitted her interests, Riggs eagerly volunteered.

Staff members at the clinic say the English class has been a positive addition to the center's rehabilitation efforts, and they give much of the credit to Riggs's patient and enthusiastic teaching style.

The class, everyone agrees, has become a weekly highlight for students and teacher alike.

"Every time I go in, I wonder, 'Is it going to be fun tonight?' " Riggs said. "And it always is."

When Riggs walked into the classroom on a recent Monday evening, her students were poised to begin.

They had filled the first few rows of metal folding seats, and many sat with notepads open and pens in hand, reviewing some of the more difficult words that they had learned in a previous lesson. About half sported baseball caps, and all wore jackets or sweat shirts. If there was a heat source in the roughly 12-by-24-foot concrete-walled assembly room, it had yet to be turned on.

Later, Riggs turned on her boombox and led the students in a spirited jazz chant featuring the refrain, "Shh, Shh, the baby's sleeping." Then she divided them into groups with an assignment for each student to act out an English verb so the others could guess what they were doing.

Asked if she was distracted by the seemingly chaotic nature of the class, Riggs said: "It's really not chaos, they're just very vocal. I like their energy and the way they work together. As a teacher, you don't want them to calm down."

Perhaps part of the reason the English class is met with such enthusiasm is that it provides the clinic's residents with a break from their grueling rehabilitation program. Residents are not allowed to leave the building during the first three months of their recovery, and so an opportunity to interact with outsiders and think about something other than rehab can indeed be a welcome break.

Having homework and an educational goal also can aid in the larger effort to stay clean, participants say.

"When you are on drugs, all you think about is drugs," said 39-year-old Francisco Gutierrez, a native of Puerto Vallarta, state of Jalisco. "But when you're thinking about English, you can't think about drugs."

Steven Eli, a 19-year-old Honduran who came to the border to cross into the United States but instead got involved in drugs, said he hopes English can help him find a better, chemical-free life.

"You can get a good job if you know English," he said, before pausing to add, "And if you go to the other side (the U.S.), it's easier to meet girls."

But clearly another reason why the English class has been such a hit is Riggs. Gutierrez called his instructor "a beautiful person," and student Julieta Perez praised Riggs for her patience.

"The class changes the routine of the center," said Raymundo Pineda, coordinator of the center in Naco. "(The students) want to learn, and they really enjoy it."

"Plus," he added, "they have a good teacher."