



Huge fiber ring planned around Tucson to boost Internet service for rural Pima County

Introduction by Trish Sargent

On Thursday March 21st, Supervisor Sylvia Lee came to our local Fire Station to talk to residents about what concerns they might have.

Supervisor Lee started the meeting by telling us “Pima County and the Feds are investing 43 million to provide broadband fiber lines that internet providers can use to carry high-speed internet to rural areas which includes Three Points.”

She then passed out this map of the planned Fiber Ring to boost Internet service.

I felt this information was so important that I went on line and found this article from Tucson.com.

https://tucson.com/news/local/pima-county-fiber-internet-grant-article_0dd6ee4a-0c69-11ee-829a-8736c3b6cbcb.html

Pima County is set to get a 134-mile line of fiber internet infrastructure to create a ring surrounding the urban core of Tucson that's set to provide high-speed internet access to rural and historically underserved areas.

The Biden administration [announced more than \\$930 million in high-speed internet infrastructure grants](#) across the country on Friday, of which Pima County is set to receive \$30.3 million over five years from the National Telecommunications Information Administration.

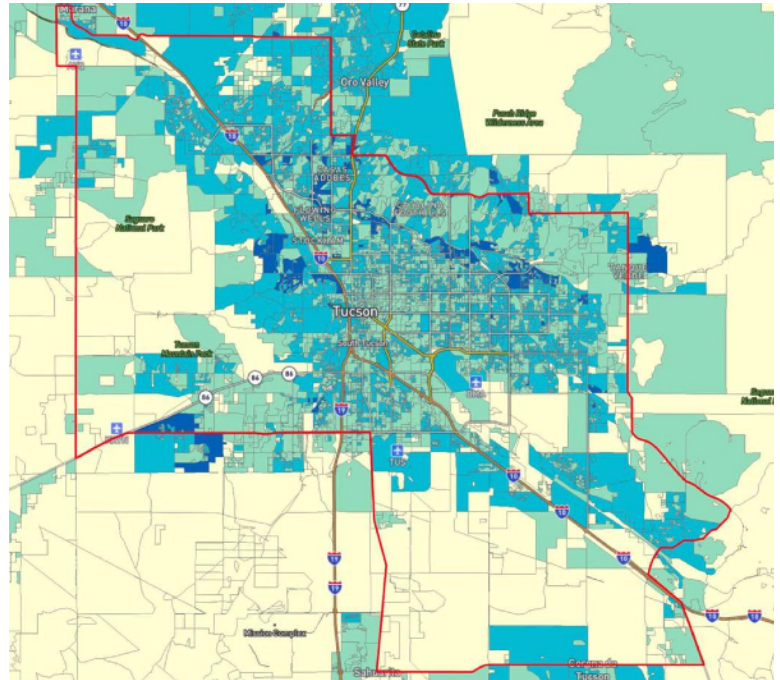
The county plans to construct an open-access fiber ring that it's calling the middle mile infrastructure project to quickly carry large amounts of data over long distances the county said is expected to reach one-third of the county's population.

The county and nearby jurisdictions are required to provide \$12.5 million in supplemental funding for the project, bringing the total investment closer to \$43 million.

One of the significant things about access to broadband is that when that happens, economies, communities flourish,” County Administrator Jan Leshner said at a news conference Friday. “We know that the statistics are there and that areas that have higher access to broadband services, they earn more, their wages are higher, there is lower unemployment, and there's much greater opportunity for economic development.”

The middle-mile infrastructure will consist of high-capacity fiber lines that internet providers can use to carry high-speed internet service to end users. The project's first phases will begin sometime within the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 1, the county said, and will involve implementing compliance guidelines from the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) that requires certain environmental protections for federal projects.

It will take “significant amounts of construction” to build the underground fiber lines in the coming years, Pima County Information Technology Director Javier Baca said, and the project will include “anchor locations” for internet providers to connect.



That means internet providers won't have to lay the fiber infrastructure themselves to reach low-density areas that yield a minimal return on investment. Instead, the fiber will already be available for providers to connect rural residents to the internet.

“This ring doesn't provide internet service in itself, it provides access to those internet service providers in a much more affordable way for those internet service providers to get into the market,” Baca said.

Nearly 10% of households in Pima County lack broadband internet access, according to data from the Federal Communications Commission. Some communities the new fiber line will reach showed up to 18% of households had no internet access, the county said.

Rex Scott, the Pima County Supervisor presiding over District 1, said he often hears concerns from constituents about the lack of internet access in Catalina and other areas in the foothills. Those concerns heightened as many students shifted to online, remote learning models throughout the pandemic, creating barriers for those without internet access.

“When it comes to education, we shouldn't have a system of haves and have-nots, and that's the part of this grant that has me the most excited, because it will give struggling families and their children access to schools that a lot of us take for granted,” Scott said.

The new project adds to the ongoing [Connect Pima](#) program that aims to build broadband infrastructure and increase internet access throughout the county while promoting digital literacy among residents. The county's been partnering with the city of Tucson to expand internet access throughout the region and is currently working on making sure the city's fiber network connects with the county's to avoid “two disparate networks,” said Chris Mazzarella, Tucson's chief information officer.

“This is a key piece of infrastructure, just like the roadways are,” Mazzarella said. “When we look at these fiber capabilities, it doesn't just immediately fill the gap, and it doesn't just help with some of those underprivileged areas, but it also makes sure we're well positioned for the future for decades ahead.”

Community Calendar Page

Community Weekly/Monthly Events at Serenity Baptist Church

15501 W Ajo Hwy 520-822-2026

Serenity Church events on their website
<https://serenitybaptist.church>

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Caring Food Ministries | Thurs 8-9:30 AM |
| 4-H Robles Ranchers | First Friday of the month 7-8:30 pm |
| Sierrita Mountain 4-H Livestock Club | Second Thursday of the month 7 pm |

Other Events This Month

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| AVSD School Board | 2nd Wed of the month - 6 pm AVMS |
| <p>Fence Post Deadline 20th of the month 5 pm This is a firm deadline. If you need more time please e-mail Trish by the 20th to request an extension. E-mail articles to fencepost3points@gmail.com</p> | |

Weekly/Monthly Events at

Robles Ranch Community Center

16150 West Ajo Hwy 85735 Phone: 520-822-4408

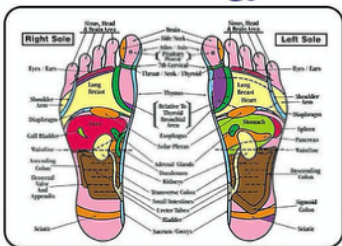
| | |
|--|--|
| Computer Lab | Open to the public 10:30am- 5:30pm Monday-Friday. |
| Mexican Train Dominoes Tues. 10 am to Noon Everyone Welcome | |
| My Friends Closet | Wed 11-6 |
| Community Food Bank | Tues 10-3 Wed 3-6 Fri 10-3 |
| Friends Of Robles Ranch Meeting | 1st Tuesday of the month 6pm |
| Bookmobile | Every Third Tuesday of the month 2:30pm-3:30pm. |
| Robles Ranch Library | Open to the public 10:30am- 4:30pm Monday-Thurs |
| Horse Arena | Open for public use M-F FREE of charge, 10:30am-4:30pm. |



Schedule A Reflexology Massage Today

Here are just 10 of the reasons you might benefit from a reflexology massage.

Foot Reflexology Chart



1. Pain Relief
2. Stimulate the Nervous System
3. Boost Circulation
4. Boost Metabolism
5. Eliminate Toxins
6. Speed Up The Healing Process
7. Relaxation
8. Relieve Sleep Disorders
9. Reduces Depression
10. Alleviate Headaches

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2024 TRICO ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 11 AM

Casino del Sol Resort

5655 W. Valencia Rd.



Come join us as we reflect on our progress and discuss our future goals

- 9 a.m. — Registration opens
- 9-11 a.m. — Informational Booths and Workshops
- 11 a.m. — Meeting starts
- Please bring a copy of your bill for fast check in
- Win raffle prizes (must be present to win)
- Trees will be available for purchase



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Celebrating 8 Years In OUR Community!

Since opening their doors in April 2016 the Epley's have been continually supporting and thriving within the community. In 2016 Blake and Kaity, along with their two older children welcomed their third child and opened their feed store within just weeks of each other. Things soon settled into a nice groove and over the years as a community we've seen their family and their site grow. Now on any given day you can go in to get your hay or feed and see their two oldest running the register, getting your mail, or even loading your order. They all take part in this local family run business.

Blake and Kaity's 4H and FFA experience plus their hands on livestock knowledge have helped them support multiple 4H/FFA groups, exhibitors, and their customers. Whether it is normal animal questions, tailored feed advice, or clipping/grooming help, they are always willing to lend their expertise.

The last eight years have seen many changes. To their store, the products and services they offer, and the community.

As Three Points is growing they keep adding! On top of all your feed, animal and livestock needs they are still carrying jams and jellies from local jammer, We B Jamin.

They have keychains and jewelry from MelanieB's Creations and Purple Desert Designs.

They seasonally have honey from Lifesweet.

And this season they've brought in some gardening supplies and seeds. There are flowers, herbs and veggies!

Last month they started a partnership with **Epley Farm Company** bringing in locally hatched chicks and fertile hatching eggs to the store.

"We've always carried chicks in the spring and early fall, but we are now excited to be carrying them year round! And they will be from right here in Three Points, so there isn't the stress and shock and sometimes loss that comes with packing and shipping. Just healthy, fuzzy, cute little chicks!" Kaity shared.



Epley Farm Fresh Eggs are available at Double E Feed store and the Bulldog Bakery & BBQ.

Whether you need hay, livestock feed and supplies, vet supplies, dog or cat food, tack, even small pet and bird food, or just some cool local goodies Double E has got you covered. And in the off chance they don't have what you're looking for just ask and they'll see if they can get it in for you!

This summer Kaity shares that they plan to have another customer appreciation lunch, at least one more Food Fare, and maybe some more market/swap meets. If you are interested in any of these stop by and let her know so she knows how much we all loves them and want to see them return! I know I will!





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DoubleEfeed@gmail.com

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phone 520-578-3341

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Youth For Veterans



VETERANS SPOTLIGHT:

Army Veteran, Erica Hopkins was born & raised in Tucson. Her parents are Ralph & Delia Martinez.

She did her basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She was serving in Fort Lee Virginia when she had an accident & had to be medically discharged. She is the mother of 3 daughters & 2 grandchildren.

Erica Hopkins received the 112th patriotic pillow that Momma V & the Y4V, make & give to Veterans

Thank you Miss Erika for your service.



Y4V members, Michael Metzger & Dallas Harmon help patients at the VA Hospital make Easter baskets.



Momma V & the Y4 V members Michael Metzger, Detta Ingram & Dallas Harmon made Easter baskets & delivered them to the homeless.



Army Veteran, Don Kestner, received the 111th patriotic pillow from Momma V & the Y4V



Momma V & the Youth 4 Veterans hand out clothing, food, & hygiene products to the homeless



For Momma V's birthday, Veteran Mike Shusta caught her some fresh catfish, her favorite, & even dressed them for her. Such a wonderful gift

**Momma V
& SO. AZ Youth For Veterans**

7184 Marstella Rd. Tucson, AZ 85735

520-282-1617

NOTARY

THIS MONTH I'M THANKFUL FOR:
Jerry & Jay Woehlck for all their support of the Y4V & all the youth in our community.



They Are Back !

By Trish Hastings-Sargent

I have lived out here for almost 20 years and I don't mind telling you that when spring comes and the Rattlesnakes come out I am very watchful.

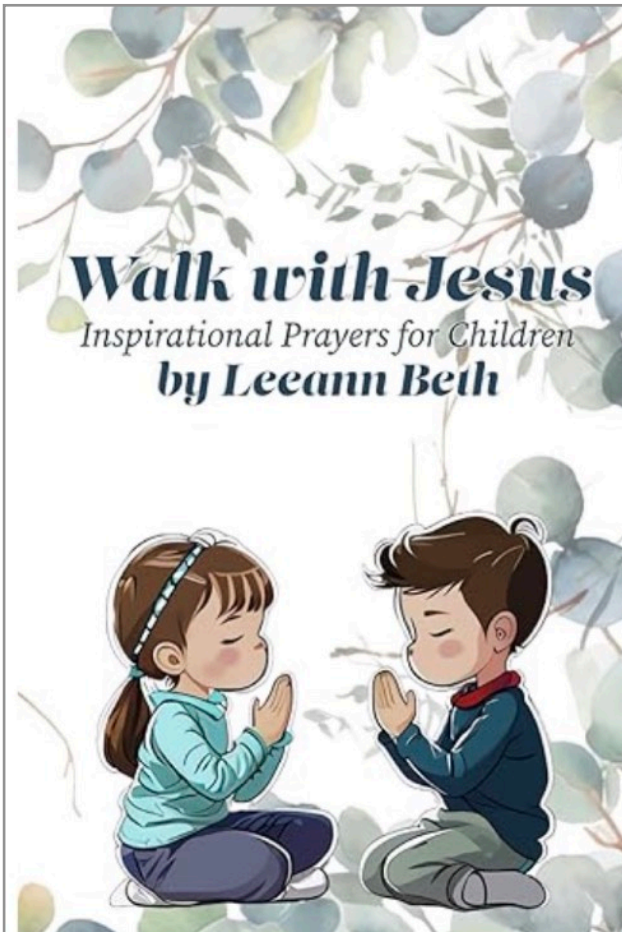
Every year I see one or two in my yard, and have found them in my courtyard. When this happens I call our very brave Three Points Fire Department and they come, catch them and release them in the desert.

A few days ago, my sister saw me drive into our driveway and wanted to help me bring in the groceries. She had been out in the courtyard watering the plants not more than ten minutes before.

She was looking up at me when she walked out our front door, and she stepped on what she originally thought was the water hose. She jumped off, looked down and realized it was a rattlesnake. She was horrified as she watched it head into our house thru the open door. So she slammed the security door on it. Boy was it angry!!!! And so was my sister !!!

We called the Fire Department and two Firemen came to our rescue. One foot of the snake was outside the door and 3 feet were inside the house. Because my sister and I live alone, we keep all the doors to our home locked, so neither we nor the firemen could enter into our house thru any of the other doors. This made getting the snake out, without getting bitten, a real challenge. I am happy to report that the Firemen were successful and we are more than grateful to them.

In all the years I have lived here, I have never had a rattlesnake come up onto my front deck. In my yard yes, in my courtyard yes, in my garden yes, on my deck no. Needless to say we are now VERY VERY VIGILANT and check before we open the security door.



Walk with Jesus

by Leeann Beth (Author)

Walk with Jesus, an inspirational book for young children. Great for children's church group or home study, having prayers, bible verses with colored animation reflecting the prayer.

Color animations allow students to visualize the prayer being read, leading to a much greater understanding of the prayer and Jesus Christ. This book is great for preschool, learning new words and being able to think and reason the prayer's meaning.

Older children have a bible verse to think about, aiding in their spiritual growth in Christ. Over 90 pages of education to last months in study and years of a child's future growth.

This book is written by a local Three Points author, who writes under a pen name.

Walk with Jesus is available on **Amazon**.



April Gardening



April Monthly Reminders Planting

Planting

- Plant warm season annuals for summer flowering-aster, coneflower, gaillardia, lisianthus, marigold, pentas, portulaca, Madagascar periwinkle and zinnia.
- Plant perennials that provide color and attract pollinators – chamomile, Gooding’s verbena, justicia, lantana, Russian sage, and salvias.
- Sow seeds outdoors for cucumbers (English and Armenian), melons, okra, squash, yard- long beans. Transplant eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and thyme.
- Plant heat-loving vines – Baja passion vine, pink trumpet vine, yellow orchid vine, crossvine (For many others refer to Landscape Vines for Southern Arizona AZ 1606)
- Plant fig trees (Refer to Growing Common Figs in the Low Desert AZ 1636).
- Plant citrus trees to give them time to get established before cold weather.

Maintenance

- If plants have yellow leaves with green veins (iron chlorosis) correct with chelated iron.

- Monitor for aphids and spider mites; use a blast of water to discourage them or add one tablespoon of liquid dish detergent to one gallon of water and spray the top and bottom of leaves.
- Flush accumulated salts from the root zones of drip-irrigated plants by watering three times as long as you would normally.
- Protect young plants from wildlife. The best way to keep critters out is to fence them with poultry or woven wire fencing. If rabbits are your problem, use half inch poultry wire. Cage individual plants or entire plantings. The wire fencing should be two to three feet high. Stake the fencing to keep it standing up. If you have problems with ground squirrels or chipmunks, you’ll need to use fencing with smaller openings; one-quarter inch woven wire. Cap the top of the fence with woven wire as ground squirrels and chipmunks can climb. Keep the fencing up until plants become more mature and less appealing to wildlife.
- Thin fruit of deciduous trees such as apple, peach, plum and apricot. Pick marble-sized (or smaller) fruit off so that the fruit are spaced about 6 inches part.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize citrus (2nd of 3 annual feedings). For oranges, tangerines, and grapefruit, apply 1/3 of the total in January-February, 1/3 in March-April, and 1/3 in May-June. For lemons and limes, apply 1/3 of the total in January-February, 1/3 in March-April, and 1/3 in August-September. (Refer to Citrus Fertilization Chart AZ1671)

Watering

- Check and adjust irrigation frequencies for March-May as per Arizona Department of Water Resources Guide

Kestrel Kafe & Market Is For Sale

Donna Derosia has owned and operated Kestrel Kafe & Market for 29 years. This business is conveniently located on Sierrita Mtn. Rd.

The building was designed and constructed as a commercial building with a full commercial kitchen.

It is currently operating as a restaurant and market. In addition it has a Mailbox service that has 500 mailboxes. There is indoor and outdoor seating.

Donna would like to have someone from the community purchase the building and/or business so it will stay locally owned and not be swept up by a large corporation.

The business has many possibilities for expansion and has great potential for expanding services to our rural area.

For more information please call Christine Esala, Tierra Anigua Realty at (520)222-9310.

Feel free to stop by and take a look!!



Kestrel Kafe & Market

Fresh Baked Treats, Organic & Healthy Selections Galore

Real Ice Cream Shakes, Rattlesnake Shakes, Sundaes, Banana Splits, Smoothies, Salads, Wraps, Speciality Sandwiches, Burgers & so much more. Many Vegetarian Options

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We Will Buy Your Locally Grown Produce & Share It With Our Community

**Expanded Hours - Now Open until 7:30
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10390 S Sierrita Mtn Rd, - (520) 822-1714 Hours 8 am to 7:30 - 7 Days



We all know to call 911 in case of emergency. Yet did you the know the importance of calling 911 with something you may be concerned about?



If the Sheriff's Department does not hear from us, they think we do not need them. So if you are encountering anything that concerns you please call and report it.

A week ago, I was awakened by what sounded like gun fire. It scared me, yet because it was the middle of the night I did not call 911. I should have. If I had called and several other folks had called, the Sheriff's Department could have used our calls to triangulate where the shots could have been coming from.

We need the Sheriff's Department to know we need them out here. The more you report your concerns the more aware the Sheriff's Department will become.



Do We Want To Restart A Local AA Meeting?

Our Community had a local AA Meeting for many years. A few years ago this program stopped for lack of attendance.

This program took place at Serenity Baptist Church. Recently Patzi Hughes, church secretary, has received several questions about the availability of a local AA Meeting.

If there is interest in having a local AA Meeting it could be held at Serenity Baptist Church.

First, to measure how much interest there is in our community we would like those interested to email Patzi Hughes at patzi@serenitybaptist.church. Please included if you prefer a closed or open meeting. This email will be kept confidential and only used to gauge interest.

Once the level of interest has been determined the next steps to start a meeting in our community will be initiated.

Friday Night Hoops



Come join us every 1st Friday of the month starting October 6, 2023

5:00-7:00 p.m.

6th-12th grade – all skill levels

Learn new skills or improve the ones you already have!

3 vs 3

5 vs 5

Free Throw Contest

3 pt Contest

H.O.R.S.E.

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Call the center for more details 520-822-4408

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Three Points Fire District
11200 South Sierrita Mountain Road, PMB 328
Tucson, Arizona 85736
Phone: (520) 822-1086

Spring is Here

The Three Points Fire District wants to make sure everyone is aware that snakes are starting to move around. We have had several calls for removal.



If you encounter a reptile, and you want it removed please call 911. This is also the time of year people like to cleanup, so be careful moving objects that snakes can hide under.

The burn permits are still available, if you call are station at 520-822-1086 and schedule an appointment for us to come to you and issue a permit. This will close soon, so better hurry.

Also the bees will be moving and working, so be cautious of them.



Just a reminder we still have car seats, and smoke detectors available for free if you just call the number above.

Your Local Fire Department, Three Points Fire District



Deb Ardrey, RN, BSN, CDCES
Diabetic Education Specialist
520-407-5900 EXT 5861

Contact Deb to learn more about managing your Diabetes!



Free Appointment Transportation!

UCHC at Three Points



Celebrating 40 Years

Activities For A Preschooler

Ball Theme Alphabet Activity: Kick the Cup

<https://www.weareteachers.com/preschool-games-activities/>

This ball theme alphabet activity is fun way to practice identifying letter sounds while kicking a ball. Kids will love the chance to move and learn!

Educational Benefits:

While playing the Kick the Cup Alphabet Activity children will:

- identify letters by name
- identify letter sounds
- develop gross motor skills like balance and coordination

while kicking the ball

This activity is very easy to set up and do with your child. You only need a few simple materials that are easy to pick up at the store.

Materials Needed: Small ball, Plastic cups, Permanent Marker

Setting Up the Kick the Cup Alphabet Activity

1. Write a letter on each plastic cup with permanent marker. I actually wrote the lowercase letter on one side of the cup and the uppercase match on the other side. This way you can turn them around to work on both versions of each letter.



2. Line the cups up in a row on the floor.

Playing this Ball Theme Alphabet Activity

Your child stands facing the cups with the ball in front of him.

When instructed to kick, they will kick the ball towards the cups and usually knocked one or two of them over.

Have them go over to the cups that were knocked over and identified the letter on each cup and the sound each letter makes

ABC Car Parking Lot

This ABC car parking lot is the perfect letter recognition activity. What could be more fun than driving toy cars around and then parking them in the parking lot?

Create your lot with permanent marker and ruler. You could use the cardboard from a shipping box, a poster board, or cardstock paper for your parking lot. To begin make a small parking lot.

Use magnetic letter instead of writing the letters in the parking lot. Young children learn letters more quickly when they can touch and feel the shape of the letters. Touching and feeling the shape of letters helps children retain information in their long term memory.

If you have some little learners who need extra practice matching uppercase letters, then use the uppercase magnetic letters in your parking lot



Three Points Childcare Center/Preschool

Infants — Pre-K Scholarships

To eligible families with children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. (Not Yet Kindergarten)

A Limited Number of Scholarships Are Available

Early Care and education scholarships improve the access and affordability of high quality early care and education for low-income families with children birth through five.

Scholarships benefit children, families, the childcare industry and communities by offsetting the cost of quality care. Childcare scholarships are defined as payments to an early childhood provider, either center or family based child care, for the full or partial cost of care.

Contact person is Vanessa Nanez, Director
520-822-1745

Three Points Childcare Center/Preschool
15530 W Ajo, Tucson, AZ 85735



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 6, 2024

Trico Electric Cooperative Selected to Proceed Forward with Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Award of \$83.5M from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Trico was one of five cooperatives across the country selected by the USDA to move forward in the award process for the [Powering Affordable Clean Energy \(PACE\) program](#). Trico's application includes four renewable energy and battery energy storage projects designed to provide cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions for its Members in Southern Arizona. Trico's projects include the following:

Arivaca Rural Microgrid: A microgrid with 3MW of solar generation and 3MW/12MWh of battery storage capacity, designed to serve the load of approximately 620 residents in Arivaca. A microgrid is a power system that can be detached from the main electric grid either full time or for a specific event, like a power outage. This project is designed to use renewable energy and battery technology to improve reliability and resilience, especially during extreme weather events like monsoons.

Trico Standalone Battery Energy Storage System: This 10MW/40MWh battery storage system will help Trico manage its peaks and save Members money by charging the battery when solar energy is plentiful and prices are low and discharging energy during peaks when market prices are high. The project will be located on the northwest side of Trico's service territory where rapid growth is increasing demand

Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility II: A facility with 10MW of solar generation and 10MW/40MWh of battery storage capacity, designed to provide cost-effective and sustainable renewable energy for Trico Members. The project will be located near Trico's existing Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility in Marana, Arizona, and will be capable of powering about 2,500 homes.

Valencia Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility: A facility with 10MW of solar generation and 10MW/40MWh of battery storage capacity, designed to provide cost-effective and sustainable renewable energy for Trico Members, including the Pascua Yaqui Nation. The project will be located near Trico's Valencia Substation and will be capable of powering about 2,500 homes.

Trico expects to develop and build the PACE projects over the next five years working with regional partners and the community to locate the projects and maximize their effectiveness. Development work will start immediately.

"PACE is a big win for Trico Members and Southern Arizona and we are excited to be working with USDA and RUS," said Brian Heithoff, Trico CEO & General Manager. "The projects Trico is planning to build will provide cost-effective, sustainable energy solutions and benefit our Members for decades to come."

Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving nearly 50,000 Members in Marana, Corona de Tucson, Saddlebrooke, Mt. Lemmon, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Three Points, Star Valley and Arivaca. Trico is dedicated to making a difference in the communities we serve by providing our Members cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions. For more information about the cooperative, visit www.trico.coop or follow them on social media at facebook.com/TricoelectricAZ or instagram.com/TricoElectricAZ.

Trico Electric Cooperative Hosts USDA Under Secretary, Local and Statewide Representatives in Support of Trico's Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Award of \$83.5 Million.

Trico was one of five cooperatives across the country selected by the USDA to move forward in the award process for the [Powering Affordable Clean Energy \(PACE\) program](#). In support of Trico's \$83.5 million PACE award, Trico Staff and Board welcomed USDA Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden to Trico's headquarters in Marana on March 14, 2024. Trico provided a tour of their Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility to Under Secretary Gooden, USDA officials, and local and statewide representatives. Following the tour, Trico hosted a roundtable discussion regarding Trico's four clean energy PACE projects.

The following representatives were in attendance to demonstrate their support of Trico's vision to provide sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions to Trico Members for decades to come:

- Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden, USDA
- Jimmy Dahman, Senior Advisor Rural Development, USDA
- Charlene R. Fernandez, State Director Arizona State Office | Rural Development USDA
- Alesia Stanley, USDA AZ State Deputy Director
- CJ Karamargin, Senior Advisor to Rep. Juan Ciscomani
- Blaise Caudill, Office of Gov. Hobbs

- Ed Honea, Mayor of the Town of Marana
- Terry Rozema, Marana Town Manager
- Joe Snell, President & CEO, Sun Corridor
- Scott Leach, CCO, Torch Clean Energy
- Dave Lock, CEO, GCSECA

Trico expects to develop and build their PACE projects over the next five years in collaboration with Torch Clean Energy. Trico previously worked with Torch to successfully develop and build its Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility and Chirreon Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility.

"Torch is excited to continue our longstanding partnership with Trico to develop and construct these PACE projects," said Scott Leach. "Trico's vision to own and operate cost-effective, clean generation is a model for all rural cooperatives across the country and these next four projects will further promote them as a leader in the space."

Torch Clean Energy is a renewable energy and battery storage developer with extensive experience developing, permitting, designing, and building solar, wind, and battery energy storage projects. For more information about Torch, please visit www.torchcleanenergy.com.

Contact:

Roberta Lopez-Suter, APR
Manager, Marketing & Communications



February 29, 2024

Trico Electric Cooperative to Receive \$7M Grant for Clean Rural Microgrid Project in Arivaca

Trico is one of seven cooperatives across the country participating in a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) consortium that was selected to receive \$45 million in funding from the Department of Energy to build solar and battery microgrids in rural communities. The benefit is expected to be around \$7M to Trico Members, which Trico will use to build a solar generation and battery energy storage microgrid system in rural Southern Arizona.

To help provide reliable, cost-effective service to its Members, reduce the impacts of climate challenges, and advance clean energy in rural Arizona, Trico has developed the Clean Energy Rural Microgrid Project to serve Trico Members in Arivaca, AZ. The project will use solar generation and battery energy storage to provide increased electric reliability and sustainable energy to a traditionally disadvantaged community.


Arivaca is currently served by a single power line. Trico works hard to maintain that line and will continue to do so. This project will provide Trico with an additional means of serving our Arivaca Members and help improve reliability throughout the year, including monsoon season.

When not being used for reliability purposes, the microgrid project will provide energy and capacity for the Trico system and help Trico to reduce its loads at peak time periods. This will help reduce costs for all Trico Members and increase the amount of renewable energy on Trico's system.

"This is an excellent result for Trico's Members and southern Arizona," said Brian Heithoff, Trico CEO & General Manager. "We are excited about this opportunity to work with NRECA and the Department of Energy. They share Trico's commitment to innovation and service. This funding and our microgrid project will help us provide Members reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy solutions."

Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving nearly 50,000 Members in Marana, Corona de Tucson, Saddlebrooke, Mt. Lemmon, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Three Points, Star Valley and Arivaca. Trico is dedicated to making a difference in the communities we serve by providing our Members cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions. For more information about the cooperative, visit www.trico.coop or follow them on social media at facebook.com/TricoelectricAZ or instagram.com/TricoElectricAZ.

Contact:
Roberta Lopez-Suter, APR
Manager, Marketing & Communications



The air was warm and balmy, carrying that subtle current which caused the mild madness of spring fever. ~Zane Grey, *The Call of the Canyon*, 1921



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Church Information

Easter Is Sunday March 31st

Our Lady of The Desert Catholic Church

Open Range Pizza, off Sierrita Mtn Rd is currently serving as Our Lady of The Desert Catholic Church



Regular Mass Times
5:30 Saturday



If you are not plugged into a church somewhere and are looking for a church family, we would love to have you join us!

Worship service is on Sunday mornings at 11:00
Adult Bible study is on Wednesday evenings at 6:00
Youth Group on Wednesday evening from

6:00-7:30 where we enjoy food, singing, activities, and Bible study. Elementary through high school. Parents are welcome to join the youth or attend the adult Bible study.

Faith Baptist Church
11080 South Brandywine Lane
faithbaptistchurch-robles.com



Serenity Baptist Church

*By Patzi Hughes,
Ministry Assistant, Church Clerk*

Pastor Jerry is beginning a Sunday morning Bible study, for adults on April 7, 2024, 9-10 AM in the West Building.

Please join us and then meet with us for the main service at 10:30 AM in the Main Sanctuary for Pastor Jerry's new series, **Who Is Jesus.**

Kids Karpets time with Ms Cindy, Pastor Jerry's wife, is just before the offering. She has a special story each week and a "bag of goodies" for each child. The children go to the West bldg every other week for Kids World.

Youth Group is Wednesday night: 6:30-8:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary.

Office hours are M-F 9 am-1 pm. If you have questions or a need, please call 520-822-2026. Leave your name, phone # and a brief message and you will be called as quickly as possible.

Food Ministry

Thursday morning from 8-9:30 AM is our Food Ministry. (Except Holidays} This is a drive thru ministry. We prepare the boxes inside & deliver to the front of the parking lot.

We are blessed to receive this FREE food from Caring Ministries in Tucson. When we have dessert (which isn't every week), we make sure each box has a dessert. Could be cake, cookies, pie, turnover or something else until we run out of dessert.



We make boxes with the food we receive but not all boxes are the same.

Please come early as the food goes fast.

Serenity Baptist Church Is Live, Again!

Join Us For Sunday Service Every Sunday Morning!
We Will Go Live Starting At 10:30 AM!
Find Us On Facebook @ Serenity Baptist Church! Or
contact@serenitybaptist.church

The GROCH Team 

Jackie jackie@realestatetucsonaz.net
520-240-8844

Josh josh@realestatetucsonaz.net
520-867-0113

Jeremy jeremy@realestatetucsonaz.net
520-440-0986

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Sonoran Desert Natural Events Calendar



April

Average high: 80.5F (26.9C)

Average low: 50.1F (10.1C)

Relative humidity at 5 am: 42%

Relative humidity at 5 pm: 16%

Normal rainfall: .31 (7.9mm)

Dryness begins to settle on the desert, with just a few days of possible sprinkles. Spring weather arrives in the mountains, with days in the 60s (>15C) and only half the nights dropping below freezing.

Flora

The desert bean trees (legumes such as blue palo verdes, catclaw acacias, and mesquites) begin to open yellow to creamy blooms, and the cacti begin to bloom as well, with a few of the prickly pears, chollas, and hedgehogs starting off. By the end of the month, some saguaro cacti will open their big, white flowers. Brittlebush may still bloom; look for iron-cross blister beetle they are black, yellow and red with black cross patterns on their backs feeding on the brittlebush blossoms.

Fauna

Bird migration continues. Summers hawks, including Swainsons, zone-tailed and Black hawks, begin to arrive and get busy finding mates for the summer breeding season. In mountain canyons around Tucson many hummingbirds arrive and breed, including broad-billed, black-chinned and magnificent. White-winged doves also return and fill the late-spring air with the signature summer call, Who-cooks-for-you? As the days lengthen and warm up, reptiles become more visible to watch for rattlesnakes (although remember they can be out any month of the year). Desert iguanas, lesser earless lizards and western whiptail lizards begin breeding. Bobcats, coyotes and foxes are having litters. And butterfly activity picks up; look for great blue hairstreak, hackberry, skipper, blue, and queen butterflies.

Nature Watching Tips for April

A walk up Romero Canyon Trail in Catalina State Park may yield some late-spring wildflowers and good butterfly activity in late morning and throughout warm afternoons. Before the trail climbs the western slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains, it crosses through a mature mesquite bosque (Spanish for forest) where you can look for songbirds, hummingbirds, and white-winged doves. For information on the park, call (520) 628-5798. April is also a good time for people in the Phoenix area to look for warblers, flycatchers and Bullocks orioles in the Forest Service picnic areas on Bush Highway along the Salt River.

Visit the new Hub website



The Hub is a website with a valuable group of resources dedicated to serving our community.

The Hub will be growing and adding more information. Please keep checking back to see what is new.

If you have suggestions for the website please send them to friendsofroblesranch@gmail.com

GriefShare is a 13 week, faith based program for those who have lost a loved one.

GriefShare Sessions are on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11:30. They are held at Serenity Baptist Church, 15501 W Ajo Highway.

April & May Schedule Topics

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 6 | Grief & Your Household |
| April 13 | Grief & Your Friendships |
| April 20 | Questions for God |
| April 27 | Stuck in Grief |
| May 4 | Hope & Resilience |
| May 11 | What Do I Live For Now? |



April 2024

Dear Altar Valley Families,

I hope everyone had a great Spring Break and are ready to have an amazing last two months of school! Please be sure to check our website, Facebook, and Class Dojo to stay up to date on all that is going on.

Thank you to all of the Altar Valley Families who completed our schools' family surveys. Your input is important to us and we plan to use your feedback to continue to build, grow, flourish, and succeed.

Below are a few important dates for the month of April:

Spring Holiday: No School Monday April 1

Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA):
The AASA is the statewide achievement test for Arizona students

Altar Valley School District News

in Grades 3-8. We will begin testing April 2. Please check with your child's teachers for more information.

Family Fun Night: At AVSD we Build, Grow, Flourish, & Succeed! Join us at Altar Valley Middle School **Wednesday April 17, 5:30 – 7:00 pm** for our last Family Fun Night. Free Meals for the first 125 people.

Altar Valley Night of All-Stars: Save the Date May 16

Registration: Registrations is open for all new and returning students including Open Enrollment Students in grades PK-8.

Happy Spring!

Dr. Dave Dumon, Superintendent

Ted Walker Youth Day Review

Written by Robles 5th Grade Students
By Amanda V., Aliza B., and Camden P.

On Jan. 25, 2024, we went to Old Tucson for Ted Walker Days. One of the attractions we went to was the Iron Door Mine, another was Phoebe's candy store. We also watched the Annie Can Can-Can Show, it's a really funny play. There was a gun show where they shoot each other with fake guns, they also jump off buildings and they don't get hurt. It's very cool.

After that, we went to the gift shop and bought our stuff, then we went to lunch. We had to wait for the rest of the groups.

For lunch, we had ham and cheese sandwiches, vegetables with ranch, and fruit punch. After lunch we waited for the guy to call our school and then went on the buses. The bus ride back to school was super fun.

Overall, the field trip was very fun and historically educational because of the different booths that you can visit.

We think schools should attend this event because it was a very enjoyable and exciting experience for us. We are sure if you asked 3rd and 4th grade they would agree this was very enjoyable too. We are sure that younger grades will love this experience. We really hope our school continues to participate in this exciting and fun event.



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Dear Robles Elementary School Families,

As we usher in the month of April, I wanted to reach out to you with some important information regarding the upcoming Arizona's AASA testing for students in grades 3rd to 5th.

These assessments are crucial in providing insight into your child's academic progress and help us tailor our teaching methods to better support their growth. Not only is it meaningful for your students but the results of these assessments determine the letter grades that are assigned to schools.

The AASA testing will be conducted throughout the month of April, and it is essential that your child is adequately prepared. To ensure success, here are some suggestions on what parents can do at home to help their children on test day:

Establish a Consistent Routine: Encourage your child to establish a consistent study routine at home. A good night's sleep is crucial for optimal cognitive function and concentration during the exams. Then, get up early, so they do not have to rush in the morning to get to school, as this sets a tone for their day.

Encourage Healthy Habits: It is important that they are eating their breakfast, lunch, and dinner; they need that fuel for their brains. Here at school we will provide them with breakfast and lunch.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, our focus for English Language Arts has shifted from learning *how* to read into reading comprehension skills. Our students have taken on the challenge this year, learning to analyze point of view, identify main ideas, and understand text and graphic features in an informational text, among many other important skills. Students have also been learning how to write more complex sentences with colorful language and how to plan a paragraph. They are putting all of the reading and writing skills they've learned to the test through reading comprehension and writing.

In math, students have learned a wide variety of topics. This year, we learned about measurements, area, and perimeter. We also worked with multi-digit mathematical operations, including addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Students were introduced to long division, and then came back to geometry, where we learned to measure angles, identify lines, and classify triangles. We are deep into fractions, learning about finding equivalents, comparing the size of fractions, and performing mathematical operations with them.

In addition to Math and ELA, we are learning about lots of exciting topics in Science and Social Studies. For Science, we have learned about animal adaptations, energy and magnets, Earth's systems, natural disasters, the water cycle, and more. In Social Studies, we have learned about American history starting in prehistoric times. Students learned theories of how the earliest people reached the Americas, studied Native tribes, and learned about the Age of Exploration. We will finish the year out with the colonies, and leave the students prepared to learn about the American Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States in 5th grade.

This school year has flown by, and we are having a great time in fourth grade! We are excited to continue learning new skills and topics, and reviewing those that students have already learned as we near the end of our school year.

Stay Positive and Encouraging: Offer words of encouragement and support to your child throughout their preparation. Remind them that their best effort is what truly matters, and reassure them that you believe in their abilities.

Additionally, I want to remind you about the Arizona Move On When Reading Requirement. This initiative aims to ensure that all students are proficient in reading by the end of third grade. If your child is currently in third grade, they will complete the AASA Reading Fluency Assessment, in April. We will be notified of their results in early May, and will reach out if your child did not meet the requirement.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the AASA testing or the Move On When Reading Requirement, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or our school administration. Your partnership is invaluable in supporting your child's academic journey.

Thank you for your continued support, and together, we will ensure the success of all our students.

Warm regards,

Dustie Gunn-Ader, MAED; MBA, Principal, Robles Elementary School, Altar Valley School District

We're building something grand!



2024 STEM Summer School is in the works!

Who: Incoming Kindergarten to 8th graders

Where: AVMS Campus

When: Monday-Thursday starting June 3rd to June 27th

Registration opens
April 2nd!

Altar Valley School District News



Altar Valley Middle School

Message from Principal

Spring is in the air at Altar Valley Middle School, and along with it comes a flurry of activity as students gear up for the AASA State Testing. **Below are pictures of students and staff setting goals for the 4th quarter and beyond!**



As flowers bloom and temperatures rise, students find themselves not only setting goals and making plans but also confronting the looming challenge of standardized testing. For many, this brings forth a wave of stress and anxiety, but here at Altar Valley Middle School, students are not facing this challenge alone.

Teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that students are prepared for the upcoming state tests in a manner that is both comprehensive and meaningful. In addition to covering state standards in their regular curriculum, teachers have been dedicating time to review past standards, provide instruction on effective test-taking strategies, and familiarize students with the electronic tools available to them on the online testing platform.

Below are some quotes from our students reflecting on the upcoming AASA testing:

"Having teachers communicate with us (students) what we can do to improve over the weekend is beneficial" Matthew W. - Student

"We have a lot of time so you don't need to rush!" Nico B. - Student

"It is a big test and can be stressful but remember what you have learned and breathe." Hailey N. - Student

"Parents need to help us go to bed early so we get enough sleep." James P. - Student

"Teachers, remember to relax on the day(s) of the test(s). You have taught us what we need." Caidyn B. & *"Motivate us...cheer us on!"* Robert R. - both students

Recognizing the importance of holistic well-being in achieving academic success, the school has also been emphasizing the need for proper nutrition and sufficient sleep among students. Teachers have been encouraging students to prioritize self-care and balance in their lives, knowing that a healthy body and mind are essential for optimal performance.

Altar Valley Middle School has been fostering a culture of literacy and family engagement, with teachers urging students to read with their families and engage in discussions about their reading materials. This not only enriches students' learning experiences but also strengthens family bonds and support networks.

In recognition of the stress and anxiety that standardized testing can evoke, teachers have been providing students with strategies to manage and reduce these feelings. From mindfulness exercises to relaxation techniques, students are equipped with the tools they need to navigate the testing period with resilience and confidence.

"Stress is a big thing so parents talk about it with us." Edwardo G. - Student

"(Parents) Review with me and help me study." Alexandra B. - Student

"Relieve stress and anxiety by drinking water, taking a short walk, and using breathing techniques like counting on your fingers." Leylony P. - Student

"We (teachers) need to provide a conducive environment for testing" Mrs. Yap - Teacher

As an additional support, teachers will provide snacks to ensure that students are fueled and energized for their testing sessions. By addressing the physical, emotional, and academic needs of students, Altar Valley Middle School is working to create an environment where every student can thrive.

"When teachers provide snacks and drinks it helps me to refocus during a long test" Martin S. - Student

As Altar Valley Middle School gears up for the AASA State Testing, the school is extending an invitation to the community to join hands in supporting students and staff through our testing season.

The school is welcoming notes of encouragement from community members. These messages of support will be shared with students, providing them with a boost of motivation and positivity as they navigate through the testing period.

By rallying together as a community, Altar Valley Middle School aims to create an environment of support and encouragement, empowering students to excel. With spring in full swing and the AASA State Testing on the horizon, Altar Valley Middle School is not just preparing students for a test; they are nurturing their growth, resilience, and well-being every step of the way.

Shelly Camp, Altar Valley Middle School, Principal



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Storytime & Craft

We celebrated Read Across America Spirit Week at Robles Elementary by hosting our Story Time and Craft class! Our families joined us in reading *Brown Brown, Brown Bear, What do you see?* (Bill Martin Jr./Eric Carle 1967) in English and Spanish.

The parents and children learned about colors, animals, and practiced their fine motor skills during our craft time. They were able to take home their lacing cards to continue practicing and learning at home. They enjoyed their snack and played together before heading home.



Potty Training Today

Our families learned about the best practices for their journey to the no diaper life. We engaged in a discussion about what strategies they've tried, what has worked and what has not worked. Everyone was supportive of each other and encouraged each other throughout this potty training process.



Each family was able to take home a copy of *The First-Time Parent's Guide to Potty Training: How to Ditch Diapers Fast (and for Good!)* (Jazmine McCoy 2020), a bilingual children's book about the potty, their own toilet seat, and underwear for each child.

Family Resource Center

Partnering with parents to help children learn, grow, and thrive.

Free services for families with children ages 0-5.

Located at Robles Elementary School,
9875 South Sasabe Road, Tucson AZ 85736
Contact us at: lmessick@unitedwaytucson.org

Services include:

- Early literacy programs
- Parent/Caregiver & Child Activities
- Parenting workshops
- Parent support groups
- Referrals to community resources
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Learn More:



<https://uwt.org/FRC>



Check out the April activities and classes by scanning or visiting pimaparenting.org
Call Jeannette for more info 520.800.2002



**The Three Points General Store Hours Sunday thru
Thursday 6am to 9pm, Friday & Saturday 6am to 10pm
Ace Hardware Is Open Monday - Saturday 8am to 6pm
Sunday 9am - 5pm General Store 822-1071 Ace Hardware 822-1353**

Come check out our General Store and Hardware Store. Springtime is here. Ace is stocked up with garden soils, yard tools, etc. Time to get your yard and garden growing again.

Our staff is always ready to help you and answer all of your questions.

The General Store has the only liquor store around for almost 20 miles. We are well stocked and can special order those hard to find items. Just let a manager or supervisor know. We also carry all the basic groceries, frozen foods, cold beer, tobacco, snacks, drinks, ice, propane, and much more.

We're open everyday at 6:00 am, close at 9:00 pm Sunday through Thursday, and close at 10:00pm Friday & Saturday.

We would like to thank the community for it's continued business and support. We hope to see you soon.

Chris Boyer



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