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Yuma Sun

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YEAR IN REVIEW

'18 year of economic rebound for San Luis

Mayor Sanchez foresees better times ahead in 2019

BY CESAR NEYOY
BAJO EL SOL

SAN LUIS, Ariz. — 2018 saw the arrival of new businesses and an economic rebound in San Luis, fueled by a thriving housing market and demands by residents for consumer goods and services, the city's mayor said.

Looking back on the year just completed, Mayor Gerardo Sanchez said he believes San Luis

was able to strike a positive balance between business growth and City Hall spending on public infrastructure needs of residents.

Sanchez believes his and the city council's agenda for San Luis was validated by the results of the 2018 election season, which saw a crowded field of candidates compete for mayor and four council seats.

Facing three opponents in the

primary, Sanchez captured more than half the total vote cast, allowing him to reclaim his seat without having to compete in a runoff in the November general. Three incumbent council members and one other council candidate, all of whom had run with Sanchez as a bloc in the electoral campaign, likewise won automatic re-election in the primary, have also garnered more than

SEE SAN LUIS/A5



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PHOTO BY CESAR NEYOY/BAJO EL SOL

WORKERS INSTALL A new sign on the building occupied by the Piana textile company, an industry that is helping stimulate the economy of San Luis, Ariz.



A GREAT HERON hangs out Friday morning near a lettuce field in the Yuma Valley.



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PHOTOS BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN

A SMALL GROUP of ring-necked ducks paddle around the pond at West Wetlands Park.

FOWL PLAY

Nearby Colo. River spots to be named 'important bird areas' by National Audubon Society

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Six sites in or near the Yuma area will be declared by the National Audubon Society as "important bird areas" today, as part of the inaugural Yuma Bird, Nature and History Festival.

The locations are along the Colorado River between Yuma and Lake Havasu City, and highlight the need for migratory birds, along with humans, to have robust water supplies from the river, said Tice Supplee, bird conservation director for Arizona Audubon.

"The Colorado River is a really important migratory bird corridor, and also where an endangered bird that lives in the marshes, called the Yuma Ridgway's rail, breeds," she said.

"We're using the program to raise public awareness of (why) we need water for our natural areas ... That water is important for

us too, so keeping our rivers healthy and flowing not only guarantees us a water supply, which has gotten really important as of late, but it can provide homes for these birds, too," Supplee added.

The Southwest's continuing drought is expected to trigger a shortage on the river by 2020, which brings mandatory cutbacks in water deliveries.

Signage marking locations as IBAs, or "important bird areas," are being installed at:

- Cibola National Wildlife Refuge
- Imperial Reservoir
- Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
- Mittry Lake Wildlife Area
- Lower Colorado River Gadsden Riparian Area
- Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge

SEE FOWL/A5

San Luis R.C. mayor: Border crossing upgrade plans still in place

BY CESAR NEYOY
BAJO EL SOL

SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO, Son. — Plans to upgrade border crossing into this city remain on track, the mayor says, responding to local concerns that federal funds for the project have been slashed.

"The budget to begin the project is guaranteed as part of the resources promised by (Mexican) President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to the border region, of which 600 million pesos have been assigned to

San Luis (Rio Colorado)," Mayor Santos Gonzalez.

Gonzalez made his comments in response to an announcement by Sonora Gov. Claudia Pavlovich that said the federal budget for calendar year 2019 omitted funding for improvements to Mexican ports of entry on the border with Arizona.

In May, then-Mayor Enrique Reina unveiled a proposal for border crossing improvements to alleviate congestion that occurs during periods of heavy traffic flow from Yuma County

into the San Luis Rio Colorado.

The plan called for relocating the gate into Mexico farther west, allowing vehicles to cross from Archibald Street in San Luis, Ariz., to Morelos Street (Calle Morelos) in San Luis Rio Colorado. Automobiles would proceed south on Morelos, cross Obregon Avenue through an underpass, then continue on to Juarez, Hidalgo or Kino avenues in the downtown area.

At present, vehicles follow Archibald to Main

SEE CROSSING/A5



AN ARTIST'S DEPICTION OF the proposed new border gate at San Luis Rio Colorado designed to ease congestion in the city's downtown. San Luis Rio Colorado Mayor Santos Gonzalez says plans for the new crossing remain in place, notwithstanding cuts in Mexican federal government budget. LOANED ILLUSTRATION

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