

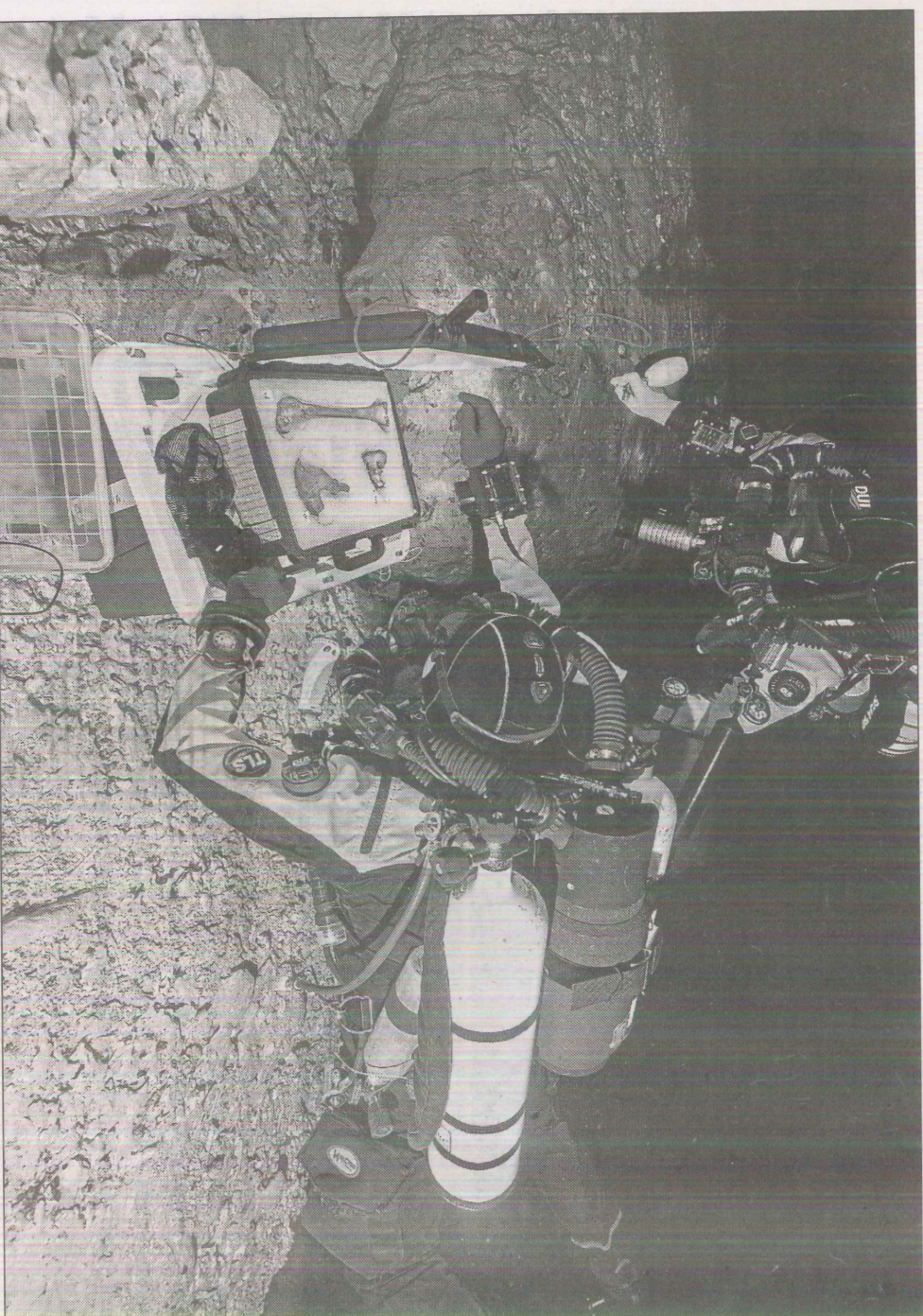
By Tom Leyde
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SALINAS » A project documenting the stories of students and former students covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals will be presented to the public Tuesday at the Western Stage of Hartnell College.

Faces of DACA was started last fall by Daniel Diaz, a 23-year-old Salinas software company em-

SCIENCE

Seaside diver in on historic find



Seaside resident Beto Nava was one of a team of divers that in 2007 discovered ancient remains of a teenage girl. That story is the subject of a NOVA episode airing on PBS.

COURTESY OF BETO NAVAL

Television episode to recount 2007 discovery

By Nicoletta Lanese
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SEASIDE » About 130 feet below sea level in an underwater cave on the Yucatan Peninsula, Seaside resident Alberto "Beto" Nava and a team of divers found the remains of a teenage girl. She would prove to be the oldest set of American remains yet discovered — a direct descendant of Central America's first residents.

Her story will be told in a NOVA special premiering on KQED at 9 p.m. Wednesday, called "First Face of America."

"At the beginning we didn't really know she was going to be such an important set of remains," said Nava, recalling the fateful find back in 2007. The team had found a near-complete skeleton, skull still intact, surrounded by the bones of about 40 ancient animals, including saber tooth tigers, giant sloths, cave bears and a mastodon.

"It was incredible — and a big responsibility," Nava said.

The team was affiliated with Global Underwater Explorers, a non-profit that unites scuba divers, conservationists and sci-

entificists to promote underwater exploration. They were working their way through the Sac Actun cave system and happened upon a 100-foot pit, now known as Hoyo Negro — or Black Hole.

Much of the Yucatan's extensive cave network has yet to be surveyed. "It's one of the few places where you can still explore without having a rocket," said Nava. Not knowing what they would find, he and the team discovered the remains of a 4-foot, 10-inch girl, estimated to be roughly 15 or 16 years old, preserved there for over 12,000 years.

The website is <http://www.facesofdaca.us/>. There you will find the portraits and stories of 21 Dreamers. They are students, employees and business owners. Diaz did all of the interviews himself.

Helping him with the project were Christopher Rendon, a recent UCLA graduate; Corina De La Torre and Mia Castillo.

Tuesday's Faces of DACA event

DREAMERS » PAGE 3

An anthropologist working with the team suggested naming the remains, and the group deemed her Naita in reference to the nymphs of Greek mythology that care for fresh waterways, Nava said. Naita is now kept at Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City in the most secure vault, alongside precious artifacts like the death mask of Mayan ruler Kinich Janaab Pakal I.

Since the find, researchers have studied Naita extensively. By analyzing her DNA, they traced her ancestral lineage to

northeast Asia. About 26,000 years ago, a "land bridge" connected Asia and the Americas, and ancient peoples made their way across it. Naita was the first skeleton with early American features that could be identified as an early descendant of those migrants.

The Global Underwater Explorers have continued to dive at Hoyo Negro and have cataloged the site for the last 10 years. Scuba is pretty much Nava's full-time career now. He spends four months a year in Mexico and the remaining months in Monterey as a scuba instructor.

Seeing him in this light, you might not guess he started out in computer science.

After a successful 15 years as a Bay Area engineer, Nava swapped software for scuba. For years, he had lived close to work and came to Seaside on the weekends to dive. "At some point, I decided to do the opposite," he said.

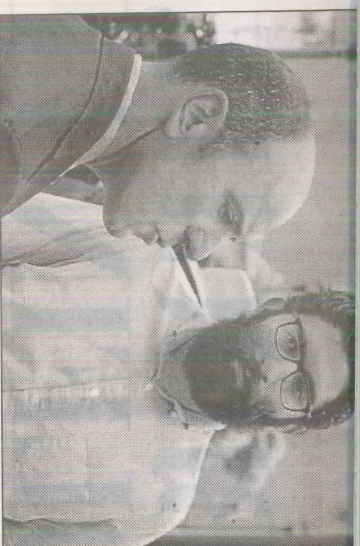
Nava moved to Seaside about nine years ago, and soon cut back on engineering to work with the Global Underwater Explorers. That said, Nava has found a unique way to merge his passion for diving with his original job. His current project is to create a detailed 3D model of Hoyo Negro.

"The researchers that we work with won't ever be able to go into the site," he explained. "So by making this 3D model, we bring the site to them."

Nava collects images of Hoyo Negro as he dives, then brings the data to UC San Diego, where his is a visiting scholar. The school's Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology (CISAA3) has a number of advanced tools for displaying 3D models of archaeological sites. One of these is known as the WAVE, essentially a tunnel-shaped virtual reality environment, as well as a spherical projection system you can walk into.

"You feel like you're back on the inside," said Nava, remarking on how closely the models resemble the real site. UC San Diego doctoral students are also building applications to make the models easily accessible to researchers in the field.

Though 10 years have passed since Naita was first discovered, the research surrounding her story has only gained momentum. "I give more and more time to it as I go," said Nava. He is looking forward to the premiere of "First Face of America" and more people engaging with Naita's story.



here with Congressman Jimmy Panetta. Diaz has built a website where Dreamers tell their own stories.

MONTEREY HERALD FILE

CITY MEETINGS

Pacific Grove to look at short-term rental lottery

Monterey to address city's water rights

By Carly Mayberry
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@CarlyMayberry on Twitter

PACIFIC GROVE » The question of whether or not a lottery will be incorporated into Pacific Grove's newly revised short-term rental ordinance and how exactly that lottery would work will be addressed at Wednesday's city council meeting. The lottery would serve to get the number of short-term rentals in the city down from 290 to 250, a requirement of its new short-term rental policy that was passed in late December on a 4-2 vote.

The revised ordinance included the adoption of a 55-foot zone of exclusion to address density problems and a cap of 250 short-term rentals citywide but the incorporation of a lottery system was eliminated.

The option to include a lottery would have ensured the allowance of only 15 percent of housing per block be dedicated to short-term rentals. But city officials hoped the number of license holders would drop enough through attrition rather than by using a lottery to eliminate some current license holders.

"I don't think there's any way to get the numbers down to what we promised — the 250 — without having a lottery," said Councilman Rudy Fischer. "Unfortunately, we have some blocks that are over-dense and I think we need to fix that for our residents."

Fischer, along with Councilman Bill Peake, voted against the ordinance that took effect on Jan. 20. Fischer said that at the time he didn't think it was complete enough and that city officials weren't as clear as they could have been during the November workshop addressing the possibility of incorporating a lottery system into it. During the special meeting, many short-term rental license holders expressed their opposition to the lottery.

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IF YOU GO

- What:** Monterey City Council meeting
- Where:** Council Chambers, 580 Pacific St., Monterey
- When:** Tues., Feb. 6 at 4 p.m.
- What:** Pacific Grove City Council meeting
- Where:** Council Chambers, 300 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove
- When:** Wed., Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.

Peripheral Artery Disease Rehabilitation Program

The 8-week Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) Rehabilitation Program is a supervised exercise and education program for people with leg pain caused by peripheral artery disease. It is designed to improve your walking ability, decrease leg pain, improve quality of life, and reduce risk factors for the disease.

INFORMATION: (831) 883-5660



Referral
A referral from a doctor is required to participate in the program. We can help obtain this.

Many health insurance plans reimburse for these services. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

Tyler
Heart Institute
Montage Health