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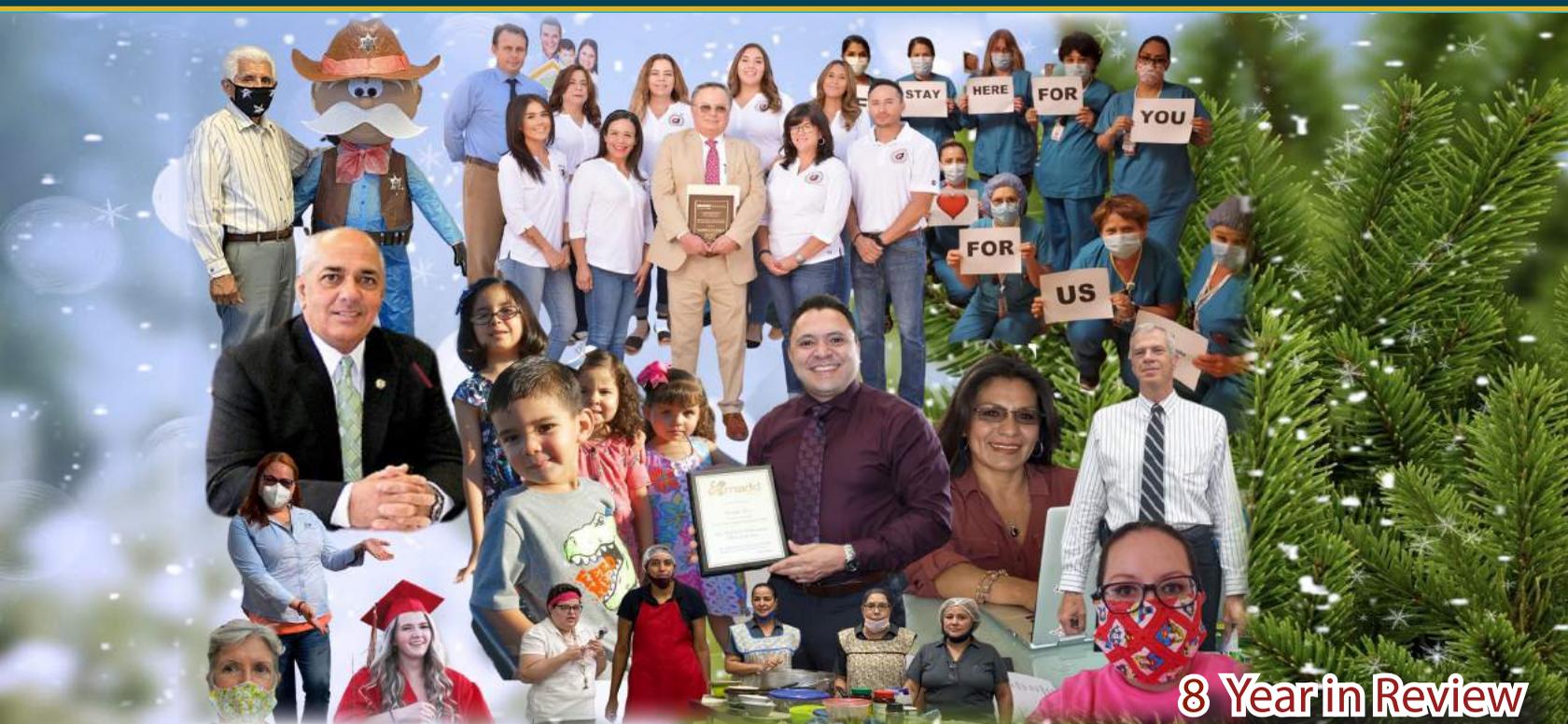
# eco

Happy New Year!



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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## *A Message from the Santa Cruz County Superintendent*

*New year is the glittering light to brighten the dream-lined  
pathway of future-Munia Khan*



**Alfredo I. Velásquez**  
**Santa Cruz County School Superintendent**

**&  
Staff**

**2150 N. Congress Dr. #107**

**Nogales, AZ 85621**

**Phone: 520.375.7940**

# Border Eco Updates

Dear customers:

On behalf of Border Eco, we wish to convey our greetings to all of our customers this holiday season as you are very important to us and a very key part of our organization. We are very grateful for your loyalty throughout the years, so we renew our commitment to you.

We are currently celebrating the end of the year holiday season, so we want to send our customers and their loved ones our best wishes, and hope they rediscover the magic of the holidays. We thank our customers for their continued support and we look forward to having your preference in the years to come.

Wishing you the best for the holidays! We are grateful for the continued support. We want to thank our customers for their support. Our mission is to change public perception of our border town.

"It is never too late to bring in change, that you want to see around you. Let the New Year be the forefront for introducing new ideas and new concepts to make the world a better and safer place for all of us."



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Border Eco Magazine now offers TV advertisement. Contact us for rates and channels to help promote your business in Santa Cruz County.

Our office is located on :  
1071 N. Grand Ave. Ste. #122,  
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(520) 461-4880

Email: [contact@bordereco.com](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)

Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.

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# 2020 Los Padres

## Home Visitation Program Graduation

The Los Padres Home Visitation Program, funded by First Things First, and operated by the Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent's Office of Alfredo I. Velasquez, celebrated their first graduation on November 13th. A class of eleven children completed the program and will be transitioning to Kindergarten next year. Collaborating agency representatives, including Jennifer Argyros, Director of the Family Resource Centers, Yara Castro, Director of Mariposa Community Health Center Visitation Program and Laura Monarquez, representing Wade Carpenter Middle School, helped congratulate the children and their families during the ceremony. The drive thru celebration took place in the parking lot of the Santa Cruz County Complex with County School Superintendent Mr. Velasquez presenting the diplomas to the children. The children also received gifts from their Parent Educators.

The "Los Padres" Home Visitation Program provides a hands-on approach to learning through parent-child interaction and teaches the importance of learning through play. Los Padres Parent Educators serve a minimum of 62 families in our community with various needs. All families with children ages 0-48 months are eligible to participate in the program in addition to teen parents, first time parents, grandparents raising grandchildren and court appointed legal guardians. It is important to note that the program is not income driven, which means that we enroll ALL families, regardless of income. Also, in attendance and representing the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office was Chief Deputy Chris Young and Accounting Specialist Pat Barraza. From the Los Padres Team Director, Gina Parra, and parent educators, Melissa Gallegos, Alma Feria, Ericka Mezquita, Ruth Plascencia and Paloma Barraza attended.

"Los Padres" staff and the Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent's Office welcome and encourage any enrollment inquiries or questions.

Please contact Georgina Parra at [gparra@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:gparra@santacruzcountyaz.gov) or at 520.375.7951 for additional information



# Promoting Healthy Students Initiative (PHSI)

Alfredo I. Velásquez, Santa Cruz County Superintendent, is proud to announce a new grant funding recently awarded to his office. The proposal entitled “Promoting Healthy Students Initiative” was approved by the United States Department of Justice under the Bureau of Justice Affairs: STOP School Violence Program. The project will receive approximately \$670,000 over the next three years.

The grant will provide school- based resources to support families and students in the county. This three-year initiative seeks to prevent violence in the community by implementing school- wide programs that will raise awareness through training and proactive measures. In addition, PHSI seeks to institute positive learning environments, while providing small group and individualized services. The project will also create partnerships with community-based agencies and local law enforcement in a coordinated effort to reduce incidences of violence in the county.

With the unique challenges created by the pandemic and distance learning, Promoting Healthy Students will work diligently to address the needs of our county students. Their overall health and well-being will be of upmost importance as the program moves forward.

For more information on the program, contact Teresa A. Sprigg at [tsprigg@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:tsprigg@santacruzcountyaz.gov) or at (520) 375-7952.





## Santa Cruz Training Program

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**Happy New Year!**



**Making Connections 4U**



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**Free Community**

**Resource Guide at:**

[www.makingconnections4u.org](http://www.makingconnections4u.org)



Follow us on Facebook @

**Santa Cruz Community Action Coalition.**

**(520)216-5058**

# Year in Review

## Person of the Year

Congratulations to Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, he was selected for our editorial for people who “echo” of the year in Santa Cruz County. In October of last year, he was awarded by the Southern Arizona Association for the Educator of Young Children Award (SAZAEYC) for his work in strengthening connections between families, educators, and the community. He has a passion to provide every student the opportunity to succeed academically while preparing them for the challenges and opportunities life brings. Alfredo is a pioneer of education who brings passion and dedication to everything he does throughout his career. We appreciate your dedication to our students.



Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez dedicated to our students

## Organization of the Year

Congratulations Community Food Bank in Nogales for being selected as the organization of the year! Last year, your organization hosted along with the government and private sector food drives to help residents across Santa Cruz County struggling financially. The Community Food Bank in Nogales adjusted their hours of operation and put new procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Your organization has also implemented important safety measures for food distribution. You are and will continue to be our “silent heroes.” We deeply appreciate everything you have done for our community throughout this past year.



Community Food Bank Staff in Nogales our silent heroes

## Event of the Year

Congratulations to our schools, school staff, and teachers for being selected as having hosted the most memorable event of the year school graduations! The heartache could be felt across Santa Cruz County as the Class of 2020, would not have an opportunity to experience a graduation ceremony like previous generations. Never did they imagine their graduation ceremony would have to be a virtual or graduation parades. Graduates this past year, learned they would not be able to hug their classmates, teachers, or family members who traditionally cheer them from the stands as they receive their diplomas.



Instead, Santa Cruz County schools across the county had to think of creative ways to celebrate graduations where only the graduates and a few family members were allowed to attend the graduation. Some family members had to stay in their vehicles or stand by their vehicles. Memories of the years flowed with tears and cheers for the graduates, as their families and school staff celebrated the Class of 2020! It was a bitter-sweet experience, as no hugs or shake hands were allowed but this did not keep those in attendance from cheering the graduates, which made up for the lack of touch. Thank you for going above and beyond to teach and still stay connected with students! School staff, and teachers proved to be the true heroes throughout this pandemic. You showed us how valuable you all are to our community!



# Challenging Times

The Santa Cruz Training Program has been through some challenging times this past year. The pandemic has made it difficult for them to keep up with their regular program activities.

“This past year has been a difficult one. We never imagined we would be living through a pandemic. Everything about 2020 has been a challenge but nothing we haven’t been able to overcome” said Marina Gallahouse Program Director.

The Santa Cruz Training Programs are a non-profit organization that has been providing educational, rehabilitative services, and vocational training for more than 50 years in Santa Cruz County. They have been providing educational programs for children and adults with disabilities. They encourage them to join in and contribute to the community. The Santa Cruz Training Program prepares its clients to integrate into the community as good citizens who are responsible and productive.



La Castellana Cafe and Nayo’s Nursery are two work training programs that provide clients with an opportunity to learn skills. These programs help to teach members the skills they can use in the work field.

La Castellana Cafe serves the community breakfast, lunch, and pastries. Members have an opportunity to practice their cooking, serving, and salesmanship. Nayo’s Nursery is a nursery and greenhouse, where members train to care for plants and all the work involved in growing, weeding, and planting.

“Our key efforts have been to provide training to our members and guidance to families. We are teaching our members how to use community services while providing relief and support in their homes,” she said. “In mid-March, our client’s families elected to keep their sons and daughter’s home while everyone got informed and educated regarding this new pandemic. During this time, we have had a few scares where employees and clients have been in contact or actually contracted COVID-19. Thank God, we did not lose anyone, and we are being very careful in trying to keep our clients and employees safe.”

Some of our clients have been able to transition to work in the community. We prepare our clients to integrate into the community as responsible, productive citizens of Santa Cruz County. We prepare our clients, so they have an opportunity to succeed. “In April, we started inviting clients to participate in activities virtually or to come back to the employment services. Slowly over these past 9 months, some of the clients have started to come back to work again, so we have meals, cookies and the nursery open. Selling meals, cookies, tamales, turnovers, and plants from our nursery help to support these programs in our community. We are always grateful for the support from the community. We are taking holiday orders,” said Marina Galhouse Program Director.

**For more information call the STCP at: (520) 287-2043 ext. 21 & 22.**



# Arizona Thespians Teacher of the Year Award

RRHS teacher and Hawk Theatre Director Joseph Ellison has been awarded the Arizona Thespians Teacher of the Year Award for the south region, which includes Tucson all the way south to Nogales.

Ellison was notified via email by Steve Abaroa of the Arizona Thespians Executive Board. "This award is given annually to a teacher that demonstrates exceptional courage and devotion to the Performing Arts Program at a school. It is a prestigious honor that recognizes the best of the best within our ranks."

The award is typically presented at the annual State Thespian Festival, which was canceled for 2020. Although disappointed he would not be able to accept the award in person, Ellison expressed his gratitude for being recognized. "Words cannot express the pride I feel for receiving this award. I owe so much to my students and this award is a reflection on their hard work just as much as mine. Theatre is a collaboration of heart and soul and my students show that with trust and hard work you can truly bring out creation in any circumstance."

Ellison has directed the Hawk Theatre Company for the past four years, his second year under principal Hector Estrada. Estrada spoke highly of Ellison's achievement, "What a tremendous accomplishment and recognition. Both you and your students deserve this as you all epitomize the district mantra, #SCV35AboveTheBar with the attitude of "The Show Must Go On!" Story by Shannon Enciso-Communications Specialist/Santa Cruz Valley USD No. 35

Mr. Ellison was recently interviewed and can be viewed on #SCV35AboveTheBar on the SCV35 Communications YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/NqkGR6IVs8E>



Photo contributed by the Hawk Theatre Company



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&

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**Jennifer Sandoval-Voter/Recorder Clerk**



**Patty Garcia- Office Manager**  
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**Marina Silva- Voter Clerk**

2150 N Congress Drive Suite 101  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
Phone: (520) 375-7990

"Thankfulness creates gratitude which generates contentment, That causes peace!"

# Honored for Outstanding Leadership

*Santa Cruz County Supervisor Rudy Molera completed a successful year of service as he ended his term as President of the County Supervisors Association (CSA) at the organization's Board of Directors meeting in Phoenix on November 19, 2020.*

*"I have been deeply honored to serve as president of this outstanding organization over the past year," Supervisor Molera said. "This has been an incredibly challenging time for all of Arizona, and I have been so proud to see how counties have worked so hard to protect public health during a pandemic while keeping basic government services operational. One of the beautiful things about CSA is that it really creates a place for us as supervisors to work together to tackle whatever confronts us. And, it has been my privilege to work on behalf of my colleague supervisors to strengthen the partnership among counties as well as with state and federal leaders in order to better serve Arizonans."*



*Incoming CSA President and Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo praised Supervisor Molera for his leadership and commitment to strengthening the organization. He said, "This has been an enormously challenging year, and I want to thank Rudy for his outstanding service. Dealing with the pandemic has been devastating in our communities, and it has been critical for county supervisors across the state to work together in order to support our constituents. Rudy has shown great leadership, made sure everyone stayed involved and had their voices heard, and made sure that critical issues were addressed." During his term as CSA President, Supervisor Molera led conversations among county officials regarding regional strategies to support economic development, broadband deployment, and to address mental health issues in the community, among other policy topics. He also advocated before the state legislature regarding the importance of investing in transportation infrastructure as well as other policies important to improving constituent services and controlling the costs of state mandates.*

**Story by Shannon Enciso-  
Communications Specialist  
Santa Cruz Valley USD No. 35**

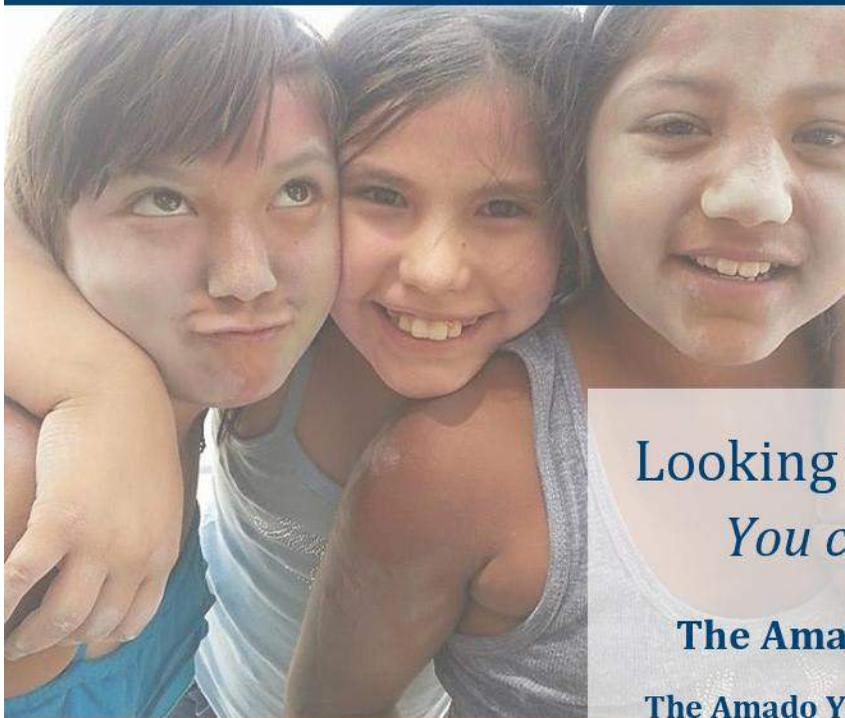
*Following the onset of the pandemic, Supervisor Molera worked diligently to make sure that critical lines of communication remained open. He convened regular meetings of county supervisors and professional staff to share information and strategies, advocated for on-going communications between local county officials and state and federal leaders, and helped to empower the local response to the pandemic.*

*CSA Executive Director, Craig Sullivan shared, "Supervisor Molera is an outstanding public servant, and I am deeply grateful for his leadership. He really worked tirelessly over the past year to serve his colleagues, and he made CSA a stronger, more effective organization."*

*CSA is an intergovernmental partnership of Arizona's 15 counties. All 61 supervisors in the state serve on CSA's Board of Directors. The association serves as a forum for county leaders to address important issues facing local constituents and to create a state and federal policy agenda.*



# We're Almost There!



Looking to make a real difference?  
*You can help us build futures.*

## The Amado Youth Center Building Fund

The Amado Youth Center (AYC) was the only safe after school space in town. It successfully served hundreds of youth, many of whom went on to higher education and skilled careers.

Then the flash flood swept all of that away.

Amado is a high poverty rural area lacking many employment opportunities. The community has precious few resources.

Yet, the residents of Amado have stepped up with community members, organizations, and churches helping to house the AYC youth programs and activities.

But they too have limited resources.

We are so close to our goal with the Building Fund. We've raised nearly \$360,000 of our \$465,000 goal.

Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue *building futures* for our youth in a new Amado Youth Center building.

**Donate @ [www.ppep.org](http://www.ppep.org) | Click Donate | Select: Amado Youth Center Building Fund**

**Information or Assistance: Amy Bass | 520-360-5282**



The Amado Community Alliance is supported in part by the US SAMHSA Partnership for Success Grant, the AZ Governor's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Pima County Community Development Block Grant and Department of Tourism and Economic Development through Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP). The Amado Chili Cook-off Randy and Rose Estes Classic Car and Motorcycle Show raises funds to build the Amado Youth Center and Support the Amado Youth Alliance.

Contact Tony Bruno at (520) 310-7712 or (en Español) Lorelin Ahumada (520) 909-1146

# Mayor's Corner

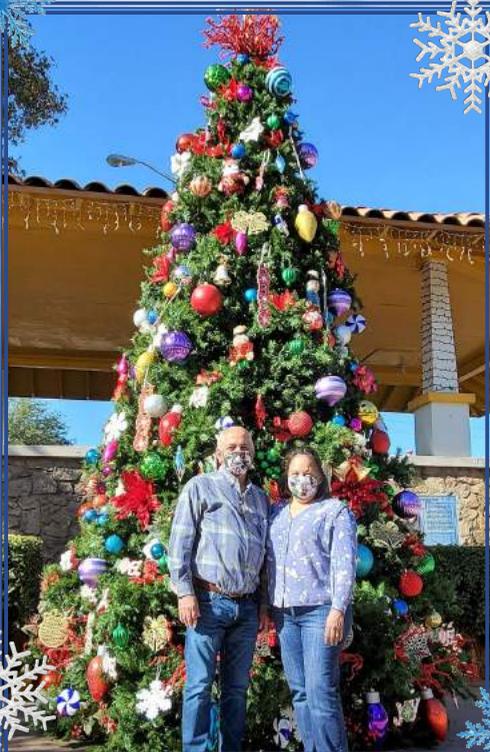
*"A New Year is like a sunrise... of Hope, of Prosperity, of Happiness; It's like a new beginning... of Thoughts, of Words, of Actions; It's like a new day... of Energy, of Strength, of ideas; It's like a bunch of new things... of Prayers, of Friends, of Love!" – Anonymous*

*As the New Year begins, we reflect on the tremendous good will found throughout our community. The thoughtfulness and compassion of so many in and around Nogales has been wonderful. Great people make a great community and Nogales is a shining example.*

*2020 was a very challenging year, but despite our challenges we have sought to create the kind of city we desire to live in, play in, work in, and visit. Nogales is a strong city, we are a compassionate city and despite some setbacks with the ongoing pandemic, I feel positive that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.*

*Great communities are built and maintained on hometown pride and spirit that fosters volunteerism and community contributions. When people feel connected to something good that they believe in, they engage in it, invest in it, thrive in it, nurture it, contribute to it, protect it, and encourage its growth. That is what we have built here together in Nogales. With your continued support, and our clear 2021 vision, we will continue to build a safe and welcoming community for everyone.*

*I hope that this New Year brings more prosperity to the families and friends of Nogales and that it be full of more happiness, love, hope, healing, and peace. Please continue to do your part to help flatten the COVID curve. If we all continue to wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and avoid large gatherings, we are ensuring our family and loved ones stay safe.*



*Thanks to Vice-Mayor Esther Melendez Lopez, City of Nogales Parks & Rec, Public Works and Administrative staff, the Christmas tree at Nasib Karam Park was decorated and is on display for all to enjoy.*

# Happy New Year

## A message from the Santa Cruz Sheriff

Thank you to my family, law enforcement family, and supporters for their vote of confidence!  
I deeply appreciate the support you have granted me these past 28 years of service!

TONY ESTRADA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER



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Phone: (520) 761-7869

# *Happy New Year*

**The Santa Cruz County Attorney  
reminds you to stay safe this  
holiday season**

**DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!**

**You have the power!**



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