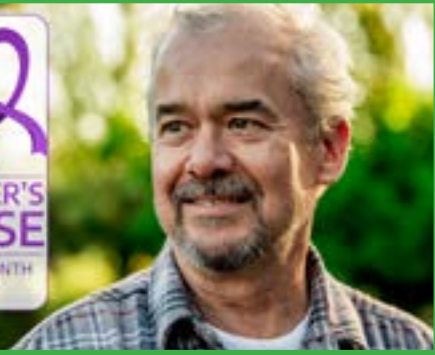


BORDER

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5 Facing Alzheimer's: A Journey of Personal and Community Responsibility

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA

POLICE STATION

City Hall/Police Department opened circa 1979



**7. Nogales Police Department:
Building Trust & Enhancing Public Safety Together**

SCAN ME



Happy Thanksgiving!



10 Rio Rico Insights:
Young Artists Steal the Show



12 Let's Talk Health:
Diabetes Awareness Month



15 Sheriff's November Round-Up

*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent*



Happy Thanksgiving

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life."

Maya Donnelly
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent
&
Staff

21 E. Court St.
Nogales, AZ 85621
Phone: 520.375.7940



Border Eco Updates

Thank you to our Border Eco Magazine readers!

As we reflect on Thanksgiving, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your loyalty and engagement mean the world to us, and we're honored to have you as part of our community. Your enthusiasm and encouragement fuel our passion for producing valuable and engaging content that resonates with you.

We're thankful for your constant presence throughout the year and grateful for your trust. Your readership is the backbone of our success, and we are committed to delivering high-quality content that caters to your interests.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our esteemed readers and customers for their unwavering support. It is through your continued support that we can provide you with vital information regarding the remarkable individuals, noteworthy events, and influential organizations that shape our community.

Border Eco Magazine aims to foster connections within Santa Cruz County. This unique border town is rich in culture and has cherished traditions. Supporting our community is our mission. As an organization deeply rooted in Santa Cruz County, we recognize the importance of nurturing relationships and preserving the unique culture and customs that make this town special.

We strive to create a platform where individuals can share ideas and collaborate on initiatives. This will positively impact our residents. By providing a space for community events, meetings, and conferences, we aim to facilitate meaningful conversations and empower individuals to make a difference.

Join us on this journey and become part of Santa Cruz County's vibrant tapestry.

Thank you for being a valuable part of our community. We're excited to embark on this journey together and look forward to bringing you even more valuable content in the future.

With deepest appreciation,



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

CONTENT

- 4 Gear-Up Thrive Fest 2025
- 5 Facing Alzheimer's: A Journey of Personal and Community Responsibility
- 6 People who "echo" Chief Carlos Jimenez:
- 7 Nogales PD: Building Trust and Enhancing Public Safety Together
- 10 Rio Rico Insights-Young Artists Steals the Show
- 11 Rio Rico Insights-Riding High
- 12 Happy Thanksgiving!-Sheriff's Round-Up
- 13 Let's Talk Health-Diabetes Awareness Month
- 14 Sheriff's Round-Up October
- 15 Sheriff's Round-Up October



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Facing Alzheimer's: A Journey of Personal and Community Responsibility

As we observe November's Alzheimer's Awareness Month, many of us are reminded of the devastating impact this disease has on individuals, families, and communities. Having witnessed the heartbreaking effects of Alzheimer's on loved ones, we know that finding a cure is not just a medical necessity, but a personal and collective imperative. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that robs individuals of their memories, identities, and relationships. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, with over 6 million Americans living with the disease. The emotional toll on families is immeasurable, as they watch their loved ones struggle to recall cherished moments, recognize familiar faces, and maintain their independence.

The importance of finding a cure for Alzheimer's cannot be overstated. Research has shown that early detection and diagnosis can significantly improve the quality of life for those affected. Medications and therapies can help manage symptoms, while lifestyle changes such as regular exercise, social engagement, and cognitive stimulation can potentially slow disease progression.

So, what can we do to reduce our risk of developing Alzheimer's? While there is no guaranteed formula for prevention, research suggests that a healthy lifestyle can play a significant role. Here are some recommendations:

- Stay physically active through regular exercise
- Engage in mentally stimulating activities, such as reading, puzzles, or learning a new skill
- Maintain social connections and build strong relationships
- Manage chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease
- Get enough sleep and prioritize stress management
- Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains

Early detection is also crucial in the fight against Alzheimer's. By recognizing warning signs, such as memory loss, confusion, and difficulty with communication, individuals can seek medical attention and potentially slow the progression of the disease. Healthcare professionals can use a combination of medical history, physical examination, and cognitive tests to diagnose Alzheimer's.

As we raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease this November, let us also acknowledge the resilience and courage of those affected. Let us honor the memories of those who have passed away from this devastating disease and support those who are currently battling it. Together, we can make a difference by advocating for research funding, promoting education and awareness, and supporting those affected by Alzheimer's.

By working together, we can accelerate the search for a cure and improve the lives of millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer's disease. Will you join the fight against Alzheimer's and help us create a world where this disease is a distant memory?



Building Bridges: Police Chief Jimenez's Approach to Nogales Partnerships

Nogales Police Department Chief of Police Carlos Jimenez views community partnerships as more than just a duty, they're an integral part of who he is. Born and raised in town, Jimenez attended local schools and graduated from Nogales High School in 1982. After serving in the United States Navy, he began his career with the Nogales Police Department as a Police-Aide in 1986. With nearly 39 years of service, Jimenez's dedication to the community is evident in every aspect of his work. Outside of his professional duties, Chief Jimenez is a grateful husband and proud father.

"Integrity is the paramount quality to have when pursuing a career in law enforcement," Jimenez emphasizes. "It's the foundation that one can build from, and all other important qualities are strengthened by this." With a strong educational background and years of experience, Jimenez has risen through the ranks, serving in various capacities and assignments that have given him a unique perspective on innovation and tradition.

Under Jimenez's leadership, the Nogales Police Department has prioritized community outreach and engagement. "Building and fostering trust and cooperation with the community is essential to being effective," he stresses. The department has increased its community outreach efforts, expanded its social media platforms, and implemented initiatives that focus on community engagement, youth programs, and mental health support.

The department's ultimate goal is to ensure that every member of the Nogales community feels heard, valued, and protected. To achieve this, Jimenez places a strong emphasis on professional development and employee wellness, recognizing that well-trained officers and professional staff are crucial to effective public service.

The department is committed to transparency and accountability, with a system of supervision that includes annual performance evaluations and regular audits. The body-worn cameras program is currently in its final stage of full implementation, ensuring transparency and professionalism.

Reflecting on his career, Jimenez recounted a poignant moment that underscores the weight of his role. "One of the most challenging aspects of my job has been notifying families when their loved ones have passed away," he shared. "It's one thing to inform families that someone died in an accident; it's even harder to tell parents that their child has died. It's a burden that no one should have to bear, but it's a responsibility I take very seriously."

Despite the challenges of recruitment and retention, Jimenez and the department remain committed to providing the best service to the community. "We will continue to grow and enhance our customer service, identify and improve our deficiencies, and establish a foundation of trust through transparency," he affirms.

As the Nogales Police Department looks to the future, its focus remains on building a safer and more connected community where all residents feel their voices are heard and their concerns matter. With Chief Jimenez at the helm, the department is poised to achieve great things, one community partnership at a time.

"We are your police department, and we ensure that we serve in all capacities as best as we can, because it is our duly sworn duty to do so," Jimenez concludes.



NPD: Building Trust and Enhancing Public Safety Together

Border Eco Magazine recently had the privilege of sitting down with the Nogales Police Department to discuss their vital community partnership. As we explored the department's relationship with the community, it became clear that their commitment to building trust and fostering cooperation is the backbone of their efforts.

With a rich history dating back to the city's incorporation in 1893, the Nogales Police Department has undergone significant transformations over the years. From its humble beginnings with a Town Marshal overseeing a small police force in the original City Hall, built in 1914, to its current operations in a facility built in 1979, the department has grown and evolved to meet the needs of its community. "Today, the Nogales Police Department remains dedicated to serving and protecting our residents, working tirelessly to create a safer and more connected community," said Chief of Police Carlos Jimenez.

The Nogales Police Department strives to enhance the quality of life for its citizens. They achieve this by enforcing federal, state, and local laws while maintaining public order and peace. They prioritize public safety, community engagement, and upholding constitutional rights. By prioritizing community needs, the department addresses immediate threats and emergencies. It investigates crimes, maintains police visibility, and fosters community outreach.

At the heart of the department's mission is community policing, which promotes partnerships and problem-solving to address community concerns. Some notable initiatives include:

- School Resource Officers
- DARE Program
- Community outreach programs like Coffee with a Cop, Nogales National Night Out, Operation Trunk-n-Treat, and the Citizens Academy
- Opt-in applications and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), Rave Alerts, and the City Website Contact us Form (nogalespolice911@nogalesaz.gov)

The department takes pride in its transparent and thorough filing and complaint process. Residents can submit reports in person, by phone, or online, and every complaint against police officers is fully investigated.

The Nogales Police Department is dedicated to crime prevention and building strong relationships with residents, business owners, and community stakeholders. By obtaining funding through federal and state grants, the department implements improved traffic safety measures and uses technology to identify problem areas, allowing for more effective resource deployment.

"We recognize the challenges we face," says Chief of Police Carlos Jimenez. "One of our biggest challenges has been keeping officers. Not everyone is cut out for this job. We have officers that sometimes will change careers as our salaries aren't as competitive but some do recognize that here we are a family where we know each other well and we help each other grow professionally."

When recruiting new officers, the department seeks individuals with strong moral character, effective communication skills, sound judgment, emotional intelligence, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment to community service. The hiring process is rigorous, involving a written exam, a physical fitness assessment, a structured interview process, and a thorough background check. Once selected, recruits attend a 24-week police academy, followed by a four- to six-month field training program.

The department's commitment to public safety and education is evident in its various initiatives. These initiatives include School Resource Officers, DARE Officers, Coffee with a Cop, Citizen Academy, and other special events that engage the community.

For those interested in staying informed about department activities and public safety information, the Nogales Police Department provides updates through traditional local and social media outlets. In addition, it provides updates through social media platforms and the RAVE Alerts system.

Through its community outreach programs and initiatives, the Nogales Police Department demonstrates its dedication to building trust and fostering a safer, more connected community. By working together, the department and the community can create a brighter future for Nogales.



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Rio Rico Insights

"Young Artist Steals the Show: Victoria Soto's Charcoal Cat Wows Judges at SCC Fair"

In a heartwarming display of creativity and talent, Victoria Soto from Mountain View Elementary School has been recognized for her outstanding artwork. This is a captivating charcoal drawing of a cat that earned her the Best of Show award in the 3-5 division at the SCC Fair.

Victoria's artistic prowess has impressed her peers, educators and district administrators. Her art teacher, Mr. Mark Dittmar, praised her exceptional talent and dedication to her craft, emphasizing the work that went into creating this masterpiece.

Superintendent Verdugo and SCV35 Governing Board members were delighted to acknowledge Victoria's accomplishment. They provided her with the opportunity to present her artwork and trophy to the district administration and board. In addition to celebrating Victoria's artistic abilities, Mountain View Elementary School's commitment to fostering creativity and excellence in its students is also reflected positively by this recognition.

It's inspiring to see young artists like Victoria Soto shine, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for her. Congratulations to Victoria and her team on this well-deserved recognition!

Similar Artistic Achievements:

Artsonia's Artwork Recognition: Some schools recognized for publishing thousands of artworks include Mountain View Elementary School, showcasing the district's emphasis on art education.

School Awards: Mountain View Elementary School's achievements mirror those of other notable schools, such as Birch Tree Elementary School and Willow Springs Elementary School, which have also earned awards for their artistic endeavors.



Rio Rico Insights



Rio Rico Insights

Rio Rico Insights

"Riding High: Coatimundi Middle School Cavaliers Gallop to Victory"

In a dazzling display of creativity and teamwork, a group of talented students from Coatimundi Middle School recently received top honors at the Santa Cruz County Fair. They brought home the coveted Best In Show award for their collaborative masterpiece, a stunning painting of a Cavalier on horseback that left judges and attendees in awe.

Artists were celebrated at a special recognition ceremony during the SCV35 Governing Board meeting. Superintendent Verdugo and board members shower them with praise and encouragement. Principal Rebekah Cabrera and art teacher Tom Mellrath were on hand to bask in their students' success. This highlighted the exceptional talent and dedication of Coatimundi Middle School.

What made this moment truly special, however, was the students' willingness to share their creative journeys with board members and district administrators. Each student who attended the meeting took center stage, proudly showcasing their personal art pieces and sharing their favorite moments from the project. Their confidence and passion were palpable as they explained what made this experience so meaningful, from brainstorming ideas to bringing their collective vision to life on canvas.

The Best In Show painting is more than just a work of art; it's a testament to collaboration, creativity, and mentorship. Under Mr. Mellrath's guidance, these young artists acquired valuable skills that will serve them well beyond the art room, including teamwork, problem-solving, and self-expression.

As the students walked away with their well-deserved recognition, it was clear that this experience would stay with them for a lifetime. Their achievement is a shining example of what can be accomplished when talent and dedication come together. We can't wait to see what the future holds for these talented young Cavaliers.



Rio Rico Insights



Rio Rico Insights



Rio Rico Insights



Rio Rico Insights



Follow us on YouTube for the latest community videos.



Celebration
**Happy
Thanksgiving**

"May the blessings of Thanksgiving fill your heart and home with joy."



www.santacruzsheriff.org
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
2170 N. Congress Dr.
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LET'S TALK HEALTH

November is Diabetes Awareness Month – a time to shine a light on a condition that affects millions of people across the country, including many in the Hispanic community. Diabetes is more than just a medical diagnosis; it's a lifelong journey that touches families, traditions, and the way we live day to day.

As per the American Diabetic association 11% of the Hispanic adults are with Type 2 diabetes. Many factors play a role from genetics and diet to limited access to healthcare and preventive screenings. But beyond the statistics are real people: mothers, fathers, grandparents, and children who are living with or are at risk of diabetes.

Mexican food—especially here in our area—includes many healthy staples such as corn, beans, peppers, tomatoes, chilies, avocado, and squash. These traditional foods are nutritious and healthy. It is also important to be mindful of portion sizes, especially during family gatherings and cultural celebrations where our cherished meals are often enjoyed in abundance.

Prevention and Early Detection Matter:

The good news is that diabetes can often be prevented or managed through small, consistent lifestyle changes.

Simple steps can make a big difference:

- Walk for 30 minutes a day
- Choose water instead of soda
- Add more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to your meals
- Check with your primary health care doctor and get regular blood sugar screenings. Early detection is key. Many people

have prediabetes and don't even know it. Without changes, prediabetes can turn into type 2 diabetes – but with awareness, support, and healthier choices, it can be reversed.

Community programs and promotoras (community health workers) at Mariposa Community Health Center play an important role in connecting families to screenings, education, and support. Together, we can reduce the burden of diabetes in our community and make health a shared priority – for ourselves, our families, and future generations.

Mariposa Community Health Center offers Diabetes Prevention Classes and Diabetes Education classes free of charge. For more information, please contact (520) 375-6050

Let's build a healthier, stronger community for generations to come.



Follow us on Twitter @ contacteco



Happy
Thanksgiving



Sheriff's Round-Up



Over the past month, members of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office have proudly participated in several training sessions and community events, including:

- Search and Rescue Coordinator Training
- Career Fair at Nogales High School for students and the public
- Red Ribbon week which consists of presentations in various schools around the county
- Communication Project working with AZ Dept. of Public Safety and Motorola
- Advanced School Resource Officer Course

We are also proud to announce the graduation of eleven Detention Officers following a rigorous six-week academy — the first Detention Officer Academy ever hosted at our Sheriff's Office. The majority of the in-house training was conducted by our professional local staff, with valuable support from our community partners.

Each recruit completed over 210 hours of classroom and physical training. We extend our sincere gratitude to all Sheriff's Office personnel who contributed to this milestone — especially to our Training Sergeant, Lluvia Garcia, whose expertise and dedication made this academy possible.

The Sheriff's Office is slated to host another Detention Officer Academy early next year.

We are also planning our annual Halloween event here at the Sheriff's Office.

Join Our Team

If you're interested in a rewarding career in law enforcement, we are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Deputy Sheriff
- Detention Officer
- Dispatcher

We are also actively recruiting Lateral Officers for Peace Officer, Detention Officer, and Dispatcher roles. Applications can be downloaded from the Santa Cruz County website and submitted to the Human Resources Office.

On behalf of myself and the entire administration, we thank the community for the valuable assistance in keeping our neighborhoods safe.

Sincerely,
Sheriff David Hathaway



A message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney

Happy Thanksgiving



"REMEMBER, IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE"

"There is always, always something to be thankful for."



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