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May your night be filled with witchy magic, mysterious adventures, and
all the sweet treats your heart desires

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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 readers and supporters for your continued loyalty. Your support enables us to share stories of the people, events, and organizations making a positive impact in our community.

Our goal is to connect and support the Santa Cruz County community. As a unique border town rich in culture and traditions, we want to highlight the people, events, and organizations that make a difference.

Share your upcoming community events, meetings, and conferences with us! Stay up-to-date with the latest news and stories by following us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

HELP WANTED

We are always looking for new talent. If you have an interest in sales, journalism, and photography send us your resume at contact@bordereco.com



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

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People who "echo"

Monica Gonzalez

Transforming Lives: Monica's Commitment to Public Service

Monica Gonzalez's journey with the Community Food Bank has been a transformative one, spanning nine years and multiple roles. From her early days in Client Services to her current position as Associate Director for the Amado, Green Valley, and Nogales Resource Centers, Monica has developed a holistic view of what it takes to run successful community centers. Her career progression has given her a unique perspective on the organization's work, and she's passionate about ensuring that every aspect of the food bank's mission is executed with care and dedication.

Growing up in a hardworking family in California's Central Valley, Monica learned the value of hard work and resilience from a young age. Watching her parents work in the labor fields and joining them during summer breaks gave her a profound appreciation for the challenges many families face. When she started her career in the non-profit sector, she never imagined how deeply it would resonate with her. It was in this work that she found a powerful way to connect her personal background to a greater purpose.

"I've dedicated my career to public service because I believe that everyone deserves a chance to thrive," Monica says. "After years of working in various capacities, I've found that my passion lies in helping those in need. There's something deeply fulfilling about knowing that our work at the Community Food Bank is making a tangible difference in people's lives. We're not just providing food; we're giving people the opportunity to live with dignity and pursue their dreams."

Monica recognizes the importance of her staff and volunteers, who are the backbone of the organization. "I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers," she says. "They are the ones who make it possible for us to serve our community with dignity and respect." The Amado Resource Center, where Monica plays a key role, serves around 155-180 households in Amado, Carmen, and Arivaca. The center is a vital hub in a rural community that faces significant challenges in accessing fresh, healthy food. For many residents, the center is more than just a place to pick up groceries; it's a lifeline.

Karen Lang, a volunteer who has been working with the food bank for 5 years before COVID-19, is just one example of the dedicated individuals who make a difference in their community. Another volunteer from Amado, who has been working at the food bank for 5 months, hopes to continue working there and making a positive impact. Noel Zamora, a volunteer at the Green Valley site, started volunteering after retiring and is passionate about giving back to his community.



Follow us on YouTube for the latest community videos.



People who "echo"

Monica Gonzalez

Transforming Lives: Monica's Commitment to Public Service

The food distribution process at the Amado Resource Center is designed to be efficient and dignified, with a low-touch model that minimizes wait times and ensures that clients receive a wide variety of food. Monica is proud of the center's commitment to providing a comprehensive and respectful experience for all clients.

As Monica looks to the future, she's excited about the possibilities for growth and innovation. She's passionate about exploring new ideas, such as hosting a local farmers' market and offering workshops on entrepreneurship and financial literacy. These initiatives aim to empower the community further, providing access to fresh produce and equipping residents with the skills to turn their passions into sustainable income.

The Community Food Bank is concerned about the upcoming cuts to SNAP and food assistance and how it will impact the community. The food bank is committed to providing essential support to families and individuals in need.

The Community Food Bank's partnerships with local organizations and generous donors create a powerful network of support that addresses food insecurity from multiple angles. These partnerships amplify the impact, demonstrating that together, a more food-secure community for everyone is achievable.

As the Community Food Bank embarks on a new chapter under the leadership of Natalie Jayroe, Monica is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. With a renewed focus on innovation and community engagement, she's confident that the organization will continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of those it serves.



SCAN ME

Santa Cruz County Fair 2025

"Let the Good Times Grow"

Fairgrounds
←

This year's Santa Cruz County Fair was a vibrant celebration of community, creativity, and tradition, featuring Santa Cruz County's best young artists. The fair's theme, "Let the Good Times Grow," was perfectly captured in the hundreds of student artwork pieces displayed at the picturesque Sonoita Fairgrounds from September 12th to 14th.

The student art exhibit was a resounding success under the expert guidance of Fair Coordinator Shantelle Gallardo and the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's office, led by Maya Donnelly. The team's dedication to showcasing the artistic talents of students from every district, private, and charter school was evident in the diverse and impressive collection of artwork.

The sunflower theme, enthusiastically adopted by many schools, added a bright and cheerful touch to the exhibit hall. The colorful artwork seemed to radiate the spirit of growth and creativity that defined this year's fair. Community judges, comprising school administrators and county officials, carefully evaluated each piece, recognizing both creativity and effort.

The award ceremony was a highlight of the event, with students receiving ribbons for first, second, and third place, as well as "Best in Show" awards in various categories. A trophy was awarded to outstanding students in four age categories: K-2, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th.

Visitors strolling through the exhibit hall were greeted by an impressive display of talent and creativity. The artwork showcased was not only visually striking but also reflected the skill and dedication of the young artists. The fair was a tremendous success, leaving attendees with a renewed sense of pride in the students of Santa Cruz County.

The event not only celebrated the artistic achievements of the students but also fostered a sense of community and pride among attendees. It highlighted the importance of nurturing creativity and recognizing the hard work of young talents, inspiring future generations to continue exploring their potential.

Congratulations to all the talented young artists who participated in the Santa Cruz County Fair 2024! Your artwork was truly inspiring, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you.



Santa Cruz County Fair 2025

"Let the Good Times Grow"

Fairgrounds
←



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Supporting the Amado Food Bank: A Lifeline for Rural Communities



In the heart of Santa Cruz County, Arizona, lies a network of small towns and communities that are often overlooked but not forgotten. The Amado Food Bank has been a steadfast presence in these areas, serving as a vital lifeline for those in need. For over 28 years, this community-driven organization has provided essential support to residents of Amado, Lakewood, Elephant Head, Arivaca, Tubac, Tumacacori, Halfway Station, and Carmen.

These rural communities face unique challenges, with limited access to resources and a higher reliance on local support systems. The Amado Food Bank steps in to fill this gap, providing groceries, fresh produce, and other essentials to families, seniors, and individuals struggling to make ends meet. The food bank serves around 155-180 households in Amado, Carmen, and Arivaca.

According to Monica Gonzalez, Associate Director of the Amado Food Bank, one of their biggest challenges has been making sure that those individuals who are limited by means of transportation are able to have access to food assistance. She mentioned that the people in the area most vulnerable are our seniors and individuals with disabilities who have challenges with transportation. Gonzalez also runs the Green Valley site, where they approximately serve around 820 households monthly, and the Nogales site, which serves around 2,900-3,000 households per month.

The food bank's impact is made possible by the dedication of its volunteers. These selfless individuals give their time and energy to help sort donations, pack groceries, and distribute food to those in need. Their commitment is a testament to the community's spirit and willingness to support one another. The Amado Food Bank is fortunate to have a great crew, including Arturo, who has been working with the food bank for 9 years. Since 1988, when the food bank was still a part of the Tucson site before moving to the current location in 1994, when it became an affiliate, they have served not only Santa Cruz but also Pima County.

The Amado Food Bank is concerned about the upcoming cuts to SNAP and food assistance from the Big Beautiful Bill and how it will impact the community. These cuts could exacerbate food insecurity and affect low-income families.

By supporting the Amado Food Bank, donors and community partners can make a tangible difference in the lives of their neighbors. Every contribution, whether time or resources, helps to ensure that this vital service remains available to those who need it most.



Rio Rico Insights

Rio Rico High School's Lady Hawks Soar to Victory in Flag Football Debut

As part of their debut home game against the Pueblo Warriors, the Rio Rico High School all-girls Flag Football team displayed a show of teamwork and determination. This was the Lady Hawks' first match, and they dominated the game by a score of 16-0.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Carlos Duran, the team showcased their skills and strategies, honed through countless hours of practice. Duran's dedication to the team's development was evident in their seamless execution of plays and exceptional teamwork.

Rio Rico High School has achieved a significant milestone in flag football, highlighting flag football's popularity among high school girls. Increasingly, schools across the nation are providing young women with a platform to develop their skills and compete at the highest level through this sport.

In winning, the Lady Hawks displayed hard work, perseverance, and passion for the sport. By demonstrating that anything is possible with determination and teamwork, they serve as role models for young girls everywhere in the world of flag football.

What's Next for the Lady Hawks?

The Rio Rico High School Flag Football team has an exciting schedule ahead, with upcoming matches against top-notch teams. Their next game is scheduled for September 30th against Sahuarita High School. As their momentum builds, the Lady Hawks look poised to make a lasting impression in high school flag football.



Rio Rico Insights

"Decals with Dads: A Heartwarming Tradition Takes Root at Rio Rico High School"

The excitement was palpable at Rio Rico High School as the football season approached. But before the first whistle blew, Head Football Coach Dominik Bonilla had a special event in store for the team. "Decals with Dads" was a new tradition that brought together football players and their fathers, father figures, and family members for a meaningful afternoon of bonding and helmet decoration.

As the players gathered with their loved ones, the atmosphere was filled with laughter and conversation. Together, they carefully applied the Rio Rico High School decal stickers onto their helmets, symbolizing the team's identity and pride. This simple yet significant act served as a powerful reminder of the love and commitment that families share and devote to the sport.

As the players and their families worked side by side, the bonds between them became stronger. This event embodied the values Rio Rico High School instills in its students:

Relationships, Excellence, and Pride. It was clear that the season was built on teamwork, commitment, and mutual support from the start.

'Decals with Dads' was more than just a fun activity for Coach Bonilla; it was a way to foster deeper connections between players and their families. As a result of involving families, the event stressed the importance of encouragement and support to the players.

The Rio Rico High School football team is poised for success on and off the field as the season kicks off. After "Decals with Dads," they have a solid foundation to build on, and they know they have a strong support system behind them. The future looks bright for these young athletes, and it's clear that the values of Relationships, Excellence, and Pride will continue to guide them every step of the way.



"Hawks Take to the Field: Rio Rico High School Hosts Thrilling Varsity Game"

As their first varsity home game of the season began on September 5, the Rio Rico Hawks faced off against the Nogales Apaches. An action-packed match filled with exciting moments and impressive displays of skill filled the stadium with electric energy.

Throughout the game, both teams displayed great sportsmanship, a testament to the importance of fair play and respect in high school athletics. In every tackle, pass, and run, the players' passion for the game was evident.

The school bands added to the excitement, playing lively tunes that kept the momentum going throughout the game. In a special moment, the Nogales High School band and the Rio Rico High School band joined forces to play the national anthem, accompanied by the ROTC's dignified display of the colors. This display of unity and respect set the tone for a thrilling match.

At halftime, the middle and high school bands performed together, and the RRHS HawX dance team gave a high-energy performance that wowed the crowd.

While the Nogales Apaches beat the Rio Rico High School Hawks 38-18, they showed great spirit and determination throughout the game. Even though they lost the match, the team put together a promising start to the season, and they will be looking to continue this momentum going forward.

Rio Rico High School Hawks fans can look forward to more exciting matches and performances as the season progresses.



LET'S TALK HEALTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month a time to raise awareness, honor survivors, and support those currently facing breast cancer. Early detection through regular screenings, such as mammograms, can save lives by finding cancer at its most treatable stages. At Mariposa Community Health Center, we are committed to supporting our community through resources like the Juntos Contra el Cáncer Support Group, which provides encouragement and connection for participants.

This month, we invite you to join us at our special events:

- Walk to Raise Awareness – Wednesday, October 16th
- Breast Cancer Binational Health Fair –Thursday, October 17th

Together, we can spread hope, inspire action, and work toward a future without breast cancer.

For more information, please call 520 375 6050



Domestic violence affects families across Santa Cruz County. Too often, survivors carry guilt or shame, feeling responsible for the abuse or for staying in the relationship. Victims should never be blamed for loving someone who hurts them. Abuse is always the choice of the abuser.

Abuse is not about love. It is about power and control. Many abusers use apologies, promises, or brief kindness to keep their partner from leaving. Survivors may hold on to the hope that things will change, but this does not excuse violence. Choosing to abuse is the sole responsibility of the person causing harm.

As a community, we must stop blaming survivors and start holding abusers accountable, even when the abuser is a friend, family member, or someone we respect. Accountability means refusing to ignore, deny, or excuse abusive behavior. Real change only happens when we support survivors with compassion and require responsibility from those causing harm.

At Mariposa Community Health Center, our Domestic Violence Program is here to provide safety, support, and resources for victims and survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Together, we can build a safer Santa Cruz County where survivors are believed, supported, and never blamed.

For help call 520-375-6050.



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A Message from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office:

We're Stronger Together

Breast Cancer Awareness

www.santacruzsheriff.org
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
2170 N. Congress Dr.
Nogales, AZ 85621
520-761-7869



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:

- Radar Certification training
- IACP impaired driving & traffic Safety conference
- Basic Search & Rescue 16-hour Course
- Axon Taser certification course
- ADOT overweight commercial vehicle training
- EMT graduation for Deputy Estrella and Corporal Monreal
- LEICA 360 scanner training-Crime scene and collision scans
- Pepperball Armorer/Instructor training
- UTV certification course
- Phlebotomy Training
- Nogales Night out
- Movie nights-Circle of Peace



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 both Peace Officer and Detention Officer 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, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the community and to the professionals that work every day to keep us safe!

Sincerely,
Sheriff David Hathaway





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