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CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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Happy Holidays!

*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County Superintendent*

**"Happy holidays! Here's wishing you all the joys of the season
and the happiness all throughout the upcoming year."**



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent
&
Staff

2150 N. Congress Dr. #107

Nogales, AZ 85621

Phone: 520.375.7940

Border Eco Updates

Happy Holidays! We want to thank our readers and customers for their continued support. Your support helps us report on the great people, events, and organizations who make a difference in our community. Our goal is to help connect Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County is a unique bordertown rich in culture, and traditions. We are here to support our community. Please send us any information on any upcoming community events, meetings, or conferences. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter for the latest events, people, and organizations who make a difference in Santa Cruz County.

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.

People that "echo" Patricia Zarate

Patricia Zarate has been working in the healthcare field for several years now. She is the co-owner, registered nurse, and Assisted Living Manager for Royal Assisted Living. "I never envisioned my career to be in caregiving. I became very passionate about caregiving after seeing how many elderly people in our community live in unsafe conditions, without little or no assistance. I felt the need to become their voice and advocate for them through my service/work," said Zarate.

Caring for the elderly has given me a sense of fulfillment both professionally and personally. The trust given to me personally and professionally by patients and family is priceless but comes with a huge responsibility. A responsibility that most often comes with very long days away from one's personal life but is very manageable. Happiness is very subjective and many perceive that work and happiness are not synonymous but I disagree. There is a great happiness that comes with devoting your life to the service of others.

I love being an advocate for the elderly in our community. Many times, the elderly feel overwhelmed with cognitive impairment decline and all the challenges and changes that need to be made to assure they have a safe living environment. Case managing each patient's situation individually in finding the right resources to give them a better quality of life is beyond fulfilling. Many times elderly and families are not aware of all the resources available to them.

"As a home health nurse, you play a key role in the continuation of care outside a hospital environment by assuring that we keep our elderly out of the hospital. Having a relationship and communicating with local primary care physicians plays a huge role in a plan of care. Many times it can become challenging but I love autonomy. Relationships with our patients are created because many times we become their voice. I have a deep passion for helping patients and families during their most trying times. I simply love what I do," said Patricia Zarate

My future plans are to grow and evolve in creating services that will assist families by facilitating caring for their loved ones either full-time or part-time in a safe environment that is dignified and compassionate. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has delayed our plans and now modifications need to be implemented with resident safety as the priority.

This month people that "echo" wants to not only highlight those individuals who make a difference in our community but also the importance of caregivers in our community. Caregivers are people who provide physical and emotional care to ill or disabled individuals. Caregivers advocate, provide personal care, do household tasks, and provide medical care. They often take on the responsibilities of the patient. The importance of caregivers should never be underestimated.



Zuhaila Parra & Patricia Zarate

Happy Holidays!



SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ

County Recorder

&

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A Vital Part of Healthcare

In October, Royal Assisted Living opened its doors to the public. It is located at 1045 Camino Caralampi Rio Rico 85648. An assisted living home for 10 residents with three types of care which are supervisory, personnel, and directed. The type of care depends on each individual and their needs.

One thing that makes Royal Assisted Living unique is their state of the art facility. A brand new facility equipped with a large side ramp that is handicap accessible. The building has security cameras, beautifully appointed common areas with spacious, comfortable suites, that are safe, and stylish. The bedrooms have beautiful wooden dark brown floors, with spacious closets and bathrooms equipped with handicap fixtures.

Royal Assisted Living is a resource for seniors in Nogales, Rio Rico, and Tubac, which allows seniors to remain in their local place of residence close to their families. Plus it helps meet the increased need for senior housing due to the current unprecedented senior population boom. Santa Cruz County has four assisted living homes in residential neighborhoods with a waiting list for seniors that are no longer safe living at home without adequate supervision.

Royal Assisted gives each resident an opportunity to embrace their individuality with independence, and creativity. It helps them avoid segregation and isolation often experienced when seniors are forced to live outside of residential neighborhoods in institutions, nursing homes, and other larger assisted living facilities outside their community.

"Our services help enhance each resident's well-being by offering purposeful activities and continued community engagement, which people of all ages thrive on. Additionally, Royal Assisted Living creates a safe, intimate, and loving residence that doesn't just feel like a home, it truly is home to each resident. When we first embarked on this venture, we never imagined that we would be impacted by a pandemic. COVID-19 has delayed everything from licensing to contracting which has delayed having the house at full occupancy. Yet, the cost of running is the same for 2 residents than it would be for 10. Royal Assisted Living has a full staff with only 3 private pay residents with a 4th one to be admitted after Thanksgiving. In order to meet the cost of running, the home must be half occupancy which it is not. Once we are Banner contracted, we should have no problem filling up the house to full occupancy, as we have had many inquiries. However, with the economic and medical catastrophe our country is currently facing, I believe we have many obstacles ahead of us," said Patricia Zarate co-owner and registered nurse for Royal Assisted Living.

Royal has a policy and protocol in place and an emergency disaster plan. Royal takes all the measures and resources provided to ensure our residents and caregivers are protected. We follow AZDHS recommendations as they are constantly being updated. Part of the plan is that we have put together a team that is willing to be on 24-hour lockdown if needed. Everyone that comes into the home is checked for temperatures. I am currently working on obtaining COVID-19 rapid tests, so all of our caregivers and residents are tested on a weekly basis. Royal is constantly thinking outside the box on how our residents can continue to interact with the family.

By far, this has been the biggest blow to a project we've been working on for over four years. Santa Cruz County Health Department has already reached out and has assisted with some PPE and we provided them with a person count for a hopeful December vaccine, reported Zarate.

Royal Assisted Living currently provides jobs for five full-time caregivers, two part-time caregivers, one full-time chef, one Assisted Living Manager with an office assistant. The key players are: Patricia Zarate-Co-Owner, ALF Manager/Registered Nurse, Zuhaila Parra- Co-Owner/ CFO, Elsa Sandoval-Head Caregiver/Office Assistant.

Royal Assisted Living provides the following Levels of Care for its residents:

1. Supervisory care services: general supervision, including daily awareness of resident functioning and continuing needs, the ability to intervene in a crisis and assistance in the self-administration of prescribed medications.
2. Personal care services: assistance with activities of daily living that can be performed by persons without professional skills or professional training and includes the training and includes the coordination or provision of intermittent nursing services and the administration of medications and treatments by a nurse who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 15 or as otherwise provided by law.
3. Directed care services: programs and services, including supervisory and personal care services, that are provided to persons who are incapable of recognizing danger, summoning assistance, expressing need or making basic care decisions.

For more information visit us or call us at:
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Additional Programs:
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Early Head Start Home Based
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Making Connections 4U

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Holidays!



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A New Horizon James David Hathaway

My first priority as sheriff will be to make a full assessment of all sections in the Sheriff's Office. I don't want to have any preconceptions. I want to see first-hand what is working and what could be improved upon. The Sheriff's Office fulfills a variety of missions to include civil enforcement, criminal investigations, patrol, school resource officers, and detention. The Sheriff is also the primary officer of the courts when it comes to carrying out court orders, so the sheriff needs to maintain a close relationship with the local judiciary and with the prosecution, defense, juvenile, probation, and rehabilitation/reintegration services that work with the courts.

People of Santa Cruz County felt I was the best candidate for the job possibly because I tried to talk to as many people as possible and to hear their concerns for their communities and for what the county could do better. I think people also noticed that my family is an integral part of the community as having been previous family members since the 1800s and that we are deeply concerned for all parts of the county. I have lived and worked in Nogales, Rio Rico, and the East County, so I am familiar with the positive aspects of all parts of the county and I am also familiar with the unique needs of each area.

It is such an honor that the voters of Santa Cruz County selected me for this important position. It is a position of trust and it is a goal of mine to maintain the trust that has been placed in me by the wonderful communities in Santa Cruz County. I want to make sure that the Sheriff's Office is responsive to the needs of the community and takes on the role of a public servant. I want to ensure that the rights of all are respected. I have always told the public to call me personally at 520-604-6920 if they have concerns.

I understand that people find themselves in many difficult circumstances and sometimes a traditional law enforcement response is not always the best way to resolve a problem. I want my staff to help you get the services you need even if it means a referral to a private charity or some other option. Also, for those who want to help charitably or to help their neighbors through difficult circumstances, give me a call as well and I will take note of the services you can provide to the community so that we can put you in touch with people who have unique needs.

"I want to evaluate all areas of service and see where there is room for improvement in our goal to serve the community to the maximum extent possible. I also want to hear from people outside the government as to areas that can be improved. **The public often notices blind spots where the government is failing or has suggestions for new programs or techniques that would improve service. Without public input, I may never hear about those things. Most importantly, I want to champion all the different cultural, economic, and geographic advantages that we possess.**

The diversity of people and geography are immense when we look at the county from the border in Nogales up through the beautiful shady town of Patagonia nestled amongst the magnificent trees along Sonoita Creek all the way to the San Rafael Valley with beautiful peaceful grasslands, and then across to Rio Rico, Tubac, and Tumacacori where we see a wonderful mix of retired individuals, fine arts and fine dining providers, and a commuter population that enjoys the cooler temperatures and scenic vistas of Santa Cruz County. **The Sheriff's Office should preserve the peace and provide security, but also serve as welcoming ambassadors on behalf of our great communities," said Hathaway.**



Follow us on YouTube @ Border Eco



I would like to personally thank everyone for their support since I talked to thousands of people and was aided by many people along the way who spread the word and helped in various ways. I never asked anyone for money, but people were generous and made many campaign donations anyway based on a heartfelt desire to help. We had more individual donations than any candidate for any county position – and, once again, we never asked anyone for a penny. The total dollar amount of donations wasn't as high as some county candidates for other elected positions, but it was heartwarming that so many people wanted to help and did so in many ways including getting petition signatures, putting up signs, making donations, or just spreading the word about our campaign.

It really was a word-of-mouth campaign and it wouldn't have been the landslide victory it was if it wasn't for all the people spreading the word on my behalf. I could mention many people and they know who they are, but not to embarrass anyone, I will just mention some family members like my wonderful wife Karen (Duke) Hathaway and thank her for the overwhelming amount of work she did. Also, I would like to thank my daughters Julie (22) and Rebekah (24) who did an outstanding job over a nine-month period of going street by street to practically every house in Rio Rico. My other children and grandchildren also helped in various ways like putting up signs and by holding up signs and waving at cars along major streets during the campaign. Last, of all, I would like to thank my political mentor and biggest supporter, mi tio Robert Hathaway who gave me valuable advice in my campaign based on his experiences as a Senator, Representative, county assessor, assistant to multiple governors (starting with fellow Nogalian Raul Castro), and as a simple straight-forward cowboy.



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Moving Mountains-Roshan Tinoco-Mirada

The Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District (SCV35) is proud to announce Rio Rico High School senior Roshan Tinoco-Mirada won the Division III Boys individual state title at the AZ AIA state final at Crossroads Park, November 13th, in Gilbert, Arizona.

Roshan's time of 15:32:32 was faster than Division I athletes who competed earlier in the day. This was Roshan's second consecutive cross country state title, and the 16th individual state title for the Rio Rico High School cross country program.

Although COVID may have slowed Roshan's team training, it certainly did not slow his determination to race. One day after winning the state title in Gilbert, Roshan, former head coach Stephen Schadler, and current head coach Jolanne Palumbo flew to Terre Haute, Indiana to compete in the XC Town USA Meet of Champions, held November 15th.

*-Story by
Shannon Enciso,
Communications Specialist*

Roshan came in 26th among 161 champion runners from across the nation at his second major race in three days. Despite a canceled spring training season, he managed to set a personal record during the second mile of his three mile race, "something that doesn't typically happen," says former head coach and mentor, SCV35 Assistant Superintendent.

"The pandemic really was make or break for Roshan in terms of his willingness to up his game and take control of his own destiny. Large amounts of training was required to be done "on your own" and without fail, he got it done. This means waking up at 5:30 am all summer long...by himself. Completing his long runs on weekends...by himself" explained Schadler.

Although he intends to continue running next year, Roshan has not chosen a school yet. "He is still exploring his post-secondary options but I know that wherever he lands, he still has plenty of room to grow," Schadler said.



Photos are courtesy of AZ Skies Photography

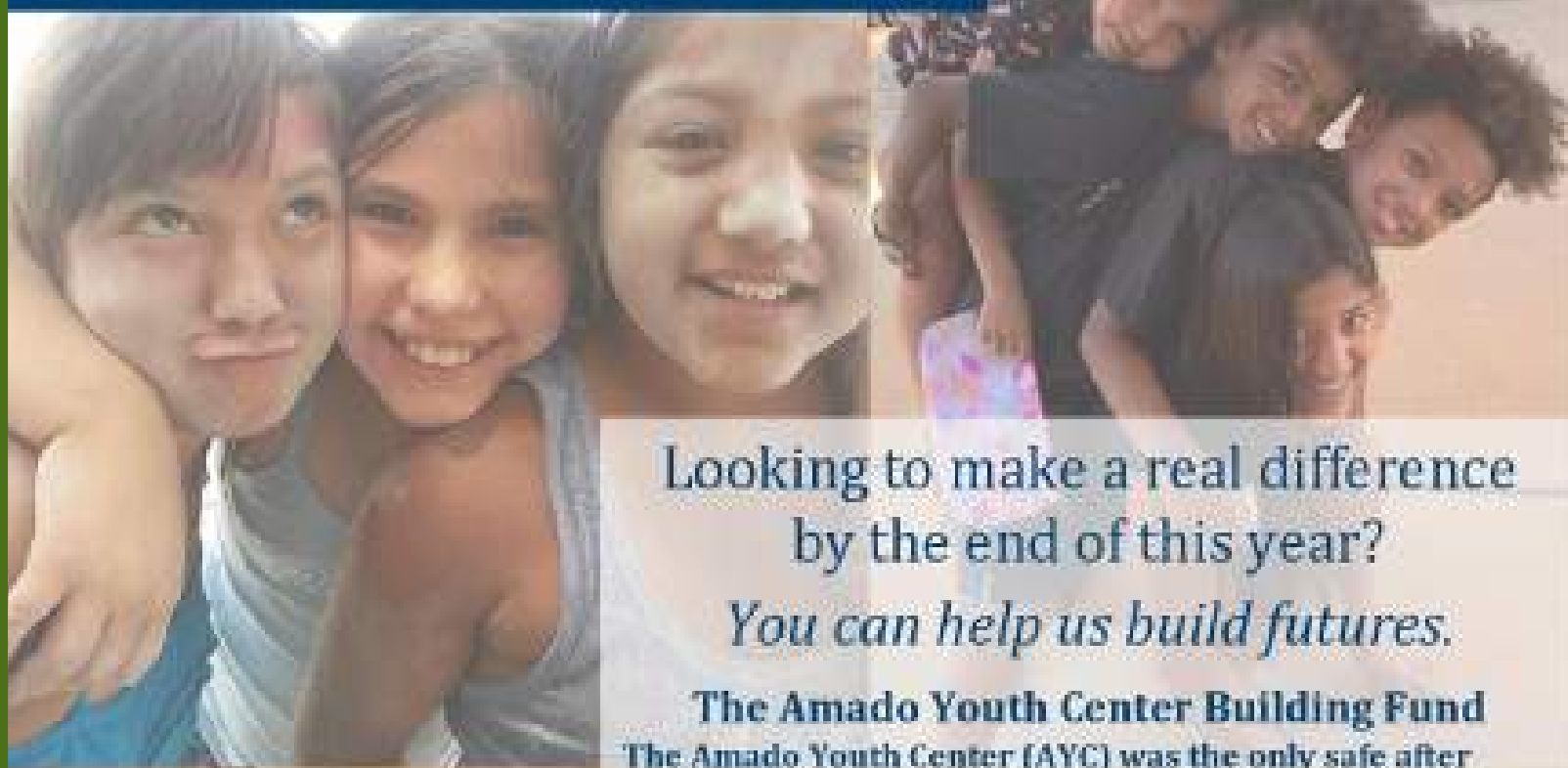


Photos are courtesy of AZ Skies Photography



Photos are courtesy of AZ Skies Photography

We're Almost There!



Looking to make a real difference
by the end of this year?

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

Donate @ www.ppep.org | Click Donate | Select: Amado Youth Center Building Fund

Information or Assistance: Tony | 520-310-7712



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 Family and Rose from Clouds 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) Loreñ Ahumada (520) 909-1146

Mayor's Corner

Dear Friends,

The season of giving is upon us, and as we prepare to celebrate this time of the year, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you experience peace, joy, happiness and good health throughout the Christmas season and in the New Year.

I ask you all to please continue supporting local businesses, especially during challenging economic times like these. I encourage you all to try to keep purchases local and to support small businesses whenever possible. Our small businesses are a critical part of our community as they provide employment and are essential in helping our city grow and thrive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Nogales City Council and staff for their unwavering dedication to providing the highest service to the community. Especially, the fire and police departments, who do everything possible to keep us safe.

We have a wonderful community in Nogales.

I'm very proud to call this city home and every day I witness the support and kindness of our residents. Now more than ever it's important to be safe and take care of each other.

As COVID cases are rising again I want to remind everyone to please continue following CDC guidelines especially the following: wear a face covering while out in public or around other people; stay at least six (6) feet away from other people; stay home if you feel sick; and last but not least, please avoid large gatherings.

I realize it seems very difficult to do this, especially during the holidays, but the only way we can ensure that our loved ones stay safe, especially the most vulnerable, is by avoiding large gatherings. I appreciate the effort everyone is making and by taking care of yourself, your family and your community.

On behalf of myself and city council, I extend my warmest wishes to everyone in our community. May God's blessings and the spirit of this wonderful season be with you and your loved ones during this Christmas season and may you have a prosperous and happy New Year. Stay safe!

We want to wish the residents of Nogales, city staff and their families a joyous and peaceful holiday. May the season bring tranquility, joy, and thankfulness for the blessings we have received, and bring hopefulness and promise for our days ahead.



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Mayor Arturo Garino and
Nogales City Council**

End of Journey

I want to thank Santa Cruz County residents for honoring me with their support throughout my 7 terms in office. I am humbled by the incredible support I received. Thank you all for believing in me. I cannot thank my wonderful team enough for their hard work and dedication, which got us to this point.

We started this journey together 28 years ago. Our mission has always been simple and consistent. It is to unite and protect the citizens of this great border community. I pledged to do everything in my power to forge better, stronger relationships between law enforcement personnel, our Mexican counterparts, and the community we serve. I had also promised to do all in my power to protect everyone who lives, works, or plays here in Santa Cruz County. I have always stood for justice for everyone I serve.

I am deeply moved by the expression of confidence over the years, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am immensely grateful to the family, friends, media, and loyal supporters. I ask you to please support the incoming sheriff.

Being an effective sheriff involves listening to constituents, translating their concerns into workable proposals, and building consensus to implement them. I could not do this job without the involvement and openness of the people I represent. You have taken the time to share with me your ideas, your concerns, and your aspirations, and I sincerely appreciate your willingness to discuss what really matters to you. Not only have you entrusted me with the responsibility of speaking on your behalf as your sheriff, but you also continued to provide me with the ideas and feedback I need to do it as it should be done. For that, I am humbly grateful to everyone. God bless and God Bless America.

Forever grateful,
Sheriff Tony Estrada

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A message from the Santa Cruz Sheriff

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