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Experience & Commitment Rafael "Rafita" Corrales

#### **CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA**





AndreaDalessandro
Advocate 4 Santa Cruz



14 Mayor's Corner-July Signs Proclamation



15 RRHS Creating Echoes
Across Santa Cruz County



#### PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2020

Monday, July 06, 2020: Last day to register to vote for Primary Election!

Requests for Early Ballots/Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL) now being accepted through Friday, July 24, 2020

Wednesday, July 08, 2020: Friday, July 24, 2020: Friday, July 31, 2020: Tuesday, August 04, 2020: First Day of Early Voting/Early Ballots Mailed Deadline to Request an Early Ballot/PEVL by Mail Last Day for Early Voting at the Recorder's Office FLECTION DAY!

#### You must re-register to vote for the following reasons:

- You have moved, change of name, address, phone number or change of political party Qualifications to register to vote:
- You became a U.S. Citizen
- You became a resident of Santa Cruz County 29 days or more before an election
- Will be 18 years of age or more on or before the day of the next election
- Not adjudicated to be incapacitated person (A.R.S. 14-5101)
- Not convicted of a felony or treason or if you have, your rights have been restored. For more information concerning a felon's right to vote, contact the Recorder's Office at (520) 375-7924 or visit our website at co.santa-cruz.az.us/287/Recorder under "Voter Information".

PLEASE NOTE: US Postal change of address does NOT forward "OFFICIAL ELECTION MAIL". You must re-register.

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#### **ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA - MARTES, 04 DE AGOSTO DEL 2020**

Lunes, 06 de julio del 2020: ¡último día para registrarse para votar para la elección primaria!

Solicitudes de boletas anticipada/Lista de Votación Anticipada Permanente (PEVL) se están aceptando hasta viernes, 24 de julio del 2020

Miércoles, 08 de julio del 2020: Viernes, 24 de julio del 2020: Viernes, 31 de julio del 2020: Martes, 04 de agosto del 2020: Votación anticipada estará disponible/envio de boletas Último día para solicitar una boleta anticipada/PEVL por correo Último día para votar por anticipado en la Oficina del Registro Público ¡DIA DE LA ELECCIÓN!

#### Tiene que volver a registrarse para votar por cualquiera de las siguientes razones:

- Se ha mudado, cambio de nombre, dirección, número de teléfono o cambio de partido político Requisitos para votar:
- Ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos
- Ser residente del Condado de Santa Cruz por lo menos 29 días antes de la elección
- Usted va cumplir 18 años de edad o más el día de la próxima elección
- No se le haya declarado ser persona discapacitada (A.R.S. 14-5101)
- No haber sido convicto(a) de felonía, traición o si sus derechos civiles han sido restaurados. Para más información sobre el derecho de un felón para poder votar, favor de comunicarse a nuestra oficina (520) 375-7924 o puede visitar nuestro sitio web a co.santa-cruz.az.us/287/Recorder.

FAVOR DE NOTAR: La Oficina de Correo de Estados Unidos no reenvia "CORREO OFICIAL ELECTORAL". Es necesario volverse a registrar.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RECORDER (520) 375-7924 OR DNLINE AT: SERVICEARIZONA COM

ASSISTANCE TO VOTERS: A SPECIAL ELECTION BOARD MAY BE SENT TO THE VOTER'S RESIDENCE IF YOU ARE ILL OR DISABLED TO VOTE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (520) 375-7924 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

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MILITARY /U.S. CITIZENS LIVING OUTSIDE UNITED STATES: INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE. PLEASE CONTACT THE RECORDER'S OFFICE END MORE INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION.

REGISTER TO VOTE AT:

REGISTRASE PARA VOTAR: Llamando a la oficina del registro público (520) 375-7924 o en el sito Web:

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<u>ASISTENCIA PARA VOTANTES</u>: UNA JUNTA ELECTORAL ESPECIAL PUEDE SER ENVIADA A LA RESIDENCIA DEL ELECTOR SI ESTÁ ENFERMO O DESCAPACITADO PARA VOTAR, FAVOR DE CONTACTAR A NUESTRA OFFICINA PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN AL (520) 375-7924

MILITAR Y CIUDADANOS ESTADOUNIDENSES QUE VIVEN FUERA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: INFORMACIÓN DISPONIBLE EN EL SITO WEB. FAVOR DE CONTACTAR A LA OFICINA DEL REGISTRO PÚBLICO PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN.

## **Border Eco Updates**

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





#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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Email: contact@bordereco.com

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

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Chief Editor: Adriana Romero Student Intern Reporter: Nadia Sandoval Student Intern Reporter: Chris Alcaraz Magazine Graphic Designer Consultant: Adriana Romero Sales Representative: Tony Montanez Information is correct at press time. Check www.bordereco.com for updates.

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## Experience & Commitment Rafael "Rafita" Corrales

Rafael "Rafita" Corrales has the experience and commitment Santa Cruz County residents are looking for in a sheriff. He started his career in law enforcement in 1994 as a detention officer for Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office after attending the ADA Basic Detention Academy. As a detention officer, he was responsible for the intake of all personnel being taken into custody, maintaining order and keeping the jail safe. Corrales was promoted to deputy sheriff in 1998. He attended CARLOTA (Central Arizona Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy) where he became a state certified Peace Officer. After graduating from the academy, he was assigned to patrol. His duties were to patrol Santa Cruz County, investigate criminal investigations, prepare reports, testify in court, among other duties. In 2001, Rafael was assigned to Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force. Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force was composed of multiple agencies that investigated drug smuggling organizations, conducted search warrants, financial investigations, and criminal investigations. He traveled and worked with other agencies throughout the state of Arizona, while assigned to the Task Force.

Corrales was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was assigned to supervise a group of up to eight deputies who patrolled and maintained order in Santa Cruz County in 2006. His duties included filling out reports and ensuring investigations were completed. Shortly after, he was assigned to the Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force as a sergeant where his duties were to supervise agents and their operations. He was assigned back to patrol, and served as a DUI Task Force Coordinator in 2009. He remained a sergeant on patrol until 2015 where he was reassigned to an administrative sergeant. As an administrative sergeant, he supervised three school resource officers and a DARE Officer, was the Policy and Procedures Coordinator, Training Coordinator, and investigated complaints against the department. Corrales was awarded Supervisor of the Year in 2014. By the end of 2016, he was reassigned to patrol sergeant. He was also awarded for his work and dedication to Victims of Crime in 2017. In June of 2018, he finally retired from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Rafael "Rafita" Corrales was born and raised in Santa Cruz County. He attended the local public school system, and graduated from Nogales High School in 1990. He attended Cochise and Pima Community College after graduating from high school. He later returned to Nogales.

His father worked for the City of Nogales for twenty-eight years and retired as a supervisor. His mother was a homemaker, and always kept the house in order. His sister, Susana, attended the University of Arizona. She currently lives in Arkansas with her husband Louis and their three sons.

Rafael is married to Anna, a fourth-grade teacher from Little Red School in Nogales. They currently live in Rio Rico with their rescue Red. Some of his hobbies include: baseball, softball, golf, hunting, and coaching. Corrales enjoys the outdoors and spending time with friends and family. He is passionate about serving his community.



# Summer Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programs for Youth in Santa Cruz County

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office sponsors students for two programs this July

Summer break looks very different for students this year in Santa Cruz County, and has parents, guardians, and students themselves searching for engaging ways to spend their time. COVID-19 has challenged us with finding creative solutions to education and building community, which is why the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office is proud to sponsor youth participation in innovative programming for aspiring young entrepreneurs, creatives, and problem solvers.

Now, more than ever, we need innovative solutions and new ways of providing engaging opportunities for our future leaders in Santa Cruz County. This July, two completely virtual opportunities are available to students at Santa Cruz County district schools: Emprende Amigo Youth Entrepreneurship Certification and the Gear Up Innovators Launch

The Santa Cruz County program for College and Career Readiness and Educational Opportunities (C-CREO) and Startup Unidos (SU), a regionally recognized organization promoting innovation without borders are partnering to bring these innovative programs to youth in Santa Cruz County. The programs were designed to prepare students for their future, introduce them to new ideas, and help them explore career paths. Emprende Amigo Entrepreneurship Certification and the Gear Up Innovators Launch Pad will be facilitated by local experts and feature guest speakers like Marco Martinez O'Daly, a regional entrepreneur and podcast host.

County School Superintendent, Mr. Alfredo I. Velasquez shared, "The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office is excited to collaborate with Startup Unidos on two virtual summer camps for our youth. During this difficult time, students can immerse themselves in these innovative programs that will stir their curiosity about becoming future business leaders."

Maya Donnelly, C-CREO Program Director says, "Gear Up students who are exploring their post-secondary plan will love these virtual learning opportunities! It is an engaging way to develop your career identity and leadership skills while connecting with your classmates and mentors."

Stephanie Bermudez, Founder of Startup Unidos says, "I'm most excited about the lasting impact this program will have on regional youth and the business community, once exposed to unfolding ideas and starting up, they're sure to reach for career and educational aspirations they had not considered before. It's a win for all!"



Learn more about this program on Instagram and Facebook

Santa Cruz County School Superintenden Alfredo I, Velásquez





#### ONLINE PROGRAMS:

2-Day Emprende Amigo Youth Entrepreneurship Certification THURS & FRI, July 9 and 10 2PM - 6PM	2-Week Innovators Launch Pad C-CREO Gear Up incoming Freshman MON - FRI, July 6 thru July 17 9AM - 11AM
District Schools: Pima, UA Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Center, Nogales High School, Rio Rico High School, Patagonia Union High School, Lourdes Catholic High School, Pierson High School, EdOptions	District Schools: Nogales High School, Rio Rico High School, Patagonia Union High School, Lourdes Catholic High School, Plerson High School, EdOptions
Summary: Two-day online Youth Entrepreneurship Certification for youth 15 - 25 years, eight hours total, 4 hours per day, 2PM - 6PM, Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10	Summary: Two-week online Innovation Launch Pad for incoming freshman, 14-classes are held 9-11AM, M-F from Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 17
Program Details:  DAY 1  Get To Know Regional Entrepreneurs AZ-SON Economic Development Entrepreneurship For All Startup Culture and Communities Keynote Speaker  DAY 2  Visual Thinking Methodologies - The Lean Startup Business Model Generation MVP and Product Market Fit	Program Details:  Identify a problem or "opportunity for growth" related to college and career preparedness and design your own solution!  Present your ideas to the SCC Superintendent's Office staff. Gain leadership and communication skills, explore post-secondary college and career options, reinforce digital and remote learning skills, practice growth mindset and persistence!
Registration: https://bit.ly/3hBLqLY Admission made available by SCCSSO, code pre-applied to registration Questions email youth@startupunidos.com	Registration: Maya Donnelly Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office mdonnelly@santacruzcountyaz.gov. 520-375-7947 main office

## Inspiring Ambassador Level Girl Scout

Isabella "Isa" Martinez graduated this May from Rio Rico High School, located in Santa Cruz County, just 14 miles from Nogales and the US/Mexico Border. Martinez has spent the last 12 years progressing, both academically and personally, as a member of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona.

Girl Scouts is a one-of-a-kind, leadership development non-profit organization with services and programs open to all girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona is one of 112 councils across the nation and is a member of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA). Internationally, The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts has World Centers located in Mexico, Switzerland, India, Africa, and the United Kingdom. The Girl Scouts organization in Mexico, Guías de México (Guides of Mexico), is familiar to Martinez's mother. "I was a Girl Scout when I was growing up in Mexico," said Mrs. Isabel Martinez. "I understood the advantages of being a Girl Scout, so I welcomed and encouraged Isa's interest in joining the Girl Scouts when she was very young," said Mrs. Martinez. According to Mrs. Martinez, she felt that her own personal experiences in Girl Scouts helped her grow as a person and not be selfcentered. "Girl Scouts helped me learn to think about others, not just about myself," said Mrs. Martinez. "They taught me about being socially responsible and making a difference by becoming involved in my community." The younger Martinez, Isa, feels the same way as her mother about the benefits of being a Girl Scout. "My mom signed me up as a Daisy when I was six-years-old," said Martinez.

"I remember being so excited because my cousin was a Girl Scout, and I saw how much fun she had, so I wanted to be one, too. As Daisies, we had fun doing lots of art projects, activities, movie nights, and community service projects, but the best thing I remember was making new friends."

Everything a Girl Scout does centers around four areas that form the foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), the Outdoors, development of Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. Each area is designed to meet the girl where she is now and to grow along with her as she progresses in the six levels of Girl Scouting, from kindergarten through her senior year of high school. As a Brownie (2nd-3rd grade), Isa Martinez has great memories about selling Girl Scout Cookies. "Some of my best memories are from when I sold Girl Scout cookies," said Martinez. "It was cool because people were so nice to us and some people even donated money to help Girl Scouts. I learned a lot and met so many people during those times. It all helped build my confidence, too. I was so shy back then. The best thing is that the friends that I met are still friends with me today." As a Junior-level Girl Scout (4th- 5th grade), Isa Martinez said they became involved with self-care and learning more about themselves and the needs of their community.

"We did a lot to help people, like hosting food drives, and giving blankets and things, to the homeless when it was cold," said Isa. "We also helped people who could not afford to buy the things they needed for their families. It seems like each year that I got more involved in Girl Scouting and my community, my confidence grew."

Isa said that going to camp each year on Mount Lemmon (Camp Whispering Pines) with other Cadette (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) troops was also a great adventure. "We learned how to use a compass, tie ropes, and make a campfire," said Martinez. "The best part about the camping trips was that we were isolated—away from the world, so we had to focus on each other. We talked to different people we met there, made more new friends, and just had a great time."

During the 12 years of being a Girl Scout, Martinez said she worked hard toward earning her badges and fun patches. They all represent new adventures and experiences.

"I feel a real sense of accomplishment when I look at my vests with all those patches," she said. "I have so many memories and look back on all that I learned and experienced by trying new things. I got into STEM. I learned how to make comic books. I even went to science fairs and traveled to places like the Ice Capdes in Phoenix. These are all things that I may not have had the opportunity to do had it not been for being a Girl Scout," said Martinez. According to Martinez, some of the Girl Scout activities included experiences with the family, too. "I remember the 'Daddy and Me' program, where we had a dinner and my father danced with me," said Martinez. "At the 'Mommy and Me' program we were able to have makeovers with our moms and had a tea party. They even had 'Grandma and Me' and 'Grandpa and Me' programs."Girl Scouts takes the potential in girls, combines it with robust skill-building programming, and adds caring adult mentors and strong female role models. Mrs. Martinez became one of those role models when she saw an opportunity to volunteer with Girl Scouts, first

as an involved parent, then as a co-leader, and finally as a leader, starting with her daughter's

Cadette troop.

# Inspiring Ambassaaor Level Girl Scout Reidning is a beloved Girl Scout tradition that

"It's really great to get involved as a volunteer because it helps your daughters, and helps people in need at the same time," said Mrs. Martinez. Her daughter added that her mom being her troop leader helped her and her sister, Regina—now a senior level Girl Scout—grow closer, enabling them all to do things together while having fun. "It made the bond between my mom and I grow closer and even stronger," said Martinez.

According to Jeaneth Sanchez, Community
Development Specialist with Girl Scouts of
Southern Arizona, she has worked with both
Mrs. Martinez and her daughter, Isa, and she
says they are both great examples for the other
troop members. "Mrs. Martinez has always
been a great Troop Leader and does the best
for her own daughters and their Girl Scout
sisters. Other troop mothers and Girl Scouts
look up to both of them as role models for
what they can do, too," said Sanchez.
The Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of
courage, confidence, and character, who make
the world a better place.

"Girl Scouts helped me find out who I was and to be more confident as a person," said Martinez.

"My best experience happened last year when we went to the G.I.R.L Conference in Tucson."

G.I.R.L. stands for Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, and Leader.<sup>TM</sup> The Girl Scout Leadership Experience encourages girls to discover and unleash their G.I.R.L. power. The annual G.I.R.L. Conference for middle and high school girls delivers a day of skill building, self-reflection, leadership development and inspiration. Workshops include such topics as learning how to prep to backpack in desert conditions, practicing self-defense techniques, as well as honest conversations around mental health, self-esteem, and body image.

Each workshop encourages girls to leave their comfort zones behind and develop new skills across a broad range of topics, including entrepreneurship, STEM, life skills, the outdoors, and healthy living.

"They had different sessions for us to pick and choose from, such as art and debate sessions, but the one I really loved the most was about self-image," said Martinez. "I've struggled with loving my body and loving myself, and that session really helped me to love myself just the way I am."

What's next for the graduating high school senior?

"I've always been interested in medicine, and I followed a sports medicine track in high school. I'll start my undergraduate studies at Pima Community College in the fall," said Martinez. "Then after getting my two-year degree, I'll be transferring to Northern Arizona University (NAU) to work toward a nursing degree."

Martinez says she also plans to work part-time as a caregiver to get more practice while being a student. Long-term, she said she sees herself working at a hospital, specializing in labor and delivery.

As far as Girl Scouts goes, Martinez says as an Ambassador-level Girl Scout, she will be bridging into an adult lifetime membership. Bridging is a beloved Girl Scout tradition that honors girls' achievements throughout the year and celebrates their "crossing the bridge" to the next Girl Scout level. It is a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities.

"When I bridged in the past and got my pin for that level of Girl Scouts, I moved onto the next level of fun and adventure. Every time I received that pin, I felt I really accomplished something."

Martinezsays she has one final message to younger girls who are considering Girl Scouting. "Thighly recommend and encourage you to participate in Girl Scouts because you learns o much more about yourself, said Martinez. "You meet new people whom later become like your family—sisters really—and you learn to love yourself, and care for other people, too. "Hmalsoplanning to become a troop leader when I Rmolder. It is just a wonderful experience."

Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout. By Beverly Gomez Arriaga





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## Senator Andrea Dalessandro Advocate 4 Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County continues to support Andrea Dalessandro as she runs for Legislative District 2 Representative. She has proven throughout the years serving as our Senator she will continue to advocate for the best interests of our community. Dalessandro was elected to the House in 2012, with the support of the Santa Cruz County Supervisors. They helped to encourage Pima County Supervisors to appoint her to the Senate. She was then elected to the Senate in January 2014, 2016 and 2018.

"The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County is alarming. I have been working to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 with the Arizona Department of Health Services, lobbyists, corporations, federal agencies, corporations, universities and Governor Ducey's Office by advocating for testing and contact tracing for Santa Cruz County," stated Dalessandro



Senator Dalessandro is the Ranking Member of the Senate Education Committee where she has fought for Charter School reform and against the expansion of vouchers. She has focused her efforts on the Judiciary Committee to protect voter rights. Dalessandro was a strong voice against allowing loaded guns on school campuses. She fought against the ill-conceived Sanctuary Bill. She also currently serves on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee. "In Pima County I am one of 7 Senators, but I am the only Senator representing all of Santa Cruz County. I love the warmth of my constituents. Santa Cruz County is culturally diverse, historically significant, safe, and cooler than Phoenix in so many ways. I love visiting the schools to see the hard work the educators do to motivate their students." I

missed being a judge for the Senior Project at

Nogales High School this year," said Senator

Dalessandro holds a BA and MA in Mathematics Education with an MBA in Professional Accounting from Rutgers University. Dalessandro spent more than 25 years as an educator, she taught math and accounting in public elementary, high schools, community colleges and universities. Her second career was as a Certified Public Accountant with her own tax practice. Andrea has only one daughter, a nurse midwife and five grandchildren.

"I met so many wonderful and talented people who have enriched my life. It has been challenging and rewarding. When asked what I have missed the most during the COVID-19 crisis, I said the hugs and encouragement of my constituents in Santa Cruz County. I am passionate about supporting quality education for all students because they are our future," said Senator Dalessandro.





## Vote 4 Andrea Dalessandro A Proven Leader

Dalessandro.

**Experienced Progressive** Advocating for Santa Cruz County

DALESSANDROforAZ@gmail.com

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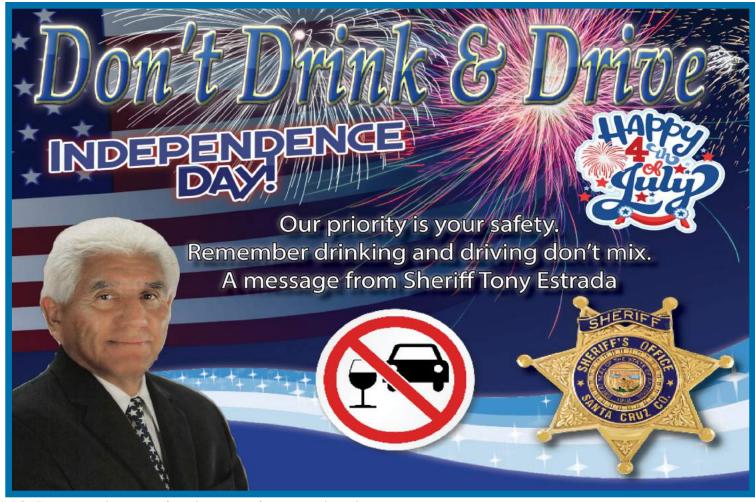




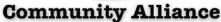










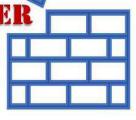




## HELP US BUILD COUR NEW CENTER

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Tony | 520-310-7712



## All We Need Is You

Join us as we bring together law enforcement, our schools, and health professionals to support and promote life skills for youth, empowerment for parents, economic development, and neighborhood improvement throughout our communities.

We meet virtually 5:30 pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each Month







The Amado Community Alliance is supported in part by the SAMHSA Partnership for Success Grant and the Arizona Governor's Office of Junvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP).

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

# Mayor's Comer

#### **OPEN LETTER TO MY FELLOW RESIDENTS OF NOGALES:**

#### Greetings.

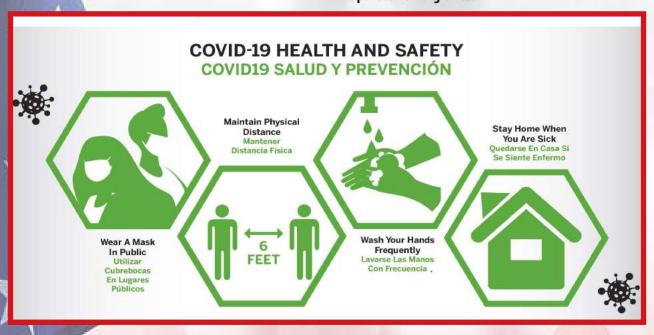
Like all of you, my administration and I are deeply concerned about the mounting spread of Covid 19 cases in Ambos Nogales and Santa Cruz County. But we take heart that as a community we will overcome this menace.

I know that you will join me in applauding our valiant healthcare workers and first responders who risk their own lives daily during the pandemic. But the best way we can honor them is to follow the easy steps in the graphic.

Reciban un cordial saludo.

Como todos ustedes, mi administración y un servidor, estamos profundamente preocupados por el aumento en el número de casos de infectados por COVID-19 en ambos Nogales y en el condado de Santa Cruz. Sin embargo confiamos en que, como comunidad, superaremos esta amenaza.

Sé muy bien que pronto estaremos juntos aplaudiendo a nuestro valiente personal de salud y de primeros auxilios que diariamente arriesga su vida durante esta pandemia. Sin embargo, la mejor manera de honrarlos es seguir estas medidas de prevención que aparecen en el gráfico:



All of us our worried and our apprehension is completely understandable. As your mayor, I am with you heart and soul and commit to continuing to lead my administration's efforts to defeat this beast so that Nogales can get back to business, back to life.

Please, please do your part by following these easy steps that have been universally proven to help flatten the curve and take pressure off of our health workers and medical facilities.

Respectfully,

Arturo R. Garino Mayor, Nogales Arizona Todos estamos preocupados y nuestro temor es perfectamente comprensible.

Como su alcalde, quisiera externar mi solidaridad con ustedes -comentar que estoy con ustedes de corazón-, así como reiterarles mi compromiso para continuar liderando los esfuerzos de mi administración para detener esta epidemia, reaperturar nuestros negocios y retomar nuestra vida cotidiana en Nogales.

Para aplanar la curva de contagios, hacemos un atento llamado a nuestros conciudadanos para que colaboren y continen con las medidas de prevención señaladas y así aliviar la presión en nuestros hospitales y de los trabajadores de la salud.

Respetuosamente,

Arturo R. Garino Alcalde de Nogales, Arizona



## RRHS CREATING ECHOES ACROSS SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Since 2007, the BIO5 Institute has provided a unique, seven-week summer research opportunity to outstanding Arizona high school students. Starting June 8, one student from the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District will join 48 others in the Keeping Youth Engaged in Science (KEYS) Research Internship Program.

Through exceptional training and unique,

hands-on project experience in top UArizona research labs, KEYS aims to provide Arizona high school students with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to pursue their personal and professional goals. The program strives to increase the talent and diversity of students pursuing STEM degrees and careers, as well to retain students to instate colleges and the Arizona workforce. Choosing the 2020 KEYS class This year's cohort was selected from more than 260 competitive applicants. Applicants were initially judged on the strength of their personal statement, teacher recommendations and high school transcript. Ninety topscoring candidates then interviewed with KEYS staff

After the rigorous application and interview process, 50 students representing 24 high schools across the state were selected to be a part of the 2020 program.

KEYS staff coordinated with the principals, teachers and parents of the accepted students to surprise them in-person with their internship acceptances.

"We try to keep it pretty hush-hush, so the students don't know we're coming," said Kelle Hyland, KEYS co-coordinator. One student-from Rio Rico High School.— Alexa Chavez—was surprised with their KEYS acceptance earlier this spring.

A seven-week experience that will last a lifetime

KEYS interns are paired with leading UArizona researchers spearheading innovative projects that span multiple disciplines including bioscience, engineering, environmental science, biomedicine and biostatics. Faculty, university students and other lab personnel work side-by-side with them to provide an invaluable opportunity to these budding scholars.

Follow us on Facebook at: Bordere Echo Despite COVID-19 restrictions, this year's showcase will still go on – now virtually. Instead of poster presentations, students will give short PowerPoint presentations with an emphasis on methodology and ethics. Next summer, interns will be invited back to participate in the hands-on program culminating in the public showcase. Though it was initially difficult to wrap their heads around quality execution of a brand new KEYS format, Hyland and her co-director, Brooke Moreno, embraced the opportunity and are now excited for the program to begin its revised direction on June 8.

With the addition of this year's cohort, 526 students will count themselves as KEYS alumni. Nearly all program alumni either attended or are currently attending college to pursue STEM fields. About 75% of KEYS alumni have chosen to attend college in Arizona, with the majority of those attending UArizona. All KEYS alumni accepted to UArizona are automatically accepted into the Honors College and awarded three units of college credit at the completion of the program. Past interns advanced STEM fields by contributing data to research grant applications and publications. Some present their work at local and national conferences. Many students continue to work in UArizona research laboratories following the conclusion of the program, even some of those still in high school.

The KEYS program is led by the BIO5 Institute and is funded by BIO5 and generous supporters including individuals, families, companies, foundations and various UArizona faculty, colleges and departments. The Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) that helped launch BIO5 almost 20 years ago continues to be a catalyst in enabling effective, cross-disciplinary bioscience research, innovation and impact at the University of Arizona, and also enables world-class student engagement programs like KEYS.

For additional information about the KEYS

Research Internship Program, email keys@bio5.

org or visit their website.



He went on to become a professional player and win money at the North American Open in December of that same year. The North American Open is an international tournament that's played at Bally's in Las Vegas every year. It was such a pleasure and honor to be his teacher and chess coach!"

Teresa Potters, Victor's RRHS Cambridge and AP Chemistry teacher first shared his story with Superintendent David Verdugo after being interviewed for Victor's University of Arizona Grad Profile. "He was one of our top students who wondered outside of Rio Rico. He shined like I knew he would. He seized and crushed every opportunity which led him to Harvard. He told me that the opportunities are out there if students will just do it! He is honored that he can be that example for other Rio Rico students", said Potter.

Victor Miranda, a 2016
Rio Rico High School
graduate will attend
Harvard University this
fall to study chemical
biology. Victor earned
a Bachelor of Science in
microbiology with a minor
in biochemistry from the
University of Arizona this
past May.

René Ramirez, former RRHS German teacher and current SCV35 Governing Board member, spoke highly of Victor, "Victor was my German and chess student for 4 straight years. He was a magnificent, critical thinker and a very dedicated student. Once at the Arizona state championship, he lifted the fifteen-seeded Rio Rico Hawks to a major upset victory over Barry Goldwater High School 3-2 by upsetting his opponent crowded around his table in disbelief to watch him win handily.





