

BORDER

# ecoo



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Board Supervisor for District #2

**SCAN ME**

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA

“Early Voting”



# Teacher of the Year



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Round-Up



**4<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**OF JULY**



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

**21 E. COURT STREET**  
**NOGALES, AZ 85621**  
**PHONE: 520.375.7940**

# Border Eco Updates

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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.

## 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](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)



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## SCAN ME



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Border Eco Magazine now offers digital advertisement. Contact us for rates and locations to help promote your business in Santa Cruz County. We will design your ad and place in certain locations for the best visibility.

Our office is located on :  
1071 N. Grand Ave. Ste. #122,  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
(520) 461-4880  
Email: [contact@bordereco.com](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)

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

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**Place of residence and for how long:**

I was born and raised in Nogales, AZ. My family resides in Rio Rico.

We have lived in the same home for 35 years.

**Education:**

My higher education includes: a Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona, a Masters of Counseling from the University of Phoenix, and an Administrative Certification from Northern Arizona University.

**Work experience:**

After earning my college degrees, I worked at Nogales High School for 16 years as a counselor and coach (i.e., basketball, tennis, and golf).

Additionally, I was Project Manager for Alleare, LLC Construction firm, where I facilitated the building of affordable housing for community residents. I currently operate as a broker in the health and life insurance field, focusing on marginalized individuals and communities. For the past 16 years I have served as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor for District 2. Along with my colleagues and critical partnerships with local, state, and federal entities, I have facilitated road and traffic flow improvements (e.g., bridges in Palo Parado, Chula Vista, Kino Springs, and Pendleton/ Sonoita Creek), health and safety of the community (e.g., COVID immunizations, neighborhood clean-ups), and walking paths (i.e., Pendleton, West Frontage, and Kino Springs).

I look forward to spearheading additional future projects germane to our community's needs.

**Community organizations/activities:**

I consistently work with youth in our community, developing their skills in basketball, tennis, and golf. Moreover, I prioritize education. For example, each year I join my colleagues providing Back-to-School supplies for hundreds of children in NUSD #1 and SCVSD #35. I volunteer at the schools for various activities (e.g., Reading Across America, Senior Projects). My quality work with the schools and community youth defines who I am as a leader. Additionally, I am an active member of the Palo Duro Creek Foundation. We are partnering with the City of Nogales to restore and improve the clubhouse, facilities, golf course, and employment opportunities.



**Have you ever held an elected office before?**

For 16 years I have represented Santa Cruz County as District 2 Supervisor. In this time, I served as Southeastern Arizona Government Association (SEAGO) as Chairman, served as President of County Supervisors Association, and currently serve as National Association of County Government State Representative. I have established a valued network at local, state, and national levels which results in funding, opportunities, and solutions for our community.

**Website or other method for voters to learn more about you:**

If voters have any questions or wish to learn more about me, they can visit the Santa Cruz County website: [www.santacruzcountyaz.gov](http://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov) or contact me at [bugsmolera@gmail.com](mailto:bugsmolera@gmail.com)



**RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA**

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA



**"I HAVE ESTABLISHED A VALUED NETWORK AT LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS, WHICH RESULTS IN FUNDING, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY."**



**RE-ELECT**

# RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA



## PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CHULA VISTA BRIDGE
- PALO PARADO BRIDGE
- NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UPS
- 13 MILES OF WALKING TRAILS
- HIGHEST COVID-19 VACCINATION RATES IN THE STATE
- LOBBIED FOR THE COMPLETION OF SR 189 OVERPASS
- ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES SCVSD#35 & NUSD #1
- SERVED/SERVING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)
- SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (CSA)
- SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SEAGO)

**SUPERVISOR**

**DISTRICT #2**



## FUTURE PROJECTS



- POTRERO FLYOVER BRIDGE
- EXIST 12/EXIT 17/EAST & WEST FRONTAGE
- DAMON PARK TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS & SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELDS
- EPHRAIM CANYON RETENTION BASIN
- WORKING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ESTABLISH A BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN RIO RICO



*Thank you for your continued support!*

**RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA**

**THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA**

# Teacher of the Year Nominees



**Ms. Bernal, Gabriela**  
Coronado Elementary School



**Ms. Baldenegro, Czarina**  
Bracker Elementary



**Mr. Sanchez, Bernardo**  
Desert Shadows Middle School



**Ms. Clouse, Christine**  
Elgin School



**Ms. Martinez, Jennifer**  
San Cayetano Elementary



**Ms. Hernandez, Barbara**  
Little Red School



**Ms. Gonzalez, Gregoria**  
Mary Welty



**Ms. Dueñas, Dulce**  
Lourdes Catholic School



**Ms. Ocampo, Lizette**  
Challenger Elementary



**Ms. Mendez, Luz**  
Rio Rico High School



**Ms. Olivarria, Anelie**  
Patagonia High School



**Ms. Ramos, Laura**  
Calabasas School



**Ms. Olivarria, Aracely**  
Patagonia Elementary School



**Mr. Chamberlain, Andre Wade**  
Carpenter Middle School



**Ms. Rodriguez, Christian**  
Lincoln Elementary



**Ms. Turner, Mitchele**  
A.J. Mitchell Elementary



**Mr. Battu, Alfred**  
Pierson High School



**Mr. Regala, Chris**  
Mountain View Elementary School

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Ms. Olivas, Maritza**  
Coatimundi Middle School



# Teacher of the Year Nominees

Dear County Residents,

It is the honor of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, South 32, Santa Cruz Community Foundation and the Nogales Rotary Club to introduce the 2023-2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Nominees.

Now more than ever, we are grateful for the dedicated educators we have here within our community. It is said that education is the passport to our future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who plan for it today. The tireless nominees for this year's Teacher of the Year Award in Santa Cruz County exemplify the meaning of dedication.

Teachers from each of the represented schools have selected the nineteen nominees. Subsequently, a selection committee of five volunteers, who come from different areas of Santa Cruz County, interviewed all the nominees and amongst them selected the 2023-2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year. Certainly, this was a long and difficult undertaking for the committee and we thank them for dedicating an entire day of their time to take on this immense responsibility. The winner will be announced on August 9, 2024 during the awards dinner that is planned for them.

To the nineteen nominees, thank you for your devotion and concern for the education of the children of Santa Cruz County and congratulations from all of us.

Sincerely,  
Santa Cruz County  
School Superintendent  
Alfredo I. Velásquez



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<https://www.lss-sw.org/>

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(520) 281-4642



## Making Connections 4U



Stay healthy, & stay informed



Making Connections 4 U

Free Community

Resource Guide at:

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



Follow us on Facebook @

Santa Cruz Community Action Coalition

(520) 216-5058

# People who "echo" Margarita Elias

## Shining Light: A Source of Hope and Positivity for All

This month, Border Eco is shining a spotlight on someone special in our community with Margarita Elias. Margarita was born and raised in Nogales, AZ, just like our featured individual. After graduating from Nogales High School, she went on to college and earned a bachelor's degree in Family Studies and a minor in Sociology from UofA. She then got her Master's Degree in Social Work from ASU and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has been happily married for 33 years and has three wonderful children, two of whom follow in her footsteps. Her passion inspires her work and she is dedicated to helping individuals and families in need. Margarita is a true inspiration to us all. She has worked in the behavioral health field for over 30 years. In April 2023, she was appointed Executive Director of the Pinal Hispanic Council and Intermountain Health Center.

Among her achievements are being a member of the Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, the Santa Cruz County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, and the First Things First Santa Cruz County Regional Board. As she progressed through her career, she has been inspired by her supervisors, colleagues, family, and friends. As a social worker, Margarita Elias has worked tirelessly to provide support and resources to those in need, advocating for social justice and equality. She knew that she wanted to help others, and working in mental health was the right calling for her. A true community role model, her commitment and compassion have inspired many. Her relentless advocacy for those often overlooked makes Margarita a real beacon of hope and positivity for the people and families she serves. Her tireless efforts have not only improved their lives but have inspired others to do the same. She is an invaluable asset to our community because of her selfless nature and unwavering commitment. She is an invaluable asset to our community because of her contributions.



### ANITA MORENO

Santa Cruz County Recorder  
2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste.101  
Nogales, AZ 85621



# EARLY

## ★ ★ SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ★ ★

### OFFICIAL EARLY VOTING SITE SCHEDULE AND DROP BOX LOCATIONS



SCC COUNTY COMPLEX

CITY HALL



NOGALES PUBLIC LIBRARY



PATAGONIA TOWN HALL



SONOITA LIBRARY/COUNTY COMPLEX



GABILONDO-ZEHNTNER CENTER



EL RANCHO MARKET



TUBAC COMMUNITY CENTER



520-375-7990



[www.santacruzcountyaz.gov](http://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov)



[voter@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:voter@santacruzcountyaz.gov)



2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste. 101  
Nogales, AZ 85621

# Building a Stronger Community

This month, we are excited to showcase Pinal Hispanic Council and Intermountain, two standout organizations that offer vital services in our community. Pinal Hispanic Council, located in Nogales, boasts a dedicated team of 21 staff members. The Intermountain Health Center in Nogales is supported by 15 staff members.

PHC and Intermountain provide exceptional services to their members, focusing on behavioral health, wellness, and support services. Their goal is to help members cultivate a positive mindset and the self-assurance needed to overcome new obstacles with the tools for success.

Both PHC and Intermountain are committed to providing culturally competent care to diverse communities. Through a combination of evidence-based practices and personalized care plans, they strive to empower individuals to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. By collaborating with community partners and leveraging resources, PHC and Intermountain are able to offer comprehensive support to individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Intermountain Centers is currently expanding its services by establishing new facilities and enhancing existing programs to better cater to diverse populations.

As a nonprofit healthcare system headquartered in Arizona, Intermountain Centers for Human Development, Inc. oversees several subsidiary organizations, including Behavioral Consultation Services Inc., Community Partners, Inc., Intermountain Academy, LLC, Intermountain Foster Care, LLC, Intermountain Health Center, Inc., Mental Health Resources, Inc., and Pinal Hispanic Council Inc. Collectively, these entities are known as Intermountain Centers.

Intermountain is one of the largest nonprofit behavioral health and integrated care organizations in Arizona. Intermountain Centers operates 31 locations throughout the state, offering accessible and affordable primary care and behavioral health services. They are committed to expanding their community involvement and service offerings. Intermountain Centers and its affiliates are launching new outreach programs focused on mental health and wellness. They collaborate with local schools to provide support services for students and families. In addition, they organize community events to raise awareness about mental health issues.

Since its establishment in 1973, Intermountain Centers has been dedicated to serving Arizona communities by continuously innovating and advancing their primary care and behavioral health programs and services.

Today, their family of organizations caters to a diverse range of individuals, including children with autism or specialized educational needs. They also cater to emotionally and behaviorally challenged children and adolescents, adolescents transitioning between care facilities, and adults.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment at Pinal Hispanic Council call (520)287-0015 or Intermountain Health Center call (520) 281-0678 Supporting our efforts is easy by donating to our programs at <https://www.intermountaincenters.org/support-us> and telling others about our work.**



**Follow us on Facebook at:  
Bordere Echo**



## Honoring Heroes: Highlights from the 8th Annual Public Safety Awards Ceremony



**The Rotary Club of Nogales extends our sincere gratitude to Santa Cruz County Attorney, George Silva, for his invaluable support as the main sponsor of the 8th Public Safety Awards Ceremony which was held on June 7th. We are truly thankful for his generous contribution that made this event outstanding.**

At the ceremony, we recognized twelve public service agencies in Santa Cruz County, with each agency selecting an outstanding agent who has made significant contributions to our community. It was a heartwarming moment to see these deserving individuals receive recognition from their peers and the community at large. Participating agencies were: Arizona Nogales Ranger Division, Nogales Fire Department, Nogales Police Department, Rio Rico Fire District, Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, Tubac Fire District, US Customs and Border Protection, US Border Patrol, and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement/Homeland Security Investigations.

Rotary also thanks the local organizations and individuals who supported this event. This year, our sponsors included:

**Diamond:** Santa Cruz County Attorney's, George Silva, First Interstate Bank, South32, and 1st Yuma Bank

**Platinum:** Cropper's Nogales Auto Center, Mariposa Community Health Center, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, Alfredo I. Velasquez, US Custom Brokers Association, Valencia International

**Gold:** Alex Tires, Arizona Trailer Depot Sales, Home Depot, Home Ford of Nogales, Trade Logistics Solutions, Union Builders

Furthermore, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the local businesses that contributed by donating items and certificates for door prizes and raffles. Your support added an extra layer of excitement to the event and significantly contributed to its overall success. Thank you: Your generosity has helped us recognize and honor those who serve our community with dedication and selflessness.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and hope for your support in 2025. Special thanks to Rotarian Jose Valencia for his support of the Public Safety Officer Awards over the years.

## A Game-Changer 4 Roberto Valdez



Roberto Valdez came into the ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County office seeking guidance regarding the Commercial Driver's License, how to obtain it, and most importantly how ARIZONA@WORK SCC could help in paying for it. After discussing his options with his career advisor, he decided to move forward to pursue a career as a truck driver and enrolled in a program to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). He attended HDS Truck Driving School, where he thrived under the guidance of supportive instructors and received consistently positive feedback. Upon obtaining his CDL, Roberto and his career advisor began the job search. He was soon invited to interview with SWIFT Transportation. Although he faced some challenges during the hiring process, the team at ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County (SCC) worked diligently to help him overcome these obstacles. Today, Roberto is employed with SWIFT Transportation and is very pleased with his decision to pursue a career in truck driving. ARIZONA@WORK SCC extends their gratitude to Roberto for his dedication to the profession and for placing his trust in their support as he embarked on this career journey.

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# LET'S TALK HEALTH

## Eating healthy while travelling

Summer is here and many of us plan road trips during the summer.

Here are some tips to consider when on the road:

1. **Planning...Planning...Planning:** Research the food options available along the way and at your destination and plan your meals accordingly. This can help you make healthier choices.
2. **Hydrate:** Travelling by car or plane you find yourself sitting most of the time and that makes it more challenging to steadily drink water. Pack several reusable water bottles to fill with water and regularly drink from during travels. Fruits are hydrating and give energy and provide antioxidants and nutrients. Consider packing a few food storage containers with a variety of ready-to-eat fruit, like berries or mandarins, for a healthy and hydrating snack.
3. **Don't skip meals:** Skipping meals can lead to overeating later. Even if you are on the go, try to eat at regular intervals to keep your energy levels stable.
4. **Lighten Up Fast food:** Fast food restaurants are convenient, but the healthy choices are very limited. Try to choose grilled meats instead of fried, add extra vegetables, have a salad (hold the dressing and cheese). Have mustard instead of Mayo with your sandwich.
5. **Find a local Grocery store:** Try to stop at a grocery store for a meal rather than fast food place. Grocery stores offer many healthy options.
6. **Pack your own food:** Try making your favorite sandwiches for the trip. If travelling by car take a break and find a park to have a picnic.
7. **Pack your own Snacks:** Pack a variety of nuts, jerky, popcorn, fruits, string cheese, apple sauce no added sugar and cut up veggies.
8. **Watch portion sizes:** Restaurants often serve large portions, so try sharing a dish, ordering an appetizer, or taking half of your meal to go.
9. **Practice moderation:** You don't have to deprive yourself of treats or indulge excessively. Enjoy your favorite foods in moderation and balance them with healthier options.
10. **Add Physical Movement to Travel Plans:** Whether this means planned stops along a road trip or pacing up and down the airplane aisle or while waiting for your flight, try to move the legs and stretch at least a few times each trip.
11. **Bring some fun games to play with your family.**

Enjoy your summer trips.

@simplenutritionalsolutionsforyou, @NationalFoundationforCancerResearch

Badria Bedri, nutritionist, MS. Mariposa community Health center. 6/24



## EARLY VOTING SITE SCHEDULE (HORARIO DE SITIOS DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA)

July  
3-25  
8 am to 5 pm

**Monday thru Friday (lunes a viernes)**  
Santa Cruz County Complex  
2150 N. Congress Dr., Ste. 114  
Closed (cerrado) 4th of July

July  
6  
9 am to 12 pm

**Saturday (sábado)**  
Santa Cruz County Complex  
2150 N. Congress Dr., Ste. 114

July  
26  
8 am to 7 pm

**Last day to vote early in person**  
(Ultimo día de votación anticipada)  
Santa Cruz County Complex  
2150 N. Congress Dr., Ste. 114

July  
13

**Saturday 9 am to 12 pm**  
Tubac Community Center  
50 Bridge Rd.

**Saturday 2 pm to 5 pm**  
Gabilondo-Zehntner Centennial  
County Service Center  
275 Rio Rico Dr.

July  
20

**Saturday 9 am to 12 pm**  
Sonoita Library/County Complex  
Building, 3147 Highway 83

**Saturday 2 pm to 5 pm**  
Patagonia Town Hall  
310 McKeown Avenue

## BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

Ballot drop boxes are locked at 7 p.m. on election day.

### (SITIOS DE CAJAS ELECTORALES)

Las cajas electorales se cierran a las 7 p.m. el día de elección.



### Nogales

- Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste., 101 & 114
- Nogales Public Library, 518 N. Grand Ave.
- City Hall, 777 N. Grand Ave.

### Rio Rico

- Gabilondo-Zehntner Centennial County Service Center, 275 Rio Rico Dr.
- El Ranchito Market, 7 Avenida Pastor

### Tubac

- Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd.

### Patagonia

- Patagonia Town Hall, 310 McKeown Ave.

### Sonoita

- Sonoita Library/County Complex Building, 3147 Highway 83

July  
30

## PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Scan for the voter information page at:  
(Escanée para la pagina de informacion al votante en):  
<https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/287/Recorder>



### ANITA MORENO

Santa Cruz County Recorder  
2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste.101  
Nogales, AZ 85621

4<sup>th</sup> of July

Happy  
INDEPENDENCE

Day



[www.santacruzsheriff.org](http://www.santacruzsheriff.org)  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office  
2170 N. Congress Dr.  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
520-761-7869



SCAN ME





# Sheriff's Round-Up



The Sheriff's Office celebrated the addition of two new Certified Law Enforcement graduates after they successfully completed a demanding 20-week training program at the Southeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (SEALETA). We congratulate Deputy Victoria Yubeta and Deputy Clint Castillo.

Sheriff Hathaway and his Command staff attended the eighth annual Santa Cruz County Public Safety Officers Awards. Deputy Sheriff Arlette Cabrera was awarded for her distinguished service and dedicated professional development since joining the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Cabrera is a qualified phlebotomist, certified Field Training Officer, Radar Instructor, Standardized Field training Instructor, Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Instructor, High Risk Instructor, and one of two Drug Recognition Experts in Santa Cruz County. Deputy Cabrera's dedication, expertise, and leadership have made her an invaluable asset to the Sheriff's Office and our community.

The Sheriff's Office is updating its 9-1-1 center with the installation of new radio consoles and other upgrades. The State of Arizona (AZDEMA) has approved and awarded 3.9 million dollars to the Sheriff's Office for the improvements. This allows the Sheriff's Office to buy mobile and handheld radios and to upgrade our communications system to include new repeater equipment. AZDEMA has also approved and awarded 900,000 dollars to upgrade the electronic security systems at the Sheriff's Office which includes computers, central control equipment, and software that controls security doors.

Sheriff Hathaway also escorted U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego on a border tour this month. As the clouds arrive for rainy season, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Your Sheriff, David Hathaway*





**A Message from the  
Santa Cruz County Attorney**

**HAPPY**  
**4<sup>th</sup> of  
July**

***Celebrate Responsibly!***

**YOU HAVE THE POWER!**

2150 N Congress Dr,  
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(520) 375-7780

