



4 People that "echo"- Chief Roy Bermudez

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6 Graduations 2020 Across Santa Cruz County

Congratulations! Class of 2020



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15 Confidence, Courage, Compassion



Class of 2020

Congratulations

SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ
County Recorder
&
Patty Garcia – Office Manager
Cristina Rojas – Voter/Recorder Clerk
Lupita Moreno – Voter/Recorder Clerk
Tristan Doyle - Voter/Recorder Clerk
Jennifer Sandoval – Voter/Recorder Clerk
Rosa Anna Fajardo – Recorder Clerk

Today is a milestone. It tells you how far you've come. Keep learning, keep trying, keep accomplishing, and keep venturing on through your journey. Congratulations!

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Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
&
Staff

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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, and conferences.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for the latest events, people, and organizations who make a difference in Santa Cruz County.

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People that “echo”-Chief of Police Roy Bermudez

Chief of Police Roy Bermudez is this month's people that “echo.” Bermudez has been working for the Nogales Police Department for 36 years. He progressively advanced through the ranks until he was offered the position of Chief of Police in October of 2017. A prime example of how hard work, dedication, passion, and education can help one achieve their goals in life.

“I always dreamed of working as a police officer and in particular with the Nogales Police Department. My entire adult life has been with this agency and serving this community. My motto is “service before self.” My responsibility as chief of police is to ensure the safety of the public. I have always enjoyed working in public service. I deeply believe that in this line of work, one has to treat community members and anyone we come in contact with respect, empathy, and professionalism. This field of work can be gratifying as you notice the difference you make in people's lives. Even though most of the time the interactions we might experience with the public can be a critical one, it can also be a humbling experience for us,” said Bermudez.

Bermudez was born in Nogales, Sonora Mexico. He became a Naturalized United States Citizen at the age of 18. Bermudez was raised in Nogales, Arizona. He attended local public schools from kindergarten to high school and graduated from Nogales High School in 1984.

“One thing I enjoy about my line of work is making a difference in people's lives, whether it's a community member, student, visitor or an employee. My goal is to enhance their quality of life by helping them succeed both personally or professionally. I want to transform our department into a model agency that is service oriented by utilizing the latest technology, being always receptive towards innovative ideas, and implementing community oriented policing strategies,” said Chief Bermudez.



Chief of Police-Roy Bermudez

Communication is extremely important. Chief Bermudez tries to make himself accessible to his employees but also to the public. He was one of the individuals who spearheaded the program “coffee with a cop” while working as a commander. He felt it was important to open that line of communication between public and law enforcement. The chief has always been involved in the community. He currently holds several board positions within the non-profit and public safety sector. Bermudez makes himself accessible to the public and enjoys hearing public input about the department as it helps to reinforce the idea that NPD is part of the community.

“I strongly believe that education is the foundation of life and the cornerstone of professionalism. Education transforms us into critical thinkers and better decision makers based on the totality of the circumstances that we encounter. Education has transformed my life into what it is right now, and helped me to set an example to my department, community and children. Persistence coupled with education assist us in overcoming any barriers in our professional and personal lives,” stated Bermudez.

NPD-Supporting the Community

The Nogales Police Department is the primary law enforcement entity for the City of Nogales. They strive to enhance the quality of life in the community by upholding constitutional rights, enforcing the law, preserving the peace, and providing a safe environment. In 1899, the Nogales Police Department was established after Santa Cruz County was first recognized as a county, they were once part of Pima County. The earliest record of a formalized law enforcement entity dates to 1912. A marshal's office was founded in 1917, which later formed into a police unit.

NPD serves approximately 21,000 people that reside within the City of Nogales, with a floating population of 65,000 people a year. They can serve up to 85,000 people daily during traditional business hours. The Nogales Police Department has 48 certified police officers of all ranks with 18 civilian employees. Everyone who works within the department has a crucial role from Chief of Police to Patrol Officer each contributes to the department and performs their duties. The main role of any officer is to maintain the safety and well being of our community.

The NPD role includes community outreach, traffic enforcement, patrol services, parking enforcement, investigates, holds evidence and manages property records. The department receives funding through the City of Nogales from several sources of revenue, sales tax and state shared revenues.

“The community can best support us by getting involved in our Citizens Academy. This will help community members understand the everyday activities in our department. Our volunteer services are at a pause due to the pandemic. We look forward to bringing back our Citizens Academy and implementing our VIPS program (Volunteers in Police Service). We have community outreach programs we host regularly those are Nogales Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, and the DARE program,” said Lieutenant, Robert Thompson.



Chief of Police-Roy Bermudez



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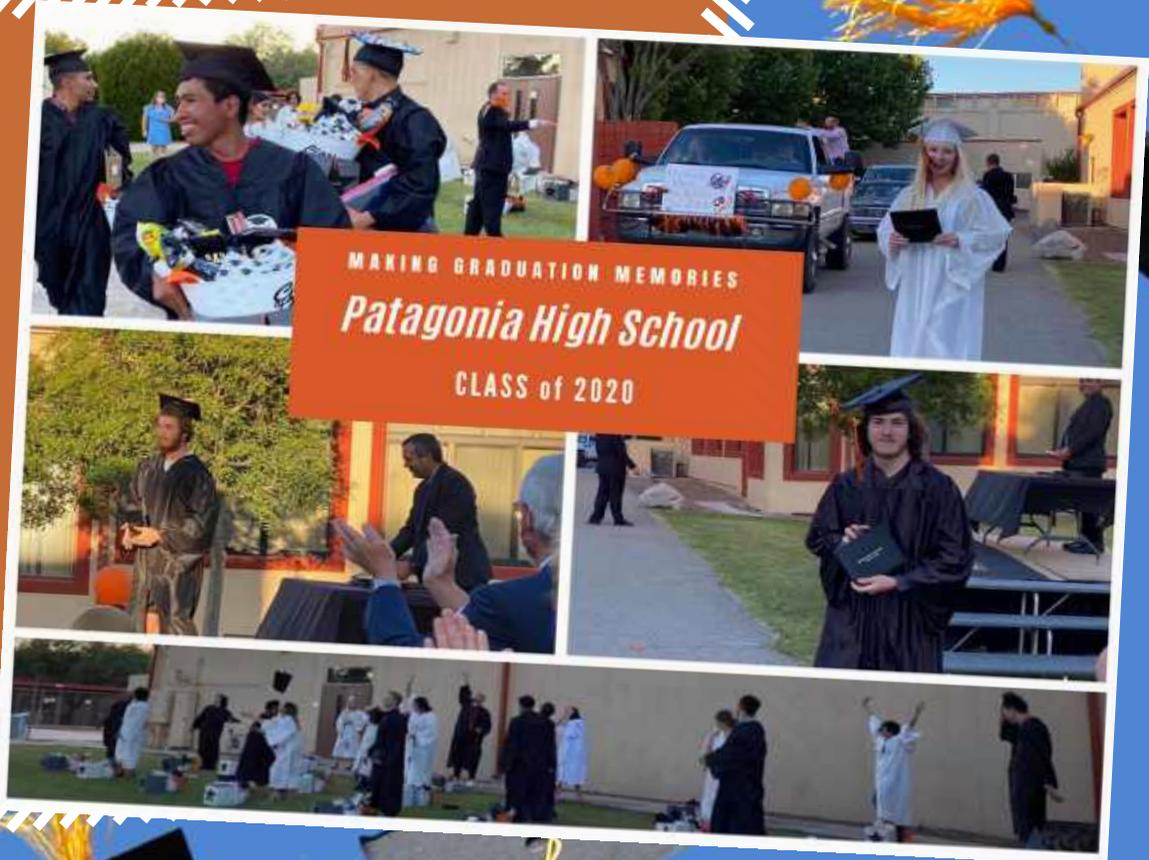


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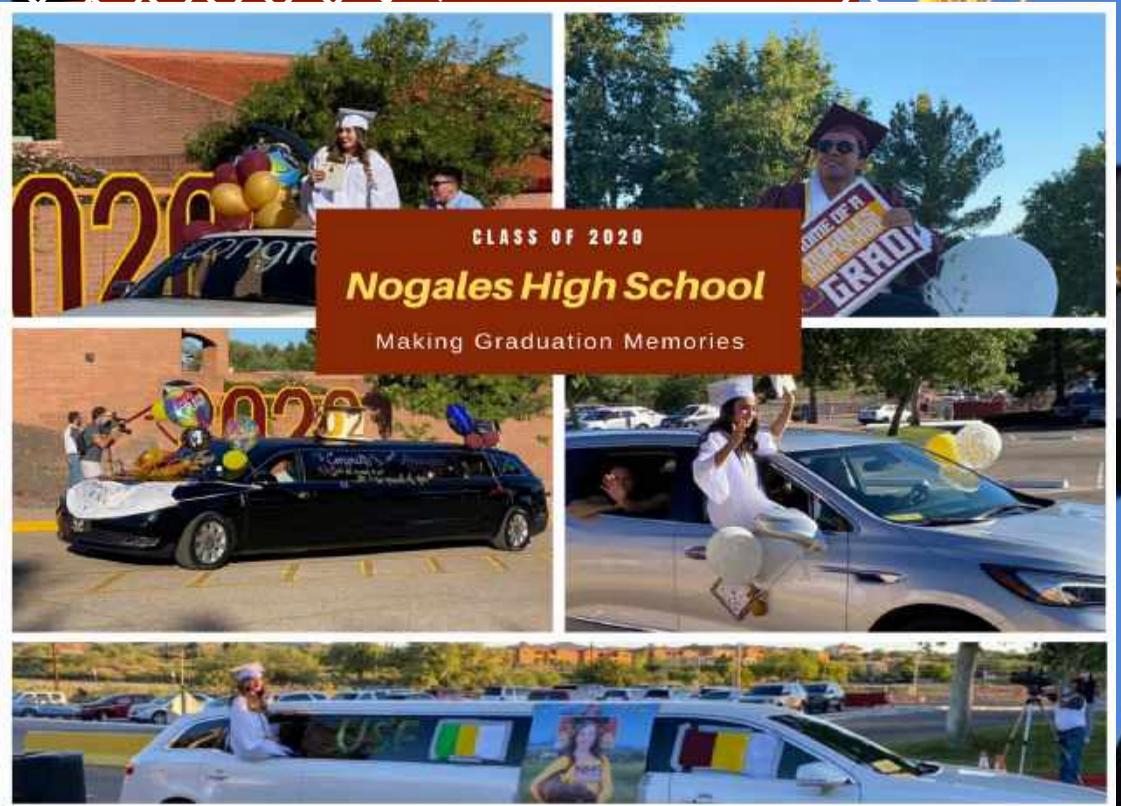
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Patagonia High School held their graduation drive thru parade on Thursday, May 21st. School staff, school board members and family members honored and celebrated the Class of 2020, while practicing social distancing.



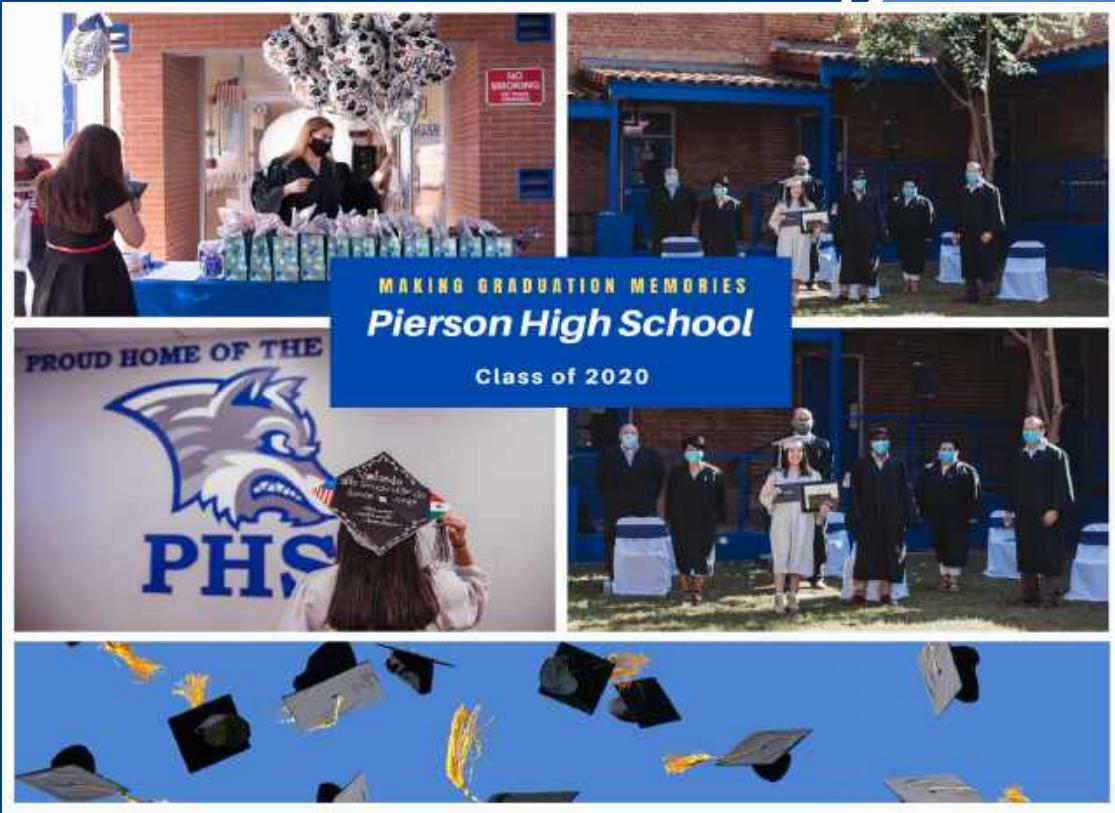
Nogales High School hosted a series of events for their graduating class. It included a drive-through diploma presentation ceremony for their graduates held on Friday, May 22nd. "We made the event a fun one with a procession through the student parking lot with the annual procession music for graduation," said Tim Colgate, Principal.



Rio Rico High School students took part in a graduation parade on Thursday, May 21st. The graduating seniors in partnership with La Maxima radio, and the Rio Rico High School hosted a graduation ceremony parade for the Class of 2020. Community members were invited to park along the parade route to cheer on the graduates.



Pierson High School held a "Pick Up Your Diploma Day" where students picked up their diploma and were recognized individually. "Class of 2020, I am honored to have worked with such an amazing group of students. Throughout this academic year, we shared memorable moments and difficult moments that we overcame together," said Berenice Rodriguez, Principal.



Raising the Bar

Ana Moreno recently announced she will be running for the office of Santa Cruz County Recorder. "It was just a year ago, I was volunteering at a community nonprofit event alongside the incumbent county recorder Suzie Sainz. It was at this event when Suzie planted the idea in me, to run for office. The more I thought about it, the more confident I felt it was an opportunity made for me! As county recorder, I plan to serve the community by implementing my professional expertise, and passion for community development," said Moreno.

"I plan to invest all my time, energy, and attention to my campaign. This will involve educating members in the community about the role of a county recorder in our community. I want people to know why I would be the right person for this role. I want to make sure I make myself available. I plan to encourage everyone to register to vote and head to the polls on voting day," said Moreno. Anita is a Nogales native and the youngest of 9 siblings. She has been married for 31- years to Mario Moreno. They have two daughters Mia and Talia. She enjoys spending time with her 88 year-old mother Olga. "One thing I learned from my parents is the value of hard work. My mother and father made it their mission to provide us with opportunities. This is why I never take anything for granted," said Anita.

Since 1986, Anita worked in the title and escrow industry in Santa Cruz County. From the beginning of her career, she worked diligently to respond to the wants and needs of customers. She has worked with key community stakeholders from state and local government officials. She has always dedicated her time to serve the community. Anita has served as president and been on the board of directors for over a decade with United Way of Santa Cruz County. United Way is a community non-profit organization focused on childhood education, public health, and financial stability.

"I strongly believe my work experience has prepared me for this position. I have experience working in title and escrow, which has allowed me to function as a non-partisan entity delivering hassle free real estate transactions and efficient closings. This process requires continuous communication with public service officers within the state, city, and county. This experience has given me a unique opportunity to learn the various functions of the county recorder, assessor, treasurer, building, planning & zoning departments within public service. Throughout my career, I have worked hard on effectively serving customers' needs and the community at large. I am always "raising the bar" on myself, it is important to always be the best person you can be," said Anita.



"As a professional, I have always admired and respected my mentors who showed poise and resiliency when facing adversity. Mistakes happen and are often unforeseen, challenges arise, but what I learned is how you react, manage, and overcome a situation says a lot about the type of person you are," said Moreno.

"I am continuously looking for opportunities to volunteer to support the well-being of our community. I enjoy motivating members of the community to find something they are passionate about, help them get involved, and encourage them to give back."

"In closing, it is important to remind citizens that voting is a valuable privilege. Every citizen possesses the power to exercise their right to vote while creating an impact in their community. I want to invite community members to contribute, participate, and use their voice for causes that will help Santa Cruz County move forward," said Moreno.

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A campaign graphic for Anita Moreno's 2020 campaign for Santa Cruz County Recorder. The background features a photograph of the Santa Cruz County Complex building with a "VOTE" sign in the foreground. The text "Ana 'Anita' Moreno 2020" is at the top. Below it, the slogan "Right Time Right Choice Right Now" is written in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom, it says "Anita 4 Santa Cruz County Recorder" and "www.anita4countyrecorder.com". A portrait of Anita Moreno is on the right side of the graphic.

HATHAWAY FOR SHERIFF

James David Hathaway is not new to law enforcement. He has extensive experience working in law enforcement. His father, "James" David Hathaway, was an elected Santa Cruz County Attorney and also served as a judge until his retirement. Hathaway was born at the Saint Joseph's Hospital, which was located where Burger King is now located. He is part of a fifth generation ranching family from East Santa Cruz County (Lochiel / San Rafael Valley area) in the 1880s before Arizona was recognized as a state.

Hathaway is fluent Spanish. He has been married for 37 years to Karen (Duke) Hathaway, a Nogales native. They have nine children together. Hathaway and his family own ranching land in the San Rafael Valley and in the Nogales area. His ties to ranching stem across Santa Cruz and Cochise County. James has been involved in ranching in the San Rafael Valley in Cochise and Santa Cruz County and in the Nogales area since childhood.

The Sonoita Fairground Museum features the family Hathaway family pioneer history of their ranching exploits in Santa Cruz County. Hathaway's father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and other relatives were all ranchers in both Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties.

He went through the Nogales Public School system and graduated from Nogales High School in 1977. He then graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson, earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish. His wife Karen (Duke) Hathaway also comes from another local Nogales family. Her brother is Russell Duke, a dentist for almost 30 years with a dental practice in Nogales.

Hathaway started his career in law enforcement as a deputy sheriff with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office working under Sheriff Jaime Teyechea and Sheriff Alfonso Bracamonte. While working under that position, Hathaway graduated from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (A.L.E.T.A.) in Tucson.

James embarked on a federal law enforcement career culminating with his assignment as the Chief of the Nogales office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.). He began his federal career by attending the FBI-DEA Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Hathaway was transferred eight times in his career from Tucson, California, Bolivia, Illinois, Missouri, Paraguay, Washington D.C., and Nogales. He lived 8 years living in South America. James also worked for 8 years on the Mexican border in Calexico, California and Nogales, Arizona.

He has worked on criminal investigations involving multiple foreign countries and across the U.S. Hathaway formed and headed federal and foreign task forces in his offices and worked jointly with state, federal, and foreign prosecutors on several cases. Hathaway worked directly with the U.S. Special Forces Command (MacDill A.F.B.) during foreign operations and often briefed upper level military personnel (both domestic and foreign).

"My biggest desire is to promote Santa Cruz County as a safe place to live and work. Border counties have gotten a negative image from a lot of unfounded hype in the national media. In reality, our crime rates are lower than the average in the state. We have a safe, friendly community. I want to stay that way, I want people to know Santa Cruz County is a safe place to live. We have great weather, friendly people, beautiful vistas, great businesses, and a willing workforce," said Hathaway.



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Los Padres Home Visitation Program

Los Padres is a Home Visitation Program with the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office with Mr. Alfredo I. Velazquez. Mr. Velazquez is an avid advocate for Early Childhood Development. He is helping to build a county wide movement in support of Early Childhood Education with a grant from First Things First to administer Los Padres Program. We believe that Parents are the child's FIRST and most important teachers. Our Vision is all children will develop, learn and grow to realize their full potential. Los Padres Mission is to promote optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.

Los Padres offers services for families with children of ages zero to five age and expecting mothers. Our program is framed around four important services;

1. Personal visit
2. Group Connections
3. Child Vision, Hearing, and Developmental Screenings and
4. Resource Networks.

Our team is consists of five Parent Educators that visit the families in their homes. During the visit, Parent Educators assess family needs and partner with parents to set family goals. Home visitors provide necessary information and resources to ensure that parents are confident in the emotional, behavioral and physical development of their children. Our purpose is to empower parents or caregivers by increasing their knowledge of child development and parenting practices.

In an effort to support our families during COVID-19 crisis we have adapted our visits to be virtual calls, zoom Parent Connections, phone calls and texts. In addition, we send all our families a weekly schedule of activities to do with their children at home. We deliver art materials and books to their mailboxes so they can continue with their projects. In an effort to stay in contact we have also developed our new Facebook page with the latest news in child development, Covid-19 news, and the latest in family well-being. In Facebook, they can socialize and share their child's creations and interchange ideas. You can look for us on Facebook at Los Padres, School Superintendent's Office. For more information contact Georgina Parra, Director, Los Padres Program (520) 375-7951.



Mayor's Corner

Congratulations!

Class of 2020

Dear Class of 2020:

We know this is not what you expected your Senior year to be like. When you walked on campus last fall – FINALLY a Senior – you had no idea the challenges and disappointments that would come your way. We agree, it's not fair.

Success is not measured by the challenges you face, and every journey has its challenges. We see you, and your strength is truly inspiring. Just know that we are here – and we've always been here by your side.

You should be proud of all that you have accomplished. The celebrations may need to wait and it may look different this year, but the message is the same, **YOU EARNED THIS!**

The Class of 2020 is a class to be remembered and we are extremely proud of you. Congratulations!!

Mayor Arturo R. Garino and Nogales City Council



Confidence, Courage, Compassion

Mary 4 City Council

Mary Darling is not new to the political scene. She has been an inspiration to many as her work in Santa Cruz County has helped to inspire community members to take interest in registering to vote, get involved in public service, government policy, and advocacy. Her work has made echoes across our county as more people have taken an active role within the Democratic Party in Santa Cruz County.

Mary moved to Nogales in 1997. She has been a Santa Cruz County resident for 23 years. Her future plans are to run for City Council. "I want to ensure every eligible citizen that can vote, votes. I would like to ask for their vote and support to represent this community well while serving the citizens of Nogales," said Mary.

Representing our community is important to me because so much of what is Nogales is misrepresented with the general population. I am compelled to change that perception. There is so much opportunity for innovation, imagination, and yes, inspiration for transformation while remaining true to the values of family, culture, and tradition.

"A few years ago, I attended a candidate forum and was stunned to listen to the city candidates failing to come up with 3 things they could do to encourage tourism in our city. All except for one candidate who was able to list 3 and more. We can and should promote our community often and with pride," said Darling. Every single woman leader I have worked with has in one way or another inspired me. Their qualities of inclusion, equity, cooperation, gracious with all, and forward thinking are attributes that make them effective leaders that inspire me to always do better.

"I can say my mom has inspired me too. She is someone who I have long admired for her wisdom, insight, bravery, persistence before it was accepted, her common sense, and her willingness to help anyone, anywhere. She believes every child - adult should be able to read. She has spent so much time reading with the kids at Challenger, while ensuring they each have library cards," stated Darling.

My future plans for Nogales are to look into new revenue opportunities especially in our current economic environment, explore additional intergovernmental agreements and find new work opportunities within the community.

It is important to focus on our infrastructure by replacing old street signs, adding caution lighting on Grand Ave at Court Street, provide seating in the downtown area, and bring back the citywide recycling program. We can expand downtown dining beyond fast food. Lastly, I would like to see the community pool furnished with a snack bar while providing a family friendly environment.

"I would like to ask for your vote and support. I am a leader who has the courage to stand up for what is right, along with the confidence to know I will get things done, with the compassion to listen to the needs of the community," said Mary Darling.



Santa Cruz County Attorney

CLASS OF 2020

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