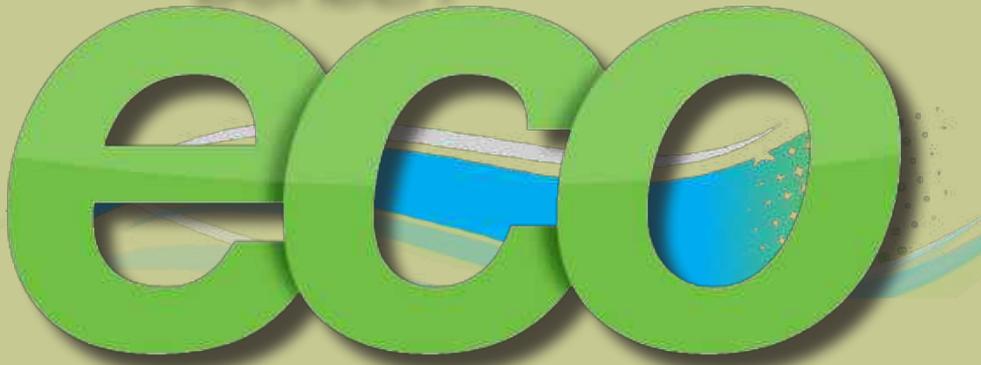


BORDER



4

Meet the Candidate
John Fanning

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



6 Santa Cruz County 2024 Teacher of the Year

Sept. 25 National Women's Health & Fitness Day



10 SCV Welcome Back Event 2024



13 Let's Talk Health
22nd Annual Summer Youth Institute



15 Sheriff Hathaway's Monthly Round-Up

*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent*

"Teachers are a vital piece to education"

CONGRATULATIONS



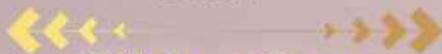
Teacher of the Year

Mr. Chris Regala, Mountain View Elementary School

School District #35



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
&
Staff



21 E. Court Street
Nogales, AZ 85621
Phone: 520.375.7940

Border Eco Updates

As part of **National Women's Health & Fitness Day Awareness Month**, Border Eco sheds light on it in September by highlighting the importance of prioritizing women's health and fitness. It is an annual occasion to encourage women of all ages to live a healthy lifestyle by coming together as a community, group, or organization. We can empower women to take control of their health by participating in health and fitness events, workshops, and activities. By working together, we can make the world a healthier and more active place for women.

Throughout the month, Border Eco will feature a series of articles, interviews, and personal stories that highlight various aspects of suicide prevention.

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



CONTENT

- 4 Meet the Candidate
John Fanning
- 5 Echoes from the Hilltop Gallery
Viola Emmy Elias
- 6 2024 Santa Cruz County
Teacher of the Year Awards
- 10 SCV35Welcome Back Event 2024
- 11 Rio Rico Insights
- 12 ARIZONA@WORK SCC Shines Light on
IT Enthusiast
- 13 Let's Talk Health: Clinic sponsors
22nd Annual Summer Youth Institute
- 14 We Shall Overcome! 9/11
- 15 Sheriff's Monthly Updates



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Student Intern Reporter: Chris Alcaraz
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Meet the Candidate: John Fanning

What are your plans to stimulate economic growth and attract new businesses in Santa Cruz County?

It is important to strengthen the workforce development efforts in our county, which has already begun to gather momentum. We need to partner with local educational institutions to provide training tailored to the needs of local industries.

To attract tourists and new businesses related to hospitality and tourism, it is also important to support the local wine industry in Sonoita-Elgin.

Additionally, the county can leverage its strategic location to attract businesses that benefit from its proximity to Mexico by supporting binational trade initiatives. Our county can attract businesses by marketing and branding, as well as offering incentive programs.

How will you fund infrastructure improvements in the county, including improving roads, expanding public transportation, improving water supply, and boosting rural broadband?

Federal, state, and local grants, private investment, and federal and state tax incentives might all contribute to funding. By strategically prioritizing these infrastructure improvements, and exploring a variety of funding sources, Santa Cruz County can effectively enhance its infrastructure, supporting long-term economic growth and improving the quality of life for our residents.

In what ways will you improve Santa Cruz County's access to mental health services and healthcare?

Again, there are many ways to address and improve our community's access to mental health and healthcare services. First of all, there are telehealth services available in the SCV35 district, which I have personally used when vacationing in Illinois three or four years ago. I was staying in a house built immediately following the end of the Civil War. I was having an extremely difficult time breathing during my preparation for staying the night, very similar to asthma, and instead of going to the emergency room, I contacted Teladoc, was given medication based on our conversation, and almost immediately, my suffering subsided. Increasing access to services is just one way to improve things. A mobile clinic could be deployed, existing health care facilities expanded, and outreach programs could be implemented to educate the public about mental health issues, reduce stigma, and encourage individuals to seek treatment.

Education & Youth Programs: What strategies do you propose to enhance educational opportunities and support youth programs in the county?

In my 35 years of experience in education, I have seen numerous initiatives positively impact youth in the county. Currently, I work with SCVUSD No. 35, engaging with the community on various projects. If elected, I would like to:

- * Retire from teaching but continue to work with county districts to prioritize students
- *Promote early childhood development (birth to age 5) through First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council
- *Assist the Santa Cruz County Provisional College District Board in promoting higher education
- *Build a robust educational ecosystem in Santa Cruz County that supports academic, social, and emotional development.

How will you ensure transparency and help the community understand their needs and concerns?

To ensure transparency and engagement, I plan to establish a District 3 Advisory Committee, representing 3-5 citizens from each of the following communities: Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, East Rio Rico, Tumacacori/ Carmen, Tubac.

This committee will provide recommendations on community welfare, public policy, and county operations, with objectives to:

- * Review and input on proposed policies and programs
- *Facilitate community engagement and feedback
- * Support informed decision-making

I believe transparency and honesty build trust, enabling us to make meaningful progress.



What plans do you have for addressing the public safety concerns in Santa Cruz County and reducing crime rates?

I want to make it perfectly clear that, no matter where I walk or drive, I feel that I am in a county and community with a high level of safety.

It should be noted, however, that some safety initiatives that have been successful elsewhere in the state and nation should also include strengthening law enforcement. We must work together with SCC Sheriff Department to ensure our law enforcement community is happy with their employment. Recruitment and retention are of the utmost importance to law enforcement. There are also neighborhood watch programs, community policing forums, and drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation programs.

As a final note, mental health and crisis concerns have been on many people's minds over the past five years. In order to reduce these concerns, crisis response teams and mental health support services play an important role, among others. For residents who would otherwise turn to crime, mental health resources and services need to be made more accessible. This includes counseling, crisis hotlines, and community support programs.

This will create a safer environment for residents, reduce crime rates, and build stronger, more resilient communities in Santa Cruz County.

Do you plan to manage the county's budget effectively and ensure fiscal responsibility while meeting the needs of the community?

To ensure responsible management of Santa Cruz County's finances, I propose:

- *Conducting a detailed assessment to identify areas for cost savings and efficiency.
- *Implementing zero-based budgeting to align expenses with current priorities.
- *Gathering community input through meetings/forums to prioritize funding for essential services (public safety, healthcare, education, infrastructure).
- *Ensuring transparency in decision-making to foster trust and community engagement.
- *Establishing continuous monitoring of the county's financial performance. This approach balances fiscal responsibility with community needs, ensuring sustainable financial health for Santa Cruz County.

Echoes From the Hilltop

For the month of September, Echoes from the Hilltop Gallery is excited to showcase Viola Emmy Elias, an artist who proudly goes by this name. Although her legal name is Emiliano Elias, Viola is a 19-year-old who graduated from high school more than a year ago. She is enthusiastic about furthering her education in the field of science, specifically focusing on botany, biology, and environmental science.

In her free time, Viola enjoys learning and playing musical instruments, writing poetry, baking, and studying various subjects like science, music, baking, and fashion. Raised in Nogales and Rio Rico, Viola has spent her entire life with her brother, mother, and father. Through her life experiences, she has gained valuable lessons and developed qualities that define her, including empathy, optimism, open-mindedness, and kindness.

In late 2022, Viola realized that she is transgender, which has led her on a journey to embrace her true self. Despite the challenges she has encountered, Viola has found support from friends whom she deeply cares for. She remains hopeful for the future and looks forward to what lies ahead.

When creating artwork like poetry or playing music, Viola's main goal is to evoke a reaction from someone. She often seeks these reactions from people she knows well, such as close friends or peers she interacts with frequently. She strives to create her best work so that others can enjoy the environment she has created for them, as she feels honored when she does so. Whether she is performing music in parades or writing for her closest friends, she is inspired to do her best to bring a smile or a moment of peace and tranquility to others.

Viola primarily works with sound and ink. She has been playing the trumpet for about 9 years and has been learning to play other instruments as well. She also writes poetry in a calligraphy style using a fountain pen. She appreciates the shapes and appearance of the letters on paper, and enjoys using a variety of ink colors.

Over time, Viola has discovered new and fascinating things in the arts. Starting with music, she has developed skills in other areas that she enjoys. She has always had a fondness for older styles, which has led her to explore older forms of art like poetry and calligraphy. As she delves into vintage styles, she believes they will eventually influence other aspects of her life, such as fashion and baking.

Viola's creative process begins with simply living life. "I do as I please until I feel an emotion that inspires me to pick up a fountain pen, head to the oven, or play one of my instruments. I will write poetry about the beauty I see in my mind. I make an effort to incorporate aesthetics I love, like staining paper with tea or coffee to give it an aged look, and even burning it, including the envelope I create," said Viola. She believes that adding unique touches to her art allows her to express her character and preferences. After finishing a poem, she seals it in an envelope with wax and a stamp, adding color to the stamp. She also scents the envelopes so that when people read her poetry, they can feel her presence. In addition to poetry, she creates sweet treats to bring comfort and plays music to liven up the atmosphere.

Several individuals have inspired her to be the best version of herself, including Bob Ross, Scatman John, Fred Rogers, and her two close friends who motivate her artwork. These people have taught her valuable lessons about enjoying life, being compassionate, and trying new things despite challenges. When she lacks inspiration, she tries to find peace and understanding. For example, when she struggles to play an instrument, she listens to music to learn new things.

She also focuses on being disciplined and reflecting on her experiences to overcome periods of low inspiration. Her involvement with Hilltop Gallery began in 2016 when she participated in their summer art program. Over the years, she has returned as an assistant and volunteer, learning valuable skills and finding a safe space to express herself. She measures the value of her artwork based on her satisfaction with the process and the reactions of those who view it. Making people smile or evoke emotions is her goal, and if she or others are not satisfied, she believes the art has not reached its full potential. One of her most memorable experiences was when she gave a crafted letter to a friend, who expressed immense gratitude and happiness. This reaction inspired her to continue writing poetry to bring joy to others. She balances art and work by incorporating artistic elements into her job, such as creating eye-catching signs and writing poetry for colleagues. She also enjoys teaching music and hopes to one day sell her baked goods. In her recent projects, she has been writing poems for her close friends, learning to play the accordion, and exploring fashion. She is excited about these new endeavors and looks forward to what the future holds.



2024 Teacher of the Year

On Friday August 9, 2024, the 17th Annual Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner Ceremony took place at the VFW Ballroom. With the lively sounds of music from the Roaring Twenties in the background and the room decorated in 1920's motif, the 20 nominated teachers made their way in and took their seats. This extraordinary group, were accompanied by their Superintendents, Principals, family and over 250 guests, who gathered to honor them. The grand event was co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, South 32, Santa Cruz Community Foundation and the Nogales Rotary Club and coordinated by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Accounting Specialist Patricia Barraza-Preciado.

The night started with the Rio Rico High School ROTC performing the presentation of the colors and Ms. Maria Martinez singing the National Anthem. Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez welcomed all guests and thanked all nominees and all our teachers, for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to the students of Santa Cruz County. While the guests enjoyed an amazing dinner, over 40 door prizes donated by local businesses from throughout the county were raffled. All proceeds from ticket sales for the dinner and raffle tickets that evening is to be designated to the William I. Rothstein Memorial Scholarship for graduating students in our county.

Mrs. Patricia Barraza-Preciado introduced each of the twenty Teacher of the Year nominees with a short quote on their philosophy on teaching, as they took center stage and were awarded a trophy presented by Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez. They also received a Teacher of the Year Appreciation Platter consisting of a cash award and assorted gift cards valuing over 650.00.

Given the difficult task of selecting the 2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year were five incredible judges chosen from across the county. We are proud to announce and congratulate Mr. Chris Regala from Mountain View Elementary for being the recipient of the 2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Regala thanked and dedicated his award to his third-grade teacher. He stated that positive reinforcements and kindness was her way of teaching and treating students. Mr. Regala ended his speech by reminding teachers that "He believes that every student is a genius and they do not learn from people that they do not like."

Mr. Regala, was awarded the Teacher of the Year Trophy, \$3,000.00 check, a 65-inch TV, laptop, one-night stay for two from Tubac Resort, \$500.00 for Professional Development and prizes and gift cards from local community members with a total value close to \$5,600.00.

We also want to congratulate the 2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Runner-up from Challenger Elementary Ms. Lizette Ocampo. Ms. Ocampo was presented the Runner-up trophy along with a \$2000.00 check, lap top, stainless steel BBQ, \$250.00 for Professional Development along with prizes and gift cards from local community members, valued close to \$3,300.00.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Sponsors and Donors that made this event possible and a great success.

We appreciate your support.

Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz Community Foundation Mr. Chris Young
Unisource Ms. Shea Lynn Haisington
Nogales Rotary Club Ms. Georgina Favera
Mc Donald's Ms. Tashina Freemon
South 32 Mr. Pat Resner
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District Mr. David Verdugo
Nogales Unified School District Ms. Angel Castro
First Bank of Yuma Mr. David Esquivel
Mariposa Community Health Center Mr. Dan Prevost
Chamberlain Distributing, Inc. Mr. Jaime Chamberlain
Cropper's Nogales Auto Center Mr. Carl Krause
Nogales Hall of Fame Ms. Alexa Ramirez
Home Ford Mr. Anthony Griffin
Wise Trucking Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wise
Santa Fe Ranch Mr. Anthony Sedgwick
Santa Cruz County Supervisor Dist. 2 Mr. Rudy Melara
Santa Cruz County Supervisor Dist. 1 Mr. Manny Ruiz
Community Member Ms. Irene Molera
Community Member Mr. Emilio Velásquez

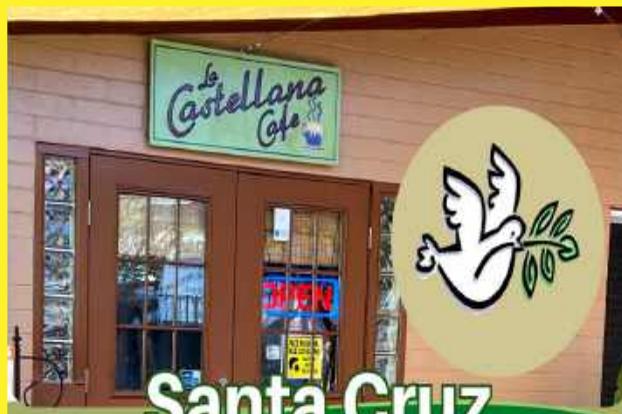
Community Member Ms. Susie and Alva Luz Saine
Community Member Ms. Georgina Favera
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Nogales Women's Club Ms. Marta Valenzuela
Community Member Mr. and Mrs. Mark Valenzuela
Zula's / Santa Cruz County Supervisor Dist. 3 Mr. Bruce Bracker
Global Arts Ms. Adriene Holjert
Red Mountain Feed Ms. Cindy Matus-Morris
Patagonia Trading Post Ms. Anne Anderson
Wisdom's Cafe Ms. Celeste Wisdom
United Way Ms. Marcela Chavez
Santa Cruz County Manager Mr. Jesus Valdez
Santa Cruz County Recorder Ms. Anita Moreno
Tubac Resort and Spa Ms. Vicky Potypool
El Zorago Restaurant Mrs. Socorro Hernandez
Josters Mr. Joe Grassi
Preciado Art Mr. Luis Preciado
Italian Peasard & Habanero Restaurant Mr. Armando Gil
Nogales Chamber of Commerce Mrs. Olivia Anza-Kramer

Regaza Restaurant Mr. Jorga Leon
Rescan Stylist Ms. Angelica Rescan
Martinez Group Mr. Fernando Santibani
Community Member Mr. German Mondaca
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Sunstreet Mortgage Ms. Lucy Gonzalez
Santa Cruz Elementary (Little Red) Mrs. Kathy Romero
Community Member Mr. and Mrs. Gustavo Acosta
Bola's Trucking LLC Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Chipote
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Titos Pizzeria Mr. Armando Suarez
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Community Member Ms. Karri Munoz
Community Member Lourdes Rivera
OSO Biko Club Ms. Melissa Gallages
We Love Nogales Mr. Edgardo Munoz
Gathering Grounds Mr. & Mrs. Deles
Nogales International Mr. Manuel Coppola

On behalf of the educators of this county and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's office, we would like to thank all the community organizations and businesses for all their support in making the 2024 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner Ceremony the most celebrated event in Santa Cruz County.

2024 Teacher of the Year





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Fitness Day



Making Connections 4 U

Free Community
Resource Guide at:

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SCV 35 Welcome Back Event 2024

Before the 2024-2025 school year officially began for Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35, its faculty and staff gathered together on August 2 for its annual Welcome-Back celebration. This celebration reflected on the hard work and accomplishments made by employees throughout the 2023-2024 school year, and also served as a rally to recognize incoming employees and goals for the upcoming year.

The Welcome-Back celebration consisted of a breakfast spread provided by Sodexo, sponsor tables, a fun photo booth with an array of props, upbeat performances by the Rio Rico High School Hawx Dance Team and Marching Band, inspiring and reflective speeches from Superintendent Mr. David Verdugo and various dignitaries, and a presentation of awards for Teacher and Employee of the Year nominees and winners.

New employees were given a warm welcome and recognized individually in their respective departments. A number of other staff members were also recognized for their many years of hard work, dedication, and tireless service to the district, ranging from five years all the way to 37 years of service.

During the awards section of the event, plaques were presented to a faculty member from each school site within the district who were named the nominee of their school for SCVUSD's Teacher of the Year award. This honor was granted to individuals who embody the mission and goals of the district as well as being a leader in and out of the classroom. It is clear that these individuals provide a well-rounded education and experience for students while also encouraging them to strive for excellence every day. Nominees for this award include Laura Ramos from Calabasas School, Maritza Olivas-Carrillo from Coatimundi Middle School, Cris Regala from Mountain View Elementary School, Luz Mendez from Rio Rico High School, and Jennifer Martinez from San Cayetano Elementary School. The winner chosen from this group of tremendous teachers was Cris Regala, who then also went on to win the award for Santa Cruz County 2024 Teacher of the Year on August 9.

Plaques were also awarded to Support Staff Nominees for the 2023-2024 school year. These individuals were Miriam Molina from San Cayetano Elementary School, Celia Dietrich from Mountain View Elementary School, Natalie Longorio from Calabasas School, Ana Ortiz from Rio Rico High School, John Rojahn from Coatimundi Middle School, and Lalo Robles from the Transportation Department. San Cayetano Cheetah, Miriam Molina, was the winner of this honorable award, and was surprised by her family members who showed up to support her during the award ceremony. Overall, SCVUSD's Welcome-Back Event focused on continuing to provide its students with an Above the Bar education and recognizing the people who collaborate and work cohesively as one unit to accomplish this major task.

We thank our sponsors Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Office, Edward Jones Investments, International Medical Solutions, Grand Canyon University, South 32, ASBAIT, and Meritain Health who provided invaluable support to our district before and throughout the event!



Rio Rico Insights



“REGISTER TO VOTE”

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County Recorder



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HAPPY
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ARIZONA@WORK SCC Shines Light on IT Enthusiast

Alejandra Munguia graduated from Rio Rico High School in 2022 with the goal of joining the United States Air Force as a Cyber Warfare Operator. Unfortunately, she had to give up on this dream due to unforeseen circumstances. In May 2023, Pima Community College Santa Cruz County (PCC SCC) held their annual college fair where Alejandra had the chance to speak with various schools and industry professionals.

During the fair, Alejandra met an Information Technology leader who recommended visiting the ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County table to learn about their services. Alejandra shared her interest in information technology and her desired career path. ARIZONA@WORK SCC recognized her passion for the IT industry and, after meeting with career advisors and creating a plan, Alejandra enrolled in the Information Technology Support Specialist Certificate program at Pima Community College SCC. She also began gaining work experience in an IT department. By May 2024, Alejandra had completed her Information Technology Support Specialist certificate. She then decided to further her education in IT by pursuing an Associate's Degree in Cyber Security. Alejandra is grateful for the support she received from ARIZONA@WORK SCC and all the individuals who assisted her along the way. She values the work experience and knowledge she gained, which she was able to apply to her studies. ARIZONA@WORK SCC is proud of Alejandra's achievements and looks forward to her future in Cyber Security. Alejandra's dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and her success in Cyber Security is a testament to her determination. With the skills and experience she has acquired, the future looks bright for Alejandra as she continues to excel in her field. ARIZONA@WORK SCC is honored to have been a part of her journey and is excited to see all that she will accomplish in the future.



Let's Talk Health

Clinic sponsors 22nd Annual Summer Youth Institute

Mariposa Community Health Center hosted its 22nd annual Summer Youth Institute, (SYI) from June 24 to July 25, 2024, in Nogales, Arizona with 30 participants this year.

SYI is an enrichment program offered to teenagers around the community between the ages of 15-19. For 5 weeks, various trainings in CPR/First Aid, LGBTQ+ and Inclusivity, Abstinence Plus, and Tobacco Basic Skills are provided to participants, in addition, workshops dealing with self-esteem, nutrition, leadership, teen dating violence, addiction and substance use, career and education planning, character development, sun safety, Boys and Girls Health, and public speaking to name a few are offered to the youth, along with an hour of physical activity each afternoon. The opportunity to "job shadow" MCHC professionals in the medical setting is provided as well as guest speakers from the community who are invited to present on themes that help expand participants' outlook towards future goals. The participants are also taken to the University of Arizona to visit the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Pharmacy and learn more about medical opportunities.

At the end of the 5- weeks, the participants who have completed all aspects of the program graduate and receive a Teen Health Facilitator certification, along with the hope that they will pass their wisdom to their fellow peers.

We would like to thank the following people/agencies for their support this year as SYI would not be able to take place without them: Hope, INC., L.P. Health Directions, Southern Arizona AHEC at El Rio, AZ Dept. of Liquor, Erika Mansur, AGO, Dianne Burkett, FDA, University of Arizona, Mariposa Youth Council, Terri Sprigg, Office of the Superintendent of Schools Santa Cruz County, Dominick Alexander, Cropper's Auto Center, GFWC-Nogales Woman's Club, and the Mariposa Community Health Center Leadership Team, Board of Directors, Staff and Mentors.

2024 SYI Graduates:

Yuliana Alvarez	Rex Martinez
Kiana Rae Boulter	Alan Martinez
Anna Paola Cañez	Paulette Martinez
Yuki Kamilah Carrillo	Ami Morales
Czarina Chamberlain	Sofia Ortiz
Andres de la Torre	ricardo padilla
Dulce Encinas	Diego Picos
Marco Estrada	Diego Ramos
Maria F. Fernandez	Grecia Reyes
Manuel Gutierrez	Sofia Romero
Sophia Jaramillo	Azul Ruiz
Isabella Jimenez	Juan Ruiz
Jimena Martinez-Peralta	Sophia Sandoval
Joel Martinez-Peralta	Kiara Valle
Jorge Martinez-Peralta	Ana Vallejo



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Sheriff's Round-Up



Sheriff Hathaway, along with his Command Staff and School Resource Officers, were happy to attend the District 25 Back-to-School event. This is an annual event that is in preparation for a "welcome back" to students attending District 35 schools. It was well-attended and excitement and enthusiasm was expressed by everyone in attendance.

The Sheriff's Office applied for an Arizona State Parks & Trails grant earlier this year to enhance Off Highway Vehicle patrols and educate the public on Arizona OHV laws and safety. The grant proposal was for the purchase of one Can-Am four-seater side-by-side ATV and a Can-Am 2-seater ATV. The grant was approved and awarded and the new vehicles were received at no cost to county taxpayers. The Sheriff's Office recently utilized one of the ATVs on two successful rescues. We look forward to serving the public with the utilization of these additions to our fleet.

This month a site walk was conducted of the County and Sheriff communications infrastructure in preparation for significant upgrades. The walk included our repeater sites. We are anxious to start our communications upgrade project with the 3.9-million-dollar grant we received for the purpose. These projects will be at no cost to county taxpayers. Radios and equipment have already been ordered. The State of Arizona (AZDEMA) also awarded our Detention Center a \$900,000 grant for an upgrade project. This will upgrade our current audio from analog to digital and will upgrade our primary detention control computers. These are just a few of several upgrades being programmed and completed in the months to come. As usual, the Sheriff's Office regularly seeks to obtain outside sources for funds so as to not be a burden on county taxpayers.

As a final note, two members of the Sheriff's Office attended and completed a very innovative program called "Struggle Well" put on by the Boulder Crest foundation started in Santa Cruz County (Sonoita). It is a program that has spread across the country that helps first responders and military personnel learn to manage stress and trauma incurred on the job. We are thankful to have the opportunity to promote this great program.

Sheriff Hathaway and his administration salute all members of the community and the employees and volunteers of the Sheriff's Office. Thank you to all for supporting the work we do to serve the community.

Your Sheriff, David Hathaway

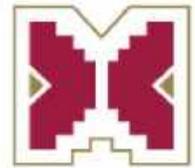


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