



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot  
Sheriff of Yuma County

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Sheriff's Office Annual Awards

**Location:** Yuma, AZ

On Friday, March 20, 2026, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office held its 39th Annual Awards Presentation and Recognition Ceremony at Britain Farm. Over 250 employees, volunteers, family, and friends attended the event.

During the awards presentation, officers, civilian employees, and volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Sheriff's Office and the community during 2025. The list of award recipients is as follows:

### Administration Bureau

Jonathan Alonzo, Employee of the Year  
Mackenzie Herrera, Esprit De Corps Award  
Tania Pavlak, Special Merit Award  
Jonathan Alonzo, Innovator of the Year Award

### Detention Bureau

Viviana Gardner, Detention Support Staff Member of the Year  
Angel Mendez, Detention Support Supervisor of the Year  
Mario Lopez, Detention Officer of the Year  
Miguel Estrada, Detention Supervisor of the Year  
Neil Teeter, Esprit De Corps Award  
Kimberly Castro, Special Merit Award  
Javier Hernandez, Innovator of the Year Award  
Crystela Silva, Meritorious Service Award  
Yazmin Alatorre, Outstanding Achievement Award  
Jose Gil Balandran, Rookie of the Year Award

### Patrol Bureau

Chandler Bell, Deputy of the Year  
Michelle Callahan, Patrol Supervisor of the Year

Angel Fonseca, Esprit De Corps Award  
Kenneth Allmon, Special Merit Award  
Victor Neblina, Innovator of the Year Award  
Kyle Christophel, Meritorious Service Award  
Pedro Alvarez, Rookie of the Year Award

**Volunteers of the Year**

Nicholas Ford, Civilian Volunteer of the Year  
Blanca Briceno, Explorer of the Year  
Mark Galate, Posse Member of the Year  
Phillip Dayton, Search and Rescue Member of the Year

Sheriff Leon Wilmot also presented the YCSO Life Saving Award to Deputies Pedro Rodriguez and Johnathan Campoverde for their acts of heroism and exceptional performance above and beyond the call of duty under emergency conditions wherein a service was rendered that resulted directly in saving a human life on February 10, 2026.

On behalf of Sheriff Leon Wilmot and the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following businesses for their generous donations for our annual awards event: 4 Lokos by Sonora Grilling, Ace Freightways, Ah-So Sushi & Steak Restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burgers & Beer, Chili's Grill & Bar, Cracker Barrel, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers, FTS Automotive, Jiffy Lube, Lute's Casino, Pour Behavior, Prison Hill Brewing Company, Soft Cloth Car Wash, Sprague's Sports, The Best Taquito, Yuma Honda, and the Yuma Territorial Prison.

Their donations helped make this an unforgettable night of fun, food and camaraderie for everyone in attendance. Thank you for your continued support.

**Information Released by:** Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist