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# Rays' newest hitting is local baseball standout

By Norma Gonzalez  
Nogales International

Rafael Valenzuela of Nogales will pack his bags and head for the Dominican Republic Sunday morning to begin the next phase of his baseball career.

Valenzuela, who has been working with the Tampa Bay Rays organization since December 2014, was hired last week to be one of the hitting coaches for Ray's lower-level teams.

He said he recently met the Rays' coordinator of player development - the person in charge of hiring hitting coaches.

"We got to talking and next thing you know I get a phone call two days ago, and he offered me a job and I said 'absolutely,'" he said.

Valenzuela, who graduated from Nogales High School in 2006, passed on an offer from the Kansas City Royals after being selected in the 2006 draft and decided to pursue a college degree instead. After a year at Cochise College, the 6-foot-1, lefty-hitting utility player transferred to the University of Arizona, where he played for three years.

After graduating from the UA and being snubbed in the Major League Baseball draft, Valenzuela signed as a free agent to play for the Houston Astros system. He played four seasons, reaching the Double A level in 2013 before wrapping up his playing career with a .283 batting average, 13 home runs and 81



Courtesy photo by Rafael Valenzuela  
Rafael Valenzuela in action during his playing career in the Houston Astros organization.

### Consolidated Docket

RR-03639A-15-0331

Includes

RR-03639A-15-0332

RR-03639A-15-0333

RR-03639A-15-0334

This team will play every day, Monday through Friday, but he is unsure of what teams they'll play, he added. Fellow Nogalian Alan Garcia, who's with the San Diego Padres organization, will also be in the Dominican Republic for the same instructional league, and Valenzuela said he hopes they run into each other.

Valenzuela said he is thankful for all the continued support he's received from the community, and urged locals to keep an eye on the Rays, a team with a lot of young talent.

"If you're not a Rays fan, I suggest you start following us a little more, especially because I'm working there," he said. "The people in Nogales have always kept up with me, kept up with Alan (Garcia), kept up with (recent Bethune-Cookman University graduate) Keith Zuniga - all the guys that have gone out and played."

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Arizona Corporation Commission  
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## Recognition for soccer star



Pima Community College sophomore and Nogales High School alum Robert Gorman was named to the All-ACCAC/NUCAA Region I Honorable Mention team for his performance with the Azteca soccer team this season. Gorman had one goal and one assist, and was instrumental in PCC only giving up 22 goals this season. He also helped the team earn six shutout wins.

Photo courtesy PCC

## 2 Hawks head to chess championships

Nogales International

Two members of the Rio Rico High School chess team qualified for the state individual chess championship, at which the top 64 players from Arizona will compete Nov. 20 and 21 at Blue Ridge High School in Pinetop-Lakeside.

Freshman Felipe Lopez earned his spot in the individual state championship by upsetting three players, each rated more than 100 points higher, at the team's last round-robin tournament at Desert View High School.

"Felipe really helped our team by raising his rating to 561," head coach Rene Ramirez said. "He has



Contributed photos  
Left: Felipe Lopez, a freshman on the RRHS chess team, "has been a real surprise this season," his coach said.  
Right: Senior Victor Miranda is captain of the Hawk chess squad.

been a real surprise this season." Senior Victor Miranda, captain of the Hawk chess team, also

qualified at the last tournament by winning four out of the five boards he played.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UPGRADE FOUR EXISTING CROSSING OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD AT BAFFERT DRIVE USDOT NO. 742-036G; CALLE SONORA USDOT NO. 742-037N; BANKARD AVENUE USDOT NO. 742-038V; AND MORLEY AVENUE USDOT NO. 742-040W IN THE CITY OF NOGALES, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA. (DOCKET NOS. RR-03639A-15-0331, RR-03639A-15-0332, RR-03639A-15-0333, AND RR-03639A-15-0334)**

On September 24, 2015, the Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") the four above-captioned applications for approval for the Union Pacific Railroad ("Railroad") to upgrade the following four existing crossings at: Baffert Drive USDOT No. 742-036G; Calle Sonora USDOT No. 742-037N; Bankard Avenue USDOT No. 742-038V; and Morley Avenue USDOT No. 742-040W in the City of Nogales ("City"), Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Commission's offices, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, and on the internet via the Commission website ([www.azcc.gov](http://www.azcc.gov)) using the e-docket function.

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter commencing on December 15, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., at the Commission's offices, 1200 West Washington Street, Hearing Room No. 1, Phoenix, Arizona. Public comments will be taken on the first day of the hearing.

The law provides for an open public hearing at which, under appropriate circumstances, interested parties may intervene. Intervention shall be permitted to any person entitled by law to intervene and having a direct and substantial interest in the matter. Persons desiring to intervene must file a written motion to intervene with the Commission, which motion should be sent to Applicant or its counsel and to all parties of record, and which, at the minimum, shall contain the following:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the proposed intervener and of any party upon whom service of documents is to be made if different than the intervener.
2. A short statement of the proposed intervener's interest in the proceeding (e.g., a customer of Railroad, a neighboring property owner, a crossing user, etc.).
3. A statement certifying that a copy of the motion to intervene has been mailed to the Applicant or its counsel and to all parties of record in the case.

The granting of motions to intervene shall be governed by A.A.C. R14-3-105, except that all motions to intervene must be filed on or before November 12, 2015. The granting of intervention, among other things, entitles a party to present sworn evidence at hearing and to cross-examine other witnesses. However, failure to intervene will not preclude any customer from appearing at the hearing and making a statement on such customer's own behalf.

If you have any questions about this application, you may contact the applicant at 602-712-7149. If you wish to file written comments on the application or want further information on intervention, you may write the Consumer Services Section of the Commission at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, call 602-542-4251 or 1-800-222-7000, or appear at the hearing and make comment.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting Shaylin Bernal, ADA Coordinator, voice phone number 602-542-3931, e-mail [SABernal@azcc.gov](mailto:SABernal@azcc.gov). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.