



4 People who "echo" - Brenda Olivas Sanchez

## CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



10 Creativity in the Spotlight  
"Best of Show"

# Happy Holidays!



12 C-CREO Team  
Recognized for innovation

14 Mayor's Corner-December

15 Sheriff Hathaway  
Monthly Round-Up

# *Happy Solidays*

*A Message from the  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent*

“Happy holidays! Here’s wishing you all the joys of the season and the happiness all throughout the upcoming year.”



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

**&  
Staff**

**2150 N. Congress Dr. #107**

**Nogales, AZ 85621**

**Phone: 520.375.7940**

# Border Eco Updates

Happy Holidays! 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.

We are always looking for new talent. If you have an interest in sales, journalism, or photography send us your resume at [contact@bordereco.com](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Border Eco Magazine now offers TV advertisement. Contact us for rates and channels to help promote your business in Santa Cruz County.

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.

## CONTENT

- 4 People that "echo"- Brenda Olivas Sanchez**
- 5 Now Hiring-Detention Officers**
- 6 SEACHEC Advances Health Equity**
- 7 SB1097 Not an Official Arizona Law - Annette Garcia**
- 10 Creativity in the Spotlight/"Best of Show"**
- 12 Let's Talk Health/World Aids Day**
- 13 Amado Youth Center**
- 14 Mayor's Corner-December**
- 15 Sheriff Hathaway Monthly Round-Up**



Chief Editor: Adriana Romero  
Student Intern Reporter: Nadia Sandoval  
Student Intern Reporter: Chris Alcaraz  
Magazine Graphic Designer  
Consultant: Adriana Romero  
Sales Representative: Tony Montanez  
Information is correct at press time.

Check [www.bordereco.com](http://www.bordereco.com) for updates.  
Border Eco, LLC © 2021 copyright all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without the permission of Border Eco Magazine is prohibited. Any material produced is the property of Border Eco. Any material published is not necessarily the opinion of Border Eco and will not be held responsible. Border Eco Magazine accepts material from advertisers, clients, readers and various sources which are not necessarily the opinion of Border Eco Magazine in print or on Border Eco websites and will not be held responsible.

# People who "echo" Brenda Olivas Sanchez

We're featuring this month's Brenda Oliva Sanchez Program Manager for SEACHEC. SEACHEC has been in Santa Cruz County since 1985. Brenda Oliva Sanchez is a community member who is making "echoes" across Santa Cruz County promoting health equity.

Ms. Sanchez is a first generation Mexican American. Her parents are originally from Mexico, and she has a younger sister. She was born, raised and lives in Tucson, AZ. She is passionate about health equity, language justice and providing a space for other first-generation students to succeed in higher education. She enjoys dancing Folklorico and exploring local coffee shops.

Brenda has been working for SEAHEC for almost three years as the Border Binational Program Manager overseeing various health initiatives in the border region and rural Arizona.

In 2018, she completed her undergraduate public health internship with SEAHEC and was later hired to be part of the team in 2019. Ms. Sanchez received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Translation and Interpretation and Bachelor of Science in Public Health, as well as a Certified Health Education Specialist certification. She is currently working on pursuing a master's in public with the University of Arizona.

"As an intern I learned from the SEAHEC team everything that I now know about working in rural, underserved and border communities. The SEAHEC team has always been there to help guide me in all the programs and projects that I have participated in," replied Brenda. SEAHEC serves as the focal point for binational collaboration and initiatives in Arizona and Sonora. COVID-19 is the focus of SEAHEC's health education activities in Santa Cruz County, with their Community Health Workers.

Currently, 9 employees work for SEAHEC. They also conduct outreach in Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Pinal counties and offer an education program to migrants in their destination communities.

At the present time, SEAHEC is working on plans for coordinated care efforts for the growing migrant population in Nogales, Sonora as well as coordinated care at the national level. The organization's plan is to grow in the area of advocacy for vulnerable populations through use of social media and other forms.

"Throughout my career and education Jill Guernsey De Zapien has been someone who has inspired me to pursue border health and work on addressing the various health disparities that exist in our border and rural underserved communities. Jill has been an amazing educator and mentor who has shared her knowledge and love for the work that we do. We all need Jill in our lives," said Brenda Olivas Sanchez, program manager.

# Happy Holidays



**SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ  
County Recorder**

Margaret Felix-Chief Deputy Recorder  
Monica Martinez-Voter/Recorder Clerk  
Victor Villalobos-Voter/Recorder Clerk

Rosa Anna Fajardo-Map Clerk  
Alicia Andrade-Assistant Voter/Recorder Clerk  
Jacob Bonillas-Assistant Voter/Recorder Clerk

Eduviges "Edu" Covarrubias-Senior Voter/Recorder Clerk

**2150 N Congress Dr. 101  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
Phone: (520) 375-7990**

**"Christmas is the day that holds all time together."**



**NEW  
CAREER**

**NOW HIRING**

***Detention Officers***

**Incentives Include:**

- **Health Insurance**
- **Paid Vacation**
- **Paid Sick Leave**
- **Shift Differential Pay**
- **Double Time Holiday Pay**
- **Starting Salary \$33,146.00**



**Please Apply Online**

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

**Or call:**

**Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office**

**2170 N. Congress Dr.**

**Nogales, AZ 85621 • 520-761-7869**

# SEAHEC Advances Health Equity

Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center is a local non-profit that focuses its efforts in health equity in the border region and migrant population through advocacy, research and action. SEAHEC has a long history of collaborating with organizations in Arizona and Sonora through a binational approach to health issues that affect our communities. It was established as a nonprofit, based in Santa Cruz County, in 1985. In 1971 the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program was started by the U.S. Congress to help address health workforce shortages in rural and under-served communities. In 1985, SEAHEC was the first standalone AHEC in Arizona and covered Santa Cruz, Pima, and Cochise counties. More recently, SEAHEC operates independently of the federally established and Arizona AHEC programs, and has expanded its mission and scope of work to focus on the most vulnerable - border, migrant and farmworker communities. SEAHEC has historically focused its work in rural, underserved and border communities including migrants and farmworkers.



As well SEAHEC provides support to high school, undergraduate and graduate students that are interested in health professions and serving the underserved.

Based in Nogales, Arizona, SEAHEC has historically served our binational community of Ambos Nogales, participating in efforts including shared initiatives of the Binational Health Council (COBINA) of Ambos Nogales. We partner with health centers and hospitals throughout southern Arizona and utilize community health workers to reach people in need of services and resources.

SEAHEC currently has 9 employees. Gail Emrick- Executive Director Brenda Sanchez- Border Binational Program Manager Lupita Gonzales- Program Coordinator/ Community Health Worker

Erin Sol- Program Coordinator for Service Learning/Community Health Worker

Zuleyka Tabarez- Community Health Worker

Nora Guzman- Community Health Worker

Paulette Nevarez- Community Health Worker

Christian Gomez- Community Health Worker

Ycied Talavera- Community Health Worker Site Supervisor

By implementing highly needed and high quality services, SEAHEC has sustained itself for over 35 years, working with communities to address their health needs.

Through an extensive network of valued partnerships, SEAHEC has a diversified portfolio of programs.

Currently SEAHEC receives funding from the US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration; the CDC Foundation, SEAGO, Cochise County Health & Social Services, among others.

Community members can help by participating in their outreach events and supporting their initiatives in the community. As well, people can help advocate for the most vulnerable populations within our community, including migrants, the homeless, homebound elders and others.

What makes SEAHEC different from other organizations is their focus on collaboration with other organizations to best meet the needs of the communities they serve both in the United States and Mexico. SEAHEC is a small but mighty organization that has the flexibility and resilience to quickly adapt to changing needs and offer services in an efficient, effective, and dignified manner.

SEAHEC's success can be attributed to the dedication of their staff and how passionate they are about their mission, along with the collaboration they have built with partners over the years.

**For more information about SEAHEC call (520)289-9235 or contact Brenda Sanchez/Border Binational Program Manager at [bsanchez@seahc.org](mailto:bsanchez@seahc.org) or stop by their site at:**

**1171 W. Target Range Road,  
Nogales, AZ 85621**

# SB1097 is not an official Arizona law

Coming back from a year of schooling at home, students are faced with more challenges in the classroom now than when they left in March of 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on the social lives of students; they were isolated from their peers and didn't have the structure that going to school in person offered. Because of this, many are concerned about the mental health of students now that they have returned to campus. To combat that, Arizona lawmakers are trying to make it easier for schools to ensure the well-being of their students.

SB 1097 was introduced in January by Sen. Sean Bowie during the Legislature. It says that an absence due to a mental or behavioral health issue must be identified by the school as an excused absence. SB1097 was originally introduced in March of 2020 but failed to pass. But after it was reintroduced early this year, it passed in the Senate unanimously. Gov. Doug Ducey signed the bill, but it has yet to be enacted.

Although SB1097 is not an official Arizona law, Bowie, the bill's sponsor, was optimistic about its impact.

"I think this bill could be really helpful for our young people, and help educate teachers, parents and kids about the importance of mental health and remove some of the stigma," Bowie said.

Arizona truancy laws state that a student can have 18 excused absences a year, and the reasons for those absences include a death in the family, a doctor's appointment, or being sick. The addition of SB1097, especially after the pandemic, could benefit students and teach them to prioritize their mental well-being, Bowie said.

While SB1097 was successful in the state Legislature, Arizona schools have yet to see its implementation.

Megan Sterling, Executive Director of Community Relations at Tempe Union High School District, said there hasn't been much discussion of SB1097 in Tempe schools because it has not taken effect and could give no official comment.

The topic of mental health has been at the forefront of many conversations across the country for years now. But since the pandemic, those conversations have been amplified.

After nearly two years of lockdowns and social distancing, people are having trouble returning to normalcy, students especially. Research shows there has been an uptick in hospital visits due to mental and behavioral issues. According to Associated Press, "the portion of children's emergency-room visits related to mental health was 44% higher in 2020, compared with the year before."

The Journal of the American Medical Association suggested that consequences of social distancing and isolation may include suicide. Even before the pandemic, "nearly 41% of Arizona high school students who participated in the state's 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey already reported feeling 'sad or hopeless' for two or more weeks in a row during the 12 months before the survey," according to AZ Central.

With the COVID-19 pandemic becoming more contained and people returning to their offices and schools, parents are concerned about how their children will adapt but hope that having legislation like SB1097 will provide them with the tools they need to readjust.

"I think it's very important and timely," said Penelope Acosta-Komitis, a parent of two children in Arizona schools. "We should, as a community, and as a society, be more open about our mental health, especially after the pandemic. A bill like that makes me believe there will be more awareness and children will be able to identify their problems and be given the proper help," Acosta-Komitis said.

# TAKING ORDERS!

*The Santa Cruz Training program is a successful vocational training program for individuals with disabilities. It has for years provided them with an opportunity to live healthy productive lives. "Our training program focuses on providing quality care to our members. Our goal is to help all our members receive the best vocational and rehabilitation services available in Santa Cruz County. "Our members are like family to us," said Mrs. Galhouse. The program receives direct funding from the state. The number of funds they receive throughout the year depends primarily on the number of members. Donations and grants also help to support the program. Personal donations, as well as big business donations, help sustain the program in our community. As a result of the pandemic, these past two years have been extremely challenging for Santa Cruz Training Programs, as many of their clients and programs were put on hold. La Castellana Cafe provides financial support to these programs. While it served as a training center for its members, the training center was shut down during the pandemic. The good news is that La Castellana Cafe recently reopened to the public. The organization continues to train its members to cook, bake, sell, serve, and waitress. This year, they are introducing a new menu and offering the option to deliver food to their customers. Santa Cruz Training Program would appreciate your support this holiday season. Stop by the cafe or place an order to show your support. They are also taking orders for their delicious pastries, choco flan, and turnovers this holiday season. For anyone interested in placing an order please contact them at: (520) 287-2043 ext #22 & 23.*





## Santa Cruz Training Program

Taking special orders for the holidays

cookies and delicious turnovers

Cookies

Pecan, Orange, Cajeta

Turnovers

Pineapple, Apple, Pumpkin

Delicious flan and chocoflans

Mexican Tamales



Contact us at:

**(520) 287-2043**

**EXT. 21 & 22**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Jorge D. Guayante Jr.

## Santa Cruz Auto Glass

We Accept All Insurance Brands

**Tel: (520) 394-4321**

545 N. Grand Ave. Ste. #3  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
Cell: (520) 461-8573  
scautoglass@yahoo.com

Lifetime Guarantee on Labor

Visit us at: [www.santacruzautoglassaz.com](http://www.santacruzautoglassaz.com)

## Happy Holidays

**ARIZONA @ WORK™**  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
Innovative Workforce Solutions

Call us we can help you!

**610 North Morley Avenue  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
(520)375-7670**

Lutheran  
Social Services  
of the Southwest

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

# ALEX BARBER SHOP

"You'll Love Our Style"

Great Customer Service

Phone: (520) 281-4642

2743 N. Grand Ave.  
Nogales, Arizona 85621

Desert Hills Insurance  
Delivering on a promise

Jorge Guayante Agent

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



545 N Grand Ave Ste 4,  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
Phone: (520) 287-0837

[dhinsurancecc@yahoo.com](mailto:dhinsurancecc@yahoo.com)



Making Connections 4U

We need your help!

We need donations of knit hats,  
gloves, scarves and cookies!



Make a difference this holiday season! Donate socks, knit hats, gloves, scarves and cookies to the elder in need in our county. We will be packing these items in boxes and giving them directly to them. Your donation makes a difference we plan to deliver these "care boxes" directly to them.

Contact us at:

(520) 216-5058

[sccommunitycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:sccommunitycoalition@gmail.com)

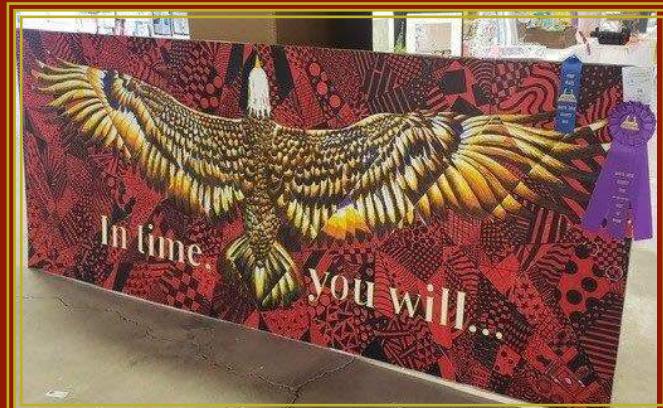


# Creativity in the spotlight

As part of Santa Cruz County Arts Month the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo Velásquez and his Office had a momentous arts celebration at the 1904 Historic Courthouse in downtown Nogales on October 23rd, 2021. The County honored many local artists by giving recognition to muralists who have beautified our community and presented the Ambassador of the Arts Awards to 10 leaders in the arts. The Courthouse hosted two beautiful exhibits by local artists: painter Luis Preciado and photographer Kevin Zúñiga. There was also live music performed by the talented Rio Rico High School Jazz Band and the Sky Islands Piano Trio of the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts. October Arts Month, proclaimed by Santa Cruz County and the City of Nogales, aimed to unify our artistic community and fantastic local arts organizations through events such as hosting the Nogales/Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce government affairs meeting, creating a monthly Master Arts and Culture Event Calendar for the county, establishing a county-wide arts committee, and sponsoring the Dia de Muertos Festival.



At the awards ceremony Mr. Velásquez and Arts Director Evan Kory presented many special awards that honor the great artistic talent that exists in Santa Cruz County. The inaugural Nils Urman Mural of the Year Award, in memory of Mr. Urman, who had a major impact in our community through his work as Executive Director of Nogales Community Development and countless projects, was awarded to artist Karla Osete for her mural "Torch Cactus Blooms." Recipients of the Ambassador of the Arts Award were, Janice Johnson, Sandra Kory, Robert "Bob" Ochoa, Grecia Solorio, Antonio Lucero, Christina Wilhelm, Kevin Zúñiga, Luis Preciado, Mark Dittmar, and Carolina Lopez. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office will continue to promote the Arts in our community and looks forward to many more celebrations in the 1904 Historic Courthouse.



Follow us on YouTube @ Border Eco



# "Best of Show"

For artists of all genres, Saturday, October 30th, was an exciting day. La Linea Art Gallery and the downtown area of Nogales were alive with art and culture. As part of the event, the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office highlighted the "Best of Show" exhibits from the Santa Cruz County Fair. Those in attendance arrived at La Linea Art Gallery that afternoon to view the exhibits, art and "Dia de los Muertos" altars, while also enjoying the array of appetizers. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, Patricia Barraza-Preciado and staff would like to thank La Linea Art Gallery and Ms. Aissa Huerta for letting us share their space and feature these students' work. In addition, we would like to thank all the Santa Cruz County schools that participated with exhibits for the Santa Cruz County Fair. We're glad to see that everything is returning to normal and that students are once again able to showcase their talent.

# Let's Talk Health

World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on December 1st. Through this event observers celebrate progress made in the battle against the epidemic and more importantly remind us of remaining challenges. The theme for World AIDS Day 2021 observance is: "Ending the HIV Epidemic, Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice".

It is also an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and remember those who have died from an HIV-related illness. Started in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first-ever global health day.

Some important facts:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2019, 36,801 people received an HIV diagnosis in the United States. From 2015 to 2019, HIV diagnoses decreased 9% overall in the US. In that same year, the number of new HIV diagnosed cases were among the 25–34-year old's in the US.

The number of people living with HIV globally in 2020 was 37,700,000. Newly infected people in 2020 were 1,500,000 and 680,000 people died from HIV related causes, that same year.

Although the world has made significant progress since the late 1990s, HIV remains a major global public health issue.

For more information on HIV/AIDS please contact the Community Health Services Department, Mariposa Community Health Center at (520) 375-6050.

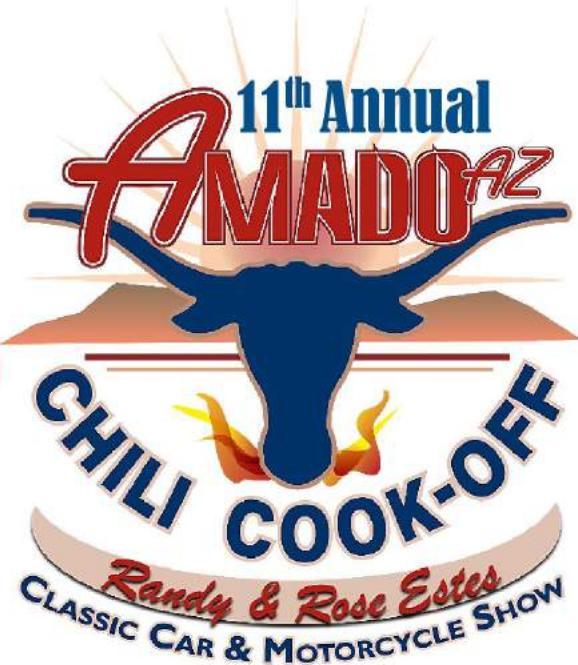


## C-CREO Team Recognized for innovation and creativity

The Arizona Association of Counties hosted the 2021 Annual Conference at the Sheraton Crescent by Marriot in Phoenix during the week of November 10 - 12. The Annual Conference included presentations, meetings of county elected officials, breakout Learning Lab sessions, keynote speakers, and a President's Banquet Dinner. The conference concluded with the 2021 AACo Summit Awards. The winners were announced at the Friday (Nov. 12) breakfast. These unique awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of Arizona county governments as they find new and effective ways of providing services to their citizens. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office was awarded the Summit Award in Youth & Education for the Near-Peer Mentorship Program that is being implemented by the C-CREO Gear Up team in all county high schools. Representing Mr. Alfredo I. Velasquez at the Awards Breakfast was the Gear Up team from left to right: Back row- Sonia Sanchez, Kerri Muñoz, Sandra Davila, Grissel Bojorquez, Maya Donnelly, Erika Vasquez, Adrienne Villanez. Front row- Ally Alvarez, Christie Monreal. Not pictured: Robert Brubaker and Evan Kory.



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



**Saturday December 11, 2021 9 am-3 pm**

**THE AMADO TERRITORY**

I-19 & Exit 48 | 3001 East Frontage Road | Amado, Arizona 85645



**SUPPORTING**

**BUILDING FUND**

**Donate Directly: [www.ppep.org/donate](http://www.ppep.org/donate) | Select: Amado Youth Center Building Fund**



The Amado Chili Cook-off, a project of the Community Prevention Coalition and Amado Community Alliance of PPEP, Inc., is supported by Pima County Attractions & Tourism. Sponsorships, donations, and proceeds will directly support the Amado Youth Center Building Fund. **SPONSORSHIPS AND OTHER DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**



**Information:** Tony Bruno, Event Coordinator **(520) 310-7712**  
Ed Dunin-Wasowicz, Event Chair **(520) 403-0414** Amy Bass, Fiscal Agent Representative **(520) 205-4780**



**Registrations Now Open**



**[AmadoChiliCookoff.org](http://AmadoChiliCookoff.org)**

**Cars   Cooks   Vendors   Sponsors**



# Mayor's Corner



Dear Friends,

The holidays are a festive time of year when we share special moments with our family, friends, and loved ones, and look ahead to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. We reflect upon our many blessings and everything we are grateful for.

During this season of hope and joy, I offer my sincere thanks to all residents for your continued collaboration, cooperation, and support. You are the foundation of Nogales, don't forget that your participation and input contributes significantly to the progress and advancement of our city.

I ask you all to please continue supporting local businesses. I encourage you all to keep purchases local and to support small businesses whenever possible. Our small businesses are a critical part of our community as they provide employment and are essential in helping our city grow and thrive.

I also want to express my appreciation to the members of the Nogales City Council and all City of Nogales employees for your dedication, commitment and service to our community. The outstanding work you perform each and every day meeting the needs of our residents enhances quality of life for us all.

As we look forward to new and exciting opportunities that lie ahead, we remain committed to helping all residents, and we remain passionate about working cooperatively with all of you to make Nogales the best place to live, work, play, visit, and raise a family.

My warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a very Merry Christmas and happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

May God bless you and your families, and our great City of Nogales.

*We want to wish the residents of Nogales, city staff & their families a joyous and peaceful holiday. May the season bring tranquility, joy, and thankfulness for the blessings we have received, and bring hopefulness and promise for our days ahead.*



*Merry Christmas, &  
Happy New Year  
Mayor Arturo Garino and  
Nogales City Council*

# Sheriff's Round-Up



This month, the Sheriff's Office was pleased to host a meeting with Maki Teramoto who is the "Directora General de la Protección de Mexicanos en el Exterior." Various issues were discussed including Search and Rescue programs, prisoner handling in the Santa Cruz County Jail, and the status of various visa categories involving Mexican citizens. Also, the staff of the Sheriff's Office was grateful to be treated to a free lunch that was hosted by the "Santa Cruz County Patriots." The group provided the lunch to two shifts of Sheriff's Office personnel as a "thank you" for their service. The Sheriff's Office also participated in "National Take-Back Day" which is an annual event that allows community members to dispose of unwanted prescription medicines and pharmaceutical items. We give a big thank you to the Garrett family for allowing law enforcement personnel to use their store as a drop-off location for this important program. Various groups and media outlets including Telemundo, Insight Crime, and the Tubac Rotary Club were briefed by the Sheriff or did ride-along interviews with him this month to discuss various topics including drug trafficking and our volunteer programs (Search and Rescue Program and our Law Enforcement Assist program). The county was happy to welcome the annual convention of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas to Tubac which included an amazing culinary showcase provided by the Consulate of Mexico. It was a very successful event. The Sheriff participated in the Empire Ranch cowboy festival just outside of Sonoita this month as well which was a great event with authors and demonstrations of cowboy crafts. The Sheriff's Office also participated in the annual Veteran's Day parade in downtown Nogales and a memorial event at the Wall of Honor in front of Nogales City Hall. We wish the community a joyous holiday season filled with lots of tamales and pumpkin pie!

## Happy Holidays



Follow us on Facebook at:  
Border Echo

**The Santa Cruz County Attorney reminds  
you to stay safe this holiday season**

**DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**



**"The KEY is giving the KEYS"**

2150 N. Congress Dr.  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
(520) 375-7780