

BORDER



4 TECHNOLOCHICAS LIFT Conference

# CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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Read on Santa Cruz County Week

## Child Abuse Prevention Month Awareness



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13 World Down Syndrome Proclamation

**The Santa Cruz County Attorney  
reminds you to report violence!**

**Child abuse shatters lives!**

**April is Child Abuse Awareness Month**



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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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# TECHNOLOCHICAS LIFT Conference

On Monday, March 2nd, Santa Cruz County celebrated the second Technolochicas Lift South 32 Santa Cruz County Conference at the Santa Cruz Center in Nogales. Approximately 200 students, teachers, school governing board members and dignitaries interacted with a panel of Technolochicas moderated by Sonia Sanchez from the Circles of Peace. The Technolochicas, six Latinas from different areas of the world and prominent in STEM related fields: (Adrea Chaves Acelia Castaneda, Claudia Varela, and Eliana Calderon) shared their experiences studying and achieving a career in STEM related fields as Latina Women. Along with the hour-long panel discussion, the Technolochicas facilitated two, one-hour long workshops to the middle school girls.

During the conference, Pat Risner, President for the Hermosa Project at South32, spoke about the employment opportunities for young women in the mining industry. South 32 is a global metals and mining company that spans the globe including the Hermosa Project in Patagonia. Alfredo I. Velásquez, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, also spoke and thanked everyone for their hard work and encouraged the young women to follow their dreams. In collaboration with the Televisa Foundation and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, South 32 is sponsoring the TECHNOLOchicas LiFT program in seven of Santa Cruz County middle schools: Desert Shadows Middle School, Wade Carpenter Middle School, Calabasas School, Coatimundi Middle School, Lourdes Catholic School, Patagonia Elementary, and Santa Cruz Elementary.

TECHNOLOchicas LiFT was developed by the Televisa Foundation to increase the number of girls in Hispanic communities pursuing technology-related studies by the time they reach high school. A curriculum designed to empower, excite, encourage, and engage girls in computer programming, coding, and robotics is being implemented by site facilitators and assistants on each campus for 2-3 hours a week. The program was facilitated by Chris Young from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office.







# 2020 Read Across America



## Read on Santa Cruz County Week

Once again, the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office and School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez, celebrated, along with 30 Private Schools, Charter Schools and Public Elementary Schools within our county, National Read across America/Read on Santa Cruz County Week from March 2, 2020 through March 06, 2020.

With the coordination of Ms. Patricia Barraza-Preciado (Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office,) they had close to 100 volunteers from all across Santa Cruz County, read to every classroom in our educational community. The main goal of this event is to encourage our children to read and to love reading at an early age. It's one of the most important things we can do as parents and as a community. It sets the foundation for a lifetime of success.

**The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, would like to thank everyone who volunteered a couple of hours of their busy day to participate in this wonderful event. The children of Santa Cruz County, THANK YOU as well.**



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# Local student named National GeoBee AZ State Competition

*The results are in! The National Geographic Society named Manuel Lopez, an 8th grader at Coatimundi Middle School in Rio Rico, as one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2020 National Geographic GeoBee State Competition. The contest will be held at the Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus in Mesa, Arizona on Friday, March 27, 2020.*

*This is the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition, which is now in its 32nd year. To determine each school champion, GeoBee competitions were held in schools throughout the state with students in the fourth through eighth grades. This year, an estimated 2.4 million students competed in the GeoBee, with 8,661 students becoming school champions. School champions also took an online qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. Up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories were invited to compete in the State GeoBees. State champions will receive a medal, \$1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Championship where they will compete for additional cash, awards and college scholarships. Story by-Shannon Enciso*

*State champions will receive a medal, \$1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Championship where they will compete for additional cash, awards and college scholarships. The second- and third-place State GeoBee winners will receive cash awards of \$300 and \$100, respectively.*

*The 2020 National Championship will take place May 18-21, 2020, at National Geographic headquarters. The National Champion will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, \$1,000 in cash, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour II. The secondplace finisher will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash; the student finishing in third place will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash; and seven runners-up will each receive \$1,000 in cash.*

*Visit [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org) for more information on the National Geographic GeoBee.*

*Follow the national competition at National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., May 18-21, 2020, at [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org).*



# RRHS teacher elected to serve on Arizona Association of Student Council Executive

Joseph Scott, Rio Rico High School (RRHS) math teacher and Student Council (StuCo) Advisor has been elected to the Arizona Association of Student Council (AASC) Executive Board. Mr. Scott is one of only five elected advisors to sit on the state board, bringing a booming voice from Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 (SCV35) and southern AZ. Mr. Joseph "Jo Jo" Scott is a first year teacher in the SCV35 District, hired by RRHS high school principal Hector Estrada for the 2019-2020 school year. "I am so thankful to Mr. Estrada for such a great opportunity to come to Rio Rico. He has believed in me 100% of the way," said Scott. Scott, who recently moved to Arizona from Arkansas, did so partly because he admired the work of the AASC. "Arizona stood out to me as one of the top five states based on size, growth, sustained success, student/advisor testimonies and the content they were able to provide and show from their events," said Scott. He had set his sights on advising a student council ever since he attended high school.

"I knew I could help make a difference in children's lives. I also knew I wanted a seat on the Executive Board; because I know I will do everything in my power to make the association the best it can be for students as well as advisors, to better serve their kids! I moved out here to become a key part of the AASC, and becoming an Executive Board member is just my first step." As for his vision for student council at RRHS, "It is to become the organization on campus that directly, and indirectly, creates a climate on campus. Long story short, we want to be responsible for the little moments of high school that students remember. We also want to be the connection of our district to the Rio Rico community. We are THE high school of the community, and we want to have programs and events that make the high school more of a hub for the community instead of the "last stop" for education."

When asked to put into words what a Student Council is and what it represents, Mr. Scott said, "StuCo is the heart and soul of a campus. If it is thriving and producing great programs, then students feel excited to come to school. StuCo is the yearbook, because we create the moments on campus students want to remember. Most importantly, StuCo is the voice of students. We make sure that if a student has an idea, it is heard and that we work hard to make it possible." Over the next few years, Mr. Scott hopes to make big contributions to the board that will impact students all over the state. "I hope to bring a new and fresh perspective of how some of our events can be tweaked to better cater to our students. The methods that AASC use are "tried and true", but some of them just need to be freshened up to meet the desire of the ever changing world we live in." For more information regarding the AASC, please visit <http://www.azstuco.org/site/> -Story by Shannon Enciso



# Child Abuse Prevention Month

Alfredo I. Velásquez  
Santa Cruz County  
School Superintendent  
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# World Down Syndrome Day Proclamation 2020

On March 3rd, 2020, families of children and loved ones with Down syndrome living in Santa Cruz County joined the City of Nogales Arizona and the Mayor Arturo Garino to make the Annual Proclamation on behalf of 2020 World Down syndrome Day.

On November 1st, 2011 the United Nation General Assembly made a resolution to designate March 21 as World Down syndrome day to be observed every year beginning in 2012. The 21 day of March was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplicación of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

While beautiful pictures of children with Down syndrome were projected on three different screens inside the city hall chamber, mothers and family members of loved ones with Down syndrome who attended the event spoke to the city officials and the public about their children's strengths and challenges while living with Down syndrome.

**World Down syndrome day has become a global event to spread awareness on behalf of people living with Down syndrome.**



Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. In recent years, Down syndrome has become more common, and children with Down syndrome live longer. According to the National Down syndrome society, 1 in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome. Down syndrome affects people in all races, and economic levels. The reality today is that prevailing negative attitudes, low expectations, discrimination and exclusion, ensure that people with Down syndrome are left behind. There is a lack of understanding of the challenges individuals with Down syndrome face across their life time and a failure to support them with opportunities and tools needed to live fulfilling lives. People with Down syndrome, their family and those who work with them must be empowered to advocate for opportunities. Our voices are getting louder but there is still so much more we can do.

On behalf of the Down syndrome community we thank Mayor Garino, the city council, families and community members for their support.

For information about Down syndrome, and our local organization in Santa Cruz County. *Call The Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection at (520) 470-5833.*

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# Mayor's Corner

Dear Friends,

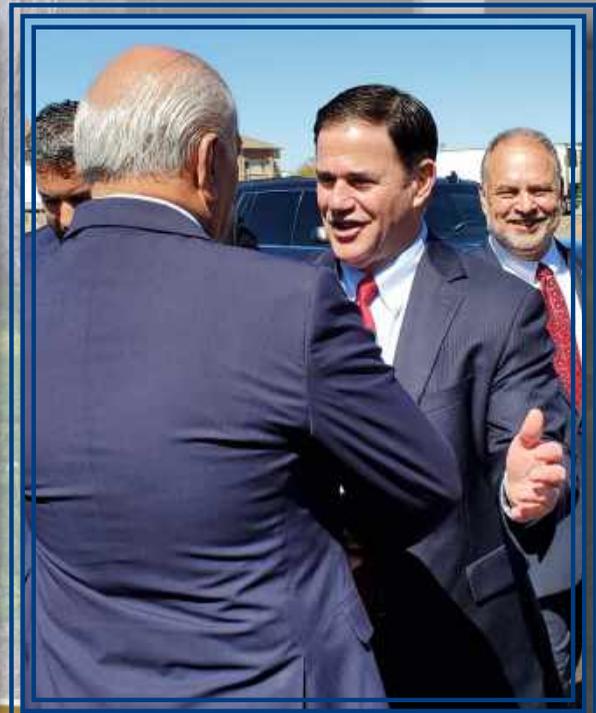
*Due to the COVID-19 Concerns (Corona Virus) I have decided to postpone the State of the City Address until further notice. I was excited to speak about all the wonderful projects that were completed throughout 2019 and future projects, but our focus now is ensuring the well-being of all Nogales residents and employees. Once a new date is selected I will make sure to, once again, let the community know so you can all hopefully be there.*

*On March 4th I had the pleasure, along with Governor Doug Ducey and other state, local and federal officials, to break ground on an exciting new project along State Route 189 in Nogales, Arizona. I was also part of a panel where I was asked to speak about why the modernization of SR-189 is so important to the City of Nogales and myself.*

*The \$130+ million project is meant to improve mobility and safety and will help increase international trade coming through Nogales by linking the Mariposa Port of Entry and Interstate 19. Some of the upgrades along SR-189, that the Arizona Department of Transportation will work on, include flyover ramps that will connect directly with the interstate and therefore, will eliminate the need for commercial trucks to have to stop at stoplights as they travel to and from I-19 and the international border.*

*Another benefit to the project is that it will reduce vehicle congestion on Mariposa Road. The flyover ramps will also increase safety for Nogales High School students. The project also includes a new roundabout at Target Range Road and improved drainage and traffic signals, among other improvements.*

*I'm very excited about the project as it is very important for the City of Nogales, and for the entire state of Arizona, economically.*



# Mayor's Corner



**Child Abuse: See it, Hear it, Report it!**  
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