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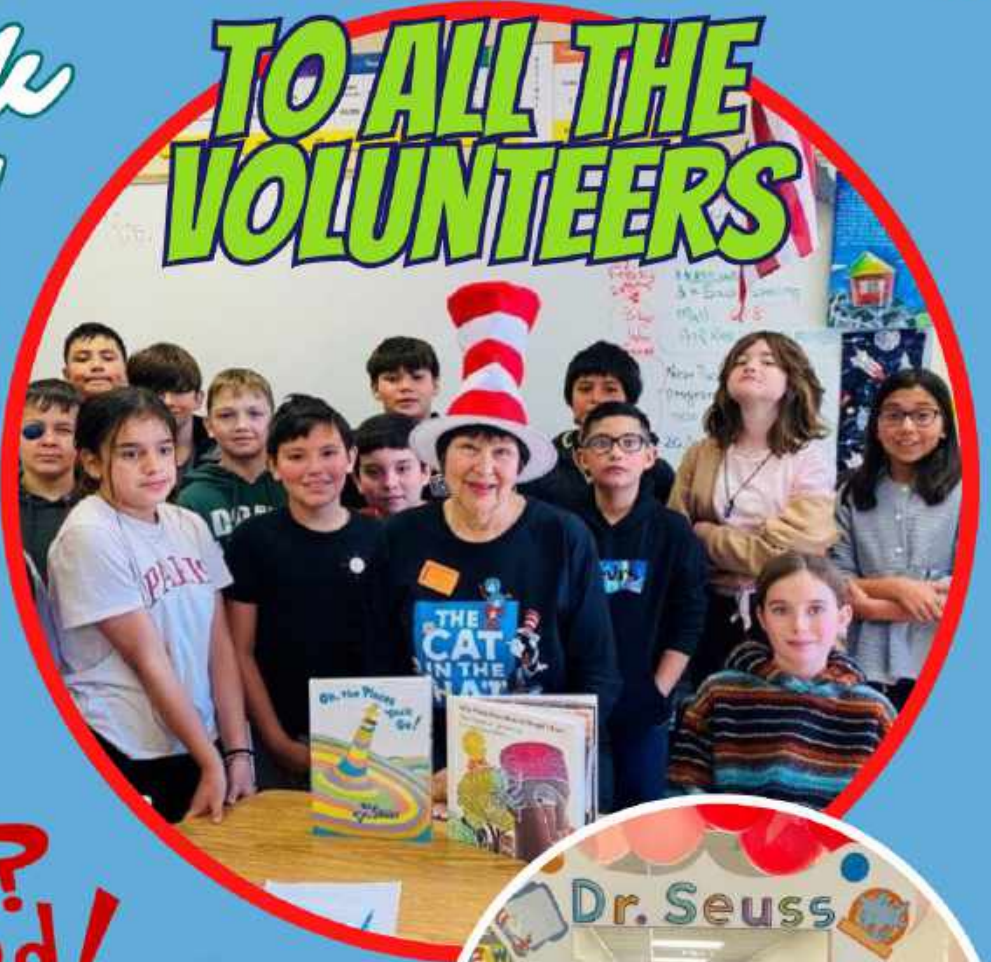
Sheriff's Round-Up



# Read Across Santa Cruz County

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you!

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

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Nogales, AZ 85621

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# Border Eco Updates

*We celebrate this month of April children and youth in Santa Cruz County. We honor individuals, organizations, and events that work throughout the year to help educate, protect, and empower our children & youth. We are grateful for the work of*

*these individuals, organizations, and events that make Santa Cruz County a great place for children and youth to grow and learn.*

*We have the following children and youth focused events in our community:*

*TeenCon23 is a teen conference that provides a space for teens to learn about different topics, meet new people, and have fun.*

*Reading Across Santa Cruz County is a program that encourages people to read to children in their community.*

*The World Down Syndrome Day celebration is an event that celebrates the lives of people with Down syndrome.*

*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook 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, and photography send us your resume at [contact@bordereco.com](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)*



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Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.



# Building a better future, *ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME!*



*Thank you for everything!*



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# PHSI Meet & Greet 2023

*The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, Alfredo I. Velásquez along with Promoting Healthy Students Initiative personnel held their 6th Annual Meet and Greet event. Many agencies and school personnel were in attendance. Our annual Meet and Greet events aim to bring school personnel and agencies together in order to connect schools to the resources that are available in our community. This shared experience provides schools with the tools they need to help their families.*

*During the Meet and Greet event on March 1st, thirty-two agencies set up booths with their information, flyers and brochures highlighting the services that they provide. Over 120 participants attended the two-hour long event held on the second floor of the Santa Cruz County Complex.*

*Participants commented on the fact that they were unaware of the amount of programs and offerings for support in the community. In our exit surveys, 84% of participants said that the event was exceptional and 78% rated the information and handouts as exceptional. One participant added that, "The fact that all of them (agencies) are in the same place at the same time (was) very effective and efficient."*

*All Meet and Greet participants receive a Community Outreach Guide that lists all of the agencies with the services that they offer along with contact information. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this guide, please email Teresa Sprigg at [tsprigg@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:tsprigg@santacruzcountyaz.gov).*

*For more information, contact PHSI at (520) 375-7952 or (520) 375-7962.*

## Promoting Healthy Students Wellness Team



*(left to right- Lizette Montoya, Lorena Tanori, Valerie Arballo, and Teresa Sprigg)  
Photos provided by Adrienne Villanez*





# 2023 Read Across America Read on Santa Cruz County Week



Once again, the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office and School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, celebrated along with 19 Private Schools, Charter Schools and Public Elementary Schools within our county, National Read Across America/Read on Santa Cruz County Week from February 27, 2023 – March 03, 2023.

With the coordination of Ms. Patricia Barraza-Preciado (Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office), the schools in our county had over 75 volunteers from all across Santa Cruz County, read to each 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.

## A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS

### Santa Cruz County

- Mr. George Silva (SCC Attorney)
- Mr. Emilio Velásquez (SCC Justice of the Peace)
- Mr. Rudy Molera (SCC Supervisor)
- Ms. Liz Gutfahr (SCC Treasurer)
- Ms. Cristie Pereda (SCC Treasures)
- Ms. Alicia Andrade (SCC Treasurers)
- Ms. Anita Moreno (SCC Recorder)
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- Ms. Berenice Arellano (SCC Probation)
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- Mr. John Marquez (SCC Commander)
- Ms. Ivanna Cañez (SCC Sheriffs)
- Ms. Janelle Riesgo (SCC Sheriffs)
- Mr. Luis Martinez (SCC Sheriffs)
- Ms. Delia Hernandez (SCC Sheriffs)
- Ms. Sobiera Castro (SCC Emergency)
- Mr. Jose Arriola (SCC Health)
- Mr. Emmanuel Zuniga (SCC IT)

### Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office

- Mr. Alfredo Velásquez (SCC School Superintendent)
- Mr. Chris Young (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Maya Donnelly (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Kerri Muñoz (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Adrienne Villanez (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Mr. Evan Kory (SCC School Superintendent's)
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- Ms. Terri Sprigg (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Lizette Montoya (SCC School Superintendent's)
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- Mr. Victor Villalobos (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Tanya Perez (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Ruth Plascencia (SCC School Superintendent's)
- Ms. Patricia Barraza-Preciado (SCC School Superintendentes)

### City of Nogales

- Mr. George Maldonado (Mayor City of Nogales)
- Mr. Hector Bojorquez (Vice Mayor City of Nogales)
- Mr. Jose Bermudez (Lieutenant NPD)
- Ms. Monica Norzagaray (NPD)

### Nogales Woman's Club

- Ms. Suzie Sainz

### Nogales Rotary Club

- Ms. Georgina Tavera
- Ms. Lourdes Rivera
- Ms. Alba Quijano
- Ms. Sandra Davila
- Mr. Nohe Garcia

### Nogales Unified School District

- Ms. Angel Canto (School Superintendent)
- Ms. Mayra Zuniga (Human Resources)

### Members of the Community

- Mr. Francisco Padilla (First Things First)
- Ms. Jessica Fredrick (Pima College)
- Ms. Alma Ruiz (Pima College)
- Tubac Fire Department
- Mr. Antony Sedgwick
- Ms. Karen Hathaway
- Dr. Lucina Romero
- Ms. Cindy Grimm
- Ms. Bianca Young
- Ms. Adriana Lopez
- Ms. Maritza Lynn
- Ms. Julee Ulrich
- Ms. Susana Ruiz
- Ms. Lopez
- Ms. Rice

### Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

- Ms. Susan Faubion (SCVUSD Board Member)
- Ms. Mimi Renteria (SCVUSD Principal)

### Patagonia Unified School District

- Ms. Cynthia Matus-Morriss (PUSD Board Member)











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## Child Abuse Prevention Month



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# Let's Talk Health

Professionals around the world gather at conference centers to network and expand their knowledge and skill sets. They take new ideas, resources, and strategies back with them to benefit their companies and communities. Mariposa Community Health Center asked: "why not bring this experience to our teens?"

TeenCon23 was created after asking that very question. The Prevention team within MCHC's Community Health Services department works to bring youth programming to adolescents in Santa Cruz County, engaging them with programs that educate them on the dangers of tobacco, vaping, teen pregnancy, and more. Seeing how students benefit greatly from participating in these educational programs, the prevention team decided to organize TeenCon23 as a way to bring the professional conference experience to the youth in our community.

On Saturday February 25th, 2023, 80 students arrived at the Americana Hotel for TeenCon23, where they were greeted by student volunteers at the conference registration table.

These students participated in breakout sessions led by MCHC & community professionals to talk about topics like mental health, adolescent brain development, responsible driving, tobacco & vaping, healthy relationships, and more. Community organizations like the University of Arizona's 4-H youth group and Mariposa Youth Council prepared posters as part of a special exhibition for the conference attendees.

Partners from the Nogales Police Department, Santa Cruz County Office of the Superintendent, Southern Arizona Aids Foundation, as well as MCHC leadership, medical providers, and CHS staff participated in the breakout sessions. Vice Mayor Hector Bojorquez and councilwoman Liza Montiel closed off the day with inspirational words for students to take home. It was a day full of fun, knowledge, and networking for all!

Students walked out of TeenCon23 with relevant information, resources, and motivation to improve our community and take care of themselves and their peers. This was the first ever teen conference event, and MCHC **is looking forward to hosting it again in the future. If you'd like more information on TeenCon23 or other Community Health Services programs for youth, please contact their office directly at (520) 375-6050.**



Follow us on Facebook at:  
*Bordere Echo*



# Tubac Center of the Arts Welcomes New Staff

Tubac Center of the Arts, (TCA) is pleased to welcome new staff, Lisa Hastreiter-Lamb and Johannes Loutsch. Lisa is joining TCA as the new Exhibits and Programs Manager. This new position was created as the former Artistic Director position was split into two positions. Karon Leigh, the former Artistic Director now enjoys her new role as the Marketing Manager. Johannes Loutsch joined TCA in October 2022, as the new Director of the Tubac School of Fine Art. He is working side by side as co-director with Leslie Miller, who will be retiring this summer.

## About Tubac Center of the Arts

Tubac Center of the Arts is an artistic gem in the Southwest. TCA is a member supported nonprofit open 7 days a week. The art center offers a full range of arts programming and seasonal exhibits that are not to be missed including nationally juried art exhibitions, opportunities for artists to exhibit their work, art workshops, lectures, a performing arts series, special events, a children's summer arts program, and a beautiful gift shop.



LISA HASTREITER-LAMB

**Lisa Hastreiter-Lamb** is a museum professional and artist with 26 years of experience in museums. She began her career at the University of Arizona Museum of Art (UAMA) where she was associate curator of education and later curator of education. In 2009 she became the associate director and education director at The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures (TMTM), Tucson.

In 2016, Lisa was promoted to the position of executive director. During her tenure as executive director, grants and sponsorships doubled, she assisted with the growth and development of the museum's board, expanded the staff.

Lisa is a professional artist with an MFA in studio art concentrating in Painting and Drawing. Lisa exhibits her work regularly in both local and national galleries, museums and art centers.

**Johannes Loutsch** -Johannes and his wife, Elena relocated to Tubac in June 2022 from Scottsdale. Johannes brings a plethora of talent and experience to the director position. He is a strategic and award-winning creative executive with exceptional talent in the development of fully integrated campaigns. Throughout his career he has provided strategy, creative direction, operations, and production guidance for organizations ranging from startups & nonprofits to advertising agencies and Fortune 100 companies.

A true multi-platform creator, Johannes has a lengthy track record of significant accomplishments in digital content, advertising, and entertainment as both a maker and brand-story evangelist. His strategic instincts, business savvy, and leadership skills are world-class and highly respected throughout the industry.



JOHANNES LOUTSCH



# 2023 World Down syndrome Day Proclamation ceremony

## "I MATTER, count me in!"

*Proclamation ceremony for World Down syndrome Day 2023. The theme for the event is "I MATTER, count me in!" This event took place on March 21, 2023. at 5 p.m. at Nogales City Hall, 777 North Grand Avenue, in Nogales, Arizona.*

*The event was supported by the Mayor of Nogales Arizona Jorge Maldonado and his City Council members, and many families raising children with Down syndrome from our Santa Cruz County community gathered to celebrate this one day we have a chance to make change.*

*On World Down Syndrome Day, the Santa Cruz Parent Connection celebrated the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome. They also discussed the importance of providing them with equal opportunities and support. A brief explanation was given of the significance of March 21st, the date on which World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated. A number of parents, siblings, and advocates spoke about the joy and love that people with Down syndrome bring into their lives.*

*The father of a child with Down syndrome stressed the importance of treating them with dignity and respect. We shouldn't pity them, he said, because they are human beings first. We need more recreational programs for children with Down syndrome in our community, according to a sibling. According to her, these programs will help them develop their social skills and have fun.*

*Also speaking was Mayor Maldonado, who discussed the importance of advocating for people with Down syndrome. The same opportunities should be available to them as to everyone else, he said.*

*The World Down Syndrome Day celebration wouldn't be possible without the support of everyone who attended. Maria Scholnick, Program Director from the Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection, said that the event aims to increase awareness and promote understanding and acceptance of Down syndrome.*

*The Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection awarded a certificate of appreciation to the Santa Cruz County Public Library staff for being the most supportive organization for the Down syndrome community. They presented them with a certificate of appreciation.*

*The event was organized by the Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection, Nogales Arizona councilwoman Liza Montiel, and Mayor Maldonado staffer Judith Armendariz.*

*Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection provides support and advocacy to parents of children with Down syndrome and other special needs. Please contact Maria Scholnick (520) 470-5833 or visit SCPLC on Facebook.*





## SCV35 SHINING STAR TEACHER RICHARD MCPHERSON

In honor of Career and Technical Education Month, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 (SCV35) is proud to highlight the Agriscience program at Rio Rico High School.

Richard McPherson is considered a shining star in the SCV35 District. Superintendent David Y. Verdugo recently interviewed McPherson about his participation in the creation of a nationwide drone program that teaches students how to operate and become licensed to fly a drone.

In his interview, McPherson said that in recent years, the Arizona Department of Education changed its technical standards for AgriScience to include Technology Innovation and Drone Technology into the standards. McPherson immediately began working on a program. "I jumped on board and started creating a curriculum to teach and cover that standard," said McPherson. During his research, he found out that 100,000 drone pilots would be needed in agriculture by 2025. With high demand and a higher-than-average starting salary, McPherson felt it would be a good opportunity for students.

Further research concluded that the only requirement to be a drone pilot is that the pilot must be 16 years of age and pass the Part 107 pilot test.

After sharing his research with students, McPherson said nontraditional agriculture students were intrigued by the career possibilities. "Those numbers, job opportunities, and everything that (was) associated with that just got really interesting and really motivating for students that were not your traditional chicken, egg, greenhouse, tomato, tilapia student, but was involved with technology, innovation, (and) forward thinking."

The curriculum includes how to fly the drone with good hand-eye coordination and dexterity and preparation for the Part 107 test. McPherson helped launch the curriculum in August of 2022 and has been traveling the country since, speaking at various conferences about the curriculum and the huge demand for drone pilots.

As part of personalized learning plans at Rio Rico High School, students have access to the program. McPherson said there are 5 or 6 students currently who will test in May for their licenses.



## MOUNTAIN VIEW 3RD GRADER WINS FUTURE CHEFS COMPETITION

Students in Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District recently used their culinary skills to reimagine their favorite lunch meal by creating original recipes in the 2023 "Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge." The national initiative, now in its twelfth year, was created to get students thinking about making healthy food choices while also encouraging them to be active and creative in the kitchen. During the competition held at Calabasas School on March 1, 2023, the young finalists were assessed on criteria including originality, easy preparation, healthy attributes, kid-friendliness, taste, plate presentation, and chef's presentation.

SCV35 students in grades kindergarten through third grade participated. Jace Jackson, a 3rd grader at Mountain View won the plate and chef's presentation as well as being the overall 1st place winner with his Mango Bango Smoothie.

"Our Future Chef event is the most fun we have in food service each year! The students are great chefs! It always amazes me how creative they are. You can tell they enjoy cooking at home and have prepared these same recipes. There is always great teamwork and a lot of smiles while they are preparing their recipes for the event. The event is enjoyed by all who attend, including a lot of proud parents," said Bette Hunt, Sodexo Resource Manager.



*Rio Rico Insights*



# Mayor's Corner



Throughout the month, the Mayor's Office's events included World Down Syndrome Day, Nogales library's 100th anniversary, and Mayor Youth Ambassador. World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on March 21st each year. It is a day to raise awareness about Down syndrome and to celebrate people with Down syndrome's achievements. A celebration was held by the city of Nogales, Arizona, on World Down Syndrome Day. Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection and City Council members hosted a celebration at City Hall. Mayor Jorge Maldonado signed a proclamation commemorating the event.

An important part of this event is educating people about Down syndrome and celebrating their achievements. Nogales is committed to celebrating World Down Syndrome Day and supporting people with Down syndrome. The city's events and activities are a great way to raise awareness about Down syndrome and to celebrate the achievements of people with Down syndrome. The city is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its library. A variety of events will be held throughout the year to encourage community members to read, including story time. It is a great way to celebrate the library's history and enjoy its many services.

In addition, the city is launching a program for Mayor Youth Ambassadors. As part of the program, young people will be chosen to represent the city and promote its many assets. Ambassadors will develop and implement community service projects, as well as represent the city at events and festivals. It is an excellent program for young people to become involved in their community and make a difference.

The City of Nogales is committed to celebrating its many assets and providing opportunities for its residents. Our participation in events and programs will help us achieve this goal.





# Sheriff's Round-Up



This month at the Sheriff's Office we celebrate three divisions who are critical for to all of us. National Volunteer Week during the third week in April is an opportunity to thank all the thousands of volunteers across the country who keep many organizations running, communities safe and provide the services that otherwise would not exist without volunteers. At The Santa Cruz County our Search and Rescue, and Law Enforcement Assistant program relies on volunteers. This week, we dedicate it to them. Thank you for your dedication and service to your county. Secondly, Administrative Professionals Week is celebrated annually every last full week in April. This week is dedicated to recognizing and applauding the work of administrative personnel: receptionists, secretaries, administrative assistants, executive assistants, personal assistants, customer support, among other administrative support professionals. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and we appreciate all you do! Lastly, Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community, are honored. This week-long event, is time to appreciate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week that should be set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication. Every day and night all across the country, public safety telecommunicators answer emergency and non-emergency calls. They connect callers to emergency care and provide valuable resources to those in need. Tele-Communicators provide life-saving services by talking distressed callers and calming hysterical crime victims and they make difficult decisions using limited information to save lives. We appreciate you and thank you for your service.

We are so grateful for all of you and cannot stress enough how critical to our county all of you are!  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office appreciates volunteers, administrative, and tele-communicators in every agency.

Thanks you for everything,

Sheriff David Hathaway





# A Message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Every year, more than 4 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more than 4.3 million children (a referral can include multiple children). Childhelp. (2021)

**You have the power!**



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abuse*

