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A Message from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent

BACK
to
SCHOOL



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
&
Staff

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Nogales, AZ 85621

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Border Eco Updates

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



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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Our office is located on :
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Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.

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JUMP BACK 2 SCHOOL 2023

The Jump Back 2 School Event recently celebrated its 11th year, marking a significant milestone. This annual extravaganza has become a highly anticipated highlight for students, parents, and teachers alike. It offers a day filled with excitement, anticipation, and endless possibilities, enhancing the student experience and supporting NUSD students and families. Here's to another incredible year of stimulating young minds and equipping them for success.

The Jump Back 2 School Planning Committee would like to thank the following local organizations for their continued support:

- Nogales Unified School District*
- Santa Cruz County Office of Superintendent*
- Making Connections 4U*
- Border Eco Magazine*
- NUSD Title 1*
- South 32*
- Children's Advocacy Center*
- Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona*
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- Circles Of Peace*
- Boys and Girls Club*
- Hall of Fame*
- Nogales Public Library*
- International Taekwondo Academy*
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection*



Echoes From the Hilltop

The interview with the two group members of Once Upon A Time was filled with nostalgia and laughter. They reminisced about their journey from high school friends to musicians. As they sat down with Border Eco Magazine, it became evident that their bond transcended beyond just making music together.

Alex, the lead vocalist of Once Upon A Time, described how he was drawn to music as an escape from everyday life. He found solace in pouring his heart out through lyrics and melodies. Robert, on the other hand, discovered his passion for guitar after stumbling upon his father's old record collection. Their friendship became the foundation of Once Upon A Time when they formed a band together in November of 2021.

Here are the members of the group:

Alex Aguirre: Guitar & Vocals

Mike Garcia: Lead Guitar & Vocals

J.J. Jacobo: Keyboards & Vocals

Augustin Castaneda: Drums

Bob Lineiro: Bass Guitar & Vocals

"My mom always played music, which inspired me and made me appreciate music. Despite liking to sing, I realized I needed to learn to play an instrument to join a band. I learned to play the guitar. "I self-taught myself to guitar & vocals," said Alex Aguirre.

Reflecting on the origin of their band name, Alex and Robert smiled at the memory.

"We had been searching for a name for 6-8 months before JJ. Jacobo suggested Once Upon A Time. Our band brings over 45 years of experience," said Robert "Bob" Lineiro, bassist and singer.

As you can imagine, this level of experience adds a great deal to their music. Composed of seasoned musicians who have honed their craft for decades, Once Upon a Time is bound to deliver exceptional performances that showcase their expertise and passion for music. With such a wealth of experience under their belts, they have likely encountered countless musical styles, genres, and techniques. This allows them to approach their artistry with versatility and confidence. This kind of history suggests an understanding of music's intricacies that only comes with time and dedication.

Fans can expect a sophisticated blend of talent, creativity, and professionalism from Once Upon a Time. This is as they continue to make musical waves throughout Santa Cruz County.

With their extensive experience and deep understanding of music, Once Upon a Time is poised to capture audiences with its distinct sound and innovative compositions. Their collective knowledge of various musical styles and genres allows them to effortlessly blend elements from different traditions, creating a truly distinctive and dynamic musical experience. Their versatility reveals both their technical proficiency as well as their ability to explore uncharted sonic territory. The group continues to make waves, and fans can expect a musical journey filled with surprises, emotions, and a deep appreciation for its art. They push the boundaries of the musical landscape, creating captivating soundscapes that are as unique and powerful as they are innovative.

It is clear that Once Upon a Time is passionate about their craft and delivers exceptional performances.



"Our Summer of Success"

Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent Mr. Alfredo I. Velasquez's Office is proud to have supported over 30 summer programs around Santa Cruz County between June 5 and July 28, 2023, thanks to the ESSER III grant award from the Arizona Department of Education.

More Than 30 Summer Camps

In addition to GearUp, Los Padres, and Promoting Healthy Students Initiative (PHSI) summer programs, the ESSER III grant made it possible for Mr. Velasquez's Office to support Fine Arts Camps all over Santa Cruz County as well as, to name a few:

Future Firefighters in Training at the Nogales, Sonoita, and Tubac Fire Stations;

STAGE Theater & Environmental Literacy Camp at the Tubac Center for the Arts and Land School in Tumacacori;

OS3 Bicycling Camp at Fleischer Park in Nogales, AZ;

Drone Theory, Design & Operation at the Rio Rico High School in Rio Rico;

Border Youth Tennis Exchange tennis camp at Anza Park in Nogales, AZ;

No Child Left Behind for students on the spectrum, in Nogales, AZ; and

The Art of Storytelling at The Santa Cruz Center in Nogales, AZ.

These are only a few of the programs that were offered this summer! We look forward to offering similar programming to our community next summer 2024.

Student Art Exhibition

We were proud to exhibit some of our campers' artwork on July 28, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the 1904 Courthouse (21 E. Court St.) next to the Post Office on Morley Ave. We had an evening of refreshments and acknowledgement of each of the students that participated in the various art camps. Email ahuerta2@santacruzcountyaz.gov or goverta@SantaCruzCountyAZ.gov for more information or with questions about this event.

Call to Submit ESSER III Funded Education Enrichment Program Proposals

In brief, Mr. Velasquez's Office was awarded the largest ESSER III grant in the State of Arizona to support educational enrichment programs around Santa Cruz County. As a result, we are inviting highly qualified educators and community members to submit a Request for Funding/Program Proposal to provide after school (2023 - 2024) and/or summer (2024) enrichment programs for the students of Santa Cruz County, PreK - 12th grade. The deadline to submit a proposal is June 1, 2024. To request a proposal template, submit a proposal, or request additional information about this opportunity, please email RSedgwick@SantaCruzCountyAZ.gov.



Summer Camps 2023

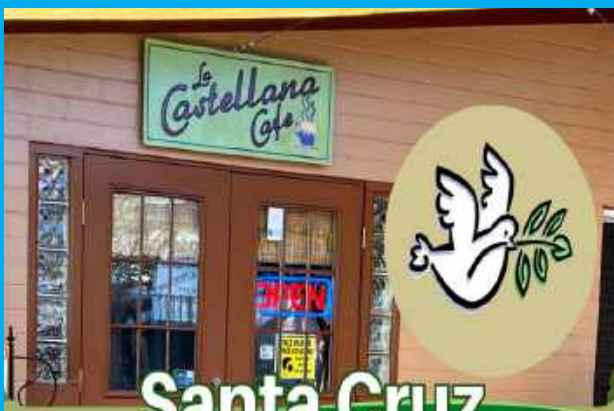
Nearly 800 students attended a Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office sponsored summer camp this June and July. Grant funded programs through Mr. Alfredo Velasquez's office facilitated their own summer programming, and received proposals from outside organizations to assist with funding their planned summer activities. As a result, over 30 free learning opportunities for students in grades K-12 were made available to our community's youth.

Camps ranging from one to five weeks were designed to spark the interest of all and reduce summer melt. Thank you to community partners of the SCCSSO for facilities and classroom space: Santa Cruz Center, Rio Rico High School, Pierson High School, Coatimundi Middle School, Patagonia Union High School, Wade Carpenter Middle School, Boys & Girls Club of Santa Cruz County, and La Linea Art Studio. Thank you to Sodexo Food Services at NUSD #1 and CVUSD #35 for providing free lunches to all campers in the county.

To name a few camps the SCCSSO sponsored, elementary students from grades K-5 participated in Robo-Ed Robotics, The Universe Within (Corrugated Headgear & The Art of Kinetics), Paper-Making, and YEP: Youth Empowerment Program with a parent component (PEP.) Students in grades 6-8 registered for RoboMaster Robotics, YEP/PEP, Gear Up Rocket Academy, Paper-Making, Murals, and International Street Revitalization. High school students took part in YEP/PEP, Gear Up Adulting 101, AzCyber Bootcamp, Gear Up College Admissions Bootcamp, Gear Up Rocket Academy, Murals, Digital Photography, Summer Film Camp, and the International Street Revitalization.

ESSER III grant funding from the Arizona Department of Education is the funding source for summer enrichment programs provided by the SCCSSO. Please contact grant programs Director Maya Donnelly for further information. mdonnelly@santacruzcountyaz.gov.





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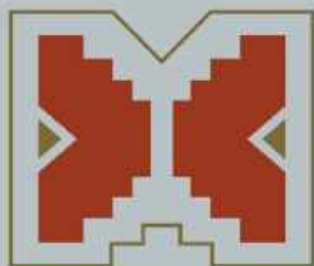
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Let's Talk Health

How to feed your child without stress?

Ellyn Satter @EllynSatterinstitute created what is known as the Division of responsibility in Feeding your child. The Division of Responsibility in Feeding is described as an approach where the parents provide the food and child decides how much to eat and whether to eat or not. The Division of Responsibility in Feeding is an evidence-based approach to feeding children with the goal to allow parents to set boundaries through setting mealtimes and the specific foods that are in each meal, but it also gives children the chance to learn to trust their own hunger and fullness cues. This approach will create a much happier, less stressful mealtimes where the parents and children can independently enjoy their food without one needing to push or prod additional bites or clean plates.

Let us examine rules:

First the Parents or Care takers: The parents or care takers are responsible for:

The What: Buying healthy foods that is focusing on whole foods and less processed foods. Preparing healthy meals and snacks, that is with fruits and vegetables at every meal.

The When: Setting regular times for meals and snacks.

The Where: Setting one place for eating the meals and snack without distractions like TV or any electronics that way the child can pay attention to his hunger cues and listen to his/her body cues.

Second the child or teen: They are responsible to:

Eat or not. Do not worry if your child or teen is not hungry to eat. They have a snack to eat between meals and more meals to come. Make sure the meals provided have at least 3 foods from the 5 food groups. The five foods groups are the grains, proteins and vegetables, fruits, and dairy. This will provide variety of options for the child or teen to choose from.

Whether to finish the plate or not. This is done by serving the child within the serving sizes and let the child asks for more if they are still hungry. As a rule of thumb serving sizes are within the hand size of the child. Always engage your children and teens in meal preparation & grocery shopping.

Please remember this method is not meant to be rigid or cause any battles, so if that is happening, take a deep breath and look at the context of where the stress and anxiety is coming from. What else is going on in life? There are times when feeding a family may be easier than others. Please always engage the whole family when deciding on adopting new rules.



Follow us on YouTube @ Border Eco

People who "echo" Erica Teller

In this month's issue, Border Eco shines a spotlight on Erica Teller, an esteemed figure in the realm of performance art within Santa Cruz County. She is the owner, director, and teacher of A Step Above. Teller is a pioneer in the field of artistic expression, challenging conventional notions of what it means to be creative.

A Step Above School of Performing Arts is a private business that actively engages with the local community through participation in local events and sharing their programs. Their primary goal is to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment for students of all ages.

After graduating from the same high school as her husband, Eric Teller moved to Santa Cruz County in 2005. They have 3 teenagers (2 sons and a daughter). As soon as she was allowed to work with children, Mrs. Teller began babysitting. She obtained her Red Cross Babysitting Certificate in 2000. She is originally from Franklin, Wisconsin (a suburb of Milwaukee County).

"I always knew I wanted to work with children in some capacity. My plan was to complete my education and become a kindergarten teacher, but God had other plans for me! When I'm not at the dance studio I enjoy cooking and baking, camping with my family, and knitting when I get the chance."



"I believe that every individual has unique talents and potential, and it is my goal to help them discover and develop their skills to the fullest. Since our humble beginnings in 2014, we have witnessed tremendous growth and success. The demand for quality performing arts education in the area has been overwhelming, and we are proud to have expanded our class offerings to meet this need," said Erica.

At A Step Above School of Performing Arts, our mission is not just a mere statement, but a heartfelt commitment to creating an extraordinary environment that nurtures and embraces the diverse talents of students of all ages. Since our inception in the year 2014, we have embarked on an incredible journey of growth and success, driven by an overwhelming demand for exceptional performing arts education in our local community.

Students are encouraged to explore their passion for the performing arts in a safe and inclusive space. We firmly believe that every individual possesses unique talents and untapped potential. It is our unwavering goal to help them unearth and cultivate these gifts to their fullest extent, according to Erica.

To ensure that my students receive nothing short of the finest training available, I bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise to each and every class. Besides being passionate about my craft, I am also deeply committed to the development and growth of my students. Our students learn a variety of disciplines, such as jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary music, and much more, under my guidance.

At A Step Above, we understand that a well-rounded education goes beyond acquiring technical skills. In addition to teaching discipline, confidence, teamwork, and creativity, we believe these are essential qualities for success in the performing arts and in life as a whole. Our goal is to create a learning environment where students can grow personally and become well-rounded individuals through engaging lessons and collaborative projects.

I am here to support and guide all of our students, whether they aspire to pursue a career in the arts or just want to explore their creative side. They are a testament to the transformative power of the performing arts and our institution's unwavering commitment.

As the director of A Step Above School of Performing Arts, I am more than just an educational institution; I am a dedicated individual who believes the performing arts have transformative powers. Join us on this incredible journey to discover yourself, grow, and excel artistically. Together, let us discover ourselves and our potential.



People who "echo"
Erica Teller

A Step Above School of Performing Arts

At Border Eco Magazine, we are delighted to showcase a remarkable and innovative addition to our region's performing arts landscape. The visionary initiative "Step Above Performing Arts" aims to elevate Santa Cruz County's cultural tapestry to new heights, and we are thrilled to share it with the community.

Dedicated to excellence, education, and entertainment, Step Above Performing Arts promises to unite performers, audiences, and the community in a memorable celebration of talent, passion, and inspiration. As Santa Cruz County embarks on a new era of artistic excellence, we invite you to join us on this extraordinary journey!

According to Erica Teller, the owner, director, and teacher, she is currently the driving force behind A Step Above School of Performing Arts. With her passion for dance and her dedication to nurturing young talent, Erica has successfully built a thriving community of dancers in Santa Cruz County.

Over the past 11 years, A Step Above has become a beloved institution in the Rio Rico area. The partnership with the Rio Rico Fitness Center was instrumental in gauging interest and laying the foundation for what would eventually become a flourishing business. What started as a humble experiment has now grown into a renowned school that instills the love of dance in children throughout the county.

The success of A Step Above can be attributed to its commitment to providing high-quality dance education. Erica's expertise as an owner, director, and teacher ensures that every student receives top-notch training and guidance. She brings years of experience in various dance styles and techniques, allowing her to offer a diverse curriculum that caters to different interests and skill levels.



Our humble beginnings have blossomed into a vibrant and thriving institution. I am truly grateful for the unwavering support of our dance families. Their dedication and commitment have played a significant role in the success of our program. Even after their child(ren) have moved on from dancing with us, these families continue to stand by our side, offering their encouragement and assistance whenever needed.

It is important to acknowledge the immense contribution of my own family, especially my husband, who has been my pillar of strength throughout this journey. Their unwavering belief in me and my vision has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and achieving milestones.

In addition to my family, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Celia Concannon. When I first arrived in this community, feeling unfamiliar and isolated, Celia reached out and introduced me to other members of the community. She not only helped me establish connections but also provided me with my very first opportunity to volunteer. Her kindness and support were invaluable during those early days.

The support we receive from individuals like Celia is a testament to the power of community. It is through these acts of kindness and inclusion that we are able to overcome the challenges of feeling unfamiliar and isolated.

Celia's willingness to reach out and introduce me to others not only helped me establish connections, but it also instilled a sense of belonging and purpose. Her selflessness in providing me with my very first opportunity to volunteer not only enriched my life but also inspired me to pay it forward and become an active member of this community. Celia's kindness and support were truly invaluable during those early days, and her impact continues to resonate with me and others in this close-knit community.

I am forever grateful to Renee Neuman and the Larriva family for their unwavering support and belief in me when I was just starting out. They gave me the opportunity to test my entrepreneurial skills and see if I had what it takes to establish my own business. Their trust in me was invaluable, and without their guidance, A Step Above would not have come into existence.

But it doesn't stop there; my gratitude extends to all the dance families, both past and present, who have been a part of our studio. Their loyalty and dedication have been the pillars that have kept us going through thick and thin. The love they share for our studio is infectious, creating a vibrant community that fuels our passion for dance.

Living in Rio Rico and being a part of Santa Cruz County for nearly two decades has taught me the true value of community. The relationships we build here are not just fleeting connections; they are bonds that withstand the test of time. In this close-knit community, neighbors support one another through thick and thin, creating a sense of belonging that is truly unparalleled.

"As a passionate advocate for the arts, I deeply believe in the transformative power of creative expression, and it is my mission to build a flourishing artistic community where students of all ages and backgrounds can explore, develop, and showcase their talents in an inclusive and nurturing setting," said Erica Teller.

For more information about A Step Above School of Performing Arts contact us at: info@astepabovenogales.com or (520)604-2871



BACK TO SCHOOL

Work hard, be kind, and amazing things
will happen.

**Sheriff David Hathaway
&
All Sheriff's Office Staff**

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Sheriff's Round-Up



Back to School is right around the corner, and This month we want to honor our School Resource Officers.

According to the National Association of School Resource Officers, an SRO is “a career law enforcement officer with sworn authority who is deployed by an employing police department or agency in a community-oriented policing assignment to work in collaboration with one or more schools.” They have many roles and responsibilities that define their role within a school. Educate – SROs often serve as guest lecturers to teach students about the criminal justice system, drug prevention, and other relevant topics. Mentor – SROs are informal counselors. Students should feel safe and comfortable talking to them or reporting a crime to them. Enforce – SROs are the first line of defense against crime in schools. This is especially relevant in protecting students from school shootings.

If you want to let your school's SROs know you appreciate them keeping your kids safe at school, here are a few ways to say “thank you.” Write them a note. A handwritten card is always a good way to let someone know you're grateful for their hard work! Have your kids write their own messages and sign their names in the card as well. Bake them a treat. Next time you share homemade cookies with the teachers at your school, save a few for your SRO. Your kids can pitch in to help with the baking and deliver the bag of goodies to their SRO. Give them a gift card. A treat like coffee or ice cream is sure to make anyone smile! This is also a great option if you don't have time to bake, or if your school has restrictions for outside food.

Safety is our main priority, remember to use extra caution and safely share road with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists. Always use the crosswalk when available. Remind teen drivers to stay off their cell phones while traveling to school.

Let's work together to keep our children and schools safe another school year.

Your Sheriff,
David Hathaway



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Save the date!

October 2, 2023

5:30 p.m.

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Join us in promoting nonviolence by taking part in the Unity Peace Walk!

With this awareness event, we are beginning our National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in memory of the victims of crime who have lost their lives due to Domestic Violence, and in honor of all survivors and their families and the many dedicated professionals and volunteers who advocate on their behalf.

For more information please contact the Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office at:

(520)375-7780