

BORDER

eco



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## CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



6 Back-to-School Success 2024

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10 Jesus Martinez Professional Growth Journey



12 Making A Difference: 15 Years of Back 2 School Blitz



15 August Monthly Round-Up



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**SCHOOL**

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

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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](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)



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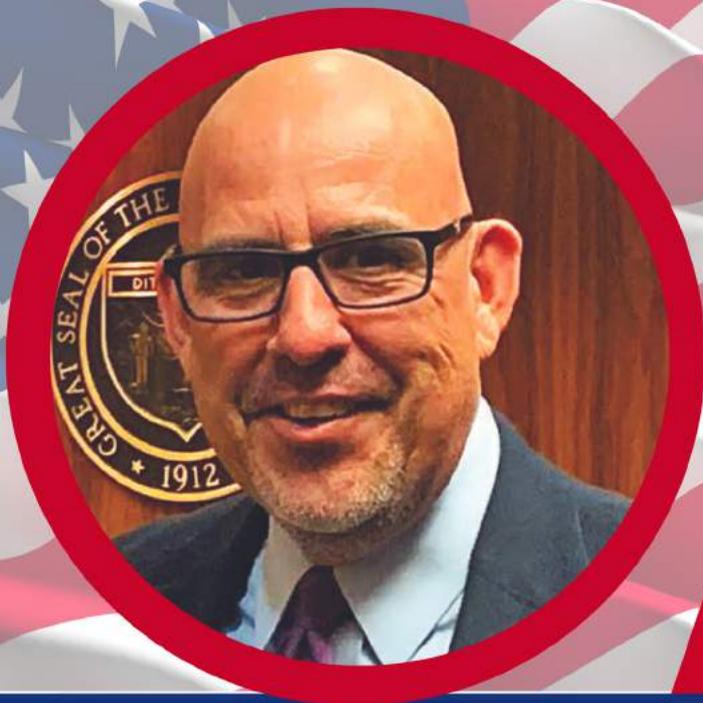
Our office is located on :  
1071 N. Grand Ave. Ste. #122,  
Nogales, Arizona 85621  
(520) 461-4880

Email: [contact@bordereco.com](mailto:contact@bordereco.com)

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

**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.**

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**RE-ELECT**

# RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA



## PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CHULA VISTA BRIDGE
- PALO PARADO BRIDGE
- NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UPS
- 13 MILES OF WALKING TRAILS
- HIGHEST COVID-19 VACCINATION RATES IN THE STATE
- LOBBIED FOR THE COMPLETION OF SR 189 OVERPASS
- ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES SCVSD#35 & NUSD #1
- SERVED/SERVING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)
- SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (CSA)
- SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SEAGO)

**SUPERVISOR**

**DISTRICT #2**



## FUTURE PROJECTS



- POTRERO FLYOVER BRIDGE
- EXIST 12/EXIT 17/EAST & WEST FRONTAGE
- DAMON PARK TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS & SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELDS
- EPHRAIM CANYON RETENTION BASIN
- WORKING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ESTABLISH A BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN RIO RICO



*Thank you for your continued support!*

**RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA**

**THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT RUDY "BUGS" MOLERA**

# Echoes From the Hilltop

This month, Echoes from the Hilltop Gallery is excited to feature Jaycee O'Daly, a 21-year-old Trans Woman residing in Rio Rico, Arizona, who serves as an Administrative Assistant at the gallery alongside Elizabeth Weatherbie. She enjoys creating art, playing video games, working out, and experimenting with makeup in her free time. She recently completed her high school diploma and is on a journey of self-improvement.

Jaycee's most recent exhibition was at the LGBTQ+ exhibition held at La Linea. She described the event as fun and exciting, where she had the opportunity to meet many extraordinary people. Jaycee's passion for art has been a driving force in her journey of self-improvement. She has always found solace in expressing herself through her artwork, using it as a means of self-discovery and personal growth.

At the LGBTQ+ exhibition, Jaycee's pieces resonated with many attendees, sparking conversations about identity, acceptance, and the power of art to bring people together. Jaycee was overwhelmed with the positive feedback she received from attendees of her exhibition. It was clear that her art had struck a chord with many people, opening up important discussions about LGBTQ+ identity and the importance of acceptance and understanding.

Regarding her art, Jaycee draws inspiration from the world around her. She doesn't have a specific source of ideas but lets her surroundings influence her work. Jaycee believes that art is a reflection of life, and she finds beauty in the everyday moments that others may overlook.



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Whether it's a vibrant sunset or a simple interaction between strangers, she sees potential for creativity in everything she encounters. Her ability to capture the essence of these moments in her art is what sets her work apart and resonates with viewers on a deeper level. When faced with creative blocks or periods of low inspiration, Jaycee O'Daly chooses to step back and gather her thoughts before committing to a major decision, also seeking advice from others as a helpful approach.

Jaycee is filled with gratitude for the chance to work at Hilltop Gallery alongside gifted and motivating colleagues. As an Administrative Assistant, she has absorbed knowledge about the art industry and acquired skills that will undoubtedly aid her in her future endeavors. The unparalleled sense of community and encouragement at Hilltop Gallery fuels her excitement to further develop and learn. "I am incredibly fortunate to have had this experience," Jaycee expressed.

She looks forward to applying her newfound knowledge and skills in her future career opportunities, confident that the foundation she has built at Hilltop Gallery will serve her well. Jaycee is grateful for the supportive environment that has nurtured her growth and is eager to continue expanding her expertise in the art industry. With a strong sense of determination and passion for her work, she is excited to see where her journey will take her next.

As she continues to create new pieces, Jaycee finds herself drawn to telling stories through her art, using it as a powerful tool to evoke emotions and connect with her audience on a deeper level. She realizes the impact that art could have in bringing people together and fostering empathy and understanding among diverse communities.

Inspired by the response to her exhibition, Jaycee felt a renewed sense of purpose in her work as an artist. She was determined to continue using her art as a platform for social change, spreading messages of love, acceptance, and unity through her powerful storytelling. Through her art, Jaycee hoped to inspire others to embrace their true selves and celebrate the beauty of diversity in all its forms.

Jaycee O'Daly believes that art should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their financial situation. She understands the importance of keeping prices fair and reasonable so that anyone who appreciates art can afford to own a piece of beauty. According to her, art isn't just a luxury for the rich, but a fundamental aspect of human expression that everyone can appreciate.

**Jaycee O'Daly, Administrative Assistant**



# A Dozen Years of Impact: How Jump Back 2 School Has Evolved

*As we reflect on the rich history of the Jump Back 2 School Event, it is essential to acknowledge the profound impact it has had on the lives of countless students over the years. This event was first sparked by Safeway, who recognized the need to support families and students in our community. From providing essential school supplies to offering information and guidance to parents, this event has played a pivotal role in ensuring our students' success and well-being.*

*Over the past 12 years, the Jump Back 2 School event has grown and evolved. This is thanks to the generous contributions and active participation of numerous organizations in our community. Our NUSD partners, ranging from local businesses to non-profit organizations, have exhibited a deep commitment to our students, embodying collaboration and community support.*

*By partnering with community leaders and local organizations, Safeway helped to bring the event to life when it was launched in 2012. Safeway also provided significant financial support at that time. In addition, they provided volunteers to assist in making the event a success. Due to the commitment and support of our community partners, Jump Back 2 School continues to thrive. Thank you to all those organizations who made this event such a success.*

*Their ongoing support and commitment help shape our students' future. In celebration of this significant milestone, we look forward to continuing collaboration and partnership with our community organizations. This will empower and inspire the next generation of learners. Together, we will provide the resources and opportunities needed to thrive academically. The Jump Back 2 School Planning Committee would like to thank the following local organizations for their continued support:*

*Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office  
Making Connections 4U  
Community Food Bank Southern AZ Nogales  
Odyssey Services Corp  
City of Nogales  
Desert Sky Gymnastics  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
NHS Hall of Fame  
Children's Advocacy Center  
Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona  
International Taekwondo Academy  
JCPenney  
SEAHEC  
Nogales Woman's Club  
Intermountain Centers/Pinal Hispanic Council.  
NY Creations  
JC Penney  
Cricket Wireless  
UA Center for Rural Health  
Lawyers Title/Neighborhood Loans  
Nogales Fire Department  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension of Santa Cruz County*



*Santa Cruz County Recorder's Office  
Border Eco  
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US Customs and Border Protection  
South32 Hermosa Project  
Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz County  
Cropper's Nogales Auto Center  
Nogales Unified School District #1  
Santa Cruz County Recorder  
United Churches Fellowship  
Red Hat Ladies-Maria A Privette  
Jesus M. Cordova Memorial Foundation  
Mariposa Community Health Center  
Constructing Circles of Peace  
Consulado de México  
Santa Cruz Council on Aging  
ARIZONA@WORK - Santa Cruz County  
Santa Cruz County Health Services  
Women's Health Coalition of Az  
Santa Cruz County Justice of the Peace  
HOPE Inc  
U of A for Rural Health*

# A Dozen Years of Impact: How Jump Back 2 School Has Evolved





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# Jesus Martinez's Professional Growth Journey

*Jesus Martinez, a dedicated employee of the Santa Cruz County Road Department, recognized the importance of enhancing his skills and qualifications to excel in his field.*

*In pursuit of professional growth, he sought guidance from ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County, an organization that provides support and resources for individuals seeking career development opportunities. Motivated by his ambition, Jesus enrolled in the CDL program at HDS Truck Driving School. This program offers intensive training to individuals who aspire to become professional truck drivers and obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). After four weeks of rigorous training, Jesus successfully obtained his CDL, a significant achievement that now enables him to fulfill the duties of a Heavy Equipment Operator.*

*The Role of ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County:*

*ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County played a crucial role in Jesus Martinez's journey towards professional growth. They provided guidance and support to Jesus as he pursued his goal of obtaining a CDL and advancing his career. By leveraging the resources and assistance provided by ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County, Jesus was able to enhance his skills and qualifications, which led to new job opportunities. His gratitude goes out to ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County and all those who have supported him on his journey. The new skills and qualifications he has gained will allow him to make a lasting impact in the industry and advance his career.*

*Jesus Martinez enrolled in HDS Truck Driving School's CDL training program to further his professional growth, where he was successful in achieving his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). With the support of ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County, Jesus now has the skills and qualifications needed to excel as a Heavy Equipment Operator. His gratitude goes out to ARIZONA@WORK Santa Cruz County and he is looking forward to making an impact on the industry as a whole.*



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# Let's Talk Health

## Do we need to take supplements?

**Most people think that they need to take a supplement to improve their health. Do you need a supplement?**

**First:** You need to discuss taking any supplement with your Primary Care physician (PCP).

**Second:** Eating a variety of foods provides all the necessary vitamins and minerals the body need. Eat the rainbow! Check @Myplate.gov for more information.

**Third:** Certain groups like: All women of childbearing age need to take Folic acid about 400 micrograms daily, whether from supplements or fortified food. Pregnant women, they need iron during pregnancy, and breastfed infants need vitamin D.

**Fourth:** Evidence does suggest that some supplements can enhance health in different ways. The most popular nutrient supplements are multivitamins, calcium and vitamins B, C and D. Calcium supports bone health, and vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium. Vitamins C and E are antioxidants—molecules that prevent cell damage and help to maintain health. Research suggests that fish oil can promote heart health. Fish oil probably has the most scientific evidence to support its use.

### Safety of the supplements?

1. Dietary supplements are not closely regulated by the FDA, and they can have health claims that are not true or supported by research. There is little evidence that any supplement can reverse the course of any chronic disease.

2. FDA does not evaluate the quality of supplements or assess their effects on the body. If a product is found to be unsafe after it reaches the market, the FDA can restrict or ban its use.

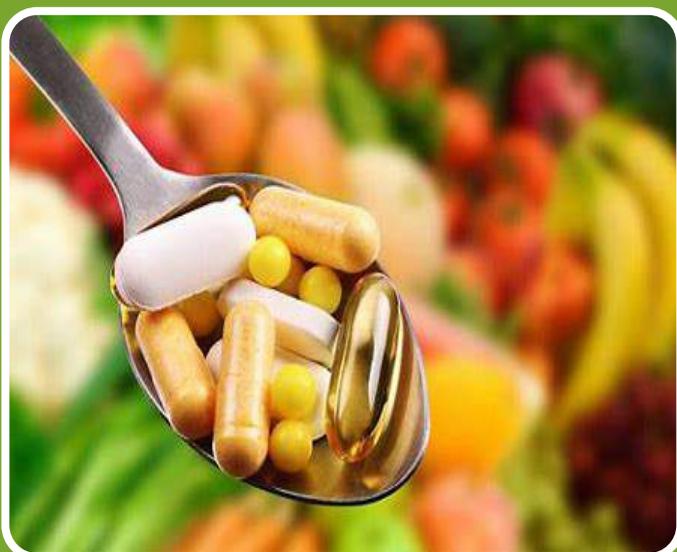
3. Many supplements have mild effects with few risks. But use caution.

4. A few independent organizations conduct quality tests of supplements and offer seals of approval. This doesn't guarantee the product works or is safe; it just assures the product was properly made and contains the listed ingredients. These organizations that offer quality testing include: ConsumerLab.com, NSF International, U.S. Pharmacopeia.

5. To make it easy to find reliable information, NIH has fact sheets on dietary supplements at [ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/list-all/](https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/list-all/). NIH also recently launched an online Dietary Supplement Label Database at [www.dsld.nlm.nih.gov](https://www.dsld.nlm.nih.gov). This free database lets you look up the ingredients of thousands of dietary supplements. It includes information from the label on dosage, health claims and cautions.

Source: National Institute of Health.

By: Badria Bedri, nutritionist at Mariposa Community Health Center.



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# Making a Difference: 15 Years of Back-to-School Blitz Impact

The Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 recently celebrated its 15th Annual Back-to-School Blitz, an event that provided essential resources to over 500 students in the district. The event took place at Calabasas School and included free backpacks, spirit shirts, school supplies, haircuts from All About Hair Etc Salon, and lunches from Sodexo Food Services for all students and their siblings. The Back-to-School Blitz was successful through various organizations and donations.

Our partners included All About Hair Etc, AZ DPS, Big5 Sporting Goods, Family Resource Center in Rio Rico, Children's Advocacy Center, Circles of Peace, Customs and Border Protection Nogales Port, El Taller Drawing and Painting LLC, Girls Scouts of Southern Arizona, International Taekwondo Academy, Mariposa Community Health Services, Mariposa Community Platicamos Salud, Mediacom, Nogales/Rio Rico SCC Public Library, PEPP/NFJP, Peter Piper Pizza, Rio Rico Fire Department, Rio Rico Rotary, Rich River Athletics, Santa Cruz Cardinals, Santa Cruz County WIOA Arizona @ Work, Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office, SCC Sheriff's Office, SCC Emergency Management, SCC Justice of the Peace Mr. Lopez, SCC Voter Registration, Smile Dental, Sodexo Food Services, South32, Tubac Fire District, UniSource, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension-SCC, whose unwavering support and commitment to education helped ensure the event's success. The support from these organizations helped the event succeed.

Angie Lopez, Blitz Coordinator of Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35, expressed immense gratitude towards the community partners and volunteers who made the event impactful for the students. We are especially thankful to John Fanning, Melisa Lunderville, Rebekah Cabrera, Stephen Schadler, Sonia Gutierrez, Blanca Vega, Maria Rivera, Monique Quiroz, Pablo Ramos, Calabasas School, Coatumundi Middle School, Mt. View Elementary School, Rio Rico High School, San Cayetano Elementary School, Sodexo Facilities, Jessica Gonzalez, Samantha De La Cerda, and our wonderful Parent Liaisons Yara Sanchez, Mauren Figueroa, Michelle Myers, Briana Rodriguez, and Maria Peña. Their generosity has made a significant difference in the lives of over 500 students.

The event also showed appreciation to vendors by providing snack boxes. The collaborative spirit and generosity displayed by all involved truly exemplify community support. Special thanks were extended to individuals and schools who contributed to the success of the event. The Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 is committed to continuing this tradition of giving back to the community and supporting students in their educational journey.

**For more information about the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 and its initiatives, please visit [scv35.org](http://scv35.org)**

**Contact: Angie Lopez, Blitz Coordinator [alopez@scv35.org](mailto:alopez@scv35.org) (520)375-8261**



# Gallegos Gains Support in Nogales Arizona for Senate Run

In June, Ruben Gallegos, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate in Arizona, made a stop in Nogales, Arizona, as part of his campaign trail. Gallegos arrived at Teyechea Park where he met with community leaders and members to listen to their concerns and discuss how he can support their community.

During his visit, Gallegos engaged in meaningful conversations with local residents, learning about the issues that matter most to them. He heard their concerns about the economy, education, healthcare, and border security, among many other topics. Gallegos also shared his vision for Arizona's future and his commitment to representing the diverse voices of the state in Washington D.C.

## Commitment to the Community

Gallegos's visit to Nogales demonstrates his dedication to connecting with Arizonans from all walks of life. By meeting with community leaders and members, he is building relationships and gaining a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing southern Arizona.

"I'm thrilled to be here in Nogales, listening to the concerns of this vibrant community," Gallegos said. "As a Senator, I promise to work tirelessly to ensure that every Arizonan has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

## An Arizonan with a New Leadership

Ruben Gallegos's campaign for the U.S. Senate is built on a promise to fight for Arizona's families, workers, and small businesses. With his experience in public service and his commitment to social and economic justice, Gallegos is well-positioned to bring positive change to the state. His visit to Nogales was a testament to Gallegos's dedication to building a better future for all Arizonans. As he continues his campaign, he will undoubtedly inspire and empower communities across the state to come together and demand a brighter tomorrow.



**back to school**

**Anita Moreno**  
**County Recorder**

2150 N. Congress Drive, Suite 101  
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Phone: (520) 375-7990

**"Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom." – Oprah Winfrey**



# Back to SCHOOL



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# Sheriff's Round-Up



We are pleased that a total of 22 Sheriff's Office personnel representing all divisions received Mental Health Response and De-escalation training this month. The training included step-by-step guidance on how to respond to calls involving mental health issues. Officers were also provided with tools to care for their own mental health and any trauma they may experience on-the-job.

During the Month of July, The Sheriff's Office participated in the back-to-school blitz for the Nogales Unified School District and the Santa Cruz County Schools. Sheriff's Office donated general school supplies to both districts.

Sheriff's Office personnel enjoyed participating in 4th of July parades in the city of Nogales and in the town of Patagonia. We proudly celebrated the freedoms that make our country great.

Sheriff Hathaway and Chief Deputy Castillo met with Mexican Consul General Marcos Moreno Baez and his staff to discuss collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and the Mexican Consulate regarding educational opportunities and outreach programs for prisoners at the Santa Cruz County Jail.

Sheriff Hathaway and Chief Deputy Castillo presented a former patrol vehicle, a 2010 Chevy Tahoe with very high mileage, to Patagonia High School Superintendent Kenny Hayes and teacher Jeff Gudenkauf as a donation to the high school as a project for students participating in the auto mechanics class.

The Sheriff's staff thank all residents of Santa Cruz County for your enthusiastic support of our mission.

**Your Sheriff,  
David Hathaway**



# A Message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney



# BACK TO SCHOOL

**"It's essential to be willing, able, and ready to learn.  
We wish all of our educators, staff, and students the best for the  
upcoming year."**



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<https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/155/County-Attorney>