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4

Los Padres Graduation 2022

## CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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Graduations 2022  
Across Santa Cruz County

## Congratulations! Class of 2022



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*We're Proud of You*  
**Congratulations!**  
*Class of 2022*



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**ALFREDO I. VELÁSQUEZ**  
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



# 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, and conferences.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram 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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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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(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  
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# Technolochicas Lift

On May 2nd, Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez hosted the **4th Annual TECHNOLOChicas Conference**. TECHNOLOChicas is an afterschool club that encourages young Latinas to pursue careers in STEM-related fields (STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Over 80 students from across Santa Cruz County participated in this year's conference, hosted by Pima Community College. Keynote speaker Teresa Noon, a Santa Cruz County native and PCC Grant Director, delivered a sensational presentation about her path into STEM. A panel of prominent Latinas in STEM- Melissa Delgado, a cybersecurity expert at Morgan Stanley; and Jaritza Verdin, a cloud support engineer with iManage- also offered participants advice on breaking into STEM-related spaces. PCC graciously provided students a hands-on tour of their Automotive Technology and Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centers. Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez and South32 Hermosa Project President Patrick Risner also attended the conference.

Most of all, the conference was a testament to the incredible work and dedication of this year's TECHNOLOChicas instructors: Mrs. Betsy Hughes, Calabasas School; Ms. Ruchi Chhabra, Coatimundi Middle School; Ms. Martha Morgan, Desert Shadows Middle School; Mr. Daniel Coddington, Patagonia Elementary School; and Mrs. Deborah Oaks, Wade Carpenter Middle School. The conference would not have been a success without the generosity of Pima Community College and their amazing team, especially Ms. Teresa Noon and Mr. Robert Ramirez.

In addition to the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, TECHNOLOChicas in Santa Cruz County is made possible by the generous support of the South32 Hermosa Project, and the Televisa Foundation.



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## Congratulations!

**Martiza Jasmine Brito 5 years old, graduated from Mary L. Welty Elementary School**



# LOS PADRES GRADUATION

The Los Padres Home Visitation Program, funded by the First Things First Regional Partnership Council and operated through the Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent's Office and Alfredo I. Velasquez the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent celebrated the program's 3rd graduation ceremony for its families. On May 11th, Los Padres celebrated with a group of 15 children and their families transitioning into Kindergarten. This was the first in-person celebration since the Covid-19 Pandemic. The event took place at the Santa Cruz County Complex with Chris Young, Chief Deputy, presenting the diplomas to the children along with special guest Francisco Padilla, the Regional Director of First Things First of Southern Arizona. The children received a Graduation Certificate, a backpack with school supplies and a goodies bag from Los Padres. The families enjoyed a light dinner, refreshments and cupcakes. "Los Padres" Home Visitation Program provides a hands-on approach to learning through parent-child interaction and teaches the importance of learning through play. Los Padres Parent Educators will serve a minimum of 62 families in our community with various needs. All families with children ages 0-48 months are eligible to participate in the program in addition to teen parents, first time parents, grandparents raising grandchildren and court appointed legal guardians. It is important to note that the program is not income driven, which means that we enroll ALL families, regardless of income. Representing our office was the Santa Cruz County Chief Deputy Mr. Chris Young. The Los Padres Team is formed by the Director, Gina Parra, and the wonderful parent educators, Diana Villalobos, Melissa Gallegos, Ericka Mezquita, Ruth Plascencia and Zulema Lozano-Monreal.

"Los Padres" staff and the Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent's Office welcomes and encourages any enrollment inquiries or questions.

Please contact Georgina Parra at [gparra@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:gparra@santacruzcountyaz.gov) or at 520.375.7951 for additional information



## CONGRATULATIONS

## Class of 2022

**SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ**

**County Recorder**

**&**

**Eduviges Covarrubias-Senior Voter/Recorder Clerk**  
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The Nogales High School celebrated its graduation on Friday, May 20th at the Apache Stadium. In all, 392 students paraded in the field to the sounds of Pomp and Circumstance, draped in burgundy and white gowns with gold tassels fluttering in the breeze, as cheers from family and friends filled the night. During the ceremony, Tim Colgate, the principal, introduced the board, the administrative staff, and 22 class sponsors. Mr. Colgate welcomed with a cheerful crowd the graduating students of class 2022. As they entered the field, they walked through an arch decorated with flowers, leaves, and tulle. The field was lined with rows of white covered chairs with burgundy ribbons uniformly arranged. One by one, the students entered each aisle and stood in front of their chairs as Mr. Colgate asked the audience to stand during the presentation of the national anthem by the senior clarinet trio. Mr. Colgate announced we are celebrating 392 graduates tonight, but sadly we are missing our 393rd, Cesar Robles Canero, who lost his fight against leukemia on October 3rd of 2020. He asked that the public observe a moment of silence to honor him.

Afterwards, Ms. Victoria Felix, student body president, welcomed students, teachers, faculty administration, family, and friends to the class of 2022 graduation ceremony. During the graduation ceremony, the school valedictorian told stories about her experiences at NHS, teachers who inspired her, friendships, and future goals. As students were called up to the stage, a cheery atmosphere filled the NHS field. As school district employees called out students' names to pick up their diplomas, a good energy filled the field. We wish the Nogales High School Class of 2022 every success!



CLASS OF 2022  
**Nogales High School**  
 Making Graduation Memories



On Friday, May 27th at 7:00pm, Patagonia Union High School held its formal graduation ceremony. Friends, faculty, and family members could see the stage from every angle of the field, where the soon-to-be graduates were seated. The chairs were decorated in black and orange in keeping with the school's colors. The PUHS Steel Band opened the procession playing "Pomp & Circumstance" as the students walked towards the stage. The high school principal, Michael Young welcomed students, staff, and their families, followed by the pledge of allegiance directed by Senior Class President Santiny Aguilar. Kenny Hayes, superintendent of the district, presented the opening remarks and honors. Madison Marie Vines, the salutatorian, and Thomas Diego Botz, the valedictorian, delivered speeches afterward followed with a slideshow of Class of 2022. The diplomas were distributed by PUHS governing board members Cindy Matus Morriss/Member, Ronald Pitt/President, Paula Shaper/Clerk, superintendent, and principal. Students, staff, and family members all shared a sense of excitement during the ceremony. Twenty seniors received their diplomas along with words of encouragement from the superintendent. There were tears and cheers from the Class of 2022 graduates and their families as they celebrated the Class of 2022.



MAKING GRADUATION MEMORIES  
**Patagonia High School**  
 CLASS OF 2022

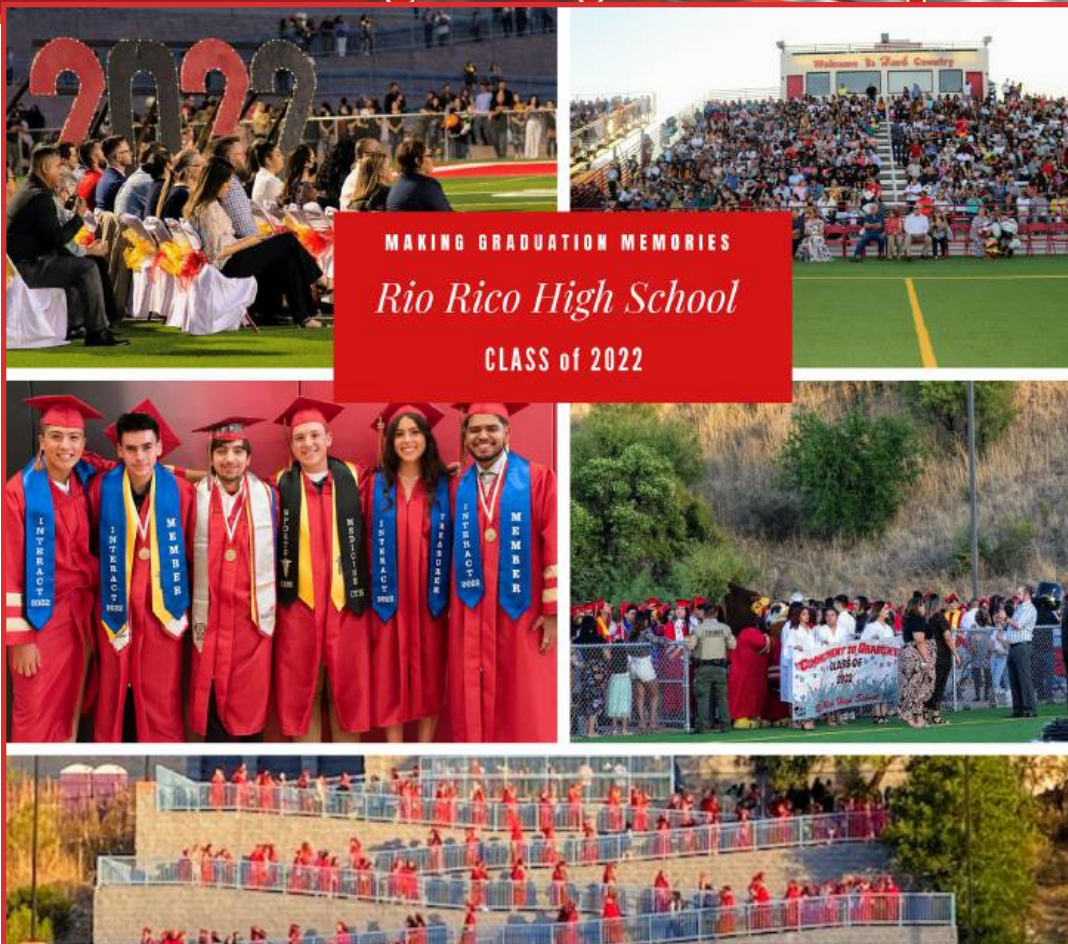


Pierson Vocational High School held their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 17th, at 5:30 p.m. on the PVHS field. As part of the commencement ceremony, students reflected on their school experiences and future goals. Graduating students realize all their hard work has finally paid off. Family and friends gather to celebrate this milestone. Their graduation gowns were white and blue, displaying their school colors. There were beautiful decorations in their school colors on the stage where staff and students sat. The center court stage was decorated with a large 2022 blue and silver display, along with light blue and grey balloons. Friends, faculty members, and family members watched the graduates walk toward the center stage to receive their diplomas from every vantage point on the field. Scholarships were also awarded from the Nogales High School Hall of Fame, as well as other foundations. There was a lot of excitement among the graduates, board members, administrative staff, and their families during the ceremony. A beautiful commencement ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2022, as graduates received their diplomas and heard words of encouragement from staff and peers.

# PIERSON HIGH SCHOOL



# RIO RICO HIGH SCHOOL



On May 19th, the Rio Rico High School Class of 2022 held their graduation ceremony from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. The Rio Rico Marching Hawks Band played from the lower field, while the soon to be graduates walked down the stairways in their customized graduation attire. Every angle of the field stadium allowed friends, school faculty, and family members to view 323 students walking down the stairs in their red & black caps and gowns. The stage where the graduates will be announced was decorated in red, black, gold, and white. After passing through the balloon arch frame constructed of red, black, gold, and white balloons, the soon-to-be graduates took their seats in the center field. Leaders from the community and the school valedictorian addressed the graduates in their commencement speeches, encouraging them to continue pursuing their dreams. Following the speeches, the graduates eagerly awaited the announcement of their diplomas. They felt elated and proud without needing to use any words. The crowd erupted in cheers as the names were announced. Graduating students went to pick up their diplomas one by one. Toward the end of the ceremony and closing remarks, the graduates threw their caps into the air to express their achievements. As fireworks and cheers filled the air, you could hear the excitement coming from the graduates, their families, and the staff.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday November 12, 2022

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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) 255-4067** | Ed Dunin-Wasowicz, Event Chair **(520) 403-0414**

Amy Bass, Fiscal Agent Representative **(520) 205-4780**



# UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATES

Lizeth Acuna,  
Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood  
Education

Aimee Miranda,  
Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Services

Leopoldo Perez-Abreu,  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Callie Donnelly,  
Bachelor's in Accounting

Georgina Siqueiros  
Bachelor of Arts in Finance & Spanish



**Bachelor of Arts in Finance  
Georgina Siqueiros**



Maria Georgina Siqueiros is a native of Nogales, Arizona, and graduated from the University of Arizona with a double major in Finance and Spanish, as well as a minor in Classical Civilizations. It is very surreal to say this, especially since I could never have afforded a college education. Dorrance and Gilman Scholars, as well as many other scholarship donors, provided me with full tuition to the U of A. While I was there, I wanted to study as much as possible to make the most out of my time. I consider all my areas of study to be a part of who I am as a person.

Due to my passion for numbers and desire to help others with their finances, I chose to study Finance. During my time at U of A, I completed a variety of internships, including the United Way's Virtual Income Tax Assistant (VITA) program. Through this internship, I was able to become a certified tax preparer and prepare taxes for low-income, Spanish-speaking families. This was a great opportunity for me to combine my majors. My experience working with Spanish-speaking clients convinced me that this is something I want to pursue throughout my career. "Being bilingual has opened up a lot of opportunities for me. It even allowed me to study abroad. I studied abroad in Orvieto, Italy and Alcala de Henares, Spain, where I studied art, language, and culture. In addition to completing my studies, I also had the opportunity to take advantage of so many wonderful opportunities," said Siqueiros.

Callie Donnelly, former 2018 NHS graduate. 2022 Summa Cum Laude graduate from the U of A's Eller College of Management with a Bachelor's in Accounting. She will be completing a 6 week internship at Deloitte in Phoenix this summer, and returning to the university for an accelerated master's program in Accounting where she will be a graduate Teaching Assistant in the fall/spring of 2022-2023. She is grateful for family & friend's support and encouragement and her professor's guidance and wisdom.

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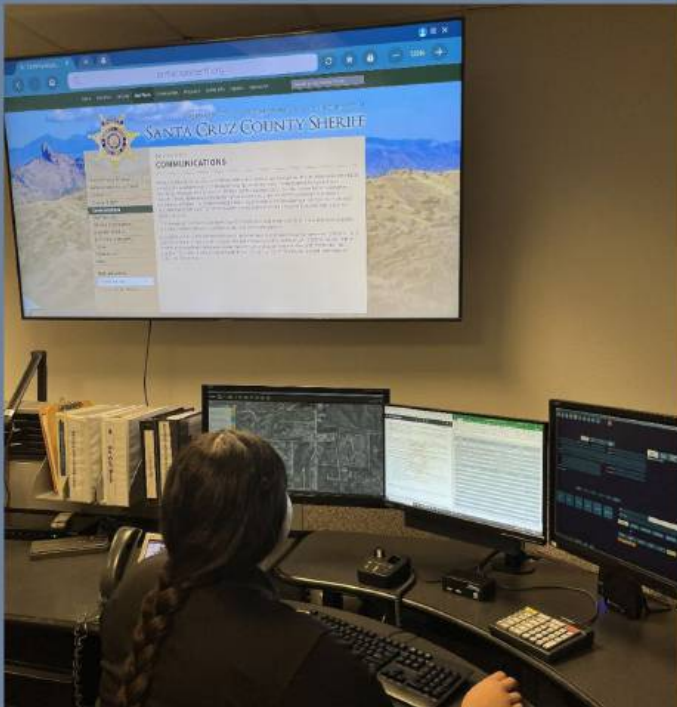
**Bachelor of Arts in Accounting  
Callie Donnelly**



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# Let's Talk Health

## Cancer Survivorship: A Rebirth

Hello Friends!

My name is Sapna Sharma. I always felt like I was the luckiest person on the planet because I had a beautiful family and loving parents. This, in my opinion, was the definition of a beautiful life. So, life was lovely for me. Though I had financial difficulties in my life, I always felt that it was a natural part of everyone's life. In Nogales, Arizona, I was hired as a Math Teacher. I was very excited to be in the United States and meet new people. But I had no idea what my future held in store for me. I was diagnosed with a third-grade Breast Cancer in November 2017, just four months after arriving in the United States. My family was in India, and I was alone in the United States. I cried a lot and cursed God the day I was diagnosed with cancer. What happened to me? Am I a horrible person? And am I going to die now? These were the questions that began to arise in my mind, and I realized that my life was no longer exciting and beautiful. I couldn't find a doctor who would read my mammogram for me. I was very sad, but as I previously stated, life is beautiful. Ms. Patty Molina was my angel. Cancer had begun to take its toll by this point, and I was becoming increasingly weak. I went to see Dr. Portfield, an oncologist, with Ms. Molina, and he explained the entire situation and his plan of action. Meanwhile, I continued to attend school despite being in poor health.

Chemotherapy was administered to me twice a month. My beautiful long hair began to fall out, and my nails began to turn black. But my outlook on life was always positive, and I was always smiling when I had to go to chemotherapy because there was no other option. Ms. Molina and her staff were always willing to assist and support me. My surgery was scheduled after I had completed eight chemotherapies. My body began to respond positively, and I began to feel better than before. The pain was gradually subsiding, and I was now a cancer survivor. Yes, I did fight cancer with the help of wonderful people. My motivation was the fact that my two daughters were in India, far away from me. My husband once said to me, "You are the backbone of our family, and you will have to live for us". During my hospital visits I read a quote which made me stronger from inside. The quote was: "What Cancer Cannot Do: Cancer is so limited..... It cannot conquer the Spirit". Without my family, it was difficult for me to overcome the physical and mental pain. But life isn't always what we expect it to be. And the quote above helped me realize that Cancer had conquered my body but not my spirit. Time passed, and I finished my treatment and returned to normalcy: not completely normalcy, but to some extent.

When I look back, it has been five years since I have been alive and on this planet. Thank you, God, for waking me up every morning and giving me a second chance. I consider myself fortunate to have been given a second chance in life. Surviving cancer, in my opinion, is a rebirth. I believe that this is my final chance in life. It was my dream to complete a Masters of Education, so instead of crying every day, I decided to use my free time after work to finish my Masters. And I finished my Master's degree in Education.

It was a surprise for my family. I also realized that cancer had only affected my body and had had no effect on my mind. Today, I am living my life to the fullest, doing as many good deeds as I can, trying to be positive, and above all, being very conscious of my lifestyle. I follow a strict Vegan diet and avoid sugar. Finally, even when there is no reason to be happy, I am always happy. Cancer has taught me that nothing is in my control; everything is predetermined, but the only thing I can control is my health. And if I want to live my second life, it's up to me to keep myself healthy and happy.



# COUNTY GRADUATIONS



Eavany Hernandez is a graduate of Nogales High School. Eavany is a beautiful and outgoing young lady. She is loved by many. Several of her church youth friends came to celebrate her very special day. As a Type 1 diabetic, she had a tough senior year due to her diabetes and getting covid. Despite being out of school for a month, she managed to finish her senior project and school work to graduate on time with her class of 2022. "We cannot express how thrilled we are to have our first born graduate. From both sides of our family, she is the first great grandchild to graduate," said Emmylou Hernandez. She hopes to become a pharmacist.



Recently, Sebastian Lopez graduated from Calabasas School and entered the 6th grade. From the age of four, he has been attending Calabasas School, previously Peña Blanca. His time at school has taught him many valuable lessons about life, friendship, and the importance of learning. Mrs. Romero and Mr. Engstrom are two of his favorite teachers Sebastian hopes to be on the football and basketball teams as well as join the Calabasas Band. His dream is to own his own cryptocurrency business once he graduates from high school, so he plans to attend Harvard University to study Business and Computer Science. Sebastian likes to play basketball and learn about math and cryptocurrencies during his free time. Family and friends are so proud of him and the future class of 2029.

# Mayor's Corner



Dear Friends,

It has been a busy month for us. A number of events have taken place.

We were honored to be invited to be a part of the Binational Arts Conference.

"For Ambos Nogales, the main goal of this collaboration was to use art as a motor for economic development and to enhance citizens' appreciation of art in general."

The following collaborative partners made this possible:

BYTE

La Linea Art Studio

SCC Schools Superintendent Office - Evan Kory

Consulado General - Victor Manuel Jimenez Segovia

Presidente Municipal Juan Francisco Gim

On Thursday, May 19th Mayor Arturo Garino attended the Mayor's Summit at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. The purpose of this event was to provide a platform for Sonoran Desert Mayors to share and discuss perspectives on both the challenges and opportunities they face. The summit attendants were encouraged to share information on economic development in their communities. Some of the topics of discussion included: Sustainability / Economic Growth / Tourism / Infrastructure / Jobs / Public Safety / Education / Affordable Housing / Trade / Ports of Entry / Healthcare / The Future of Politics.



# Sheriff's Round-Up



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office celebrated National Police Week from May 15 to May 21 along with multiple other Law Enforcement agencies in the county and across the nation. We also celebrated National Corrections Officers Week from May 1 to May 7 to recognize that hard work and dedication of our Detention Officers that work in the Santa Cruz County Jail. Thank you to all employees and volunteers at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office for your dedication! This month saw the attendance by the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue volunteers and Sheriff's Command Staff at the annual Search and Rescue Training Conference in Heber, Arizona. These dedicated volunteers learned new skills and made important connections with other Search and Rescue volunteer groups across the state so that resources and best practices could be shared when it comes to the art of searching for lost individuals in our county.

The Sheriff's Office also participated along with Nogales Police Department and other agencies in the Special Olympics Torch Run this past month to raise awareness for this important program. Also, various memorial services were held across the state for officers who have fallen in the line of duty. We thank all of them and their families for their dedication. This month, the Sheriff's Office also participated in various career fairs in schools across the county and the county enjoyed exciting horse races at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. Nogales High School participated in an exciting State Championship baseball final in Diablo Stadium in Tempe along with many Santa Cruz County residents cheering them on in person or via the streaming coverage. Wow, it was a busy month! All the best to the wonderful residents of beautiful Santa Cruz County! **Sheriff David Hathaway**



**Interim Jail Commander John R. Marquez and Interim Sergeant David Monreal**

# A Message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney

"Success is only meaningful and enjoyable if it feels like your own."

—Michelle Obama

Class  
of  
2022



**CONGRATULATIONS**

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