



4 Experienced Tax professionals

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



BRAIN INJURY
AWARENESS

National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness



12 SCV35 officially a
1:1 School District



14 Mayor's Corner



15 Sheriff's Round-Up

2022

Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence Recipients

The month of February has been designated by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office in partnership with First Things First, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Family Resource Centers, Child Care Resource and Referral, Nogales Rotary Club, Mariposa Health Community Center, Nogales/Santa Cruz County Library, City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Child-Parent Centers, Inc & Head Start Programs, and Child and Family Resources as Early Childhood Education Awareness Month. This initiative is in its sixth year of bringing attention to the importance of Early Childhood Education in Santa Cruz County. It also recognizes and celebrates the work of the medical profession, local agencies, educational leaders and institutions, preschool administrators, and teachers that provide the necessary services to nurture and enrich the lives of our young children and their families. During this time, we take the opportunity to honor and recognize those individuals whose contributions have had an extraordinary influence on our early childhood population and their families throughout the County. Therefore, the *Santa Cruz County Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence* was created to acknowledge and highlight the work of these individuals whose exemplary leadership, commitment, dedication, and passion have tremendously impacted and left an imprint in this early phase of a child's life. On behalf of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez and partners, it is an honor to announce this year's recipients of the 2022 Santa Cruz County Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence.



Ms. Imelda Sandoval



Ms. Haydee Maldonado



Ms. Susan Faubion



Mr. Fernando Parra



Ms. Juby Bell



Dr. Karl Meyer



Ms. Anna Rosasil



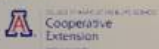
Dr. Melisa Lunderville



Ms. Kim Madril



Ms. Eva Acevedo



Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
Alfredo I. Velásquez

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Border Eco Updates

Border Eco Mission

Our goal is to continue reporting on the great people, organizations, and services in our community. We want to change the public's perception on our border town. Border Eco is focused on the positive people, organizations, and services within our community that makes our bordertown unique. Santa Cruz County is a beautiful community with lots of history and cultural background.

We are grateful for the continued support. We want to thank our customers for their support. Our mission is to change public perception of our border town.

"It is never too late to bring in change, that you want to see around you. Let this year be the forefront for introducing new ideas to make the world a better and safer place for all of us. Let's make history by doing something to improve Santa Cruz County"

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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

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Santa Cruz County Attorney



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Experienced Tax Professionals at Your Service

Tax returns need to be filed by April 18, 2022, according to the IRS. The IRS began accepting 2021 tax returns on Jan. 24 and expects to receive 160 million individual tax returns this year. R&R is here to help you with your tax returns this season.

Rene Rojas founded her tax preparation and notary firm in 2014. She is the owner and one of the tax preparers of the firm. The firm has two tax preparers. She has been doing taxes since 1998, she worked for H&R Block for 18 yrs. She was sent to New York to teach individuals how to process and file foreign taxes.

Mrs. Rojas has a Bachelor in Criminal Justice from ITT tech. She worked for a criminal attorney in Tucson for 10 years. She also has experience working as a bookkeeper for several businesses here around town. R&R offers notary services, tax preparation, and fingerprinting. Staff are highly trained in all the services they offer.

"We have an open door policy and welcome all types of business and strive to be involved in the community. If we can't help we will refer them to the appropriate organization," Rojas said.

In contrast to other organizations, this one brings community service back to Nogales and we are committed to being a friendly business with great customer service. When I was growing up in Nogales, we used to have these kinds of businesses.

We also provide free phones to low-income people. Additionally, we try to network in the community so we can refer people to free community programs in case they need help.

"Helping people and guiding them in the right direction is what I enjoy most about my job. We can all do our part to help someone be successful in their endeavors or just in their day-to-day lives if we all put a little effort into it. As a result, we are able to make their lives a little easier," stated Rojas.

Please stop by the office or give us a call for more information about preparing your taxes.

We are here to help!
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PEOPLE WHO "ECHO"

RENE ROJAS

Border Eco this month recognizes a Nogales native who has dedicated much of her career to providing excellent customer service. Rene Rojas was born and raised in Nogales. She attended elementary, middle and high school in Nogales.

After graduating high school, she moved to Tucson where she later earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from ITT Tech. She also completed a certification as a paralegal. She worked as a paralegal for 10 years for a criminal, divorce and bankruptcy attorney in Tucson, Arizona. She worked for one of Tucson's top attorneys.

She later moved back to Nogales with her children. Her children are Renee Alejandra, Rodrigo, Ryan, Reanne Garcia, and David Mateo Aguirre. Mrs. Rojas has been working as a tax professional for over 22 years. She prepared tax returns for several companies over the years. Her office is not only a tax preparation firm, but she is also a notary.

"I enjoy helping people. We are attempting to implement more services that are lacking in our community," said Rojas.



Subscribe to watch the latest community echoes

The Things You Should Know Before

Hiring a Tax Preparer

During tax season, Arizona's Department of Revenue urges taxpayers to do their homework when selecting a tax preparer. Your tax return is ultimately your responsibility, no matter whether you prepare it yourself or hire an accountant.

Tax preparation services were used by over half of tax filers in 2021, according to the IRS. Although most tax preparers are proficient and qualified, there have been cases where fraudulent returns have been submitted or fraudulent tax refunds have been promised due to unwarranted changes to the tax return.

Is there anything I should know before hiring?

Are the training and certifications of the preparer up to date?

What is the preparer's experience with tax returns?

Review their past performance and business practices by checking their reviews and history. You can also check with your state's board of accountancy for CPAs. Check with the State Bar Association for attorneys. Ask about service fees and costs. Do not hire tax preparers whose fees are based on their clients' refunds and avoid preparers boasting about higher refunds.

Choose a tax preparer who is available all year long. You can contact the tax preparer after tax season if you have questions about the return.

During an examination by ADOR or the IRS, will the preparer explain how the return was prepared?

Any refund should be deposited into your account, not the preparer's.

Taxpayer responsibilities:

You should receive a copy of the entire return, including copies of all schedules, especially itemized deductions or credits.

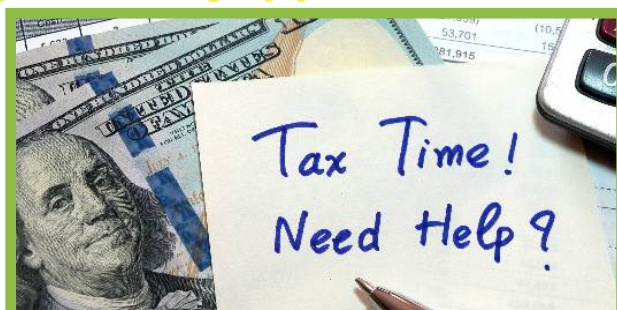
Make sure you understand your return and ask for explanations of any deductions, credits and wages you claim.

Make sure the preparer signs the return and lists their preparer tax identification number (PTIN).

Verify that numbers and schedules on the tax return match those on the tax preparer's source documents before signing and submitting the return.

For a more accurate and faster return, ask the preparer to electronically file your return. Tax preparers who do taxes for more than ten clients must use electronic filing.

You can find more information about hiring a tax preparer at: <https://azdor.gov/e-services/selecting-tax-preparer>





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March

Multiple Sclerosis Education Month

MS is a chronic illness involving the central nervous system. The immune system attacks myelin, which is the protective layer around nerve fibers. This causes inflammation and scar tissue, or lesions.

Making Connections 4U



Making Connections 4U

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Electronic
Community
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2022



Spelling Bee

As a result of the pandemic the last two years, contestants, parents, teachers, judges and school staff were unable to attend the Spelling Bee in person. The Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office hosted this year's Spelling Bee in person at the VFW Hall in contrast to the previous two. At this year's Spelling Bee, there were 21 contestants and 3 official judges: Ms. Elizabeth Gutfahr, Santa Cruz County Treasurer, Ms. Jovanna Lopez, State Farm Insurance Agent & the Honorable Judge Emilio G. Velásquez, Santa Cruz Justice of the Peace. Santa Cruz County Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez welcomed everyone to the Spelling Bee during the opening ceremony. It was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. The spelling bee was proctored by Mr. Larry Frederick of Lincoln Elementary School. After reading the rules, the contestants performed a practice round before the spelling bee officially started. Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina, Adrian Chamberlain, and Julie Ulrich served as the event coordinators.

Bright yellow, white, and polka dotted black balloons decorated the VFW Hall along with large bee balloons. To maintain social distance, contestants' white chairs were labeled with their numbers and were separated from each other in front of the judges. Contestants stood up one by one before the panel and their peers. Each student received a word to spell, as well as alternate pronunciations, definitions, and a sentence containing the word. A table was set up with the prizes that included a 7" inch Fire Tablet for the contestants, and winners of the Spelling Bee.

This year's 2022 Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee Champion was Angelina Coil – 5th grader from Sonshine Christian School. The runner-up was Miguel Valenzuela – 6th grader from Wade Carpenter Middle School - NUSD.

Congratulations to all the outstanding contestants who participated in this year's Spelling Bee Contest.

Congratulations

A.J. Mitchell Elementary School

Isis Sanchez – 5th Grade

Calabasas School: Elementary

Xhan Dear Yamson – 4th Grade

Calabasas School: Middle

Jesus Vasquez – 6th Grade

Challenger Elementary School

Andy Hernandez – 5th Grade

Coatimundi Middle School

Zaidah Rodriguez – 8th Grade

Desert Shadows Middle School & NUSD

No. 1 Winner

Seth Laurent Mongen – 8th Grade

Fco. Vasquez de Coronado School

Laila Calixtro – 4th Grade

Lincoln Elementary School

Aaliyah Ortega – 5th Grade

Lourdes Catholic School

Sarah Mizquez – 8th Grade

Mary L. Welty Elementary School

Eve Castillo-García – 5th Grade

Mountain View Elementary School

Aidan Gonzalez – 5th Grade

Patagonia Elementary School

Gannon Krause – 1st Grade

Patagonia Elementary School: Middle

Nicole Cabrera – 6th Grade

Robert M. Bracker Elementary School

Gabriel Losolla – 5th Grade

San Cayetano Elementary School

Sarai Rocha – 3rd Grade

Santa Cruz School District:

Elementary

Aaron G. Melendez – 5th Grade

Santa Cruz School District: Middle

Alexis V. Simon – 6th Grade

Sonoita School Elementary

District

Reyan Heinzl – 8th Grade

Sonshine Christian School

Angelina Coil – 5th Grade

Wade Carpenter Middle School

Miguel Valenzuela – 6th Grade

SCVUSD# 35 Winner

Fernando Ortiz-Zuniga –

Coatimundi Middle School





Spelling Bee

2022



SPELLING BEE



Congratulations



Find us on Facebook!
Scan the barcode



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, July 23, 2022

10th Annual

NUSD
JUMP BACK

BACK TO SCHOOL

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Participate in our 10th Annual back to school event!

Register to participate scan the QR-Code:



Register at www.makingconnections4u.org

Congratulations

To all Spelling Bee Contestants



SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ

County Recorder

&

Eduviges Covarrubias-Senior Voter/Recorder Clerk
Victor Villalobos-Voter/Recorder Clerk



Rosa Anna Fajardo-Map Clerk
Alicia Andrade-Assistant Voter/Recorder Clerk

Margaret Felix-Chief Deputy Recorder

2150 N. Congress Drive, Suite 101
Nogales, Arizona 85621
Phone: (520) 375-7990

Spelling Bee 2022



The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth. - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Let's Talk Health

Colorectal Cancer Awareness

According to the CDC: Regular screening, beginning at age 45, is the key to preventing colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum). If you're 45 to 75 years old, get screened for colorectal cancer regularly. If you're younger than 45 and think you may be at high risk of getting colorectal cancer, or if you're older than 75, ask your doctor if you should be screened.

Fast Facts

- Among cancers that affect both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States.
- Every year, about 140,000 people in the United States get colorectal cancer, and more than 52,000 people die of it.
- Precancerous polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. If you have symptoms, they may include blood in or on the stool, abdominal pain that doesn't go away, or losing weight and you don't know why. If you have any of these symptoms, see your doctor.
- There are several screening test options. Talk with your doctor about which is right for you.
- Only about two-thirds of adults in the United States are up-to-date with colorectal cancer screening.

Types of Screening Tests for Colorectal Cancer

Several tests can be used to screen for colorectal cancer, but the most important thing is to get screened, no matter which test you choose.

The tests can be divided into 2 main groups:

Stool-based tests: These tests check the stool (feces) for signs of cancer. These tests are typically done at home, so many people find them easier to have done, but they need to be done more often

- Highly sensitive fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year
- Highly sensitive guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) every year
- Multi-targeted stool DNA test (MT-sDNA) every 3 years

Visual (structural) exams: These tests look at the structure of the colon and rectum for any abnormal areas. This is done either with a scope (a tube-like instrument with a light and tiny video camera on the end) put into the rectum, or with special imaging tests.

- Colonoscopy every 10 years
- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years

If you are a patient of Mariposa Community Health Center, you can call (520)281-1550 and ask about getting screened or speak with your provider at your next wellness visit.

Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Love Your Colon



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SCV35 is officially a 1:1 School District

Santa Cruz Valley USD has officially moved into the digital age for all students preK through 12. Thanks to an Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) grant, 3000 Chromebooks recently arrived at the District warehouse for processing. The District has placed a priority on the elementary grade levels which are currently operating a 3:1 ratio. This shipment will bring that ratio to 1:1 meaning one Chromebook for every student. While the Chromebooks will remain in classrooms, this provides tremendous flexibility to staff for creating personalized lessons and learning opportunities and also taking advantage of new flexibility associated with instructional time.

When Steve St. Coeur, the district's Technology Coordinator, brought news of the ECF to the District Administration, it raised an immediate question of sustainability. However, reducing the replacement cycle to only two fiscal years makes planning easier.

After distributing the first 1103 Chromebooks to the elementary sites the District will use the remaining new Chromebooks to replace all student devices more than two years old.

This means all students will have an identical, touch screen model with no replacements needed until 2027. District Instructional Specialist Alex Palumbo explained, "Having all of the students working on the same, touch screen device makes instruction easier and more efficient for the teacher. Our intent here is to remove as many barriers as we can to allow for a more personalized and competency-based approach to student learning." -Shannon Enciso/Communication Specialist

John Fanning
3000 Chromebooks arrive
in the SCV35 warehouse for
distribution to students



Shannon Enciso-4th grade students Samuel Trujillo-Schwamm and Savannah Schwamm work in centers during personalized instruction at San Cayetano Elementary.



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IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY GUILLERMO VASQUEZ JR.



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's office remembers the life of Deputy Guillermo Vasquez Jr., who sadly passed away on February 10, 2022. Deputy Vasquez will be remembered as an incredibly hardworking, compassionate, humble, and optimistic person. Deputy Vasquez always went above and beyond the call of duty every day when he put on his uniform, doing his absolute best to protect the community of Santa Cruz County in which he cared and loved so deeply. We thank Deputy Vasquez for his years of service in keeping Santa Cruz County, its residents, and visitors protected, we will miss him dearly.



Mayor's Corner



Dear Friends,

As we adjust to a new normal after living through a pandemic for 2 years, our office has participated in several community events this past month. I am looking forward to connecting with our community members and attending upcoming events this Spring.

During Career Week, I spoke to the children at St Andrews Preschool about what I do as a mayor and what I do for our community. Several questions were asked by the children, and we had a great discussion about what they wanted to be when they grew up, their dreams and ambitions, favorite hobbies, colors, and school subjects.

"I enjoyed talking to the children about what they wanted to be, their hopes and aspirations, and their favorite hobbies, colors, and subjects at school. It was a pleasure to have visited the future of our community and be able to spend some time with them."

After a long two years, I recently visited Casitas Santa Cruz. Covid had prevented visitors from entering the facility. Being able to visit all the residents and spend some time with them was a wonderful experience. Now that COVID cases have decreased and we can take better precautions, we will be able to hold our holiday activities and visit more often.

On Saturday, January 29th, I read a proclamation in honor of Buffalo Soldier Days. A weekend each year will be designated for flying banners in recognition of the soldiers. Donna Jackson Houston, a descendant of Lucius Jackson, founded the Buffalo Soldier Event. After discovering that her grandfather had served as a Buffalo Soldier, she founded the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association last year. Donna Jackson Houston and Faith Posey of the historical society began working on the exhibit after connecting with Richard Jackson, a descendant of Lucius Jackson. In addition to making history in our community, this event also brought our community together.

Our goal is to make Nogales a better place to live!



Follow us on Twitter@ [contacteco](https://twitter.com/contacteco)

Sheriff's Round-Up



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the whole community mourns the loss of one of its own, Deputy Sheriff Guillermo Vasquez, Jr. who passed away at the age of 30 years old on February 10, 2022. There is no end of the good things that could be said about Deputy Vasquez. He immediately engaged with new employees and made them feel welcome to the Sheriff's Office family. He kept the old timers smiling and was always the upbeat spark amongst coworkers. Rest in Peace Deputy Vasquez. You will be greatly missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and to all that knew him and were touched by this great loss. On a happier note, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to Spring events like the annual road-side trash pick-up that the Sheriff's Office and other county employees participate in on our own personal time on sections of road in the county adopted by the Sheriff's Office. Stay tuned to Sheriff's Office social media for updates on roadside Spring-cleaning and other events. Sheriff David Hathaway



**Dedicated to Deputy
Sheriff Guillermo
Vasquez, Jr.**



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Spelling Bee 2022



You
have
the
POWER!

**A Message from the
Santa Cruz County Attorney**
Congratulations

To all Spelling Bee Contestants



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