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CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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"Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."

—Nora Ephron



Alfredo J. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
&
Staff

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NOGALES, AZ 85621
PHONE: 520.375.7940**

CONGRATULATIONS



Border Eco Updates

Join us in celebrating the Class of 2022 at Border Eco! We extend a warm invitation to all Santa Cruz County graduates to share their pictures and information (including school, age, and class) with us. Your loved ones will be featured not only in our upcoming issue but also across our social media platforms. Kindly email your pictures to:

contact@bordereco.com

In addition, we invite our readers, sponsors, and community members to send us leads on people they feel make a difference in our community. Our mission is to support the community. Please send us any information about upcoming community events, meetings, or conferences.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest events, people, and organizations 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

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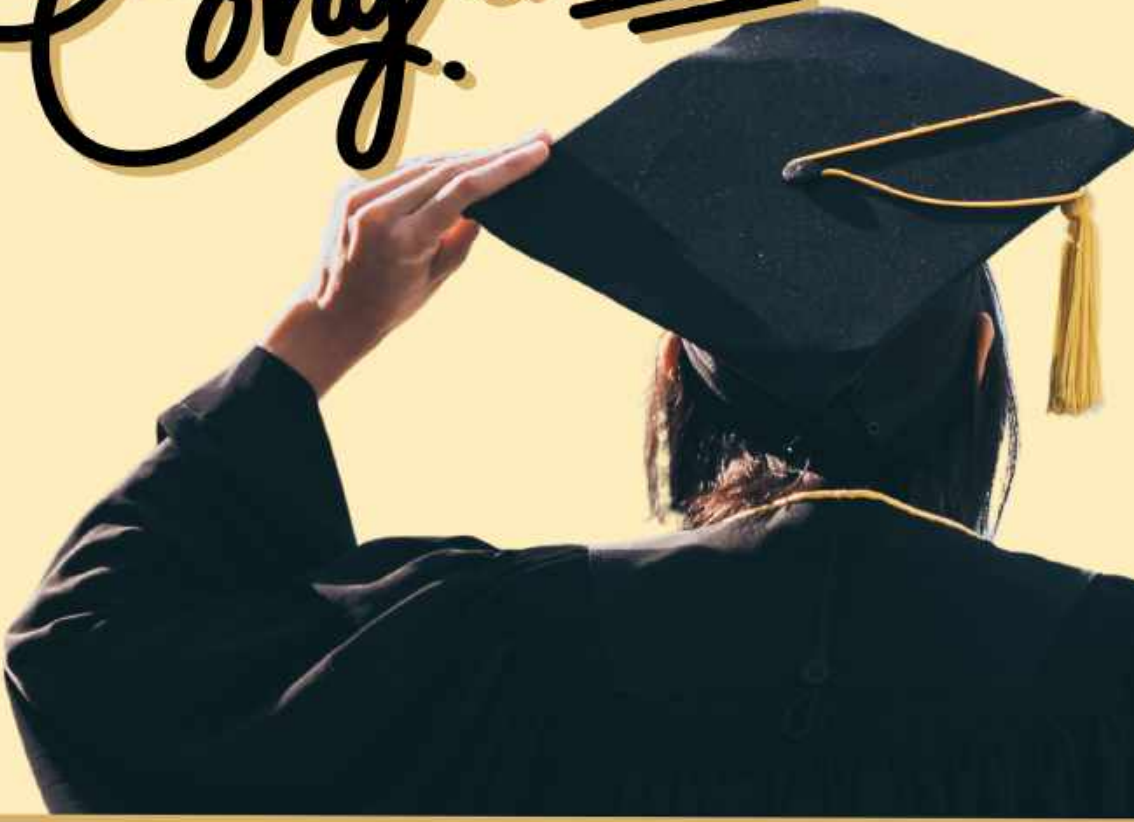
Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."

— E. E. Cummings

2023

Congratulations



www.santacruzsheriff.org
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
2170 N. Congress Dr.
Nogales, AZ 85621
520-761-7869

Echoes From the Hilltop

Meet Dorian Moore, a talented 16-year-old musician hailing from Nogales, Arizona. Currently a sophomore at Nogales High School, Dorian's greatest passion is creating music that inspires and moves people. Born and raised in Nogales, he strongly believes that his hometown is brimming with untapped potential. "I firmly believe that Nogales is one of the most promising towns in the world," says Dorian.

Dorian is a talented musician and songwriter, and his music is a joy to listen to. He is a true storyteller, and his music has the power to connect with people on a deep level. Dorian's music is often personal and introspective, but it can also be playful and upbeat. He has a gift for finding the universal in the personal, and his music has a way of speaking to people from all walks of life.

Dorian describes his music as storytelling music. He likes to experiment with different styles, drawing on influences from Latin, blues, folk, and jazz. "Whatever style I'm playing in, I'm always telling a story and trying to connect with people," he says.

Dorian believes that the best advice he can give to aspiring musicians is to have confidence in their ability to create. He says that anyone can create great works of art, and that it is everyone's right to do so. He encourages musicians to never stop themselves from playing, writing, or performing because they are afraid of the possible negative outcomes. He says that everyone has something worthwhile inside of them, and that they should not rob the world of their contribution simply because they were too scared to try.

The sanctuary that music provides is my favorite part about being a musician. There is something I love about the community of musicians, the stories they tell through their music, and the diversity of musical expression. Music reflects human nature, and I find it to be one of the most beautiful things in the world. Dorian described the world of music as his own personal Rome, where all roads lead, regardless of how fruitful the journey might be.

Dorian's main musical influences are Victor Wooten, Tom Waits, Bob Dylan, Duke Ellington, and Joe Jackson. He has listened to these musicians for as long as he can remember, and their music has had a profound impact on his life. Each of these musicians has created songs that have inspired him, taught him about the world, and helped him to grow as a person.

My creative process for writing songs is often sporadic. I get my best ideas when I'm in the middle of doing something else, like math class or having a conversation. Because of this, I've taken to keeping a small notebook in my pocket so I can jot down any ideas that come to me. Once I have a few ideas, I start putting them together into a rough version of a song. I then refine the song little by little, until I'm happy with it. After a while, I have a song that I can use in performance or recycle into a different song.

"Music has always been a part of my life. I remember listening to my dad's CDs on the way to school in the mornings. It was an adventure every time I rode, as I was exposed to a wide range of artists whose music shaped my tastes and philosophies. From Bill Withers to Method Man and Redman, it never felt like a genre jump - it was all just good music," said Dorian Moore.



Dorian Moore, a talented 16-year-old musician



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Hi-Art and New Exhibits

Open at Tubac Center of the Arts

April 24, Tubac, AZ. Tubac Center of the Arts, (TCA) opened new art exhibits with a reception on Friday, April 7, 2023. Three new exhibits are presented along with a selection of the permanent collection of Master Artists. Local youth shine in the High School Art exhibit, Hi-Art, an annual favorite, this year with the addition of student artists from local middle and elementary schools, in Rio Rico; Mountain View Elementary, Calabasas K-8 School, San Cayetano Elementary, and Coatimundi Middle School. This exhibition will be open through Sunday, May 21st. The Hi-Art exhibit is available to view online in a virtual presentation at <https://tubacarts.org/project/hi-art-2023>.

Middle and Elementary Schools and Art Teachers:

Mountain View Elementary - Mark Dittmer
 Calabasas K-8. Luz Andrade and Elisabeth Hughes
 San Cayetano Elementary. - Cassidy Raeber
 Coatimundi Middle School. Tom McIlrath

Hi Art Awards:

College Scholarship: Ivan Ocampo, "Arizona Owl Sunset," Rio Rico High

Best of Show: Grecia Solorio, "Choke Hold," Nogales High

Award of Excellence: Sarah Kelly, "Her Colors," Sahuarita High

Award of Merit: Brittany Friend, "Flores de me Familia," Walden Grove High
 Honorable Mention: Paulina Fontes, "Heart Strings," Rio Rico High
 Honorable Mention: Sergio Cota, "Ocean Sky," Rio Rico High

The Farm Island Anthology exhibit in the Studio Gallery is a national juried exhibition in partnership with Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art in David City, NE. The artwork created was inspired by the Farm Island Anthology poetry by Penny Niemi of Tubac. Tucson artist, Chrystal McConnell juried the TCA exhibit and selected the award winners. A virtual exhibit can be seen on the TCA website at <https://tubacarts.org/project/farm-island-anthology>.

Farm Island Anthology Awards:

Best of Show: Karol Honeycutt, "Meanwhile Down On The Farm"

Award of Excellence: Nancy Bardach, "Summertimes"
 Award of Merit: Sheila Tyman, "The Promise"
 Honorable Mention: Paula Wallace, "A Patch of Blue"
 Honorable Mention: Susan Pollock, "Salida Barn"

Award winner images for both exhibits can be seen on the Tubac Center of the Arts Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/TubacCenterOfTheArts>

In the Smith Gallery, is an invitational exhibition of artwork by 12 of the Tucson Barrio Painters, "Chasing the Light," with 49 plein air paintings.

"Plein air painting is about leaving the four walls of your studio behind and experiencing painting in the real world. The timeless feel of handmade adobe bricks, deep-set windows, raking light, and dark shadows so dramatic. Every time we're painting in the barrios, we notice another little piece of it slipping away. I know change is inevitable in a vibrant home such as Tucson, but we are feeling a sense of recording the past before it's all gone."

Denyse Fenelon - Founder, Tucson Barrio Painters

These art exhibitions are the last to be held at the art center for this 2022-2023 season. Coming in June, the annual Summer Arts for Youth program offers a 4-week summer arts camp for kids 6 - 13. Registration is now open, and information is available on the art center website at <https://tubacarts.org/summer-arts>.



Autism Awareness 2023 Proclamation

Autism currently affects one out of every 32 children, and in some areas, it affects one out of every twenty.

How prepared are we as a society? It is important to work together to bridge the gaps and provide resources and training to our community. Michelle Renee Ramirez President Southern Arizona Autism Association said that we are a bi-national program that is committed to meeting the needs of our constantly changing community.

We are thrilled to announce that the Southern Arizona Autism Association will now be housed in Mariposa Community Health Center, working in an integrative setting to expand treatment services and education programs for the autism community. This collaboration is of utmost importance, as it will allow us to work with various agencies locally and throughout the state, as well as our local and state governments, to bring education, awareness, and advocacy to a broader range of settings.

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Dr. Eladio Pereira, Cassalyn David, and Dr. Frank Bejarano DBH LPC for making this dream a reality!

Together, we will celebrate neurodiversity and usher in May as Mental Health Awareness Month. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mayor Jorge Maldonado and the Council members of the City of Nogales. They issued the Autism Awareness Month Proclamation for 2023.

A special thanks to Councilman Saulo Bonilla for presenting it to our Board of Directors, Dr. Frank Bejarano DBH LPC and Dr. Tanya Henry MD pediatrics of Mariposa Community Health Center, where it will be displayed. Their advocacy efforts and dedication to both the autism community and our community have been instrumental in providing necessary support and services for individuals and their families to improve their quality of life.

SCV35 Honors Outstanding Football Team Members

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 is proud to celebrate three outstanding football team members. On Monday, April 3, 2023, Francisco Arellano (South Dakota School of Mines, D-2) and Jesse James Octavio-Callejo (Pacific University, Oregon D-3) signed their national letter.

Coach Jeff Scurran, Rio Rico High Football Coach invited parents and student-athletes to attend the signing ceremony. During the ceremony, Coach Scurran commended Francisco Arellano for his hard work. This was Arellano's first year playing football and his football career ended with a scholarship as a wide receiver to the South Dakota School of Mines. "That took a lot of hard work... This guy doesn't say a lot. But I've learned that when he does speak, people listen because it's pretty important," said Coach Scurran. Arellano will study mechanical engineering.

He called Jesse Octavio Callejo an "integral part of the community" and students cheered when Scurran mentioned Callejo's 2023 Arizona State Wrestling Championship title. Although a state wrestling champion, Callejo received a football scholarship to play defensive lineman at Pacific University.

Although Andrea Verdugo did not sign a letter of intent, she was honored for her contributions to the Hawks football team this year as the football manager. She was recognized for her contributions to the team in addition to her academic achievements and community service. For those combined contributions, the National Football Foundation created a new national award to honor her which will be known as the 12th Man Award. "She is the first person recognized by the National Football Foundation for her contributions promoting football here at Rio Rico High School," said Scurran. In addition to the recognition, Andrea will receive a scholarship. "I'm in such disbelief when they told me about the scholarship," said Verdugo. She will attend the University of Oregon on an academic scholarship.

Scurran also commended the student-athletes and families in attendance for their support. "We succeed as a family, we succeed as a school. Help all your people. We have a lot of people out there that don't get this kind of recognition and that's what we do. We help. I've been here a little over a year, and let me tell you, that is your greatest strength. What you guys do for each other and what you do for your community. This is a very unique school in that regard. This is the 9th high school I've coached at and I've never been to a place with people like you, your heart, and your soul. That's what you contribute to all of us."



Rio Rico Insights

Coach Scurran, Callejo, Verdugo, Octavio-Callejo pose with families and student-athletes



Photo Credit: Shannon Hall Enciso

Let's Talk Health

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is the Official Mental Health Awareness Month in which we try to educate the community that people suffer every day from depression and do not realize that obtaining help can be easy if they can identify "depression" as an illness just like diabetes or hypertension. Our Hispanic community's lack of understanding of depression is a barrier in seeking help. As they believe that admitting to feeling depressed will give them the label of being "crazy." We will all suffer from depression during our lifetime which may be at different degrees of severity. The stigma and bias against those facing mental health illnesses can be devastating and keep people from seeking the help they need. We've come a long way since the days of institutionalization and separation from community, the stigma and bias associated with mental illness, but we're not where we need to be yet. Reducing the stigma and bias against those facing mental health challenges is a tall order, but it can be done. Efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of mental illness are important steps in the right direction.

So, what is Stigma? Mental health stigma is a negative evaluation of those with mental illness or who are obtaining mental health treatment.

Mental health stigma can be conceptualized in a variety of ways. Two aspects of mental health stigma are perceived stigma and personal stigma. Perceived stigma is the perception held by others that the mentally ill individuals are socially undesirable and personal stigmatized person may internalize perceived prejudices and develop negative feelings about themselves. In Hispanic communities, "social connectedness is vital to well-being, and family is intertwined with this,". Having the support of family is essential in getting treatment.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports the prevalence of Major Depressive Disorder Episode among adults ages 18 and older in 2020.

An estimated 21.0 million adults in the United States had at least one major depressive episode. This number represented 8.4% of all US adults.

The prevalence of major depressive episode was higher among adult females (10.5%) compared to males (6.2%).

The prevalence of adults with a major depressive episode was highest among individuals aged 18-25 (17.0%).

The majority of people with depression are treated by the Primary Care Provider, so if you are suffering from depression your own doctor can assist in providing treatment and/or refer you to an agency for assistance as needed.

Our partners, stakeholder's communities across Arizona will celebrate it in various ways with outreach and education, communication, and interactions through town hall meetings, presentations, and other outreach efforts.

The campaign will target advocates, public policy makers and community decision makers as well as the public.

Mariposa now serves the whole person, including now psychiatry & therapy. Please call 520.375.5000 to schedule an appointment with psychiatry & therapy.



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C-CREO Gear Up Family Resource Nights

The C-CREO Hub, a college & career access center funded by the Gear Up Program in the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, hosted the 2nd Annual Family Resource Nights this spring. The Hub is located in the Santa Cruz Center at 2021 N. Grand Avenue, and is a one-stop shop to assist students of all ages to prepare for post-secondary education or a career. The Hub is open to all Santa Cruz County residents Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A new feature of the Hub, is the Hub Mobile that will take its services on the road to participate in schools and community events. Services include: FAFSA guidance, scholarship searches, college admissions assistance, resume writing, job interview skills, financial planning, parent & student workshops, career and technical certification information, and military contact information.

The Family Resource Night is modeled after Tucson College Night, an interactive post-secondary education resource fair held at the Tucson Convention Center. Santa Cruz County students missed the opportunity to make connections at this event unless they had their own transportation. This changed when the Hub created its own version of the resource fair in 2022.

This March and April, gymnasiums at Nogales High School and Rio Rico High School were transformed with upwards of 50 exhibitors in attendance. Institutes of higher education, community organizations, technical schools, branches of the military, and business & industry set up their materials and giveaways for the two and a half hour evening events.

Students and families were eager to visit each booth and learn what opportunities and services they offered. School mascots like the Rio Rico Hawk and Wilbur & Wilma from the University of Arizona engaged in dance offs and cheers to bring extra excitement to the event.

Gear Up and the Hub would like to thank our NUSD and SCVUSD partners, administrators, and counselors at each site for all their help and support of the events. We would also like to thank the exhibitors for traveling to Southern Arizona and participating in the events, and community businesses who donated door prizes. The highlight of the fair comes at the end when scholarships for eligible students closes out the evening. A very special thank you to the Rotary Club of Nogales, Rio Rico Rotary Club, Wise Transport LLC, and South 32 who each donated a \$500 scholarship.

Lucky winners were Elizabeth Aguilar, Marco Emiliano Ochoa, Damian de Torre, Paulette Ledezma, and Ezra Hafez. Scholarships can be claimed in the fall with proof of enrollment in a post-secondary program. If you'd like to participate in next year's Family Resource Night, contact Hub Liaison, Sandra Davila at sdavila@santacruzcountyaz.gov or Gear Up Director Maya Donnelly at mddonnelly@santacruzcountyaz.gov.



Congratulations



Class of 2023

Anita Moreno
County Recorder

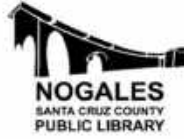
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Angel Aguilar, Recorder/Voter Clerk
Monica Gutierrez, Recorder/Voter Clerk

Rosa Anna Fajardo, Recorder Clerk/Map Clerk
Victoria Padilla, Recorder/Voter Clerk

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

"What we learn with pleasure we never forget." –Alfred Mercier



Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
Alfredo L. Velásquez



“Books Save Lives” Summer 2023 training

INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP A LOVE OF READING, LIBRARIES AND LEARNING

Participants will develop strategies to inspire young people not only to become literate but to use this knowledge to begin their own literacy journey, develop their consciousness, become deeply introspective and self-actualize their future with intent and purpose (promote agency). This course will prepare educators, librarians, business partners, youth organizations, social service agencies, government entities, parents, extended families, foster families and even middle and high school students to support reading throughout Santa Cruz County. Participants will identify relevant fiction and non-fiction literature within young people's organic vocabulary to enable them to make connections between them and the outside world. Participants will support young people and help them connect to a greater vocabulary and limitless experiences.

“Books Save Lives” founder and author Daphne Russell (bookssavelives.org) will introduce participants to a customer service technique that prepares them to identify and positively engage each child's essential motivation—their **curiosity**. Ms. Russell speaks to an authentic relationship between child and adult to build on each child's **confidence**, the foundation of a love for reading. These workshops will provide coaching techniques to help young people access the literacy skills they deserve in order to better succeed in life.

PERSONAL LIBRARY: Participants who complete the three workshops will earn \$200 in books that fit the training criteria.

LOCATION: Santa Cruz County 1904 Courthouse Conference Room, 21 E Court St, Nogales, AZ 85621

DATES: Tuesday, May 30, 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Wednesday, May 31, 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Thursday, June 1, 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

REGISTER AT:



<https://tinyurl.com/5n78emx4>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: adoan@santacruzcountyaz.gov



Congratulations, Class of 2023!

As we celebrate your past academic accomplishments and activities, we want to challenge you to continue your quest for knowledge and discover your unique ways to contribute to society. We are extremely proud of you and excited to see the positive impact you will make in the future.

*Sincerely,
Mayor Jorge Maldonado &
the Nogales City Council*

Class of 2023

Congratulations!

Sheriff's Round-Up



In the month of May we celebrate the two Divisions of our Sheriff's Office: 1) The Operations Division [for National Police Week]; and 2) The Detention Division [for National Corrections Week].

Corrections / Detention Officers are responsible for managing those who have been brought into custody by law enforcement. They typically supervise the activities of people in custody by enforcing rules and keeping order within jails or prisons and inspecting facilities to ensure that they meet security and safety standards. We would like to take the opportunity during "National Corrections Week" to acknowledge and thank the men and women who work in our county jail.

During "National Police Week" we honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty. It is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, and to remember the ongoing commitment of our officers to keep people safe. Citizens and civilians can also celebrate the day by showing some love and gratitude to the policemen around them. National Police Week is all about honor, gratitude, remembrance, servitude, and peer support.

We would like to thank all of our Detention Officers, Patrol Deputies, School Resource Officers, and Detectives for all their sacrifices, service and dedication.

Your Sheriff,

David Hathaway



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

CONGRATULATIONS

**“Be bold, be
courageous,
be your
best.”**



**You have the
power!**

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