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*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County Superintendent*

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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

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Nogales, AZ 85621
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Border Eco Updates

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings. As the Thanksgiving season approaches, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. We are incredibly thankful for each and every one of you who has chosen to be a part of our community. Your loyalty and engagement have not gone unnoticed, and we are truly honored to have such a dedicated readership.

Throughout this festive period, your enthusiasm and encouragement have uplifted our spirits. Your comments, messages, and feedback have reminded us of the true impact our content can have on your lives. It is for each one of you that we strive to produce valuable and engaging material, and your continued support motivates us to reach new heights.

Thanksgiving is a time for reflection, and we want to extend our gratitude not only for your support during this season but for your constant presence throughout the entire year. Your readership is the backbone of our success, and without your continuous visits, shares, and recommendations, we wouldn't be where we are today. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for placing your trust in us and for being an important part of our journey.



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Echoes From the Hilltop

This month, we are delighted to introduce two incredibly talented artists,

Jerry Wagner Jr. &

Ali Megan Wagner.

With their unique styles and exceptional creativity, they bring a refreshing perspective to the art world. Jerry

Wagner Jr., known for his mesmerizing abstract paintings, effortlessly blends vibrant colors and intriguing textures to create visually stunning masterpieces that leave viewers in awe. His ability to convey emotions through his artwork is truly remarkable.

On the other hand, Ali Megan Wagner specializes in captivating photography that captures the essence of fleeting moments. Her keen eye for detail and impeccable composition produce images that speak volumes about her subjects. Both artists have received critical acclaim for their work, with exhibitions across renowned galleries.

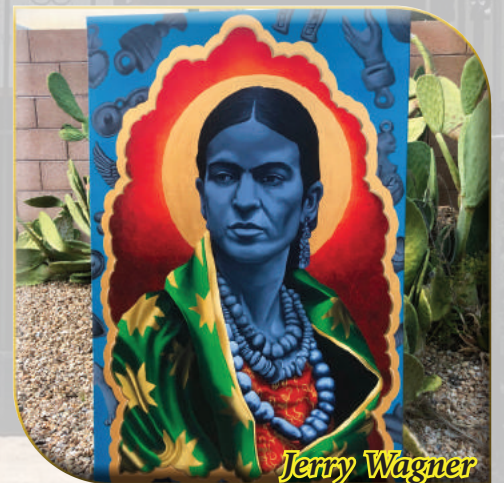
Their collective exhibition promises to be an enthralling experience for art enthusiasts seeking inspiration and immersion into the fascinating realm of fine art. With their unique artistic styles, these two artists have captivated audiences and left a lasting impression on the art world. Their ability to capture the essence of their subjects through intricate details and thoughtful composition is truly remarkable. As their works continue to be showcased at the Hilltop Gallery, art & photography enthusiasts eagerly anticipate the upcoming collective exhibition, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to be transported into the mesmerizing world of arts.

Jerry Wagner was born in Nogales, Arizona, in 1975. He attended elementary, middle school, and a few years of high school in Nogales, as well as high school in Sahuarita. He acquired his GED in Eugene, Oregon, in 1995. Until his retirement in 2020, he was a professional tattoo artist in the state of Oregon. After moving back to Arizona with his wife Ali Megan Wagner (née Pottinger, also from Nogales, Arizona) and daughter Olive in December of 2020, he reunited with his family. It's pretty cool that he has a dog named Coco and a cat named Espooky.

Generally, he works with acrylics, spray paints, and paint pens. As he has grown older, he feels that the content of his work has matured. Through trial and error, he has improved his technique.

There are many ways in which he finds inspiration for images, sometimes it comes to him while running, sometimes it's a character from a book or movie, sometimes it's the way in which a director composes the picture. He is currently in the process of painting a mural of La Catrina on Casa Maya in Tubac for their Día De Los Muertos celebration.

"For me, the Hilltop show was a powerfully positive experience. Throughout the process of setting up and curating the show, Elizabeth Weatherbie was very helpful and encouraging. As a Nogales native who dreamed of showing art there since I was a child, I found the Hilltop's role profound for me personally. It's essential that they play a role in the community, as every community needs a place to showcase its creative energy," explains Jerry.



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Echoes From the Hilltop

Ali Megan Wagner has impeccable taste and refinement and is happily married to Jerry Wagner Jr. Together, they have Olive, a remarkable 13-year-old. She has a fantastic talent for art, effortlessly bringing her vivid imagination to life on canvas. Also, Olive has a real sense of style that makes her a true fashionista. Ali is a 5th generation Pottinger. The Pottinger family has been in Nogales since 1900's. She graduated from Nogales High School in 1996 and moved to Eugene, Oregon to attend college for a while with her high school sweetheart Jerry.

After some time they parted their separate ways which led her to New York City. There she became a professional makeup artist, hair stylist and fashion photographer. Many years later, she reconnected with Jerry Wagner again. She moved across the country to be with him again and a couple years later they married, and lived in Seattle WA where Olive was born. They decided during Covid it was crucial for them to move back to Arizona to be around their parents and family. She immediately obtained her Arizona real estate license and opened her realty brokerage company Pottinger Realty in Nogales.

"I think it's pretty cool! I work in the same office as my grandparents Craig and Lee Pottinger. I sit at my Papa's desk. As well as being able to work with my mom, Brenda, I get to be around my family. Now that we've settled, Jerry and I keep being pulled back into the fold by the art world. The art we are making is coming full circle for us and we are so excited to be a part of it," said Ali Megan.

She is currently showing a series entitled: *Royal and Divine* at the Art of Beauty Salon in Tubac, Arizona. Ali Megan is an artist whose work is inspired by light and color. She is inspired by the thought-provoking art, the people, and the beauty of the environment that surrounds her. Throughout her life, she has always been drawn to classical painters who used the chiaroscuro technique. This technique involves styling the subject and using light in that context to create mood. Creating art is her favorite part of the process.

All of the elements in the picture are created by her. She shoots with a Canon EOS 5D Mark 3 camera. She manipulates the details she wants to enhance with Adobe Photoshop and edits videos with Final Cut. In taking the shot, she attempts to capture the true exposure as closely as possible.

The show is a combination of Ali's photography and her husband's painting. The two have been working together for the past five years and have created a unique collection. They are excited to share their work with the public.



"Triple Thrive: Santa Cruz Celebrates Arts Trilogy!"

For the third year in a row, October has been proclaimed as Arts Month in Santa Cruz County. A movement that not only celebrates all forms of artistic expressions but also encourages the community to explore and engage new facets of the arts in their lives.

Under the leadership of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, our local Arts Month celebration took form in a series of diverse community events and performances.

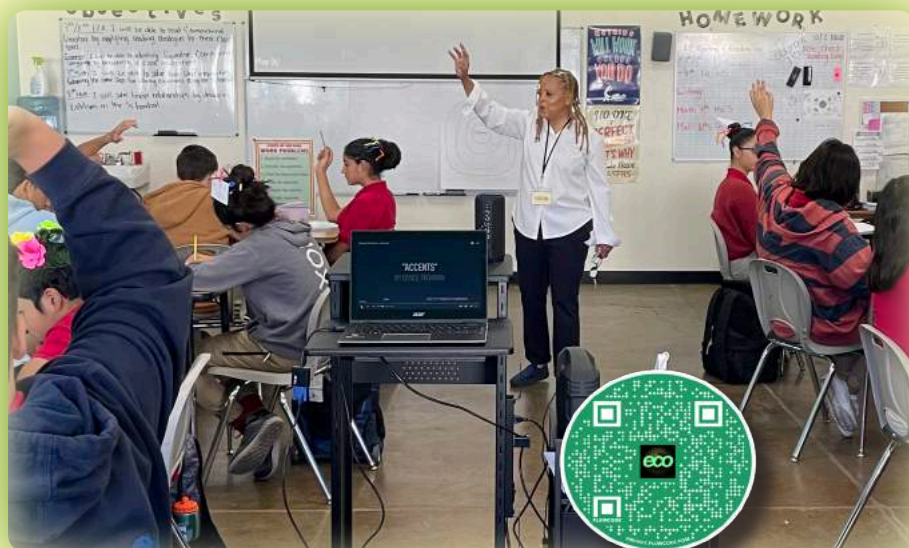
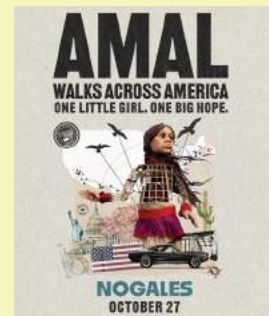
Kicking off with a runway show, and in collaboration with the Consulado General de Mexico, the historic 1904 courthouse hosted Border Fashion Week, a binational event that showcased local boutiques, and designers on both sides of the border.

Also on display at 1904 courthouse, exhibitions featuring the Santa Cruz County Fair "Best in Show" winners and oil paintings by professional artist Luis Preciado- which will remain on display until November 17th.

Students from Mexicayotl Academy of Excellence and Nogales High School participated in the "Dream Out Loud Poetry Workshop" with Poet Gold, the NYC Dutchess County Poet Laureate. The workshop encouraged students to write about their dreams in a poetic style in order to foster empowerment and find their voices for social justice.

Our month-long celebration culminated with the Borderland Film Festival which featured a screening of "Home is Somewhere Else" on international border fence and an Animation Workshop at Oasis theater- both directed and hosted by Carlos Hagerman.

Arts Month would not have been complete without a visit of a 12-foot puppet known as Little Amal, modeled after a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child. Amal has travelled to 97 towns and cities in 14 countries and been welcomed by more than a million people in the hope to draw attention to the huge numbers of children fleeing war, violence and persecution, each with their own story.



Let's Talk Health

Healthy Eating tips for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a day of reflection and gratitude. It is a time to celebrate relationships with family and friends. The main even is for the family and friend to socialize & spend quality time together. It is the day with many traditional favorite foods that are hard to resist and specific for this Holiday. And yes, you can have your cake/pumpkin pie and eat it too with a few considerations in mind:

1. Be active: Take a walk with family & friends before and after the meal, if the weather permits.
2. Don't skip meals because you are waiting for the Big Meal. Eating your meals will help stave off that hunger.
3. Choose recipes that are low in fats, salt, sugar, and calories. Adjust traditional recipes, using less fat, salt, and sugar.
4. Make your plate looks like Myplate.gov that is filling ½ of your plate with your favorite veggies.
5. Be mindful: Eat slowly, savor and chew your food.
6. Be easy on/limit the sweet drinks and the alcohol.
7. Enjoy your favorite dessert within the serving size that is your hand size.
8. Try this method to tame overeating: Hara Hachi Bu is a Japanese term meaning "Eat until you're 80% full". It originated in the city of Okinawa, one of the world's blue zones regions.

Happy Thanksgivings.

THERE IS
always
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful
FOR

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



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"Speak Up, Stand Strong"

Community leaders, law enforcement officials, and representatives from various organizations dedicated to ending domestic violence attended a powerful ceremony to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Monday, October 2nd at 5:30 p.m. on the Santa Cruz County Complex grounds. The event aimed to shed light on the prevalence of domestic violence in our society and emphasize the importance of supporting survivors and their families.

During the event, the Santa Cruz County Attorney highlighted the alarming statistics surrounding domestic violence, emphasizing that it knows no boundaries and affects individuals from all walks of life. They stressed the need for increased education and resources to prevent such incidents from occurring in the first place.

The reading of the official Domestic Violence Proclamation served as a solemn reminder of the commitment made by local authorities to combat this issue. It outlined their dedication to holding perpetrators accountable for their actions while providing comprehensive support systems for survivors.

Furthermore, the proclamation emphasized the importance of community involvement in addressing domestic violence. It called upon individuals to be vigilant and report any signs of abuse, ensuring that no victim suffers in silence. The document also highlighted the significance of collaboration between law enforcement agencies, social services, and healthcare providers to create a unified front against domestic violence. By working together, society can strive towards a future free from the horrors of domestic abuse.

"By raising awareness about domestic violence and encouraging the use of the Purple Ribbon, we aim to break the silence surrounding this issue. Domestic violence is often hidden behind closed doors, making it crucial for our community to be informed and educated about its prevalence and devastating consequences," said event coordinator Nidia Solorzano.

The Purple Ribbon serves as a symbol of solidarity against domestic violence. By wearing or displaying it, we send a powerful message that we do not accept or justify any form of abuse within our community. It is a call to action for individuals to stand up against domestic violence, support survivors, and work towards prevention.

In addition to promoting the Purple Ribbon campaign, we invite our community members to visit the Clothesline Project during the month of October at the County Complex.

This project provides a visual representation of the impact of domestic violence by showcasing t-shirts painted by victims of different ages. Each shirt tells a story, serving as a powerful reminder that domestic violence affects people from all walks of life.

By witnessing these tangible expressions of pain and resilience, we hope to raise awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence and the urgent need for support and intervention.

"The Clothesline Project serves as a platform for survivors to reclaim their voices and share their experiences, fostering a sense of solidarity and empowerment within our community. We encourage everyone to take the time to visit the County Complex in October and engage with this powerful exhibit, as it serves as a call to action for us all to stand against domestic violence and support those affected by it," said Solorzano.



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People who "echo" Sandra Moraga

Border Eco is delighted to showcase Sandra Moraga as our featured individual this month. Sandra was born in Nogales, Sonora. Her family moved across Mexico to at least six different cities as her father established various manufacturing operations. These cities included Nacozari, Sonora and Morelia, Michoacan. She was 16 when her family immigrated to the United States. Santa Cruz County has been her home since 1986.

As an immigrant, Sandra carries a profound sense of pride in her heritage and background. The journey to establish herself in a new country was riddled with challenges, hurdles, and occasional language barriers that she still grapples with. Nevertheless, this experience has instilled in her a resolute work ethic and an unwavering desire to succeed. "I feel a tremendous responsibility not only to make my family proud but also to represent them and my community in the most exemplary manner possible," Sandra expressed.

Sandra has recently taken on the position of Community Specialist with South32, a role that perfectly aligns with her diverse background and exceptional skills.

Throughout her career, she has had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed organizations such as the City of Nogales, Esplendor Resort, NUSD, and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office. These invaluable experiences have not only allowed her to establish significant networking relationships but have also provided her with profound insights into the dynamics of our community.

As a result of her extensive involvement, Sandra possesses a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of our community. This understanding enables her to make significant contributions towards the promotion and support of South32 within our county.

By leveraging her expertise and knowledge, Sandra is committed to ensuring the success of South32's endeavors in our region.

Mrs. Moraga is a member of the Rotary Club of Nogales, Nogales Lions Club, Cultural Arts Committee, Arizona Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), and Nogales Woman's Club (NWC).

We are truly fortunate to have Sandra Moraga as part of our community, and we are confident that her exceptional skills and dedication will greatly benefit both South32 and our county as a whole.

Octavio Moraga, her husband, has supported her unconditionally in her community involvement. Through the years, he has been by her side, willingly and selflessly helping set up and break down multiple community events. Her journey in community service has been even more fulfilling due to his unwavering support.

One of her greatest accomplishments is 21-year-old Rachele Davila, who will graduate from Arizona State University in 2024 after completing her undergraduate degree. Rachele is the pride and joy of her and her husband. It has been an integral part of her journey to have her husband by her side. This significant milestone in her daughter's education brings them both joy. One aspect that resonates strongly with Sandra is the Hermosa Project's positive impact on our community.

This has ignited a profound passion within her, compelling her to wholeheartedly promote the project. Furthermore, she takes great pride in her ability to contribute to the development and growth of local vendors, while actively participating in workforce development to create potential employment opportunities with the Hermosa Project.

This empowers her to make a tangible difference and work diligently for the benefit of Santa Cruz County. South32 is a renowned global mining and metals company, proudly owning the

South32 Hermosa Project nestled in the picturesque Patagonia Mountains. This ambitious venture aims to provide the United States with two indispensable minerals, manganese and zinc. These minerals are crucial for combating climate change and advancing the nation's renewable energy agenda. South32 perceives the Hermosa Project as an exceptional opportunity to contribute to Santa Cruz County's prosperity in numerous ways. Our unwavering commitment encompasses fostering economic development, generating employment opportunities, nurturing local businesses, and safeguarding the environment and community well-being.

We are committed to investing in the future of the community. With our substantial investment, we envision the creation of over 1,000 family-sustaining jobs in the local economy. Besides enhancing livelihoods, it will also provide opportunities for local businesses to thrive. In addition, we will increase the country's property tax base by nearly \$14 million as a result of our efforts.

By providing a boost in revenue, the community will be able to support the public schools and essential services it needs.

South32 has been operating in Southern Arizona for five years and employs 150 people. The Hermosa Project is South32's only advanced mine development project in the United States, located in a historic mining district in the Patagonia Mountains in Southern Arizona.

South32 is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity throughout the Hermosa Project development. We are committed to engaging with stakeholders, collaborating with local authorities, and adhering to stringent environmental regulations. Our aim is to create a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership that lasts for generations to come.

Together, let us forge a brighter future. This is one that addresses the pressing challenges of our time but also fosters Santa Cruz County's growth and prosperity. South32 is proud to be at the forefront of this transformative endeavor, and we invite you to join us on this remarkable journey.

I strongly believe that we have a responsibility to ensure the well-being and success of our community. It is through collaborative efforts that we can create opportunities and mechanisms that allow everyone to live a life filled with good choices. According to Sandra, "Our community relies on each member's active involvement and participation. Every action we take, no matter how small, has a lasting impact on future generations, economic sectors, and the overall health, safety, and well-being of everyone within our community."



"CELEBRATE UNIQUE"

On Sunday October 1, 2023, Santa Cruz County families with children and loved ones with Down syndrome, their friends, neighbors and community members kick off the national Down syndrome awareness month attending their 5th annual Walk for Down syndrome in Nogales Arizona. A chromosomal disorder known as Down syndrome causes developmental delays in the United States. The first Down syndrome walk took place in Nogales Arizona in 2017. The Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection, a support and advocacy system for families raising children with special needs in Santa Cruz County, organizes Walk for Down syndrome Nogales Arizona.

As per the National Down syndrome Society, in the United States, one baby out of 700 born has Down syndrome every year. The number of people with Down syndrome is on the rise because they are no longer institutionalized and there has been a significant improvement in specialized medical care for people with Down syndrome. There were 255 people who attended the Turley Park walk event, which was decorated with pumpkins, fall color balloons, and an arch and pillars. The colors for the event were orange, yellow, green, and blue.

During the Walk for Down syndrome, which began at 10am, Samantha Orozco gave an opening prayer and then invited a dozen community exhibitors to present their services to the disability community of our county. In addition to the Nogales Public Library, Maritza Lynn, and Nogales Arizona Fire and Police Department, the Girl's Scouts of Southern Arizona also exhibited. Ms. Judith Mendoza, Director of Student Services for the Nogales Arizona School District, was introduced as a Grand Marshal to the crowd. There were also officials from the Nogales Arizona government in attendance at the event.

Several members of our community helped us with registration, set-up, decorations, free bottled water, and giving out prizes to all children, according to Maria Scholnick. Be Kind posters were created by Nogales High School's National Honor Society and JROTC, and were handed out during the walk to the audience. "During the event, children played many games, a photo booth featured the fall season, food trucks fed the crowd, and a DJ provided music. Mariachi Plata played beautifully for 30 minutes, and people sang and danced happily."

At 1:30 pm at the sound of the music people lined up and held up the Be Kind posters and their children's pictures while walking around the park. Young and adults' people with Down syndrome performed dances and karate for the audience. People with Down syndrome took part giving awards to people who have made a difference in the lives of people living with Down syndrome in our community.



Happy Thanksgiving

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. This Thanksgiving, let's cherish the moments that make us laugh and the loved ones who bring warmth into our lives."



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Sheriff's Round-Up



October was Domestic violence awareness month and here at the Sheriff's Office we stand together with victims. DV awareness month encourages survivors to share their stories so that others will know that they are not alone. Our Detention Officers and Deputies showed solidarity with victims by displaying a purple and pink version of the Sheriff's Office patch. Our administrative staff and Communications Officers wore black t-shirts with the same message, "No one fights alone."

The Sheriff's Office is participating in multiple fall community events and career fairs this month. We love being out with our community!

Some Deputies and Communications Officers became certified as phlebotomists this past month. Phlebotomists are law enforcement and civilian personnel with specialized training to draw blood for investigative purposes including DUI investigations, DNA testing, and communicable disease testing.

Red Ribbon Week is being held in our local schools. The Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people during a one-week period. The Red Ribbon Campaign is focused on alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse and on violence prevention and awareness. It is observed annually in October in the United States. It began as a tribute to fallen DEA special agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985.

Sheriff Hathaway and Nogales Mayor Jorge Maldonado were pleased to meet with Senator Mark Kelly and other government and non-governmental personnel in Nogales this week to discuss border issues and coordination with federal, local, and non-profit entities.

Holidays Season is upon us and with that we remind you to make responsible decisions and stay safe!

Your Sheriff David Hathaway



A Message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney

*"At this time of
Thanksgiving
celebration, our thoughts
turn gratefully to you
with warm appreciation.
Our best wishes for a
Happy Thanksgiving!"*

"Celebrate Responsibly"

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