

BORDER

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5 Echoes from the Hilltop Gallery
Juan Peña

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



10 "Santa Cruz Soars in '23: A Fair Beyond Compare!"



Register to vote!



11 People who "echo"
Chief Gerardo Castillo



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Domestic Violence Awareness



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THERE IS A CHILD IN EVERY ONE OF US WHO IS STILL A TRICK-OR-TREATER LOOKING FOR A BRIGHTLY-LIT

FRONT PORCH.-ROBERT BREault

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent

&

Staff

21 E Court St,
Nogales, AZ 85621
Phone: 520.375.7940



Border Eco Updates

Hey there, awesome readers and customers! We just wanted to give you a big shout out and say thanks for always having our backs. Your support means the world to us because it helps us share stories about amazing people, cool events, and awesome organizations that are making a real impact in our community.

Our mission is to bring Santa Cruz County together. It's a super special place with a mix of different cultures and traditions that make it totally unique. And guess what? We're here to support our community every step of the way!

So, if you've got any juicy info about upcoming community events, meetings, or conferences, we'd love to hear from you. Don't be shy, send it our way! Let's keep this community connected and buzzing with excitement.

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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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.



Chief Editor: Adriana Romero
Student Intern Reporter: Nadia Sandoval
Student Intern Reporter: Chris Alcaraz
Photographer: Alexia Robles
Magazine Graphic Designer
Consultant: Adriana Romero
Sales Representative: Tony Montanez
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Promoting Healthy Students Initiative Creates Wellness Corridor for Customs & Border Protection

In a remarkable collaboration between the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office and Customs Border Protection (CBP), a truly innovative and transformative project has come to fruition. Together, they have created a magnificent wellness corridor within the Deconcini Round-Room, nestled at the heart of the Nogales/Arizona border. This corridor, a testament to the power of unity and shared vision, serves as a sanctuary for the dedicated CBP staff, providing them with a much-needed respite from the demanding nature of their work.

Recognizing the paramount importance of promoting health and wellness among their esteemed staff, CBP has taken proactive measures to ensure their well-being. As part of their ongoing commitment, CBP offers regular Basic Resiliency Skills Courses to their staff, equipping them with the necessary tools to navigate the challenges they encounter in their line of duty. It is during the month of September, a time when Health Awareness Month is celebrated across the United States, that CBP staff members are given a unique opportunity to delve into the realm of art and explore the profound connection between resilience and creativity.

Under the guidance of Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez, a visionary leader who spearheads the Promoting Healthy Students Initiative program, CBP staff members are provided with a brief yet impactful training exercise. This exercise serves as a catalyst for personal growth and self-discovery, empowering the staff to incorporate resilience skills into their daily lives. Drawing inspiration from the majestic saguaro, a symbol of strength and endurance in the arid landscapes of the Southwest, the staff members are encouraged to express their newfound resilience through various artistic mediums.

But the wellness corridor is not merely a space for personal reflection and growth; it is also a vibrant testament to the creativity and talent of the Santa Cruz County students. These young individuals, who have participated in wellness and arts camps over the summer, have left an indelible mark on the corridor's walls. Their artwork, carefully selected and thoughtfully displayed, serves as a constant reminder of the transformative power of art and its ability to heal and inspire.

As one walks through the wellness corridor, they are enveloped in a tapestry of colors, shapes, and emotions. Each stroke of paint, each brush of a pencil, tells a unique story of resilience and hope. The corridor becomes a living testament to the shared journey of the CBP staff and the Santa Cruz County students, a testament to the power of collaboration and the profound impact it can have on individuals and communities alike.

In this remarkable collaboration between the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office and Customs Border Protection, a new chapter in the pursuit of wellness and personal growth has been written. The wellness corridor stands as a beacon of hope, a sanctuary where resilience and creativity intertwine, and where the transformative power of art is celebrated. It is a testament to the unwavering commitment of all those involved to promote health and well-being, not only within the CBP staff but within the entire community.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Nogales Unified School District #1 Bond and Override
Continuation Special Election.

Oct. 10 Last day to register to vote

Oct. 11 Early voting begins

Oct. 27 Last day to request an early ballot by mail

Oct. 28 Saturday early voting 9 am - noon

Nov. 3 Early voting ends

Nov. 7 Election Day



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Anita Moreno
County Recorder

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

Echoes From the Hilltop

It is with immense pride that Border Eco Magazine presents to its esteemed readers the incredible talent of Juan Peña during the month of October.

Juan Peña, a 27-year-old artist from Ambos Nogales, possesses an associate degree in business administration. He is currently pursuing a certificate in IT and aspires to obtain a bachelor's degree in business. Juan's interests primarily involve art and expanding his knowledge. He harbors a deep love for traveling.

Prepare to be captivated and enthralled by the sheer brilliance and awe-inspiring nature of his extraordinary artwork. With every brushstroke, Juan Peña effortlessly transports us to a realm where colors dance and emotions come alive. His masterpieces, meticulously crafted with an unwavering attention to detail, possess an undeniable power to stir the depths of our souls and ignite a fire within our hearts. Each stroke of his brush is a testament to his unwavering dedication and passion for his craft, as he skillfully weaves together a tapestry of emotions, stories, and dreams.

Through his art, Juan Peña invites us to embark on a journey of self-discovery, where we are encouraged to explore the depths of our own imagination and embrace the beauty that surrounds us. It is with great pleasure that Border Eco Magazine shines a spotlight on this extraordinary artist, whose work serves as a beacon of inspiration for all who have the privilege of beholding it.

According to Juan Peña, he draws inspiration from all kinds of things, depending on the subject and project he is working on. He considers nature to be his greatest inspiration as well as his surroundings, people, and the emotions he wishes to convey.

"While I have worked with many different media over the years, my preferred medium is ink and color pencil. Both of these offers great control when working with them, and they are easy to carry around, making it convenient for me to use them on the road," Juan said.

Growing up, his biggest influence were artists he saw on the internet and in art books. Now, his biggest influences are artists he meets in his travels and those he has worked with.

As part of his creative process, he gathers ideas from the environment around him. This can be through talking to people, seeing something during the day, or browsing the internet for inspiration. He will then decide which medium to use once he has jotted down the main idea; and he will then begin working on the project.

Because he doesn't like to jump between projects, he usually works on one project at a time, and will focus on it until it is completed.

He has exhibited his work at Hilltop Gallery on many occasions alongside other artists. His most recent project was the making of a cigar box guitar, his most recent exhibition was in Nogales Sonora. "It has always been a place for us artists to meet and see each other's work," said Peña.

"The goal is to motivate yourself to accomplish things, not to wait for them to come. When I have an art block, I usually try a different medium or practice small projects to inspire myself. I have also noted that listening to good music and seeing other people's artwork is a source of inspiration for me."

Throughout my life-long journey as an artist, I cannot express enough gratitude to Border Eco and Hilltop Gallery for this opportunity. If interested in reviewing Mr. Peña's artwork he can be found on social media as @jp_grafos_art on Instagram and JP"Grafos"Arts on Facebook.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

In the year 2014, the Santa Cruz County Arizona@Work, a dedicated organization committed to providing employment opportunities, took the initiative to organize a remarkable event known as the Job Fair. This event, which aimed to connect job seekers with potential employers, was initially held in the spacious parking lot of the Arizona@Work Job Center.

As the years went by, the Job Fair experienced an extraordinary surge in popularity, attracting an ever-growing number of participants. The overwhelming response from both job seekers and employers necessitated a change in venue to accommodate the expanding horizons of this remarkable event. Thus, the Santa Cruz Provisional College Building became the new home for the Job Fair, providing a more suitable and spacious environment for all involved.

However, the success of the Job Fair did not stop there. The event continued to flourish, drawing in an even larger crowd year after year. The demand for a venue that could accommodate the ever-increasing number of attendees became apparent.

In response to this growing need, the organizers made the bold decision to relocate the Job Fair once again, this time to the prestigious Nogales High School Gymnasium.

The Nogales High School Gymnasium, with its grandeur and ample space, proved to be the perfect setting for the Job Fair. Its state-of-the-art facilities and convenient location made it an ideal choice for both job seekers and employers alike. The spaciousness of the gymnasium allowed for a multitude of booths and exhibits, providing a vibrant and bustling atmosphere that truly captured the essence of the Job Fair. Pandemic conditions forced them to suspend these activities until 2022.

“We are now excited to make a return, with a strong commitment to delivering an even more impactful event. In order to connect local employers with job seekers who may not be aware of the available employment opportunities in the area, our main goal is to bring employers and job seekers together. Through our efforts to facilitate these vital connections within our community and help return to a sense of normalcy, we are committed to contributing to the recovery of the workforce,” said Irasema Olvera, WIOA Director.

In a remarkable display of dedication, Santa Cruz County Arizona@Work has truly outdone themselves this year. Not content with simply organizing an event, they have gone above and beyond by providing free bus transportation from various locations. This thoughtful gesture allows attendees to effortlessly navigate the beautiful Santa Cruz County, taking full advantage of the diverse range of opportunities that await them. By removing the potential barriers of transportation, Santa Cruz County Arizona@Work demonstrates their unwavering commitment to ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all attendees. With this generous provision, they enable individuals to fully immerse themselves in the event, allowing them to explore and discover new and exciting opportunities with ease and convenience.

In conclusion, what began as a humble gathering in the parking lot of the Arizona@Work Job Center has now blossomed into a grand event held at the esteemed Nogales High School Gymnasium. The Job Fair, with its remarkable growth and unwavering popularity, continues to serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for job seekers and employers in the Santa Cruz County community.





SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JOB FAIR & COMMUNITY EXPO



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- Forced to do something: 3.3%

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"Santa Cruz Soars in '23: A Fair Beyond Compare!"

Nestled in the beautiful Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz County Fair was a hotspot for entertainment and good times. The Santa Cruz County Fair, held September 15-17 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, provided a variety of attractions and activities for all ages. This annual event showcased the best of Santa Cruz County, from thrilling carnival rides to mesmerizing live performances, from agricultural exhibits to student art exhibits to mouthwatering culinary delights. Guests seeking to explore the region's diverse offerings were treated to a spectacular event at the Santa Cruz County Fair, with entertainment, competition, and community spirit.

The Santa Cruz County Fair showcased a variety of attractions and activities for attendees to enjoy. It offered a wide variety of exhibits and shows that appealed to all interests. From the noblest horses to the fluffiest sheep, livestock enthusiasts had an opportunity to marvel at the spectacular competitions. Student art exhibits were a highlight of the fair, which were meticulously organized by the superintendent's office. Under the guidance of Mr. Alfredo Velásquez, the office has been responsible for curating and showcasing the exceptional art created by talented students from the county fair event.

The schools within Santa Cruz County that participated in the art exhibits include: Nogales Unified School District #1, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35, Santa Cruz District #28, and the Sonoita District #25. Additionally, Mexicayotl Charter School, Colegio Petite, Patagonia Montessori School, Montessori de Santa Cruz, Lourdes Catholic School, and Sacred Heart of Jesus School also participated in the exhibits.

List of Judges: Rebecca Mendoza, Oscar Islas, Emma Ross, Cynthia Matus-Morris, Analizabeth Doan, Cynthia Grimm, Mrs. McCullough, Zulema Lozano, Francisco Padilla, Caleb Wagner, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Mayra Zuniga, Angel Canto, Jennifer Arguyos, Bobby Acuna, Marta Valenzuela, Judith Mendoza, Berenice Arrellano, Ruby Molera, Luis Preciado, Dr. Melissa Lunderville, Monique Magallanos, Maya Donnelly, Kerri Munoz, Yolanda Kory, Angel Aguilar



Meet Chief Gerardo Castillo: A Dedicated Law Enforcement Officer

A Remarkable Journey in Law Enforcement

We are thrilled to introduce Chief Gerardo Castillo, an exceptional asset to law enforcement. He began his professional journey in 1982 and has dedicated most of his career to serving at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. Chief Gerardo Castillo's dedication to law enforcement is evident in his remarkable journey.

Since beginning his professional career in 1982, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to serving and protecting the community. With the majority of his career spent at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Chief Castillo has become an invaluable asset to the department. His extensive experience and expertise make him a trusted leader in the field.

Chief Castillo shared, "Growing up in the Sheriff's Office has been immensely gratifying, especially when I'm in a position to assist others, both internally and externally. My role as a Crisis-Hostage Negotiator since 1994 has equipped me with the skills to intervene during people's most vulnerable moments."

The versatility of his work has been characterized by his work as a Detention Officer, Communication Officer, Assistant Jail Administrator, Jail Administrator, Deputy Sheriff, Lead Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant, Lieutenant of Support Services, Lieutenant of Operations, Multi-agency Narcotic Task Force Commander, field training officer, Hostage-Crisis Negotiator, Chief Deputy/ Undersheriff.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Chief Gerardo Castillo grew up in Nogales, Arizona. As a high school graduate in 1980, he joined the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office in 1982. He held several positions and responsibilities during his service.

After serving as a Detention Officer for the Sheriff's Office in a state that was not part of the Department of Corrections, he graduated from the Arizona Correctional Officer Training Academy and established the current field training program for the department. Graduated from the Central Arizona Regional Law Officer Training Academy. Prior to the statehood of Arizona, his family was living here in New Mexico Territory.

A career in law enforcement exposes individuals to myriad moments in the lives of community residents, often during their most challenging times. "The ability to assist, even in the smallest ways, can have a profound impact on your life," Castillo reflects.

Chief Castillo finds immense gratification in his role at the Sheriff's Office, especially when he is able to assist others, both internally and externally.

As a Crisis-Hostage Negotiator since 1994, he possesses the skills to intervene during people's most vulnerable moments.

"Over the years, I've had the honor of serving under four different Sheriffs. I've gleaned valuable insights from each of my predecessors, blending their wisdom with my own experiences and training," Chief Castillo added.

Chief Castillo believes that community engagement is crucial in maintaining a safe and harmonious society. He understands that by actively involving the community in law enforcement efforts, trust and cooperation can be fostered. This belief stems from his early exposure to the diverse cultures and challenges of the Southwest region, where he witnessed firsthand the positive impact of community engagement on crime prevention and resolution.



Let's Talk Health

In our close-knit community, weekends are a time for joyous celebrations with family and friends. Children run around, their laughter filling the air as they play outside. Our simple small-town life leads our lives at a slower and steady pace. However, there is a silent and deeply troubling issue lurking behind closed doors—domestic violence.

Domestic violence is an issue that does not discriminate, affecting people from all walks of life. It occurs when one person in an intimate or familial relationship deliberately seeks to hurt, control, or instill fear in the other. The spectrum of abuse can encompass physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic control, or various other harmful actions. Domestic violence may be a daily occurrence or a sporadic event, but at its core, it is about one person exerting power and control over another.

According to the CDC, "About 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 4 men report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime."

The ripple effects of domestic violence extend far beyond the immediate victims. Children in homes where domestic violence occurs are particularly vulnerable.

According to the Office of Women's Health, the trauma of children witnessing abuse can lead to stress, anxiety, and unhealthy relationship patterns in their own lives.

Breaking this cycle of violence is essential for the well-being of future generations.



Contrary to popular belief, domestic violence does not have to include physical harm. While physical violence is one aspect, it is just the tip of the iceberg. Emotional abuse, for instance, can be just as damaging, including tactics such as yelling, gaslighting, making threats, isolating the victim from friends and family, humiliation, and name-calling. The scars left by emotional abuse run deep, leading to conditions like depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and even chronic health issues.

Economic abuse is another form of control, where the abuser may prevent their partner from working, manipulate finances, steal money, or put assets in their name alone.

Economic abuse acts as an anchor that keeps victims tied to abusive relationships especially when there are financial responsibilities for children. Regardless of the specific form of power and control exerted, the emotional and mental toll on the survivor can become overwhelming and detrimental.

It's important to emphasize that there are no excuses for domestic violence. Alcohol, drugs, and mental health conditions may contribute to the problem, but they do not justify abusive behavior. Abusers are responsible for the harm they inflict, and they make a choice to perpetrate violence and control.

In our community, help is readily available through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Program at Mariposa Community Health Center. This invaluable program offers support, assistance, and resources to survivors of past or current domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual violence. The services provided are extensive and include:

- Mobile Advocacy
- Short-Term Case Management
- Support Groups and Group Education
- Outreach and Prevention Activities
- Emergency Assistance and Housing
- Safety Planning
- Lay Legal Advocacy (Court Accompaniment, Orders of Protection, Child Support, Divorce, etc.)
- Referrals to Community Resources
- Referrals to Medical and Behavioral Health
- Access to Sexual Assault Nursing Exams

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, do not hesitate to seek help. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Program at Mariposa Community Health Center offers its services free of charge to all residents of Santa Cruz County, AZ. You can reach out to them at 520-375-6050 from Monday to Friday and request to speak with an advocate.

Domestic violence thrives in silence and secrecy. By shedding light on this issue and supporting survivors, we can work together to break the cycle of abuse in our community and create a safer, more compassionate environment for all.

END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY
DURING UPCOMING FESTIVITIES IS PRIORITY TO US!

A SAFE HALLOWEEN IS A
HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Sheriff's Round-Up



This past month we celebrated our female officers on National Police Women Day. We deeply appreciate the service of the ladies who proudly wear their badges and serve our beautiful county.

There were a few events this past month in our county. Like the 9/11 Memorial which our Honor Guard represented our agency in a beautiful ceremony that honored the fallen. Also, our county fair was in town which offered a weekend of fun, games, 4H and delicious snacks!

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office along with other agencies got together to celebrate CBP Family Day. All agencies along with their families got to enjoy a day full of fun, activities, food and music. We appreciated the invitation and we look forward for the next event.

Lastly, we honored those who served their county for years.

Fall has officially begun, and we are loving our Arizona sunsets! Can not wait what this new month will bring! Stay safe! This month we are excited to see you all at our Career Fair and Halloween Event ! See you then

**Your Sheriff,
David Hathaway**



SCAN THE QR CODE

*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County Attorney*

**STOP
VIOLENCE**

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



You Have the Power!

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