

BORDER

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4 People who "echo" in the education
Georgina Parra

CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



6 Santa Cruz County 2022 Teacher of the Year

Sept. 10 World Suicide Prevention Day



10 In Memory John Hays



13 Mayor's Corner



14 Sheriff Hathaway's Monthly Round-Up

**A Message from the
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent**

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

We honor all essential workers

THANK YOU!



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

2150 N. Congress Dr. #107

Nogales, AZ 85621

Phone: 520.375.7940

Border Eco Updates

We want to thank our readers and customers for their continued support. Your support helps us report on the great people, events, and organizations who make a difference in our community.

Our goal is to help connect Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County is a unique bordertown rich in culture, and traditions. We are here to support our community.

Please send us any information on any upcoming community events, meetings, or conferences.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or Twitter for the latest events, people, and organizations who make a difference in Santa Cruz County.

We are always looking for new talent. If you have an interest in sales, journalism, and photography send us your resume at contact@bordereco.com



CONTENT

- 4 Now Hiring-Communication Officers
- 5 People who "echo" in education
Georgina Parra
- 6 2022 Santa Cruz County
Teacher of the Year Awards
- 10 In Memory of John Hays
SCV35 Distinguished Hall of Fame
Shannon Enciso
- 11 Amado Chili Cook-Off
- 12 SCC Mental Health Raising Awareness
Summit-Shannon Enciso
- 13 Let's Talk Health
- 14 Mayor's Corner-September
- 16 Sheriff's Monthly Updates



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

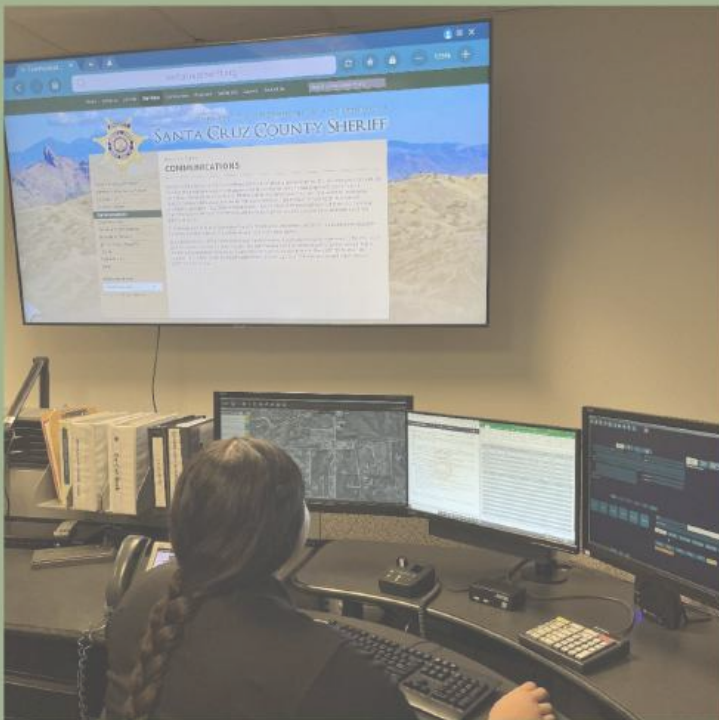
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PEOPLE WHO "ECHO" IN EDUCATION GEORGINA PARRA

*This month Border Eco is featuring an individual in our community that has made a difference in the field of education. Georgina Parra comes from a family who has dedicated itself to public service. In addition to her mother being a school teacher, her father was involved in politics his entire life. **"My parents inspired me to pursue my calling of public service. They taught me to care about my community,"** said Program Director Georgina Parra.*

Her youngest sister, Regina Romero, is the Mayor of Tucson, and her older sister Maricruz Ruiz is a program coordinator at Pima Community College. The idea of making a difference by getting involved in the community has always been instilled in me by my parents. Throughout our lives, they have encouraged us to care about our community by doing something that will help make it a better place.

Originally from San Luis Colorado Sonora Mexico, Georgina Parra moved to Arizona at a young age. When she was four years old, her family immigrated to Yuma. Yuma is where she grew up and graduated from high school. To pursue a college education, she moved to Tucson, Arizona.

"I was very shy for a long time, so this helped me break out of my shell," said Parra. While attending college in Tucson, she met her husband Felipe Parra. Born in Nogales, Felipe Parra comes from a long line of Nogalenses. He has worked for Unisource for 32 years. She has a 21-year-old son, Luis Felipe Parra. At the moment, he is attending Mesa Community College. In order to further his education, he hopes to transfer to Arizona State University.

The most important accomplishment of my career has been the opportunity to grow professionally. At Child & Family Resource Center, I began my career as a family child support specialist. Over the past 20 years, I've advanced my career and now hold the position of director. It is impossible to overstate the importance of going to school and completing school. I recently earned an associate's degree in my field of study, which is very important to me.

Working with children and families in the community has always been my passion. I've been doing this for 20 years. My current employer is the Superintendent's office. I work with an organization that helps the community in a number of ways. Our next step for us is to form a father-parent support group.

Los Padres plays an important role in our community. The purpose of our program is to educate parents, especially young parents, about how their child develops. Los Padres son los primeros maestros that is the full name of our program. This encapsulates the main purpose of this program is to help parents learn how to be their child's first teachers by teaching them from the womb and later on learning about all the areas of growth and development helping the child obtain their best potential so they can be ready for the world.

The program aims to teach parents the importance of being involved in their child's development. Families are encouraged to participate in a new home visitation program that focuses on parent-child interaction. Providing parents with resources and strategies for teaching their children through play. Families with newborns to four-year-olds can participate in our program. According to the program director, teens, first-time parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and court-appointed guardians can benefit from the program.

Los Padres was designed by Parents As Teachers-trained educators to meet the developmental needs of the child and the family. As part of the service, the parent educators will visit the families in their homes.



Phone: 520-375-7951

2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Awards



On Friday August 5, 2022, the 15th Annual Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner Ceremony was held at the VFW Ballroom. The soothing sounds of Hawaiian music in the background and the ballroom decorated to make you feel as if you were at a Hawaiian Luau was quite an experience. The twenty-one nominated teachers were greeted with colorful floral lei as they each made their way and took their seats in this tropical paradise. Each teacher was accompanied by their family, Principal and district superintendent. Over 250 guests, were in attendance to honor these amazing individuals. This countywide event is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez in partnership with South 32, the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, and Nogales Rotary Club.

Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez welcomed all guests and thanked all the nominees and every teacher in our county, for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to the students of Santa Cruz County. While the guests enjoyed a delicious Hawaiian dinner, 50 door prizes were being raffled out all donated by local businesses from throughout the county. All proceeds from the ticket sales that evening will be designated to the William I. Rothstein Memorial Scholarship for graduating seniors at Nogales High School, Rio Rico High School and Patagonia High School.

Mrs. Patricia Barraza-Preciado Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Accounting Specialist who has done a phenomenal job every year of coordinating this event extravaganza introduced each of the twenty-one Teacher of the Year nominees with a short video on their philosophy on teaching and education, as they took center stage and were awarded a trophy presented by County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez. They were also greeted by Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Ms. Kathy Hoffman, South 32 President Pat Risner, Santa Cruz Community Foundation President Mr. Daniel Arana and the District Governor of the Nogales Rotary Club Ms. Anita McDonald. Each nominee was presented with a Teacher of the Year Appreciation Platter consisting of \$200 check and assorted gift cards.

Five incredible judges from throughout the County were given the difficult task of interviewing the twenty-one Teacher of the Year nominees and selecting the 2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year and the 2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Runner Up.

Mr. Jeff Gudenkauf from Patagonia High School was the recipient of the 2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Gudenkauf, was awarded the Teacher of the Year Trophy, \$2,000.00 check, Stainless Steel BBQ, 300 Walmart Gift Card, One night stay and golf day for two from Tubac Resort, \$1000.00 for Professional Development and prizes and gift cards from local community members, valued close to \$5,400.00.

We would also like to congratulate our 2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Runner-up from Mountain View Elementary, Ms. Lorena Villa. Ms. Villa was presented the Runner-up trophy along with a \$1000.00 check, Fire Pit, Samsung Galaxy Tablet, a one-night stay at the Americana Hotel, \$500.00 for Professional Development along with prizes and gift cards from local community members, valued close to \$2,500.00.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Sponsors and Donors that made this event possible and a great success. We appreciate your support.

List of Sponsors and Donors

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 Honorable Judge Emilio Velásquez

Mr. Pat Risner
 Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez
 Ms. Kelly Huber
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 Ms. Suzie Sainz & Ms. Alba Luz Sainz

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, South 32, Santa Cruz Community Foundation and Nogales Rotary Club. We would like to thank all the community organizations and businesses for all their support in making the 2022 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner Ceremony one of the most celebrated events in Santa Cruz County.

A very special thank you to Ms. Patricia Barraza- Preciado, Accounting Specialist/Special Events Coordinator for the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office for making this event a memorable evening for all the Teacher of the Year Nominees.



School Superintendents



*Teacher of the Year Runner-up
 Ms. Lorena*



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Suicide takes the lives of over 48,500
Americans every year. (CDC)



Making Connections 4U

**Free Community
Resource Guide at:**

www.makingconnections4u.org



Follow us on Facebook @
Santa Cruz Community Action Coalition
(520) 216-5058

In memory of

SCV35 Distinguished Hall of Fame

John Hays

Border Eco this month pays tribute to Mr. John Hays. We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Hays. Mr. John Hays is a member of the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District Board. He recently passed away. It was Mr. Hays's mission to improve the quality of life in his county and make it a better place for current and future generations that made him such a compassionate public servant.

Mr. Hays was elected to the board in 2014. He was a member of the SCVUSD No.35 Governing Board from 2014 to 2018. Along with his wife Mary, he has two sons, Gilbert and Patrick, who graduated from Rio Rico High School. In addition to serving as an elected official, he provided the District with thousands of photos from various sports events.

In addition to being a native of Texas and Arizona, John earned a degree in geology from Northern Arizona University and a planetary geology degree from Brown University. He worked as a floodplain coordinator in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

Additionally, he taught part-time at the Nogales campus of Cochise Community College. He enjoyed gardening, landscaping, collecting rocks and minerals, cooking, crocheting, and woodworking in his spare time. He was an honest man who shared joy and love with those around him. He will be greatly missed for the kindness he showed to everyone he met.



The Class of 2022 will be inducted into the SCV35 Hall of the Fame in September.

Inductees include:

Denise Blake for outstanding contributions in the area of site and district administration to the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District.

Roger Bristow for outstanding contributions in the area of Coaching / Athletics.

Eleanore Rankin for outstanding contributions in the area of CTE site administration / leadership.

Josh Robles for outstanding contributions in the area of Athletic Excellence.

Alexandra "Allie" Schadler for outstanding contributions in the area of Academic & Athletic Excellence.

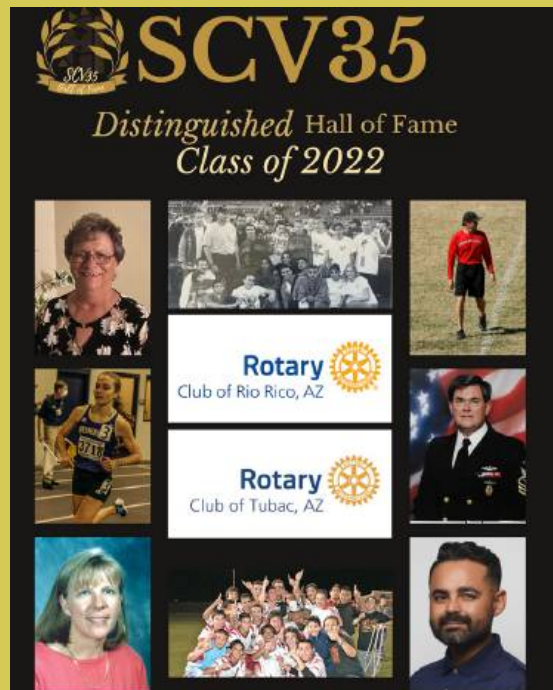
Henry "Hank" Thysell for outstanding contributions in the area of Community Partnership with the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District.

Rotary Club of Rio Rico for outstanding contributions in the area of Community Leadership and Partnerships with the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District.

Rotary Club of Tubac for outstanding contributions in the area of Community Leadership and Partnerships with the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District.

2001 Rio Rico High School Wrestling Team for outstanding contributions in the area of Athletic Team Excellence.

2006 Rio Rico High School Boys' Soccer Team for outstanding contributions in the area of Athletic Team Excellence.





Saturday November 12, 2022

THE AMADO TERRITORY

I-19 & Exit 48 | 3001 East Frontage Road | Amado, Arizona 85645



AmadoChiliCookoff.org



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**Benefitting the Amado
Youth Center Building Fund**
Building Futures



The Amado Chili Cook-off, a project of the Amado Community Alliance of PPEP, Inc., is supported by Pima County Attractions & Tourism. Sponsorships, donations, and proceeds will directly support the Amado Youth Center Building Fund.

SPONSORSHIPS AND OTHER DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Information:

Tony Bruno, Event Coordinator **(520) 255-4067** | Ed Dunin-Wasowicz, Event Chair **(520) 403-0414**
Amy Bass, Event Director, Fiscal Agent Representative **(520) 205-4780**



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HOSTS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUMMIT

Santa Cruz County Jail Liaison, Martin Felix, recently organized mental health awareness training for first responders, court professionals and other members of the community who may be the first point of contact for those entering the justice system. The two-day summit held at the Santa Cruz County Complex was part of the ongoing substance abuse and mental health programs spearheaded by Judge Emilio Velasquez.

“One of the things that is most important about today, is that we don’t forget about those who are still suffering from mental health. They are still stigmatized and they are still having issues finding resources,” said Velasquez in his opening remarks.

In 2019, Velasquez started a coalition for the courts with an increased focus on substance abuse and mental health. “Since 2019, everything has come into fruition that we have planned. The face of the court system has changed. One of the things is that the criminal justice system is now holding people accountable, but we’re also allowing for redemption. Making sure that they get second chances.”

As a result of the coalition, the court implemented a drug and behavioral empowerment court, and recently created the position of jail liaison. It is the responsibility of the jail liaison to evaluate nonviolent inmates and determine if there are community resources available for those who are suffering from mental health or substance abuse-related problems.

“You are the voice for people. Don’t forget, you are their voice. Embrace them and help them to get to where they are going,” said Velasquez during the training.

-Submitted by Communications Specialist Shannon Enciso



Let's Talk Health

September is Healthy Aging Month, a time to celebrate life and the positive aspects of growing older

As we age, we become aware of our physical and mental health, as well as dietary and social needs that change over time. This doesn't mean you've lost control; it just means you have to take charge of your well-being. And this means you must take steps to age with a healthy body and a healthy mind.

Here are some simple tips to help guide you.

Get Moving

It is important to consult with your doctor before exercising or beginning a new routine. Start slow, know your limitations, and modify activities if and as needed.

Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week. About 8000 steps daily is a good aim. Maintaining regular physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight, lower blood pressure, bad cholesterol, and blood sugar levels.

Make your physical activity FUN and something you enjoy doing! This can be as simple as walking your pet, gardening, parking further away at the grocery store or taking a class such as Tai Chi, which are offered locally in Nogales and Rio Rico and are free thanks to SEAGO-Area Agency on Aging.

Maintain a Healthy Diet

Eat proper portion sizes. Overeating can lead to obesity and increase the risk of diabetes and heart disease. Eat a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and have them make up about half of your plate. Eat whole grains, increase healthy fats, eat more fish, and try a Mediterranean diet.

Stay hydrated- adults should drink between 10-16 cups of water per day, depending on gender, living environment, and activity level. It's hot in Arizona, so keep yourself hydrated. Plus it's just good for you.

Stay Social

Try something new by attending online or socially distant in-person classes that interest you.

Use technology like Zoom or Facetime to stay in touch with friends and family. Balance your body and mind. Keep a positive attitude. Keep your mind active by reading or doing puzzles. Keep your body active through stretches, Tai Chi, and yoga. Be proactive.

And if you need support, reach out for help.

Schedule your annual wellness visit with your PCP

Receive regular checkups, physicals and medical tests when needed as many diseases can be prevented when caught early. Covid really put a halt for many people getting their regular check-ups, but they are important to maintain. Schedule your appointment with your primary care provider.

Don't forget appointments with the dentist and optometrist too.

Take vitamins, supplements and medications as prescribed.

Need an appointment with your primary care provider at Mariposa Community Health Center, call (520) 281-1550.

Interested in Tai Chi classes, call Ann at (480) 580-4313 or Bill at (480) 239-1693.

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations!

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

Saibet Gastelum-Recorder /Voter Clerk
Rosa Anna Fajardo-Recorder/Voter Clerk
Victoria Padilla-Recorder/Voter Clerk

Margaret Felix Chief Deputy Recorder

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

Mayor's Corner



The Sonora State Governor Alfonso Durazo visited the City of Nogales. As part of his visit, the governor met with Mayor Arturo Garino, City Administrators, and staff members. In his remarks, he thanked the mayor for his leadership, hard work, and dedication to promoting economic development in border communities. During the meeting, the governor from Sonora and the mayor discussed issues that are relevant to both to the State of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. The state of Sonora and our neighboring city of Nogales Sonora recognize the importance of maintaining a good relationship.

“We need to plan for the future and build on it. As a result, the sisterhood agreement was signed into effect in 2011. The visit was enjoyable because of the camaraderie. I haven’t had a Sonora State Governor visit City Hall for quite some time. You’re Among Friends,”said Mayor Arturo Garino.

SEAGO’s new facilities were inaugurated in Bisbee, Arizona. It is so nice to see this project completed after 11 years of shared vision and mission under SEAGO leadership. SEAGO and AAA are currently housed in two buildings. It is my pleasure to congratulate and thank Executive Director Randy Heiss for his leadership and Project Manager role in making sure this is properly finalized. Now that your leadership skills have exceeded our expectations, we can celebrate. I would like to thank the SEAGO Executive Directors for their support, DES and Ann English District Supervisor and all the staff for their hard work and dedication to this project. “From my perspective as your Chairman, I know this was a much needed project that now has a home and you will be able to serve our communities more effectively,” said Mayor Arturo Garino.

We are pleased to announce the promotion of our NPD Officers. Congratulations to Lieutenant J. Bermudez, Sergeant A. Palafox, Sergeant A. Vasquez, Corporal G. Ortega, Corporal J. Gomez, Corporal R. Lechuga and Corporal B. Villela. Thank you to the men and women who risk their lives for our community. “In this city, we support the blue. Thank you for your service, you guys are the future. The Nogales Police Department is something we are proud of. You make Nogales proud, Chief Bermudez and your team. You can count on my support as your Mayor.



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Bordere Echo**



Sheriff's Round-Up

This past month, the Sheriff's Office in partnership with Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center opened its doors at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office headquarters. Having these services available in our building means there is no need for families to travel to another location, deal with the long waiting times, and have medical services provided by someone who may not be specialized in caring for child abuse victims.

A special meeting at the Hathaway Ranch was held with candidate for Governor Katie Hobbs. Enjoying the nice weather outside while having a great conversation.

This past month, schools are back in session and our School Resource Officers are ready to keep our schools safe. Parents please make sure to follow traffic orders, and guide lines to keep everyone safe. Make sure to remind your children how kindness, and respect goes a long way for a great school environment.

A special shout out to our deputies who are now certified to train and to lead the next generation of future officers. Congratulations!

Always a special thanks to all of our Sheriff Deputies, Law Enforcement Assistant Officers, Communications Officers, Detectives, Detention Officers, and everyone who serves and keeps our beautiful county safe. That's it for now. Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay safe! -Your Sheriff, David Hathaway



The Santa Cruz County Attorney reminds you to report violence

Break the Cycle of Abuse

Warning signs of abuse:

- Your partner bullies, threatens, or controls you
 - Accuses you of having an affair
 - Blames you for abuse
 - Criticizes you
- Tells you what to wear and how you should look
 - Threatens to kill you or someone close to you
 - Throws things or punches walls when angry
 - Yells at you and makes you feel small
 - Your partner controls your money

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten



You have the power!

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