

BORDER

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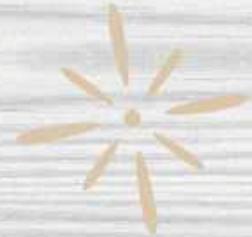


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*A Message from the
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent*



May your



Thanksgiving

be full of peace, love, and joy.



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent
&
Staff

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



Border Eco Updates

Thanksgiving is a special time to think about all the good things in our lives. As Thanksgiving gets closer, we want to say a big thank you for all the support you've given us. We are so grateful for each and every one of you who are part of our community. Your loyalty and involvement mean a lot to us, and we feel lucky to have such awesome readers. During this holiday season, your excitement and kind words have made us really happy. Your comments, messages, and feedback show us how much our content means to you.

We work hard to create stories that you find interesting and helpful, and your support keeps us going. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful, and we want to say thanks not just for your support now, but for being with us all year long. Your readership is what makes us successful, and we wouldn't be here without your visits, shares, and recommendations. We appreciate you trusting us and being part of our journey. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

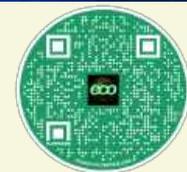
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Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.

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SCAN ME

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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Empowering Futures: Santa Cruz County Continuing Education Program Kicks Off

On October 22, 2024, the Santa Cruz County Continuing Education Program hosted an engaging and informative orientation session for its new students. The event featured valuable presentations from community partners, setting the tone for the upcoming session and reaffirming the program's commitment to empowering adult learners and supporting them at any stage of their educational journey.

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office was awarded a new round of adult education funding from the Arizona Department of Education effective July 1, 2024. The grant period is four years, with additional funding awarded for expansion of the program. Classes run on a regular academic calendar year beginning in August and ending in May with summer classes offered. Subjects taught are high school equivalency and English along with integrated education training and civics education. Classes are held at the Santa Cruz Center at 2021 N. Grand Avenue in Nogales, AZ.

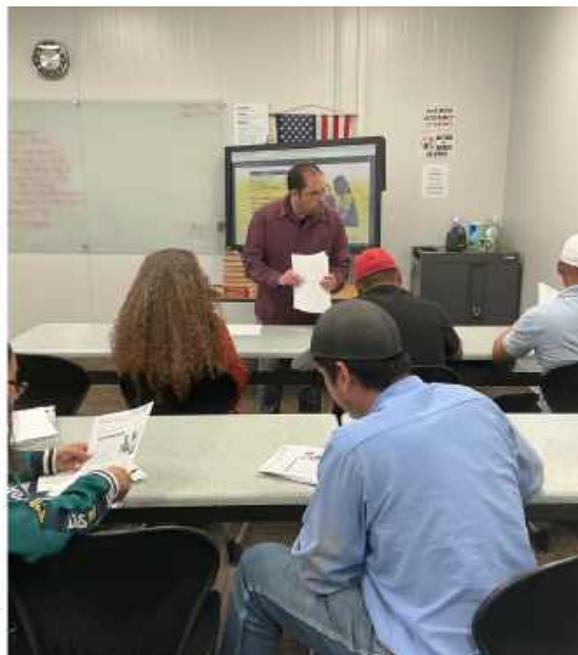
During the orientation event, program staff outlined the mission and set clear expectations for students. The School Superintendent's Office and adult education team is dedicated to providing not only educational support, but also the guidance and resources needed to help each student succeed and become an integral part of the community. Community partners and local business and industry are crucial to the success of the adult education program in Santa Cruz County. Representatives from various agencies address the cohort each quarter and provide information and tools for students to be successful.

Arizona@Work, a local workforce development organization, was on hand to share how they can assist students in securing employment opportunities. Their team explained how they provide job search support and may even cover the cost of certain certifications, opening doors to new career paths.

Additionally, a representative from Pima Community College offered insights into the many programs available to students after they complete our adult education program. This partnership ensures a seamless transition for students looking to further their education and enhance their professional skills.

The Santa Cruz County Continuing Education team are:

- Taylor Spence – Adult Education Program Manager
 - Brissa Vizcarra - Program Coordinator
 - Yuridia Sanchez – Administrative Assistant
 - Teachers: Helena Ast, Mario Martin Del Campo, Luis Gustavo Vasquez, Marcelle Bristol, and Jefferson Laffey
- Students interested in English language courses or High School Equivalency (HSE) courses are encouraged to reach out for any additional support or questions. **Contact Taylor Spence at tspence@santacruzcountyaz.gov**



People who "echo"

Empowering Education:

Maricruz Ruiz Leads Pima Community College's Santa Cruz Center

Border Eco Magazine is excited to feature Maricruz Ruiz, the new manager of the Santa Cruz Center at Pima Community College. During her nine years at Pima College, she has worked at the Desert Vista campus advising adult learners in Early Childhood Education, and at the Santa Cruz Center where she assisted students in navigating the college system from enrollment to graduation.

The Santa Cruz Center of Pima Community College shines brighter than ever with Maricruz Ruiz at the helm. In her new role, Ruiz embodies the transformative power of education, bridging gaps and championing the success of students from different backgrounds.

A first-generation graduate, Ruiz's journey resonates deeply. Born in San Luis, Rio Colorado, Sonora, and raised in Somerton, Arizona, she navigated the college system without parental guidance. This personal odyssey fuels her passion for helping students overcome similar obstacles.

"I faced the same challenges our students do—the feeling of not belonging, information overload and unawareness of available resources," Ruiz reflects. "Overcoming these hurdles empowers me to guide students toward thriving futures."

Ruiz's impressive academic credentials—a Master's in Mexican American Studies and a Bachelor's in History from the University of Arizona—underpin her commitment. Her extensive experience at Pima College, spanning Early Childhood Education, student advising and Applied Technology, equips her to address diverse student needs.

As manager, Ruiz oversees programs serving over 300 students across 65-70 semester classes. Her strategic focus encompasses enrollment growth, persistence and retention. "My vision is for the Santa Cruz Center to become a vibrant educational hub, offering varied programs that ignite student passions and community engagement."

To gauge success, Ruiz tracks key performance indicators (enrollment, graduation and job placement rates), assesses community impact and adjusts strategies based on feedback. Her pursuit of professional development and engagement with local industries ensures programs align with emerging needs.

"Education is the great equalizer," Ruiz emphasizes. "It unlocks doors, offering choices, financial stability and upward mobility. I'm dedicated to making this vision a reality for Santa Cruz County students."



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Savoring the Spirit of Giving: La Castellana's Café Delicious Tamales & Cookies

La Castellana's Café is serving mouthwatering tamales and cookies made with love to empower individuals with disabilities this holiday season. With over 20 years of legendary tamales and 15 years of scrumptious cookies, Santa Cruz Training Programs has warmed hearts and supported life-changing initiatives.

La Castellana Café treats are more than delicious; they're a testament to compassion and dedication. A skilled team of bakers, many with disabilities, meticulously sculpt each item, infusing each bite with passionate flavor. The café's mission is to empower individuals with disabilities through vocational training, job placement, and education.

By choosing La Castellana Café, you directly fund transformative programs. Your purchase supports independence, confidence and growth, creating pathways for meaningful contributions to society. Vocational training fosters self-sufficiency, while job placement assistance builds confidence. Educational opportunities ignite potential, bridging gaps and promoting inclusivity. Supporting La Castellana Café ensures support for individuals with disabilities. Together, we foster inclusivity, equality and brighter futures. This holiday season, make a tangible impact on lives in your community.

La Castellana's Café legacy extends beyond flavorful delights; it's a beacon of hope. Twenty-plus years of tamale excellence and fifteen years of cookie perfection have solidified its holiday tradition status. Join the movement, savoring deliciousness while supporting a brighter, more inclusive future.

**To make a difference, order La Castellana's Café delectable treats today. Call (520) 287-2043, extensions 21 and 22, or visit their website at:
<https://santacruztrainingprogramsinc.com/>**

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS
HERE!**

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Let's Talk Health

November is National Diabetes Month

Let us start by defining diabetes: what is Diabetes:

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the body doesn't produce enough insulin or can't use it properly.

There are mainly two types of diabetes:

1. Type I diabetes is when the pancreas produces little or no insulin, and this is usually a lifelong condition that starts in childhood or the teenage years.
2. Type II diabetes is when the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't produce enough, and this is more common in adults over 40. However, type 2 diabetes in children is increasing. Type II diabetes it is considered a lifestyle disease.

Did You Know?

1. About 1 in 10 Americans has diabetes; most have type 2
2. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes varies by race and ethnicity: non-Hispanic white: 7.4%, Asian American: 8.0%, Hispanic: 12.1%, Non-Hispanic, Black: 12.7%, and American Indian and Alaska Native: 15.1%.

How do you know if you are with diabetes type II or with pre-diabetes?

A simple blood test will let you know if you have diabetes. If you've gotten your blood sugar tested at a health fair or pharmacy, follow up at a clinic or doctor's office to make sure the results are accurate.

How to manage diabetes Type II?

1. Management of diabetes type II can be challenging because diabetes is managed mostly by you, with the support from your health care team, family, and other important people in your life.
1. Your doctor may prescribe medications and insulin to help manage your blood sugar and avoid complications. Please: Ask your doctor how often to check your blood sugar and what your target blood sugar levels should be. Keeping your blood sugar levels close to target will help you prevent or delay diabetes complications
2. Also, you will need to manage your diabetes with Healthy Eating and being Active. Check out @diabetes.org for more information.
3. Managing stress, lack of sleep are part of managing diabetes type II.
4. Make regular appointments with your health care team to be sure you are on track with your treatment plan.

Mariposa offers free diabetes education classes and you do not need to be a patient to join. For more information, please call Community Health Services, 520 375-6050.

Badria Bedri, MS

Nutritionist at MariposaCHC





Santa Cruz Training Program

Taking orders for delicious cookies and turnovers



Happy Thanksgiving

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UNITED FOR HOPE

The 2024 Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation and Peace Walk and Candlelight Vigil were held on October 7, 2024, at the Santa Cruz County Complex. Residents, officials, and advocates lit up the complex with resilience and unity.

It was a solemn yet uplifting evening, led by Santa Cruz County Attorney Saibet Gastelum, who declared: "We join to raise awareness about domestic violence, inspir/ing love over hate, and uniting over conflict."

During the ceremony, Santa Cruz County Attorney George Silva emphasized collective responsibility. Ryann Quick from Mariposa Community Health Center stressed the importance of supporting survivors on a daily basis.

In her touching speech, Elva Aguirre expressed her experience as an advocate of domestic violence, emphasizing the devastating effects that domestic violence has on families and individuals.

A moment of silence was observed honoring victims, punctuated by the release of balloons carried away by the desert breeze - symbols of hope and remembrance.

Victim Services Division Project Coordinator Noemi Elizalde read the official proclamation reaffirming the commitment to end domestic violence in 2024.

The HAWKX dance team of Rio Rico High School wowed the crowd with a powerful performance blending passion and awareness. After the HAWKX performance, Mariposa Road was filled with banners and posters as the Peace Walk wound through downtown.

In this year's Domestic Violence Awareness campaign, a national issue that affects families and individuals is highlighted. Understanding domestic violence, its impact on victims, and the resources available to support victims is essential to creating a safer and more informed society. A major objective of the event was to raise awareness of domestic violence and empower the community by recognizing signs of abuse and reporting it.

A candlelight procession illuminated Grand Avenue as community leaders, law enforcement, and residents walked together.

During this annual event, Santa Cruz County pledges to end domestic violence. Together, they choose love, unity, and resilience.

If you are interested in supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month, contact the Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office or a local organization.

For more information contact the County Attorney's Office at: 520-375-7780





Bea Corella
October 07, 2024 6:08 PM



Rio Rico High School Interact Club: Serving with Compassion

Throughout Rio Rico High School, the Interact Club has demonstrated remarkable community commitment exemplifying altruism. On October 5, thirty dedicated students rolled up their sleeves to meticulously clean the athletic field, revitalizing the school's center of physical activity and teamwork. At Crossroads Mission, a refuge providing vital assistance to those in need, nine compassionate members prepared and served nourishing meals.

The Interact Club members Diego Vasquez, Jimena Moreno, Emman Verdugo, Mateo Sanchez, Anthony Monge, Renata Aguirre, Abby Burgos, Jose Covarrubias and Daniel Catano set a good example. By serving the community, these students demonstrate Rotary International's motto: "Service Above Self." Through their efforts, they demonstrate the transformative power of volunteerism.

The Interact Club's proactive stance inspires peers and fosters a culture of empathy. Members gain crucial life skills: teamwork, leadership, and social responsibility, through meaningful initiatives. Rio Rico's social fabric is enhanced by their dedication. Their outreach reflects the community's commitment to cultivating compassionate, engaged, and visionary leaders.



Celebrating Creative Excellence: Mountain View Elementary Students Shine at Santa Cruz County Fair

Mountain View Elementary School artists proudly displayed their artistic prowess, earning top honors at the 2024 Santa Cruz County Fair. Guided by art teacher Mr. Mark Dittmar, these talented students showcased diverse mediums – graphite, markers, colored pencils, crayons, pastels and oil pastels.

During the judging process, judges evaluated artwork blindly, evaluating creativity, skill, quality, and appearance specifically tailored to the age and medium of the student's work. The identity of the students remained hidden throughout the competition.

It was an impressive collection of awards for Mountain View students, including six blue ribbons for outstanding achievement, two red ribbons for outstanding merit, and two white ribbons for outstanding effort. They won the purple Best of Show ribbon and the coveted 1st Place Best of Show trophy.

Recognized students included Ezra Gonzales, Jaelyn Espinosa, Evelyn Angulo, Analy Armenta, Sophia Fajardo and Jazzlyn Rehm from Grades 4 and 5. Angelo Montemayor, Lynnette Lopez and Helena Rivera, now in Grade 6, also received accolades.

Mr. Dittmar praised his students' dedication, creativity and technical skill. "These accolades reflect our school's thriving arts program and students' passion." Parents, teachers and peers celebrated the artists' accomplishments, fostering community pride and inspiring future creatives.

The Santa Cruz County Fair showcased local talent, reinforcing the importance of arts education. Mountain View Elementary's triumph demonstrated the power of creative expression and nurturing young artists.





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**November 1, 2024: Last day to vote early in person from 8 am to 7 pm
at 2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste. 114.**

November 5, 2024: General Election Day

November 10, 2024: Last day to cure ballots at 5 pm at 2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste. 103

Anita Moreno

County Recorder

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Nogales, Arizona 85621

Phone: (520) 375-7990

<https://www.santacruzcountyz.gov/986/Voter-Information>



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office wishes
everyone a

HAPPY
Thanks & Giving

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life."

-Melody Beattie



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

Sheriff's Round-Up



Santa Cruz County Sheriff David Hathaway spoke at a press conference at the Arizona Capitol regarding Proposition 314. This proposition attempts to make the state criminal justice system into a parallel federal immigration system. Hathaway noted that the proposition would lead to racial profiling and would be unmanageable for state agencies given limited resources. Hathaway also pointed out that the federal courts had ruled the idea to be unconstitutional for a similar proposal in Senate Bill 1070, a law passed in 2010.

Sheriff Hathaway, along with his Command Staff, attended this year's Red Ribbon Event, an annual drug abuse awareness event. The event, arranged by the Sheriff's Office, featured keynote speaker Mr. Joe Wood, Vice President of Strategy and Operations for the Boulder Crest Foundation. Mr. Wood delivered an impactful address on the importance of mental health, a crucial focus area for the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has recently participated in three intensive, week-long sessions on the topic.

The Sheriff's Office was also present at this year's Motor Classic '24 Car Show, hosted by Nickel's Diner in Rio Rico, Arizona. This community event offered a great opportunity to engage with local residents and car enthusiasts alike.

On National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, the Sheriff's Office joined over 4,000 law enforcement partners nationwide for the 27th year of the event. This initiative is instrumental in preventing prescription drug misuse by safely collecting and disposing of unused medications.

To celebrate National First Responder Appreciation Day, Mrs. Lizette Gonzales from Country Club De La Cholla in Tucson, Arizona, generously honored first responders by donating coffee and donuts, recognizing their dedication to keeping our communities safe.

The Sheriff's Office continues to actively recruiting for multiple Sheriff's Office Positions

Sheriff Hathaway and his administration gives a big "thank you" to all members of the community for their support of the Sheriff's Office. Also, thank you to all the Sheriff's staff for all that you do.

Your Sheriff
David Hathaway



A message from the Santa Cruz County Attorney



Happy Thanksgiving

"REMEMBER, IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE"

"Be present in all things and thankful for all things."-Maya Angelou



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