Town Truck Ordinance Challenged

By Bob Brandt and Marion Vendituoli

A state legislator who represents parts of Pima and Pinal Counties has filed a complaint against the town of Patagonia in response to the ‘heavy truck traffic’ ordinance passed at the November 29 Town Council meeting.

The Patagonia Town Council voted to approve ordinance 17-01 to regulate heavy truck traffic within the town limits. Mayor Ike Isakson cast the lone dissenting vote, stating that the ordinance failed to meet the three basic tests he believes are required for adoption. Those tests, he maintained, are, “Is it fair, is it legal and is it enforceable?” Town Attorney Michael Massee had, at the November 8 work session, expressed his opinion that the ordinance meets the test of legality.

During the discussion that followed Vice Mayor Andy Wood’s motion to approve the ordinance, Carolyn Shafer made the case in support of the ordinance, as she had in the study session three weeks prior, urging the council members to regulate heavy truck traffic as part of a more comprehensive strategy to protect the town’s present quality of life.

Another voice in favor of the ordinance was Roy Lee, a Patagonia resident who grew up here and recently moved back to town after pursuing his business career elsewhere for over 30 years. Although he agrees the town can’t regulate the mining activities, Lee said the town council has a responsibility to protect the quality of life for its citizens.

Joining the opposition to the proposed ordinance were Irma and Fred Sang, owners of the Patagonia Market, who asserted that the ordinance targets one business. “What are we going to do, pass an ordinance every time a new business wants to come into town?” Fred Sang asked. He also voiced his concern about driving away potential jobs that are crucial to the town’s ability to keep families from moving out of the area and keeping the community’s school enrollment up, an issue he is especially close to as he currently serves as president of the school board.

The complaint was filed on December 18 by State Representative Vince Leach, who lives north of Tucson and represents LD 11. He is requesting that the Attorney General investigate whether the town had violated Arizona state law by “adopting an ordinance restricting the total number of trips made by a ‘heavy duty truck.’”

In the complaint, he argues that “the ordinance is unlawful because the Town’s restrictions exceed the authority granted to it under Arizona law,” and that “the ordinance was unlawfully deliberated in violation of Arizona’s open meeting laws.”

Under law SB 1487, any legislator may file a complaint against a county, city or town that enacts an ordinance, regulation or order that he or she feels violates state law or the constitution of Arizona. This law, passed in February 2016, punishes local governments by withholding state funds if the Attorney General finds in favor of the complainant.

There are three possible outcomes to this complaint. The Attorney General could rule that the ordinance was legal and let it stand, he could rule that it is illegal and withhold state funds until the ordinance is rescinded, or he could rule that the case must go to the state Supreme Court for adjudication. Attorney General Mark Brnovich has thirty days to respond to the complaint.

If he determines that the case will go to the Supreme Court, the town may not be in a financial position to argue its case for the ordinance, according to Mayor Ike Isakson. “We can’t afford to go to

Photo by Bob Brandt
Carolyn Shafer speaks at the town council meeting on November 29, urging passage of the heavy truck traffic ordinance.
WHO WE ARE
We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to newsstands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

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2017 COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS
There are many people in this community who donate their time and skills to helping others, building community resources, and improving our quality of life. This year, the Patagonia Regional Times would like to acknowledge our dedicated medical first responders at the Sonoita Elgin Fire Station and at the Patagonia Fire Department.

Our First Responders Always There When We Need Them

SEFD medical personnel tend to an injured person at one of the 550 call outs the station responded to in 2017.

The PRT would like to honor the men and women who work so hard to keep us safe and well in this corner of Santa Cruz County, the EMTs and paramedics who work out of the Sonoita Elgin Fire Department (SEFD) and the Patagonia Fire Department. Virtually every resident here has benefited from their training, their commitment and their professionalism in one way or another.

The majority of medical first responders in the area are volunteer. In Patagonia, the five EMTs, who are all volunteer, make an average of 15 to 20 runs per month, 90% of which are medical calls. In Sonoita, 29 of the 35 paramedics and EMTs are volunteers. They made approximately 550 runs in 2017. In the last fiscal year, medical personnel logged more than 770 hours in ambulance runs alone.

Many of the EMTs and paramedics are cross trained as firefighters, and respond to a host of situations, including medical calls, motor vehicle collisions, structure and wildland fires, lift assistance calls, snake removal calls, hazmat calls and vehicle fires. They even helped a sheep stuck in a gate and an elderly cow stuck in the mud this year, according to SEFD administrative assistant Katie Goodwin.

At SEFD, all volunteers must go through an orientation process, run by Battalion Chief Mark Bennett. The EMS director at SEFD is Laura Sink, who oversees quality control certification and document review. The department does not offer, or pay for, EMT training. After completing the orientation process, which takes two to three months, the volunteers are then recruited. It takes another six months to a year for them to become full members of the department and be assigned a call number.

The process for becoming an EMT entails successfully completing 140 hours of class time, passing both written and practical tests, and passing a national certification exam. Becoming a paramedic requires additional training. SEFD does not reimburse EMTs for their training, but does offer a small stipend for their work at the station. There are three paid firefighters and one volunteer at the station at all times.

Volunteers at the Patagonia Fire Department get reimbursed for EMT training, according to Fire Chief Ike Isakson. Mark Meredith is Medical Captain of the department. “We’ve always been a kind of training center for all kinds of people,” Isakson said. “We like to find young guys with jobs who can leave the job to go on calls. The people they work for have to be understanding.”

Isakson estimates that the cost of EMT training is approximately $2400. EMT students currently have to travel to Pima Community college, or take the course at a private company in Tucson. “It’s hard to get instructors to come down here. They want 20 – 24 students in the class,” he said. “I’d love to see an EMT class at the High School.”

Isakson and Bennett both praised his volunteer medical personnel. “They are necessary, and I think they do a great job,” Isakson said. “It’s a good situation right now.” “85% of our calls are medical,” Bennett said. “As far as I’m concerned, they’re the backbone of our EMS response.”
Veterans’ Retreat Opens In Sonoita

By Marion Vendituoli

The grand opening of Boulder Crest Retreat Arizona at Apache Springs Ranch, on November 30, can only be described as inspiring, emotional, and, at times, overwhelming. Visitors from across the country, many accompanied by service dogs, as well as neighbors, local business owners, first responders and clergy, came together at the 130-acre ranch north of Sonoita to celebrate the opening of Boulder Crest’s second location dedicated to helping combat veterans and their families.

The ceremony opened with three parachutists, led by Dana Bowman, the first double amputee to reenlist in the U.S. Army, unfurling huge American, Arizona, and POW/MIA flags, before landing in front of the crowd of approximately 450 guests.

The ‘flag drop’ was followed by the national anthem, sung by country singer Keni Thomas, as the VFW Mounted Color Guard from Three Points, AZ presented the colors. Thomas, a former U.S. Army Ranger, served in the battle of Mogadishu, portrayed in the movie “Black Hawk Down,” for which he was a consultant.

After welcoming remarks by Border Crest founder Ken Falkes, SOCS Edward C. Byers Jr. gave the keynote address. Byers, a Navy SEAL with 11 overseas deployments, including nine combat tours, received the Medal of Honor in 2016 for his gallantry during a hostage rescue mission in Afghanistan. “The medal of honor is much harder to wear than it is to earn,” he told the audience. “I humbly wear this medal for my team.” He talked about the “visible and invisible wounds” suffered by combat veterans. “The sacrifice is real,” he said. Twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day.

Chief Byers was followed by a Native American blessing of the land ceremony performed by Delane Enos, a member of the Gila River Indian community, a ribbon cutting and a benediction.

Falkes, spoke of the history of Apache Springs Ranch, established by Thomas Gardner, who was shot by Cochise and carried the bullet for years. “The land is a true warrior’s paradise,” he wrote in the program, “a place that honors all seasons. It is a place where the land is a true warrior’s paradise.”

Falkes and his wife, Julia, founded Boulder Crest Retreat in 2013 to help combat veterans.

There are ample opportunities for volunteer participation at the Sonoita center, according to Sarah Fehrer, Boulder Crest’s director of Development. Anyone interested in volunteering, or in donating, should visit the organization’s website: http://www.bouldercrest-treat.org/getinvolved/

Dana Bowman parachutes down in front of the crowd at the grand opening ceremony for Boulder Crest Retreat in Sonoita.

Ken Falkes and his wife, Julia, founded Boulder Crest Retreat in 2013 to help combat veterans.
From The Ground Up:
DDFI Hosts Clay Plastering, Sculpting Workshops

By Mark Berg

Finishing touches are applied to the new outdoor classroom at Deep Dirt Farm Institute.

This fall, Patagonia’s Deep Dirt Farm hosted a two-day workshop on Clay Plastering and Sculpting, taught by renowned earth plaster artisan Athena Steen. Athena, who co-founded the Canelo Project, and has been teaching clay plasters, straw bale, cob, earthen floors, and ovens for over 30 years. She is known for combining practical, easy-to-learn techniques with artistic form and design.

The workshop was the continuation of a project to build an outdoor classroom structure at the farm, a long-time goal of Deep Dirt’s Executive Director, Kate Tirion. Throughout last summer, college interns, community volunteers, and local youth involved with the Borderlands Earth Care Youth Institute worked with local artisans on various aspects of construction. Local adobe expert Erasmo Lagunas demonstrated how to make adobe bricks and then use them to build a partial wall around the structure. Blacksmith Richard Connolly taught how to make calculations and designs over the plaster. Athena’s skill as a teacher and master earth plasterer are evident in the wall’s suede-like finish and sculpted designs created by the enthusiastic group. One more workshop is planned for early 2018 to complete the details.

Located about two miles north of Patagonia just off Route 82, Deep Dirt Farm is one of Southwest Arizona’s leading permaculture institutes. By showcasing the extraordinary skill of local artisans, encouraging volunteer assistance, repurposing waste materials, and providing educational workshops, Deep Dirt strives to empower our community to live and work more sustainably.

“We can build a restoration economy here in Patagonia,” says Tirion, “by highlighting the skill and talent right here in our community.” More information on volunteer opportunities and upcoming workshops is available online at www.deepdirtinstitute.org or on Facebook as @DeepDirtInstitute.

Lucia Smith Nash
August 29, 1928 - December 20, 2017

Lucia S. Nash died peacefully at her home on December 20, 2017. She was born on August 29, 1928, in Cleveland, OH to Kelvin and Eleanor Smith. She attended Hathaway Brown School and Smith College. After Smith College she worked for a brief time at White Motors. Lucia met her future husband Richard Preston Nash, Jr. at a White Elephant sale in Cleveland. After they married, the couple moved to her grandparents’ Crosscavan Farm in Novelty, OH, where she lived for the rest of her life. There she pursued her passion as a horse woman, a champion of nature and her philanthropic work.

Traveling to Arizona in the 1930’s with her family, she fell for the West. With her feet planted firmly in her Cleveland roots, her heart soared in the mountains of the Southwest. She reacquainted herself with the Circle Z Ranch after a thirty-year absence, introducing her family to the splendor of Southern Arizona. When the opportunity of owning the ranch arose in the 1970’s, she jumped on it. She bought adjoining lands as they became available, and today nearly the same amount of land is protected and unspoiled as when the ranch began as a dude ranch in the mid 1920’s.

Her love of nature, handed down from her parents, inspired her to volunteer tirelessly for the Nature Conservancy of Arizona and Ohio. Many conservation success stories exist today because of her dogged efforts. She also humbly worked to better organizations, such as Rainbow Children’s Hospital, The Garden Center (as it was once known), HB School, Severance Hall Restoration efforts, The Natural History Museum, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Case Western University and others.

Lucia was a passionate gardener, antique book collector, train buff and music lover. She was also a great story teller, weaving tales of her fairy tale life and her myriad interests.

She is survived by her daughter Audrey Knight (Steve Els), her son Richard P Nash of Montana (Diana M.), and her grandson Preston Nash. She leaves behind many close friends and family in the Cleveland area. A memorial service and reception will be held at the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club, 7620 Old Mill Rd., Gates Mills, OH 44040 on Friday, January 5 at 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial gifts to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44110.

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PAGE 4  PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES  JANUARY 2018
Letters to the Editor

Help Keep the Cemetery Clean

It’s been six months since I began trying to rid Patagonia of litter. We have a long way to go. But, I know some residents have become aware and are doing their part by containing their garbage, picking up litter and by not throwing litter out their car windows or letting it fly from their truck beds.

The Patagonia Cemetery is beautiful, the vista amazing. Unfortunately, the litter is abundant. It may not be fair to call all of it litter. Those once beautiful flowers that are left on loved one’s graves begin to crumble from heat and time, and are left for litter. There is, of course, the usual litter of beer cans, water bottles, cardboard and paper. After two months of picking up 2-4 bags of litter a week at the cemetery, I am only beginning to see a difference.

Let's respect those who lie in our Cemetery by cleaning it up. Spend some time at the cemetery tiding up your loved ones' graves. If you know no one in the cemetery—adopt a grave and clean it up.

My goal is to have the Cemetery cleaned up by Memorial Day—seems appropriate.

Litter is Preventable.

Cynie K. Murray
Patagonia

Mine is Good For Community

To The Editor,

In response to the letter from Donna Reibslager in the December issue, I would say:

At the behest of Dave Ellis, Board Member of the PRT, in November I did read carefully the 60 page community water report produced through the U of A and others. Then I spent a day with Dave and Ron Pulliam visiting many of these critical points. I am aware of the concerns some people might have.

To further support my bona fides as to water, I proudly point out the fact that while serving in the 33rd Arizona Legislature I was appointed by the House leadership to serve on the Arizona Groundwater Commission. After much study, hearings, and wrangling with different interests trying to protect their own interests, we went on to pass the first ever (and still only) bill into law governing the use of groundwater in the history of Arizona. So I am very sensitive to water matters.

As to the Arizona Mining company, I know many of the young people working there from church. They are working hard to improve their lives and that of their families. I have been following the course of development of the mine over the years and have become acquainted with its leaders, who I also consider good people. As I wrote in my November letter I consider the mine to be good for the community.

As I have said to Dave Ellis and Ron Pulliam, I would happily join a fact-based conversation where both sides could calmly analyze the mining future of Patagonia with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the people of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County.

Thanks,

Emmett McLoughlin
Sonora

Errors and Omissions

PUHS student John Hubbell won a partial scholarship for the summer Washington D.C. trip at the 38th annual Sulphur Springs Electric Cooperative’s Washington Youth Tour competition, in addition to a $200 cash prize reported in last month’s PRT.

In the article about the Patagonia Senior Center, it was incorrectly stated that Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) was instituting new nutritional requirements for meals served at the Center. It has been determined by the AZ Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services that the Center was not in compliance with existing standards, and mandated that SEAGO enforce the requirements or risk losing funding.

Our apologies for these errors and omissions.

Letters to the Editor

Patagonia Regional Times encourages everyone to comment publicly on the events and times in which we live. Letters must be signed by the author and include town of residence. Letters are limited to 200 words. PRT reserves the right to edit all letters for language, length, and content. Please send your letter, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com.

Patagonia Cemetery Clean-up

It’s been six months since I began trying to rid Patagonia of litter. We have a long way to go. But, I know some residents have become aware and are doing their part by containing their garbage, picking up litter and by not throwing litter out their car windows or letting it fly from their truck beds.

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Patagonia
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

THE UNIVERSE: LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

By Martin Levowitz

Will, her creatures (i.e. we) will work things out. Arbeit Macht Frei.

Several months ago, a number of powerful telescopes were trained on a carefully chosen empty spot in space. Once focused, they revealed, in that once-pressed “empty” space, millions of hitherto-unsuspected galaxies. We’re talking GALAXIES, Raoul, not pick-up sticks or black-eyed peas. The number of galaxies in space is currently reckoned at two or three trillion. Such numbers make no sense to us in terms of real experience. They are beyond imagining. The honest way to contemplate two or three trillion anything is just to get real dizzy and throw up.

If you seek an omniscient, all-powerful God, outside of which nothing can be, then look no farther than The Universe - i.e., What Is. Yahweh, the traditional Judeo-Christian name for God, translates quite simply to: “I Am.” Or, rendered more elaborately, “I Am What Is,” or “I Am What I Am.” (Which may suggest that God is just Popeye, The Sailor Man.)

My best advice to you, Lucille, is: Love the world just as it is, in all its awesome beauty and humongous disarray. In futile hopes of feeling safe and finding clarity, we humans try our clumsy best to draw a line between creation and destruction - although, in fact, the two go hand in hand. (”To be reborn, a mustard seed must die,” and all of that.) The Big Bang which gives rise to what exists includes an active and a passive phase: explosion and absorption, so to speak. We little people, here on earth, are blown away by hurricanes. We’re awed and frightened by infernal streams of molten rock. And that’s all penny-ante stuff compared to what goes on “up there,” in space.

The cosmic mess and symmetry: Do you really need more? They’ve just discovered a black hole 800 million times more massive than our puny sun. Ain’t that enough? You complicate the calculus when you insist on something “else” (distinct) that you identify as “God.” We seek a God who looks like us - a loving Mom, perhaps, or angry Dad - because we’re scared and trying to make sense of what does not, and never can, make human sense.

The essence of religion is called Faith. Faith confers peace. Because the world is way too big for us to comprehend, when all is said and done, we must accept the mystery - Things As They Are - or else go mad. Instead of dumbstruck silence, though, our madness takes the form of strident dogma, declaration, and “belief.” We’d rather take somebody else’s word for what is real (e.g., The Koran, Bible, or Upanishads) than go through life aware that we don’t know. All certainty is just a state of mind - of closure and/or mental harmony - not an objective measure of what’s real. But, in the end, it’s no big deal. GOD loves and hates and IS WHATEVER IS - including you. And Satan, too!

2017 - A ‘TIRE FIRE’ OF A YEAR

By Cassina Farley

with painful lessons and forced change. Somehow we endured. In 2018, I’d like to see less disbelief and shock. I’d like to settle back into our happy little life, free of life altering nonsense. In that spirit here are a few more things I’d like to see less of in 2018:

Less red tape. No more HMOs, PPOs or any other health insurance nonsense with three letter abbreviations. Please, no more needless paperwork. Why must ten people be involved when we just need to see a dermatologist?

Less little trucks on the highway stacked 10 stories high with bicycles, mattresses and plastic yard toys. I always get stuck behind them. Where are they going? I inevitably end up having nightmares about bicycles embedded in my windshield at 75 miles per hour.

Less division. I like toast with avocado. You don’t. We still respect each other. We are still friends. See how that works?

Less denying of climate change. Were you here in June? We hid in the house trying to avoid bursting into flames. How about in November? It just keeps getting hotter and hotter. Its just barely winter now. Why is Santa more believable than this? Science is real.

Less bullies in high positions. Lets have less leading with harassment and intimidation. Why do we elevate these other. We are still friends. See how they works?

Less division. I like toast with avocado. You don’t. We still respect each other. We are still friends. See how that works?

Less ignoring of climate change. Why were you here in June? We hid in the house trying to avoid bursting into flames. How about in November? It just keeps getting hotter and hotter. Its just barely winter now. Why is Santa more believable than this? Science is real.

Less bullies in high positions. Let have less leading with harassment and intimidation. Why do we elevate these people to the top? We elect them. We work with them and our bosses promote them. Hateful people do not make better leaders. Let’s put them into positions they are better suited for, like prison guards and shopping cart wranglers. The world belongs to the kind hearted.

And my final wish for 2018... Fewer men in government. Sorry boys, you’ve had the last 200 plus years and look what has happened. The aforementioned tire fire. It’s our turn. The future is female.

Happy New Year.

Zach might disagree with me but I think we finished 2017 better than most. We have a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, and a cold bottle of vodka in the freezer with plenty of olives for the foreseeable future. 2017 was a real tire fire. 2017 was a year of loss and complete nonsense, a year where I spent half the time in disbelief of our current situation.

For us Farleys, our year was ripe of our current situation.

loss and complete nonsense, a year
MINING, ELECTRICITY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Robert Gay with Lynn Davison

There has been a lot of discussion in the Patagonia area about the impacts mining may have on water quantity and quality in our region. However, water is not the only resource at stake. Mining’s large demand for electricity, for example, also has numerous important implications. Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI)’s current “Phase 1” proposal for an underground mine in the Patagonia Mountains requires 36 megawatts of power, which translates to 864,000 kilowatt-hours/day, since the mining operations are proposed to run 24/7. An average Arizona household uses 37.1 kilowatt-hours/day (and 1000 kilowatts is a megawatt). Therefore, the proposed AMI project would use the same amount of electricity as 23,300 households, roughly 1.5 times the number of households in all of Santa Cruz County.

The AMI plan, as described in their 2017 Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA), is to obtain the needed power from 1) an off-grid natural gas generation plant, to be further explored by AMI, or from 2) the existing electrical grid, their preferred method. The PEA makes no mention of any renewable energy use, such as the locally available renewable sources of solar and wind.

To transmit power from the electrical grid to the mine site, the PEA suggests a new 23-mile overhead 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the current line in the area has only about 1/10 of that capacity).

The PEA does not mention any potential right-of-way problems, nor whether there are adverse impacts to land, water, wildlife or people from building or operating it, nor whether there are other potential users of the new line, nor whether AMI intends to pay for some or all the costs of construction of the line. If AMI does not pay for this new “merchant line,” then we can assume that the ratepayers will be covering its cost.

Mining’s large appetite for electricity could have a direct impact on global warming and resulting climate change. This is because almost 2/3 of grid-transmitted electricity in Arizona still comes from fossil fuel sources, so using this source contributes greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, as CO2 and oxides of nitrogen and sulfur. These gases increase global warming and thus speed climate change. When you add in greenhouse gas emissions from mine vehicles and equipment, worker & supplier vehicles and explosives, the impact becomes even larger.

Any potential mining project in our region must address the multiple adverse impacts of increased fossil-fuel power consumption on the long-term sustainability of our local community and the protection of our remarkably valuable natural resources. There is too much at stake to do otherwise.

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Artwork by Elizabeth McKay

Code Talker, Tom Claw

By Janet Winans

I knew Tom Claw in Parker. He’s gone now but he left a big imprint on my heart. He kept my poem in his wallet, his granddaughter framed it as well. One Christmas season, Tom Claw and his wife were selling homemade peanut brittle at an Indian sidewalk sale. I bought a bag, wouldn’t let anyone eat it until it finally dissolved into an inedible lump.

Whacked in class for speaking Navajo, at night we whisper in the dorm. Dust devils our words. Gusts of wind. Hummingbirds.

18, we enlist, Charlie and me. Take Trailways to Phoenix. Marines off the res, off to war.

Guadalcanal, then Leyte where shrapnel gets my legs. Charlie’s too. But we’re Code Talkers, classified Navajos, special-trained in radio. 400 of us talk the way we know, island to island, ship to shore.

We make language for war. Flock of vultures inbound, invasion warning. School of iron sharks. Our speech, sounds and pauses, shadows of clouds. Sheep bunched in a splinter corral, rain never reaching the ground.

Our voices dodge through the dark invisible. Code never broken, nothing written down.

Afterward we’re ordered not to tell. Not my wife, my parents, daughters, even sons. Twenty-five years.

Called to Washington, declassified we get our medals. 1969. Back in uniform, we walk in parades.

We have reunions now. Reporters call. My kids don’t ask about the war. Not one of them knows Navajo.
WATER: ELIXIR OR COMMODITY?

By Vince Pinto

I attended the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) public hearing on the water-quality permits necessary to operate the proposed Arizona Mining (AMI) mine in the Patagonia Mountains on Nov. 29. This was an opportunity to express concerns to state regulators about the mine’s potential impact on our water resources. ADEQ allowed only three minutes per speaker, but in that short time our group of six raised concerns for the record.

Leslie Schupp, a resident of Alum Gulch and downstream from potential mine effluents, spoke passionately about the threat that contaminated water poses to her well, her property value, and her economic future. She stared the mining people in the eye and asked if they would like to drink the contaminated water that might escape from the mine into her well. She was met with silence.

Jean Miller, also living in Alum Gulch, pointed out that the mine would be only the source of polluted water, which could then run into The Nature Conservancy’s Sonoita Creek Preserve, Circle Z Guest Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park, and Sonoita Creek State Natural Area.

Mining representatives sitting in the back of the meeting room in Nogales remained silent for the duration of the event. Understandably, passions run high whether you are for or against the mine, but the right to clean, safe water is fundamental. So let’s put the issue into perspective.

Water Quality

An approved water permit would allow AMI to release up to 170,000 gallons of excess effluents per day, carrying varying amounts of toxins, if the company’s water-retention ponds fill up.

The mine needs the water to process ore, which will result in contaminated wastewater, including heavy metals. This used water will then be processed at a wastewater treatment plant - to be constructed by AMI - and then stored in holding ponds. If the capacity of these ponds is exceeded, then AMI would have the legal right to discharge up to 170,000 gallons of wastewater per day into Alum Gulch.

We don’t have to leave the Patagonia Mountains to find tales of contaminated mine water. ADEQ had already listed Alum Gulch Creek in Arizona’s ADEQ 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to the presence of dissolved copper, cadmium and zinc. Within the last 10 years, Peña Blanca Lake had to be drained due to high mercury levels linked to old mines. To this day, fish from the lake are inedible. And for years now, some streams within the Patagonias have run milky white with toxic aluminum precipitates during the summer monsoons. These brew emam from mines that shut down decades ago.

Now to AMI’s proposed water treatment and retention facilities, which can supposedly accommodate a 100-year flood. What happens when the remnant of a Pacific Ocean hurricane delivers a 500 or 1,000-year flood? Burst retention ponds, wildlife poisoned by mining waste, people and pets sickened by foul water, and drawn-out lawsuits against the polluters are all real possibilities.

Likewise, the tectonics of our area seem to have been ignored. Concrete, gravel, and piping systems can be destroyed instantly by a seismic event. One of ADEQ’s own draft fact sheets refers to the Harshaw Creek fault, which underlies the mining area. What if an earthquake like the one in 1887 - estimated at 7.2 - 7.6 on the Richter scale, with an epicenter about 60 miles south of Douglas, AZ - happens again? That earthquake caused widespread fissures, displaced boulders, and damaged countless structures. Even a small, local quake could unleash toxic waste.

Once water is polluted, it is hard, expensive, and often impractical to clean it up. So who will test water at the mine to ensure compliance with water-quality standards - AMI itself? As it stands now, AMI would only have to test the effects of its effluents on species in Alum Gulch one time. Instead, independent tests need to be regularly and randomly conducted.

AMI proposes that the water fleas, fathead minnow, and a green algae serve as benchmarks for water quality. But the fathead minnow is not native to Arizona and can tolerate dirty water. AMI should instead use a handful of species that are native to the Patagonias and known to be sensitive to changes in water quality.

Water Quantity

The proposed mine is predicted by AMI’s own estimate to use 650 gallons of water per minute, pumped 24 hours a day for 7 days a week during the mine’s estimated 20-year lifespan. That’s nearly a million gallons of water a day. And it’s about as much in six weeks as the entire town of Patagonia uses in a year.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources states its mission as: “Conserving and sustaining all water resources… it’s our future.” This seems glaringly inconsistent with the intended level and type of water usage that AMI desires. And who would suffer from dry wells and water restrictions or shortages - the mining company or the people who live in and near Patagonia?

The history of water use and abuse in southern Arizona should guide our choices. Within the last 100 years, Tucson has lost the Santa Cruz River, which used to flow perennially through town and supported a forest of cottonwoods, willows, and mesquites. So much water has been taken out of the Tucson basin, and at such an unsustainable rate, that instead of pumping water, we’re really mining it. There are simply too many people, too many industries, too many straws.

In 2014, Smithsonian Magazine published an article entitled “Arizona Could Be Out of Water in Six Years,” which chronicled the alarmingly low water supplies in Arizona. At that time, the EPA predicted a worsening of the situation due to the effects of global warming.

On the azwater.gov website is a pdf with a telling graphic: a map of Santa Cruz County showing the drawdown on wells between 1995 and 2004/5. Many colored dots indicate wells whose water level has dropped from one foot to more than 30 feet.

Water for Wildlife—and People

Many species of flora and fauna will be affected by AMI’s mine, especially those that rely on bodies of water. Such species include the elegant trogon, western yellow-billed cuckoo, gray hawk, zone-tailed hawk, common black hawk, jaguar, ocelot, Sonora mud turtle, and many amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates. Among the trees at risk are the Fremont cottonwood, Arizona sycamore, and Arizona walnut. And what about our need for water for sanitation, cleaning, drinking, and landscapes as well as for small businesses? Even with these relatively modest uses, some wells in Sonoita have gone dry within the last decade. Consider the possibility that our water could be metered and household uses restricted.

Mine or no mine? The choice involves two competing sets of values. There are people who are understandably concerned about jobs and the economic future of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County. They welcome the mine as a harbinger of more prosperous times. But are a few temporary jobs really worth the water that we all depend upon daily?

On the other hand, many of us have witnessed the legacy of environmental destruction and compromised water left by big mining companies that are often foreign owned and whose main concern is the bottom line. Once the mine is closed, the water is fouled or depleted, the earth is scarred, the jobs have gone, and we are left holding the bag.

Diana Nash, owner of Circle Z Ranch and one of our area’s largest employers, shared her thoughts on the mine and its potential impacts:

“Our ranch has been in operation in Patagonia for over 30 years, as a local business providing local jobs and as a property that has preserved the health and vitality of over two miles of Sonoita Creek. The stream is central to our desert oasis, and anything that threatens this vital resource is a direct threat to our business and to the native habitat that our family has conserved for over 40 years. Our guests come from all over the world to spend time enjoying and learning about the diverse ecosystems supported by the stream. We have huge concerns that the mining operations will have adverse affects on the water quality, and will negatively impact our ranching and guest operations, perhaps irreparably.”

If you care about your water’s quality and quantity, and the economic future of our community, please get involved to protect the one resource that we cannot do without - water.

Now is the time to speak.
Wild Horse Saloon Offers a Taste of History

By Bob Brandt

Having written about Anne Stradling and her Museum of the Horse in the past, I was eager to see if the new Wild Horse Saloon in the Stage Stop Inn might reflect the fascinating history Stradling left behind nearly three decades ago when she moved her museum and sold the Inn.

My decision to check out the saloon on Christmas Eve proved fortuitous. I not only found it open, but had the good fortune to encounter current owners, Gerry and Lynne Weatherby Isaac, as well as general manager Cenovia Mayer, all of whom enthusiastically related how the saloon came together and what is yet to come to add to its already inviting character.

Gerry and Lynne have succeeded nicely in blending some important historic elements of the Stradling era into the bar’s décor. The most prominent of these elements is the use of the ornate head and footboards from Anne Stradling’s childhood bed as the main attraction on the wall behind the bar. This strikingly beautiful piece of intricately carved wood with beveled glass mirrors reflects not only the human activity occurring in the room, but the owners’ sensitivity to a time and place now long gone.

The small round tables and wooden and leather ladder back chairs in the main seating area are another feature from the Stradling days. The Isaacs closed the original bar as soon as they bought the property in 2010 because it was in such bad condition, but put the tables and chairs in storage hoping that someday they would be redeployed in an updated saloon.

As I survey the new space, in my mind’s eye I imagine Anne herself sitting at one of these tables, sketch in hand, chatting with John Wayne, who reputedly convinced her to build the hotel. Today’s patrons can sit at those same tables and enjoy a variety of drinks as well as food from the adjacent restaurant. And when it’s cold outside, the new stone fireplace on the wall opposite the bar will warm the heart as well as the body.

Adjacent to the fireplace is a small store room, the entrance to which is guarded by an old iron cell door “released” from the former Santa Cruz County jail. “That’s where we’ll put customers who cause trouble,” Cenovia quips. It’s likely, however, that the cell’s sole occupant will be the clever cutout of a jailbird created by local artist Linda Chase that will take up residence looking forlornly out onto the saloon scene.

The beautiful wooden bar, salvaged by Gerry from a Tucson Sheraton several years ago, was modified to fit its new location. When refinishing is finished it will eventually be enhanced with a brass railing.

The saloon occupies the space that was once an entrance for the wagons that were a main attraction of the Museum of the Horse. Large sliding glass doors provide access to street-side outdoor seating in front and pool-side seating in the rear. The swinging saloon doors that the Isaacs salvaged from the Stradling-era bar will soon define the connection between the restaurant and saloon, adding to the facility’s Old West flavor.

The saloon is currently open Monday through Thursday from 4:00-9:00 p.m. and from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

Wild Horse Saloon is located in Elgin.

Pub quizzes, also called trivia nights, will go on sale at the Patagonia Library, 346 Duquesne Ave., starting January 2, at 10am.

Don’t miss this opportunity for some friendly rivalry and demonstrate your knowledge of all things trivial. Bring your brains, we’ll have the beer and it’ll all help us buy more books.

For OneNight Only, The Library Will NOT Help You Find The Answers

Once again, the Friends of the Patagonia Library is bringing something new and exciting to the community with our latest fundraiser, a pub quiz called Top 10 Trivia, also called rounds. The questions will be released by Melanie and Tom Pyle of Copper Hops Ranch and Microbrewery located in Elgin. Copper Hops, Arizona’s first commercial hop ranch, will generously supply us with beer and cider. “A fundraiser with beer in the title sounds like a perfect match for us and we’re happy to support the community in this way. I think I’ll make hot spiced beer. It’s delicious on a cold winter night,” said Melanie Pyle.

Pub quizzes, also called trivia nights, popular in Britain since the 1970’s, have become all the rage in the U.S., and the Friends believe it is time for Patagonia to take center stage to showcase our superior intellect. Buy a $25.00 ticket (each person) and join us in Cady Hall, our “pub”, on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 5pm. Enjoy a super nacho bar and other pub snacks, a glass of beer or local wine and play the game with soon-to-be world-renowned Quizmasters, Judy Clegg and Lynn Davison.

Abbie Zeltzer, Librarian and Laura Wenzel, Library Assistant, well known for their vast array of knowledge have selected the choice of question themes, called rounds. The questions are top secret, but we can reveal that there are 8 rounds with 6 questions. Each round is worth about 20 points. There will be a few ways to cheat, but it could cost you because this is, after all, a fundraiser. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

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**Staying Alive - Winter’s Greenery**

Despite recurrent local droughts over millennia, a number of hearty native plants have evolved to navigate the desiccated vagaries of winter in a verdant state. Given this year’s la Niña ocean phenomenon and its attendant warmer/drier forecast, any cool-season greenery is more than welcome. Monsoon season is a loooong time away. Meanwhile, many drought-hardy plants brighten winter days, while furnishing critical wildlife habitat in what often proves to be an austere time.

Along the edges of disturbed habitats, you can often find some desert brooms. This member of the Aster family normally grows as a tall shrub with its namesake broomy appearance. No true leaves are visible, yet a healthy plant is a vibrant green that provides year-round cover to a broad spectrum of local wildlife. Sparrows, towhees, and a number of insectivorous birds find frequent fare in and below the evergreen foliage of this species. Despite this, many people truly seem to despise desert broom, perhaps because it often flourishes a bit too well around their homes.

Eleven of our 13 species of native oaks also relieve the eyes from the dun winter landscape and allow our minds to wander to more lush times. Although they are frequently referred to as “evergreen” oaks, they are actually drought deciduous oaks. In years of prolonged drought (sound familiar right now?) they will drop some to all their leaves from winter through spring.

This serves as an evolutionary adaptation in dry climates such as ours. It is far better to be bare and shut down in lieu of sufficient moisture, then to stressful persist with a few meager leaves. Thus, vital resources are stored in roots, inner bark, and buds rather than frivolously kept in leaves during extreme droughts.

Despite about 10 inches of rain in July, many local oaks are already starting to drop some leaves. Alligator and one-seed junipers are also drought hardy and keep green throughout the year. Unlike oaks, however, a brown juniper is a dead juniper. Their reduced leaves in the form of scales allow junipers to ride out all but the most severe droughts.

The fruits of both species serve as key winter fare for a long list of both birds and mammals. One of my most memorable birding encounters came several winters ago when I spied several sage thrashers, a curve-billed thrasher, a crissal thrasher, and a northern mockingbird all in and near the same fruit-laden one-seed juniper!

Many small carnivores, such as various skunks, common gray fox, coyote, northern raccoon, and white-nosed coati readily consume the fruit of both of our juniper species, as well. Along with many birds, they serve as key dispersal agents for these wildlife-magnet trees. Also, keep a keen eye out for long-eared and other owls employing dense junipers as diurnal roots.

Perhaps the epitome of our evergreen, or wintergreen, plants are the succulents. Although some local succulents only come above ground in monsoon season, the vast majority maintain their flesh year-round. Cacti are well-known for their steadfast nature throughout all months, yet even they vary in their verdancy. If you take a close look at such species as cane cholla and sprawling prickly pear, you’ll soon notice that indeed some look haggard now. A prolonged drought is enough to kill some of even our heartiest natives.

Other lowland evergreens include: other cacti, mistletoes (including with fruit), agaves, sotols, bear-grasses, and yuccas. Collectively, they help remind us that nature indeed persists - inspiring us to do likewise even in the harshest of times.

_Santa Cruz County does not currently use the grand jury system, opting instead to have elected justices of the peace determine if there is sufficient evidence to press charges against a defendant. Such was not the case in 1917 as evidenced by the Grand Jury report published in local newspapers. The full text of the Border Vidette articles quoted below can be found in the Library of Congress database, Chronicling America. Images of the Santa Cruz Patagonian are available on The Patagonia Museum website: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org._

_“We, the Grand Jury, duly empaneled and sworn on the 11th day of December, A. D., 1917, as a grand jury of the Superior Court of the State of Arizona, in and for the County of Santa Cruz, beg to report as follows: We have inquired into three cases of murder, and five cases of grand larceny, one of assault with intent to commit murder and one for bootlegging, and herewith present to you the following true bills and indictments, to-wit, two for murder, five for grand larceny, one for assault with intent to commit murder, and one for bootlegging._" (The Border Vidette, 1/5/1918 & The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 1/5/1918)

_The unindicted murder investigation was that of "...Fred. J. Miller at Mowry, on the 12th day of October, 1917.” (The Border Vidette, 1/5/1918 & The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 1/5/1918) Mr. Miller was “...shot from ambush and instantly killed by an unknown murderer, while working in a maize field near his home.” (The Border Vidette, 10/13/1917) A week later “in Justice of the Peace Farrell’s court at Harshaw, J. S. Way, accused of murdering Fred. Miller, the Mowry stockrailer, was given a preliminary hearing, and the charge against him dismissed. The evidence in the case was circumstantial... Experts testified that Mr. Miller was shot with a steel jacketed bullet. The rifle said to have been used by Mr. Way, a .38 55 Winchester, shoots a soft nose bullet.” (The Border Vidette, 10/20/1917)

_The Grand Jury reported on several other issues of concern. “A number of defendants have gone without trial on account of a trial jury not being called in time to try these defendants within the time specified by the statute of limitations.” The recommended solution was that the Court adopt the system used by Pima County— summoning a trial jury in the month of January for the entire year._

_Prosecution of bootleggers was hampered by the lack of law enforcement staff and recommendations were made for the “re-establish[ment] of the positions of two County Rangers; that a deputy sheriff be appointed for and stationed at both Patagonia and Duquesne, and particularly at Patagonia, as the people in the county are entitled to just as much police protection as are the people in Nogales, and that an additional deputy be appointed for duty in Nogales.” The Grand Jury also recommended that a new County Jail be constructed “...the present jail having outgrown its usefulness.” (The Border Vidette, 1/5/1918 & The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 1/5/1918)
The 54th Patagonia Christmas Bird Count was held on Thursday Dec 14, 2017. 6144 individual birds and 142 species were seen. Thirty-six people in 20 groups hiked in back-country canyons, feeder-watched, etc. The day was pleasant (little wind and temps ranging from 37 to 63 F). The number of species was the highest seen in the past five years. A few of the less common birds seen were: Elegant Trogon, Spotted Owl, Pacific Wren, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, and Scott’s Oriole.

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<td>House Sparrow</td>
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Totals: 142 species
6144 individual birds (As of Dec 18, 2017)

*CW* means “Count Week”, a bird seen on one of the three days prior to the count or on one of the three days after the count, but not on count day itself.
Whether the kids or their adult benefactors were having the most fun was not readily apparent as the Second Annual Patagonia Red Sleigh Toy Run unfolded at the town gazebo on December 16, but probably no one was happier than the event organizer, Marshal Joe Patterson.

Shortly after 10:30, Marshal Patterson got the crowd’s attention and introduced Chaplain Steve Young who, with Patterson’s help, has been operating this Christmas giveaway in the Tucson area for over a decade and who decided to pay it forward to Patagonia kids in recognition of the support the marshal has provided over the years. Following brief remarks, the host adults got right to the business of bringing holiday cheer to dozens of local kids eagerly waiting to get their hands on an early Christmas present. According to Patterson, Red Sleigh Toy Run volunteers distributed somewhere between 750 and 1000 toys, games, stuffed animals and even some bicycles that chilly Saturday morning as first the youngest, then the progressively older kids were called up to the gazebo to accept gifts appropriate to their age group.

While the gazebo itself overflowed with toys, games and stuffed animals, the area surrounding the gazebo was jammed with parents, kids and a large contingent of bikers and their chrome-laden steeds, the latter competing with the main event for the attention of curious onlookers. Clearly, while there were female participants, this was an event well attended by boys and their toys and provided the opportunity to appreciate that, their tough image notwithstanding, many bikers have hearts of gold.

The toy run is made possible each year through the generous donations of police and correctional officers, bikers and supporting businesses under the sponsorship of Chaplain Young’s Grace Ministries. And, yes, some of the toys actually arrived via a red sleigh hitched to the back of a motorcycle.

Five year old Manuel Aguilar shows off his prize motorcycle while his father, Sergio, looks on. By Bob Brandt

Toys Bring Joy To Kids Of All Ages

Community Turns Out For Winter Festival

The Chili Winter Festival, held December 21 at the Patagonia Public School drew 150 guests to sample chili prepared by 19 contestants in the chili cook-off. Calvin Whitcoe won the people’s choice award in the contest, while the entry from the Patagonia Montessori School won the judge’s choice. Whitcoe and the Montessori School split 15% of the proceeds. The balance of the proceeds went to the Parent Teacher Booster Club at Patagonia Schools.

The cook-off was followed by a winter concert performed by students and a sock hop dance.

“One of the goals for the evening was to bring people from the community to the school and I think we were a success,” wrote Liz Collier, registrar at the school.

By Liz Collier

Community Turns Out For Winter Festival

Patagonia Schools’ Winter Concert.

The Sonoita Fairgrounds, Jim and Martha Green, the Sonoita Border Patrol Explorers, the Arizona Rangers, and craft fair organizer Melissa McCoy hosted the annual Community Christmas party in Pioneer Hall December 15. Thanks to a generous donation of books by the United Way, Goodwill and Make Way For Books, every child got to take home two books. In addition, kids could get air brushed tattoos, and decorate ornaments at a special craft table. Santa arrived via fire engine and gave out gifts, and a free dinner was served by Jim and Martha Green and thirteen members of the Sonoita Border Patrol Explorers group.

The Fairgrounds also hosted the Christmas Corral, a craft fair, with 47 vendors, December 15 – 17, which offered last minute shoppers a chance to pick up

By Liz Collier

Books, Gifts, Crafts at Fairgrounds Xmas Party

Kids line up to greet Santa as he arrives at Pioneer Hall.

Liam Collins, of Sonoita, paints an ornament at the craft table at the Fairgrounds Christmas party.

By Marion Vendituoli

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January 2018
Woman’s Club Gifts Books to Students

On December 21, excited students at the Patagonia Elementary School lined up to choose free books piled on tables on the stage at the Patagonia School cafeteria. Three hundred books were donated by the Patagonia Woman’s Club, continuing a tradition started five years ago by Lea Ward.

School librarian Roberta Ford, Sara Cobb, who organized the event for the Woman’s Club, volunteer Kyle Carey and Elvia Gallaher, lead elementary teacher, helped students pick a book and kept the event running smoothly. Happy students showed off their new books as they left the stage, while many children found a quiet seat in the cafeteria and start reading.

Students Perform at Montessori Winter Concert

Kindergartners at the Montessori School play their violins for parents and guests. (From left) Sophie Vendituoli, Orion Wallen, Martin Benevich, Alex Fuentes, Emmett Lopez, Sean Bartine.

Music teacher Nick Coventry accompanies Eleni Avgerinos, Naomi Fuentes and Jack Mills at the Winter Concert at the Tin Shed Theater.

Sara Cobb helps students pick a new book donated by the Patagonia Woman’s Club at the Patagonia Elementary School.

Partygoers dance their way into 2018 at the Cady Hall New Year’s Eve party.
A Voice For Young Authors

Library assistant Laura Wenzel visits with a young author at the open house held at the Patagonia Library, December 13, to showcase books created by students in grades K – 2 at Patagonia Elementary and the Montessori School. "A Voice For Young Authors" is a joint program between the library and the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

Wenzel helped the students write stories by reading to them and sharing ideas. At the Art Center, under the guidance of PCAA director Cassina Farley, students explored several media to illustrate their books, working with local artists Helen Chester, Linda Chase, Jill Johnson and Tamara Quiroga.

New Board Members Elected at SCCFRA Annual Meeting

More than 200 members attended the annual meeting of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association on December 2 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. The evening started with a cocktail hour hosted by the Anne C. Stradling Foundation, followed by dinner prepared by Santa Cruz County 4-H members, and presentations by board president Tom Hardesty, SCCFRA Foundation president, Beth Sullivan, office manager, Jen Rinaldi, the treasurer’s report by Jamie Smith, and recaps of the major events that took place at the fairgrounds in 2017.

Paul Brosseit and Rachell Hochheim were elected to the board of directors at the meeting. They will be joining Gary Brown and Amanda Zamudio, who were re-elected to the board, and Tom Hardesty, Jamie Smith, George Fry, Jim Rowley and Jim Lewis, whose terms had not yet expired.

The Sonoita Fairgrounds is privately owned collectively by the membership of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association. Everyone is invited to become a member of this community-based association that supports and hosts all kinds of events and organizations at this unique facility.

The audience at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House listen to a concert featuring musicians from the State of Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra on Dec. 1st. The free concert was sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Nogales.

SCCFRA President Tom Hardesty welcomes guests at the annual meeting at the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

Rodeo Association. Everyone is invited to become a member of this community-based association that supports and hosts all kinds of events and organizations at this unique facility.

Shoppers check out the handcrafted goods at the 7th annual ‘Christmas in Elgin’ arts and crafts fair held at the Elgin Community Club December 2.

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COUNCIL NOTES

By Bob Brandt

Thanks to Caleb Weaver’s continued persistence in seeking sources of funding, Patagonia may soon have an opportunity to build on the work done a few years ago by Weaver and his colleagues when they drew up plans for improving Doc Mock Park. At the December 13 meeting, the Council gave Weaver the go ahead to present preliminary recommendations at the January 11 meeting for utilizing grant funds that would be awarded by Arizona State Parks and Trails if the town’s application were to be funded.

Several ideas for how to use the funds were suggested by Weaver, Council members and audience members including Robert Gay, who offered to meet with Weaver to help draft a list of potential uses for the funds. Two types of grants are available, one with a matching funds requirement of 7.5% and a second one with a 50% match requirement. Council advised Weaver that it would prefer to apply for the grant requiring the lowest match.

Also on December 13, the Council heard a plea from Ray Klein, representing the Senior Citizens of Patagonia (SCOP), to include the organization in discussions to determine the future of the town’s apartments which were heretofore available only to low-income seniors. Because the town’s agreement to restrict occupants to seniors expired last September, the town is now free to rent or sell the properties to anyone they wish. Klein said he’s confident that SCOP can work with the town to keep the two studio and four one-bedroom units fully occupied.

During the open comment period, Alex Johnson inquired whether the town has policies and procedures in place to guide council and staff actions in times of controversy and conflict. Town Manager Dave Teel replied that every employee receives an employee manual upon employment, but acknowledged that there may be a need for a refresher on policies periodically. Council agreed and, in fact, decided to begin a systematic review of policies in February.

Lucky Raffle Winners
Take Home Quilts, Help Local Charities

Family Health Care Amigos Quilt Goes to Lila Davison

By Linda Huffstetler-Dearing

Family Health Care Amigos recently held its first annual quilt raffle, bringing in $369. The winning raffle ticket belonging to Lila Davison, of Patagonia, was drawn on December 1. Barbara Turner, a local fabric artist, who made the quilt, drew the winning ticket. Ms. Turner lives in Patagonia and has donated seven quilts to this organization to be used as fund raisers. Ms. Turner lived in Tombstone before joining the Patagonia community, where she participated in fund raisers for non-profits in that community. Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation this year!

A Little Bit of Broadway Comes to Patagonia

By Laura Wenzel

The cast and crew of “Way Off Broadway: An Original Montage of Musical Favorites” are readying themselves for their performances at the Tin Shed Theater this February 9-11. Led by creator, director, and producer Julia Green, actors and singers from Patagonia and Sonoita will perform 14 musical numbers, as well as two skits written by Green. Audience members can expect to hear musical numbers from “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Carousel,” “Hollywood Canteen,” “Showboat,” “The Pirates of Penzance” and more.

“When I moved to Patagonia, I was energized and able to organize my thoughts regarding a production here,” Green stated. Two and half years ago, Green began working on her labor of love: a Broadway show. “[In] July of 2015, I began to hold open auditions to inquire about the local talent from Patagonia and Sonoita for my production called ‘Way Off Broadway.’” That local talent includes Laura Wenzel, Andy Gould, Mark Berg, and Johanna Landis of Patagonia, and Karen Lewis, Jean Brothman, Gloria Small, Nancy Webster, Toni Pavelka, and Chip Fears of Sonoita.

As one of the members of the cast, I can say that we have worked diligently on this production for months. In my case, it’s been a little over a year of fine-tuning songs and skits at home and in Green’s studio, as well as rehearsals at the Senior Center.

Performance dates are February 9 and 10 at 7 pm (doors open at 6), February 11 at 2 pm (doors open at 1). Tickets are $15 at the door. Proceeds to benefit animal shelter/protection programs and food programs in Santa Cruz County. The Tin Shed Theater is located at Rt. 82 and 3rd Avenue behind Patagonia Creative Arts Center, Patagonia AZ 85624.

For more information, contact Julia Green at 505-350-8543.

Lila Davison holds up the quilt she won in the Family Health Care Amigos raffle.

By Alison Bunting

Kay Pitt displays her new quilt decorated with local images.

Kay Pitt, of Elgin, won the Crossroads Quilters Guild 2017 raffle quilt which features scenes of the Mountain Empire. Ticket sales totaled over $1,700. Raffle quilt revenue is used primarily for expenses related to the Guild’s charity activities, and the members will determine how to distribute the funds early in 2018. Organizations which received financial contributions from the 2016 quilt ticket sales included Our House/ Nuestra Casa Domestic Violence Shelter, Nogales; Eastern Santa Cruz County Food Bank, Patagonia; Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo Association, Patagonia; Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, Patagonia, and the Sonoita Elgin Fire Department.

Contributed Photo

Contributed Photo
Mystery Solved
A True Travel Tale
By Patra Kelly

Recently I tried to purchase a Greyhound bus ticket from Nogales, AZ to Mesa for a friend in Patagonia. After calling the company’s 800 number to learn departure times, I attempted to purchase it online, but there was an $18 “gift” fee added to the price. So, we drove to Nogales with the address of a Greyhound station shown on the internet map where she could pay cash for a ticket. But we learned from drivers of a shuttle company using the same location that the bus company has not sold tickets or had service there in over two years, even though a large sign still read “BUS.” My friend concluded that she would need to pay more and take the shuttle.

Were other people possibly buying tickets online for a non-existent bus? I tried to report this concern to Greyhound’s customer service, but was unable to reach anyone that could help. I wondered if there was another bus location. An acquaintance suggested we get in touch with WWFOS (Women Who Find Out Stuff) in Patagonia. They are volunteers, don’t advertise and only take cases they consider interesting, challenging or amusing. The WWFOS motto is “If you can find us, we can find out whatever you want to know.”

Our search was on for the WWFOS - in and around Patagonia, talking to people in shops and restaurants, spending time in the library, and attending church services and community events. We eventually found two members of this elusive “non-organization.” They were immediately smitten by our concern. They studied Google maps, called phone numbers and prowled the streets of Nogales checking out three different addresses for a Greyhound bus station.

WWFOS verified that the first location, which we had visited, had been out of existence for at least two years. Then they discovered a second location behind a Shell Station, in an area labeled, “No Parking,” where they were told that passengers were let off the bus, but not sold tickets. On another street they found the third location, a Fed-Ex store. Inquiring inside they learned that indeed Greyhound tickets can be purchased there. They had solved the mystery. The bus company had not been selling tickets to and from nowhere after all. Good job, WWFOS!

This resolution, thanks to the WWFOS, however, came after my friend returned from her trip. It had been a comfortable ride to Mesa on the shuttle van, she reported, but to keep the fee at $30 rather than up to $70, she asked for a general drop off. The driver stopped in a large, dark and empty parking lot about 10 pm.

The driver announced, “This is your stop!” She asked, incredulously, “Are you sure?” He exclaimed, “Oh, yes. Look!” pointing to an unlit building far away and across the street. She could barely make out the dim letters - Greyhound. “That dark place over there?” she asked. “Yes. They’re closed now,” the driver answered. She stood in the lot with her two bags and guitar, and called her son to pick her up. When he asked her location, she said, “I don’t know. It’s too dark to read the street signs, but I can see the bright sign on a shop for Club Tattoo. I’m in an empty lot across the street from a closed Greyhound station.” She made it home safely to Patagonia three days later.

The WWFOS stand ready to help anyone searching for answers in the Mountain Empire. Please contact the PRT if you have a mystery that you need help solving.

Upgrades At Lake Subject of FOSC Talk
By Bob Brandt

Friends of Sonora Creek (FOSC) provided the community with an opportunity to learn of recent developments at Patagonia Lake State Park (PLSP) when its guest speaker, Colt Alford, delivered a multimedia presentation at Cady Hall on December 2.

Appointed manager of PLSP in 2009, Alford is only the fourth person to hold the position since the state took ownership of it and opened it as a state park in 1975 after the consortium of ranchers that developed the lake found it too difficult to manage.

Alford highlighted several major changes that have taken place during his tenure as manager. He has been responsible for upgrading the beach and campground facilities, revamping the visitor center and improving the birding trail. Still more improvements are on the way, notably sixteen rental cabins that will be built in an area overlooking the east section of the campground near the birding trail. The cabins will sleep six guests and will feature heating and air conditioning, a microwave and a refrigerator.

Seven of the units are expected to be ready to rent by February 1. Of particular interest to FOSC was Alford’s report that he and his staff are working hard to get permission from the state to fence cattle out of the birding trail, a goal for which FOSC and many birding enthusiasts have been advocating for many years.

Alford ended his presentation with a fast-moving video produced by Arizona State Parks and Trails that touted the great facilities, staff and volunteers whose collective work earned the agency the coveted 2017 “Best Managed State Park System” Gold Medal, an award given annually by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. That honor, according to Alford, is a direct result of the leadership of ASPT Director, Sue Black, who was enticed by Governor Doug Ducey to leave her secure post in Wisconsin to bring a very business-like approach to the management of Arizona’s state parks. Although he modestly failed to mention it, Alford is himself an award-winning manager, having been recognized as the Arizona State Parks Manager of the Year in 2014.

Alford was accompanied by his assistant manager, Laura Mattox. Both thanked the FOSC volunteers for their service and proclaimed they couldn’t have accomplished nearly as much as they without the help of volunteers.

Interested citizens who would like to support the protection of the Sonora Creek watershed are invited to join its membership and/or donate money or time by calling Anne Townsend at 520-394-0173 or Andy Gould at 928-864-6093.

A Cautionary Tale
By Judy Clegg

We had guests in town who loved tamales. Our friends Martin and Kathryn had recently served us great tamales from the Royal Road Market in Nogales, so I decided to stop there to get enough tamales for the next night’s dinner. We decided on eight corn and eight beef tamales. I placed my order at the Royal Road Market. They said I could pick them up the next morning. I called at 10 a.m. and they said my order would not be ready for pick up until 2 p.m. I wondered why it took so long for such a modest order.

I arrived around 2 p.m. at the Royal Market, and they said my order was just leaving Rio Rico. Really? So, I went to lunch at La Ley and came back around 3 p.m.

As I walked to the counter, the clerk smiled and brought out a bag of tamales, and then another, and then another, and then another, and then... I asked incredulously how many are there? “Just what you ordered, eight elote and eight carne.” Eight what, I chocked out? “Eight dozen each, we only sell by the dozen.” Yes, we were now the proud owners of 16 dozen tamales or 196 tamales or $240 worth of tamales.

If this ever happens to you, I hope you have a lot of friends who love tamales, it happens during the holiday season when everyone eats tamales, you are a creative and effective peddler of tamales, and you have a big freezer!

Fortunately for us, that was all true. Thanks to all our friends who bought tamales and all our friends who celebrated a birthday at our house with plates full of them!
These Little Piggies Aren’t for Market!

Twenty-five years ago, I almost adopted a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig. These were the times when the idea of pet pigs was a new fad in North America. Seeing how my lifestyle progressed in those years, I really would not have been able to provide a proper home for a pig. For one thing, I was renting at the time and it isn’t always easy to find landlords willing to accept pets, especially exotics. I was already pushing it with my ferret, Tika.

I have had the opportunity to tend to others’ pet pigs, though and I still find them absolutely adorable. A friend of mine in Sonoita, Becky Welch Cooper, has a five-year-old micro-julian pig who now weighs 120 pounds, named Tinker Bell. Becky adopted her from a family who had to move and could not find a house that would accept a pig. Here is a real-life situation that demonstrates one of the problems that pet pig owners can come up against.

Fortunately, Becky is an avid animal lover and care giver, and Miss Tinker Bell is as pampered, loved and properly cared for as Becky’s five rescue dogs are.

She eats grass as well as mini-pig feed, which our local feed store carries, is the perfect situation. She can go in and out as she pleases. It’s the Mexican Consulate.

She and her husband own a lovely property where Tinker Bell can graze on grass and get plenty of sunshine during the day and she has her very own lush, custom built stable where she can go in and out as she pleases. It is the perfect situation.

She has known two other people with pet pigs who chose to have them reside inside their house with a pet door. It is a matter of preference if they can get enough exercise, a proper diet, plenty of affection, shelter, and clean, comfortable bedding.

Pigs are very intelligent, clean animals. Their reputation as dirty animals comes from situations where they are kept in unclean situations beyond their control, or if they have been wallowing in mud to protect their skin from sunburn and keep it healthy. Their level of intelligence is higher than the average dog and second only to the Chimpanzee, which is second only to humans.

The juliana and the potbellied pig are the two most common breeds of pet pigs. They average from 120 to 150 pounds. The kunekune is another, but this breed grows to about 400 pounds. The potbellies are small and compact, so a 100-pound pig would compare to a 35 or 40-pound dog in size.

Beware of those who tout names like teacups, micro-minis or European blueblurs. These are just potbellies who have been chronically underfed and malnourished to keep them small, and the sellers will advise new owners to feed them far below their actual need to be healthy. Healthy mini pigs live for an average of fifteen to twenty years. These undernourished, tiny pigs stay small, but their organs continue to grow to the size of a normal healthy pig’s. Thus, they only survive for about five years.

Pig sanctuaries are overflowing, and many hearts have been broken when misinformed owners’ pigs die young or they find they can not keep their beloved pets when they grow so much bigger than they expected.

Hopefully we are becoming more aware and when a pig is someone’s choice for a pet the situation ends up being as happy and healthy as Tinker Bell’s and Becky’s! 
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2017 Veterans Day Honors At The Patagonia Cemetery
By Murphy Musick
Veterans interred at the Patagonia Cemetery were honored with a new flagpole with the American flag flying again for the first time since 2003. Individual flags were also placed at the 79 graves identified as being veterans. A small group of volunteers built and raised a new flagpole and scoured the cemetery looking for veterans after the recent demise of the local VFW post. With the communities continued support this will become an annual event to continue to honor our veterans on Veterans Day.

THE FOLLOWING VETERANS WERE HONORED THIS YEAR:

Allen, Jack
Beaty, Clarence
Corrales, Albert
Donohue, Robert
Gardner, Frank
Johnson, Nicholas
Lama, Frank
Morales, George
Riggs, Harvey
Soeder, Edward
Villegas, Angel
Young, George

Baker, Bob George
Broecker, Wallace
Corrales, Isidoro
Duran, Edward
Henderson, Alexander
Kellogg, Frank
Lopez, Eugene
Ochoa, David
Rivera, Jose III
Valdez, Rodolfo
Walsh, Duane

Barber, Harold
Bundy, William
Corrales, Arturo Jr
Faitel, Joseph
Horrocks, Virginia
Kessler, Fred
Lopez, Jesus
Petolicchio, Gennaro
Rodriguez, Ricardo
Valdez, Edward
Whelan, Harvey

Beaty, Gilbert
Chapman, Clifford
Cresswell, Rede
Figueroa, Manuel
Howell, Lewis
Kin, Albert
McDonald, Dale
Price, LF
Rodriguez, Tony
Valenzuela, Carlos
Whetzel, Howard

Beaty, Doss
Conley, Richard
Cruz, Cornello
Figueroa, Camilo
Howell, Clay
Koch, Harold
McCraken, James
Quiroga, Joaquin
Ross, Alyne
Valenzuela, Arturo
Willis, Donald

Beaty, Clarence (Chapo)
Corrales, David
Dirk, Donald
Foster, Sam
Hunt, Baxter
Kuhn, Jacob
Quiroga, Joaquin Jr
Sinohui, Alejandro
Vaughn, Albert
Wisdom, Herbert

With the help of families and friends it is hoped that we will be able to identify all of the veterans in our cemetery, if you know of ones that were missed this year please help next year to make sure they are honored in the future.

Community Thanks D.O.C.

Judge Keith Barth presided over the annual appreciation luncheon December 6 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds to thank the Department of Corrections, the officers and inmates who help maintain the Sonoita Fairgrounds, the Elgin Community Club, the courthouse, and the rest area in Sonoita. "This is about community and hope," Barth said. "We’re all in this together."

Community Thanks D.O.C.

Shoppers enjoy the snacks at Desert Legacy while shopping at Sonoita By Starlight December 1. (From left) Larry Becker, Bev Becker, Paul Brosseit, Jody Brosseit, Karla Cafarelli and Diane Balanoff. The annual event is sponsored by the Sonoita Merchants Association.
Students Find Their Voice at Poetry Slams

By Reyna Ochoa

“The art and true spirit within you in the form of words, it’s an emotional and creative outlet,” senior PUHS student Exeele Budd says. Budd and Duke Norton were winners of the November poetry slam held at Bentley’s Coffee House in Tucson. “I slam because I try to push myself out of my comfort zone as much as possible and I want to share my poetry with other people,” Budd says.

Poetry is an important outlet for many students at Patagonia High School and poetry slams are a way to share and express their talents. A poetry slam is a competition where poets recite their original work. The Tucson Youth Poetry Slam (TYPs) and Spoken Futures organize monthly poetry slams at the coffee house. Students, eighteen or younger, from across the Tucson metropolitan area are encouraged to come perform and recite their poems. Fifteen to twenty young poets compete at these events.

Before the slam starts, Tucson Youth Poetry Slam offers a workshop for the students. Adult event hosts help students find new ways to write and express their poems.

The slam consists of three rounds during which the poet reads three different poems and is scored by judges on a scale of one to ten. The poets are always reminded that it’s not about the points it’s about the poetry. The poets with the best scores from the first and second round go on to the third, and final round. The points are wiped clean and the poet wins based on the points from his or her last poem. A hat is passed around the crowd to collect a cash prize which the first and second place winners split.

Journée Hayes, PUHS English teacher and sponsor of the program, found out about the poetry slams from Spoken Futures, who had emailed her a flyer. She has been taking PUHS students to poetry slams at Bentley’s Coffee House in Tucson for five years now. Students write poetry on their own time individually. All the students that want to participate or merely support other Lobo poets head up to Tucson in a bus driven by Hayes. “The best part has been watching the students gain the self-confidence needed to get up in front of the group of strangers and share their poetry,” Hayes says.

Bergh Places First at FFA Competition

By Desiree Moreno

Sophia Bergh, a freshman at Patagonia Union High School, traveled to Arizona State University on December 8 to compete in the Mid-Winter Conference Career Development Event hosted by FFA. Bergh placed first in the South-Central District and in the top four in the state competition.

“The Mid-Winter Conference Event is a chance for FFA members to grow through friendly competition,” Bergh said. The Career Development Event (CDE) topics range from floriculture, and entomology, to prepared public speaking. Students choose a topic and become familiar enough with the topic to be able to compete in the CDE.

Bergh competed in “Creed Speaking.” The FFA creed is five paragraphs long and took Ms. Bergh three minutes to deliver. The competition consisted of three parts: an online test about the creed completed at school, the speech delivery given during the competition in front of a panel of judges and answering three Creed related questions.

“I feel really blessed to have made it to state in my first year in FFA, especially because I did not have as much preparation as other Creed speakers my age,” Ms. Bergh said.

Restorative Circles at PUHS

By Alicia Valenzuela

Mr. Kenny Hayes, history teacher at PUHS, is helping the students get to know each other better by making a restorative circle in his class every Friday. A restorative circle is a classroom management strategy.

The students put their desks in a circle and Mr. Hayes asks questions to make the students open up more to their classmates. Mr. Hayes is trying to get the kids to know that they have similar problems. There are also rules, like what is said in the classroom stays in the classroom.

This activity should help cut down on the problems between students so that in the future, they know what to say or what not to say to one another. In the circle, students create trust and get to know their classmates more.

PUHS has recently transitioned from a zero-tolerance school to a restorative justice model. A zero-tolerance school is when there are harsh punishments like suspension and expulsion regardless of the circumstances. A restorative justice model empowers students to resolve problems on their own in small groups.

After getting PUHS Superintendent Ms. Rachell Hochheim’s permission, Mr. Hayes started doing the circle every Friday. “I think it’s getting better, but I don’t know yet,” Mr. Hayes says.

Students Intern at SCFPA Concerts

By Fabian Monge

Jose Santos, sophomore at PUHS, had the perfect opportunity to do something responsible and get a little extra credit during the third concert of the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA) Benderly Concert Series, held December 10 at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House in Patagonia.

The internship is for students who want to learn about classical music. Student interns hand out programs, greets people, and check to make sure there are enough seats. Santos heard about the internship from Jason Schreiber, music teacher at PUHS. Mr. Schreiber offered the opportunity to his students and Santos and Hannah Woodard, a freshman at PUHS, took him up on the offer.

“Jose and Hannah were the second group of interns, and all of them were absolutely wonderful; they were very attentive, they greeted people properly, they really listened, and I think they even enjoyed themselves at the concert,” Christina Wilhelm, President of SCFPA said.

The relationship between Patagonia Schools and SCFPA will continue in the spring with lunch-time mini concerts at the Opera House in Patagonia. During the 25-minute program, students will have the opportunity to experience classical chamber music performed by local professional performers.

Santos decided to participate in the internship program not only for the extra credit, but he wanted to see how the Opera House worked and what they were all about. “It was really fun and interesting. I would do it again,” Santos said.

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Children's Theater Returns to Elgin School

"Peter and Wendy" was presented on Saturday, Dec 9, at Elgin School. The local cast featured Tavania Padilla as Peter Pan and Oskar Bergh as Peter's Shadow. Playing Tinker Bell was Kaydee Zerbel with Kyson Arnett, Daniel Lindsey, Mia Oswals, Katie Roley, and Madison Vines as the Lost Boys. Alyssa Copeland was Wendy Darling and John and Michael Darling were Garrett Matthews and Ryan Ander- son. Mr. and Mrs. Darling were Rudy Granado and Julianna Romero with Eva Dupont and Aysialin Mountjoy as Nana and Liza. The notorious Captain Hook was Nicholas Dekhtyar with Ben Baez, Louis Reyes and Rex Reynolds as his Pi-rate crew. Jenna Gamble was Tiger Lily and Griffin Bostock, Audrey Hintzala, and Logan Maxwell were the Never-landers with Bree Beyer, Cierra Lindsey, Arena Mathews, Bella Matthews, Rose Monteverde, and Gracie Zerbel as the Neverland Creatures. Flying their way to Neverland were David Baez, Brody Dupont, Kate Gamble, Dossie Harrd, Carson Kahla, Aimee Lindsey, Jayson Lindsey, Brynlee Matthews, Ashlynn Pope, Ryder Reynolds, Audrey Stephens, Bradley Young, and Kolter Zerbel as Clouds.

The Missoula Children’s Theatre residency is made possible each year by generous tax credit donation and the Elgin School PTC. Throughout its 45 year existence, the Missoula Children’s Theatre International Tour has fostered developmental life skills in more than a million kids. Just this year, they will work with 65,000 children in more than 1,200 communities in all 50 states and 17 countries.

Elgin School Robotics Team in Tournament

By Annette Koweek

On Saturday, Dec 2, the Eagles Robotics team had a lot of fun compet- ing in a regional First Lego League qualifying tournament in Sierra Vista. This year’s theme is Hydro- dynamics – each team researches and presents a solution to a water use, storage, location, or access issue. We had our ups and downs in the competition, which included running missions with an EV3 robot and making presentations about the project in front of judges, with lots of learning about how we can keep improving.

Elgin Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to the Elgin School Spelling Bee Winners! (From Left) Luke Anderson, Middle School Runner Up; Liam Morgan, Middle School Champion; Rowan Cole, Elementary Champion; and also to Reyan Heinzi, Elementary Runner Up (not pictured).

LoBo Lingo

PA State Champion Relocates to PUHS

By Desiree Moreno and Jennifer Beltran

Lauren Fletcher, the latest addition to the class of 2020, is a six-time qualifier for the Pennsylvania State Gymnast Championship, Pennsylvania State Champion Gymnast in 2015, top six qualifier to compete at Regionals in 2015, and winner of many smaller, local meets in Pennsylvania. She recently relocated with her family to the Patagonia area.

Fletcher quit competitive gymnastics in July 2016 due to consecutive injuries. Before the 2016 State competition she broke her foot. A month after, she was cleared to return to practice normally, from a torn ham- string. “Once you quit or get seriously injured, it’s hard to come back to gymnastics,” Fletcher says.

Championship level gymnastics for Fletcher is itself a great memory. “It feels very rewarding after work- ing hard for 11 years. It was a lot of dedication.”

Fletcher has started a new chapter in her life at PUHS. She’s now involved with horses and team roping. Fletcher hopes to do well at Patagonia, so she can go to the University of Arizona to become a biomedical engineer. “I really like it here. Everyone was really nice and helped me find my way around. Now, I have a bunch of friends and know almost everyone,” Fletcher says.

To The Old Man Who Always Waves

By Fabian Monge

Walking home from school by the market
On a sunny,hot,summer day
You can see his hat from a good distance
Walking with a slight hunch
No matter the person
He will wave at them
I have never spoken to you
But if I ever did I would thank you
For always putting a smile on my face
### MEETINGS

**Jan 6 - Exhibitions on Screen: Michelangelo.** 2 p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Jan 7 - Juanito Pascual, Flamenco Guitar.** 3 p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House in Patagonia. Info: www.scfpapresents.org.

**Jan 13 - Fire Dept Breakfast** in Sonoita, 8-10 a.m.

**Jan 17 - The Mexican Consulate presents: “Llevate mis Amores” (All of Me), documentary.** 6 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Jan 19 - Rising from Invisibility: Indigenous Arizona Women, with speaker Laura Tohe.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Patagonia Public Library. Info: www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org.

**Jan 21 - Tomoya Aomori, Composer/ Jaz Cello and Julia Kang, Violincello.** 3 p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House. Info: www.scfpapresents.org.

**Jan 27 - American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 9-1 p.m. in Thurber Hall at Patagonia UMC. Info or to schedule donation: 1-800-733-2767.

**Jan 27 - Art Center Theater Fundraiser: Casablanca (1942), digitally restored.** Cocktails 4 p.m., dinner 5 p.m., showing 7 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater. For tickets, call 394-9369.


**Feb 3 - Books, Beer & Brains: Patagonia Public Library Trivia Night Fundraiser.** 5 p.m. at Cady Hall. $25 per ticket gets you dinner and a drink. Tickets available at the library.

**Feb 3 - Southern AZ Quail Forever Banquet and Auction.** 5 p.m. at Sonoita Fairgrounds. Info and ticket purchase: www.saquailforever.com/2017-dinner-and-auction.

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

**Patagonia Museum - Jan-May: open Thurs-Fri, 2-4 p.m.** Info: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org.

**San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon, Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall, 5:30 p.m.** Info: Tami, 455-5561.

**Santa Cruz Singers - rehearsals Thurs at 5 p.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia.** New members welcome!

**Bingo - 1st & 3rd Mon., St. Theresa Parish Hall in Patagonia, 6 p.m.** Info: 455-5681.

**Crossroads Quilters - 2nd & 4th Mon, Sonoita Fire Dept., 9 a.m.** Info: 520-732-0453.

**Open Tennis - Saturdays, PUHS at 9 a.m.** Info: 394-2973.

**Border Community Alliance - Monthly cross-border tours.** Info: www.bordercommunityalliance.org.

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### CHURCH SERVICES

**Patagonia Community United Methodist Church**

387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia
394-2274
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Youth Group: 5-7 p.m.

**St. Theres of Lisieux Catholic Church**

222 Third Ave., Patagonia
394-2954
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

**Canelo Cowboy Church**

Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (except third Sundays)
Ranch Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd Sunday.

**Sonoita Bible Church**

3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita 455-5779
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed.
6-8 p.m.

**Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church**

12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita
394-2954
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

**Harvest Christian Fellowship/ Sonoita Foursquare Church**

3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**

Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita
Justice of the Peace Courtroom
2nd & 4th Saturdays: 10 a.m.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon - Fri, noon-1 p.m.** At the Patagonia Senior Center.

**Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service - Medical transportation, Mon - Fri for seniors & disabled by appointment only.** Info: 394-2494.

**Story Time with Ms. Laura - For caregivers and children aged 5 & under.** 1st & 3rd Mon, 9-10 a.m. at Patagonia Library. Jan schedule: Jan 8 and 22.

**Patagonia Methodist Church Gift Shop - Fri & Sat 10-2 p.m.**

**Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop - Thurs - Sat, 10-2 p.m.** Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita.

**Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter - usually twice a week.** Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonoitapatagonialocals.com.

**Nogales Mercado Farmers’ Market - Fri 3-6 p.m. 163 N Morley Ave. Nogales, AZ.**
### Classifieds

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Hercules is a 4 month old kitten, very friendly, playful and enjoys chasing toys.

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Nogales, AZ 85621 (520) 287-5654

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**POWER OF YOU.**

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund is now accepting scholarship applications! Scholarships are available for high school seniors or adults returning to school at community colleges, four-year universities and career or technical schools. Apply by March 31. Through one application, you will also be matched to any of the other 90 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.

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156 E 3R AVE / $287,500 / TAR/MLS #21721528

4 DEBRA COURT / $469,900 / TAR/MLS #21719189
18 LADO DE LOMA DRIVE / $325,000 / TAR/MLS #21724363

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