MISSION STATEMENT
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.

WHO WE ARE
We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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The PRT is a locally owned and operated non-profit (5013c) organization. Since its inception in 2009, the PRT has provided a way to highlight the vibrancy, diversity, and quirkiness of our region. We strive to be a balanced and trusted reporter of the key issues and activities that shape and connect our communities. All of our stories are about us; and all of our advertisers are local businesses.

Over the last year the PRT has successfully transitioned from a completely volunteer organization to one that includes a small paid staff, equivalent to less than one full-time person. To fund the increased expenses, we have grown our advertising dollars and our efforts to reach out to the community for contributions of time and money.

In our February issue we will publish an annual report detailing this year of transition, the results of the Community Survey (see below), and a report of the outcome of our January professionally facilitated strategic planning. Today, we write to request your financial support. Please mail your contribution in the envelope enclosed in this issue of the PRT, or give your gift through our website www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org.

The PRT is your community newspaper. Please contribute today to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
The PRT Board of Directors

NEW: SUBSCRIPTION OPTION FOR HOME DELIVERY

Give the gift that keeps on giving: the PRT arriving in your mailbox all year long. This is a perfect gift for friends who have moved away from our region, or those who live here part time and want to stay connected while in their summer homes. Complete and mail the enclosed envelope, or go to our website, patagoniaregionaltimes.org and click the Contact Us and Subscribe link.

FINAL DAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRT COMMUNITY SURVEY

Our grant funded Community Survey closes on December 8th. If you haven’t filled it out, please do so now, as your input is important and we want to hear from you. To access the electronic survey visit our website at www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org and click the link to the PRT Community Survey.

Artwork by Robert Berk
Funding Woes, Resignations at Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc.

By Marion Vendituoli

The Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc. (SCP), lost three board members this past month. Susan Lange, Georgette Larrouy and board president, Gama Leyva, resigned after five other members of the board voted to accept a donation from Arizona Mining (AMI). “I don’t want to be part of this,” Leyva said. “It compromised my ethical core.” Board members Ramon Quiroga, Irene Smith, Philip Brister, Helen Chester and Ray Klein voted to accept the money. Quiroga is the new board president, Chester is vice-president. Chuck Kelly will serve as treasurer of the center.

The lunch program at the Senior Center receives $33,000 each year from the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), as well as support from individuals and some smaller grants, but this amount falls short of the cost of providing the estimated 7500 meals served throughout the year at the Center. The transportation program run by the center, which is funded by ADOT, is in healthy financial shape and is in no danger of being shut down.

Controversy arose when AMI offered to donate funds to the center. Many residents criticized the board for accepting the donation from AMI, which has become an object of controversy for many in Patagonia who oppose the proposed mining activity. “I hoped it wouldn’t be controversial,” Brister said, “but I could see that people have strong opinions here. The donation came with no strings attached. We’re not a political organization. We don’t offer our name or support to any one providing funding. Our goal is to provide lunch for seniors in Patagonia for little or no cost to our members.” On November 10, Greg Lucero, AMI vice president of government and community affairs, presented the board with a check for $3000.

Added stress to the program has risen recently, as SEAGO has required that the meals meet new nutritional standards. “SEAGO wants us to comply with certain conditions,” board member Philip Brister said. “SEAGO is requiring a nutritionist to sign off on the menus. We are very lucky that Binx Selby is working with a nutritionist at Mariposa Health, and she is volunteering to do this.”

These changes have led Dodge to resign from running the kitchen at the center, effective at the end of December. “I haven’t been consulted, I haven’t been part of the loop,” she said. “To be thrown all new recipes and have to start from scratch is more than I’m willing to take on,” she said. “I have been doing all the shopping, the menus, the cooking, looking for grants, planning special events. It’s too much to do.”

Dodge feels that the new menus are unpopular. “There are people who have already started to drop out of the lunch program. People who have been coming here for a long time are unhappy. If it doesn’t appeal to them, then they are not going to come back,” she said. “The senior program started back in the ’80s and grew from there. If we lose that population that needs this lunch, we’re letting down a lot of people.”

Dodge will continue to work for the Center in a reduced role. “I will stay on to work on bringing in more grant money, and to manage existing grants and fundraising,” she said. “We have reserves on hand to keep us going for the near future,” Brister said. “We’re not going to fold within the year. We’re hoping that when Heather has more time, she will be able to seek out grant funding for us.”

The board is looking to hiring a subcontractor to provide the meals, according to Leyva. They are also looking for volunteers to help manage the center, as well as new board members. Anyone interested in volunteering can call 394-2494.

SEFD Fire Board Selects New Member

By Marion Vendituoli

Chris Johnson learns that he has been elected to the SEFD board.

The Sonoita Elgin Fire District Board of Directors elected Chris Johnson, of Elgin, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Kevin Venos at the SEFD meeting held November 27. Venos had resigned earlier this fall due to health reasons. Johnson will serve the remaining three years of Venos’s term.

Johnson retired to Elgin 1 ½ years ago from California. He has owned several businesses and has served on the board of a philanthropic foundation.

Three candidates had been interviewed for the position, Chris Johnson, Pat Robinson and Barry Rorex. “Anyone of these candidates would be a good choice,” board member Sue Archibald said. This sentiment was echoed by the other three board members, Kurt Bahti, Reba Webber and Suzanne Jenkins.

After a somewhat confusing discussion of the nominating process, as written in the SEFD bylaws, Bahti nominated Robinson, but failed to get a second in favor of his nomination. Webber then nominated Johnson, who received three votes, with Jenkins opposing.

The SEFD board is responsible for overseeing the fire district’s budget, setting the tax rate and reviewing the chief’s performance.
Popular Youth Leader Takes on New Role at PUHS

By Marion Vendituoli

Amanda Zamudio plans to expand the role of FFA and 4-H in the Patagonia Schools

The FFA program at the Patagonia Union High School will be under new leadership in January. Amanda Zamudio will be taking over the agricultural science program, replacing Jayme Frazier.

Zamudio, who has a masters degree from the University of Arizona in agricultural education, has been working in Santa Cruz County as the assistant agent for livestock judging and Skill-A-Thon competitions. The livestock Skill-A-Thon is a competition that is open to 4-H, FFA and college students that tests the competitors’ knowledge about the production and management of beef cattle, sheep, pigs and goats.

In 2015 she worked to develop the Skill-A-Thon Competition at the Arizona National Livestock Show, which drew 104 entrants from as far away as Wyoming and Texas. This competition was dominated by the two Santa Cruz teams that she coached, with both junior and senior teams finishing first in their divisions. Additionally, all the competitors from Santa Cruz County finished in the top ten individually.

“Rachell [Hochheim] and I are looking to integrate 4-H into the elementary grades and high school. I will have a chance to work with these kids at an earlier age,” she said. “My best kids come from 4-H. I believe a combination of both programs, 4-H and FFA, makes our youth more successful.”

Zamudio has also been instrumental in the success of the Santa Cruz County Fair, and plans to stay involved with that event. She is known for her incredible energy, commitment to her kids, her intelligence and her problem-solving skills. “She is so resourceful,” Jamie Smith, treasurer of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association, said. “Her contributions to the fair and to the overall operations of the fairgrounds have been immeasurable, and we are thrilled to have her continued participation in her new role.”

Robert Berk Show To Benefit STOP

By Laura Wenzel

Jill Johnson studies Robert Berk’s artwork at the opening of his show at the Gathering Grounds

Throughout the month of November, the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia showcased art by local artist Robert Berk. The show, “Opera Rombert,” highlighted Berk’s drawings from years of working with the Arizona Opera Company.

Berk watched and drew alongside the performances using crayon, pencil, and pens. “The productions varied from the grand to the intimate,” Berk said. “It [drawing] soon became a way for me to draw the play, scene by scene, while annotating the critical moments and the principle arias.”

And what varied productions he illustrated! Just about all the big operas were up on the Gathering Grounds walls—scenes from Aida and La Boheme, Madama Butterfly and Sweeney Todd, to name just a few.

Proceeds from Berk’s show will go to Support the Outstanding Patagonias (STOP) because, according to Berk, “it is incumbent upon us all to be more environmentally conscientious. And for the town of Patagonia, these are the most important mountains in the world.”

Artwork by Robert Berk
Native Seeds/SEARCH Farm Suspends Operations

By Lynn Davison

Farming is to be halted at the Native Seeds/SEARCH Farm in Patagonia.

Since 1995, Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) has grown native seeds at its 60 acre conservation farm in Patagonia. In recent years, the farm has not met seed production goals due to a combination of factors; the soil is becoming depleted, equipment is aging, basic costs are rising, and the climate is changing.

There are also questions about concentrating native seed production for a broad region in Patagonia. The Board of NS/S has decided to take the farm out of production in 2018 and do a thorough assessment of its best use going forward. They will do soil sampling and water testing, assess the condition of tools and equipment, and solicit suggestions from Native American and other partners. In the meantime, NS/S hopes to begin amending the soil in traditional ways, planting a cover crop and bringing animals back to graze, maybe a native goatherder with a herd of goats.

NS/S’s Conservation Program Manager, Nicholas Garber, is leading the effort. He confirmed that NS/S has no interest in selling the property on Route 82 just north of town. “It’s just a good time to take a pause and reflect. Our native seed bank is in good shape. Its seeds come from the farm and from a bulk seed exchange program with native and other growers,” he said. “We are committed to Patagonia and intend to be part of the local economy going forward.”

A portion of the NS/S property is leased to Borderlands Restoration (BR) for greenhouse operations that support the growth of native plants. “BR is on an annual lease, just re-signed in the past month,” Garber said. “The missions of the two organizations are very compatible, and the partnership strong.” BR’s lease includes a provision to look out for and report any problems on the property while it is out of production.

NS/S farm manager, Morgan Parsons, has resigned his position. “I am a farmer. Farming is just in my blood, and the position at NS/S became increasingly administrative over time,” He said. Parsons is exploring farming options nearer to his native home in Alabama. Nonetheless, he was positive about the direction he believes NS/S is heading by decentralizing its seed sources through more contracts with native and other growers in the region, rather than concentrating the majority of production in Patagonia. “The shift will better support small growers and will allow seeds to continue to be produced in their native environments throughout the region, as opposed to adapting to the growing conditions in Patagonia,” he said. “That makes good sense.”
Opinion & Comment

What Can We Do?

By Martin Levowitz

Some topics are radioactive. You raise them at your own peril. Here’s a subject likely to irritate everyone, male, female or in-between. For this I thank Allah. It’s hard to reach the present from the past. There is no level playing field. Throughout human history, most customs, laws, and governments have been established and controlled by males, who are physically stronger, in general, than women, and less often pregnant. Most of society’s ills can be blamed on chemistry. Testosterone, specifically. The sharp teeth and pulsing gonads “designed” to keep competition fierce (and, thus, a species strong) are not convenient when we aspire - or so we tell ourselves - to respect the sovereignty and personal preferences of every individual: male or female, young or old, stout or frail. Thank God that sperm cells don’t have teeth. We’d never have been born. The competition’s even worse than for a Chinese student taking college-entrance tests. Three hundred million applicants, and only one gets in. (If any do!) It’s a jungle in there!

E-media changed everything. Whatever happens in these fizzy times becomes a manic circus right away - goes viral, and then quickly fades from view, in part because it’s been eclipsed by whatever brouhaha comes next. The current tsunami of sexual harassment allegations, and accusations even worse than that, including rape, arose and grew immense in a few days. Each charge or revelation sponsored more; giving women the courage, at last, to come forward, announcing violations sometimes three or four decades after the fact. The recent misbehaviors of such swine as Harvey Weinstein and Trump (and even Charlie Rose!) have breathed new life into the ancient, disrespectful creed: "All men are pigs!" But that denunciation is too broad. You’re closer to the truth if you declare: "Most men are pigs!" And even closer, still, to say, "Most men contain a healthy dose of pig," because, in fact, our piggishness stands side by side with many finer traits, including love and decency. I swear this on my mother’s tainted - I mean sainted - soul.

One of the traits I cherish most is candor. Most of my friends have been chosen for that. I’ve lately made a point of steering conversations with these guys (whose ages range from 17 to nearly 93) toward subjects like the one we’re raising here, and every single one of them admits to me (another man) that somewhere deep inside of him - and oozing to the surface on full moons - resides a throbbing gobbet of pure lust. It’s ancient, undeniable, yet those of us who don’t indulge this hungry inner beast have learned to keep it in its place most of the time. Sometimes, it’s hard.

You interview an applicant to join the workforce at your legal firm or parking lot. You pay attention to her training, thesis, and C.V., and as an adult gentleman, attempt to be empathic and polite. Yet, somewhere, deep inside of you, an avatar of pulsing night, an urgent primal carnivore, intones: "Nice smile, nice eyes, nice teeth, nice legs, nice butt. Please hear my fervent plea, Oh Lord. Dear God, me want to rut."

Let’s face an awkward, primal truth, Goombah: Pretending it’s not so will just extend the status quo. You close your eyes or closet door, the skeletons recede from view, But, sad to say, Amigo Mi, they’re still inside of you.

This mess is even worse for women than it is for men. What can we do?

It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com. PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals for language, length, and content.
Continuing the Dialogue

By Donna Reibslager

I'd like to thank Emmett McLoughlin for his commentary in the November issue of PRT on the mining controversy. By presenting a view in support of the mine, he has opened the door to a discussion from which proponents of both sides of the issue can perhaps better understand each other's point of view.

One of the things that I'd like to ask Mr. McLoughlin and other mining supporters is whether we can agree on the need for an informed geological study of our watershed. There have been several incidents of toxic waste spills and leaks from currently operating mines in recent years. A.M.I. says that their wells draw from an aquifer that is separate from the aquifer that feeds into our town's water, and that they plan to recycle a good part of it. I believe, nevertheless, that an independent study by credible experts is needed to assure the safety of the town's water, since water is so critical to this area, and since the trend of drought years seems to be continuing - perhaps even accelerating.

I also would like to ask if Mr. McLoughlin has any personal knowledge about AMI. They are a large, foreign corporation that wants to operate freely here, transform this town, and become a major source of employment. As an experienced and successful businessman, has he looked into the history, management, and reputation of this corporation?

And finally, I would like to know whether Mr. McLoughlin has read A.M.I.'s Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), which describes the volume of projected activities once the mine is in operation, and what his thoughts are on this document. I am concerned about the consequences to residents if the mine begins pulling 650 gallons of water per minute, 24/7, out of this area's water table, and about the reality of more than 600 vehicles per day traveling on the highways that we use regularly to get to Nogales, Sonoita, and Tucson.

In the spirit of the dialogue Mr. McLoughlin has initiated, I hope that he, or any other PRT readers who support the presence of a mining operation here, will respond, so that I can better understand their reasoning.

CHEATER

By Cassina Farley

I am allergic to everything. It can take years for me to find a product that doesn’t make me itch or break out into hives. So needless to say, when I find something that works I hold on for dear life. In my quest for the proper hair color (spoiler alert! My knees are wrinkled and I dye my hair!) I searched the world over for the salon with the right products to match my annoying condition. I found a salon in Tucson and settled into Emma’s chair.

For four years I showed up monthly for Emma’s pleasant banter and her hypo-allergenic hair color. I also enjoyed the anonymity of going to a Tucson salon where no one knew me or saw me all wrapped up in tin foil.

Cue the earth shattering development. Emma announced she was leaving this particular salon but not to worry, I could go with her. Wait. What?

I remember it like it was yesterday. My whole little hypo-allergenic world came crashing down.

Sensing my panic, Emma reassured me that this even better salon carried the same products to help hide my grey. And so we moved to an even prettier salon on the north side of town, a fancy place with free bubbly water and pretzels and all the anonymity I could handle. I strutted around with my tin foil head drinking my free bubbly water and some days lounging on their fancy couches eating pretzels - my own little hypo-allergenic secret.

Enter more bad news. She got pregnant! A normal person would be happy, but me? NOOOOO! I don’t need to tell some of you that the relationship with your stylist is special - almost like a marriage. It takes years to cultivate. She knows my story, asks all the right questions and keeps the water at just the right temperature. I don’t need to tell her what to do with my hair SHE JUST KNOWS and now she’s pregnant!

Of course, I calmed down and had already started my search when she introduced me to her replacement, “Newgirl.” I said that “I couldn’t” and Emma assured me that it was alright.

Truth is, I loved Newgirl and that made me ashamed. I loved her style of chatter, a bit edgier than Emma’s and she always offered me a drink when my hair was processing. Emma never did this. I had to serve myself. Newgirl did my hair just right and taught me how to use a flat iron. For the duration of Emma’s maternity leave Newgirl and I were a perfect fit. I’d show up for my usual appointment and there she’d be, smiling and eagerly waiting for my latest story.

As much as I wanted to believe this was right, I knew I was cheating. As with every maternity leave it ended and Emma returned to work. I showed up for my usual appointment smiling at Emma and asking to see the pictures of the baby (inside I was dying). But her style and technique were familiar and comforting and we carried on where we left off.

Every now and then I’d catch a glimpse of Newgirl and we’d smile and pretend that we didn’t know each other. Months have gone by now and I still see Newgirl from time to time. I see her clients laughing and commiserating with her on current affairs. I even see her offering cold drinks to her clients while they wait for perms and blow outs. But it’s been almost six years and I guess I’ll always be Emma’s girl ...right up until she announces baby number two. Once a cheater always a cheater.

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks for reading.
Civil Discourse

By Lou Anne Kirby

Much has been written – and spoken – of late about the increasing polarization of opinion in this country and the incivility that goes along with the divisiveness. It is often opined that the social media, particularly Facebook, have become gigantic echo chambers where people hear only the voices of people like themselves. Civil discourse across the divide seems all but impossible.

Still, some of us desperately want to bridge the gap. Perhaps we have tried – or feel we have – and found that reaching out to “the other side” is a risky and sometimes painful business. We may wonder if there’s hope and help for people who would like to develop an open and sharing dialogue with people whose views we dislike. We would like to recover some of the unity for which America was once noted. History books used to have chapters titled “the melting pot.” Today the melting pot appears to have curdled, to carry the analogy a little further.

An internet search on “civil discourse” turned up quite a number of articles, with some common threads running through them.

Create the occasion. It’s unlikely that the time and place for a meaningful discussion of differing opinions will happen by chance. You will have to make it happen. Try offering to get together for coffee at a local café or meeting in the neighborhood park. Peaceful surroundings make for peaceful conversation. Be open about your feelings. If you think that differences of opinion on the political landscape are pulling us apart as a community, say so.

Find common ground. It’s rare that two people living in the same community will not share some values in common. Remember “These are a few of my favorite things” from the “Sound of Music”? Sharing some of your likes and dislikes may help get the conversation going.

Open your mind. Be ready to accept new ideas and new ways of looking at old ideas. You do not have to abandon your own values to recognize that the experiences of another person may have led them to a very different point of view from yours. Be ready to say, “Fair enough” or “You have a point there.” You may be surprised to find it is refreshing to see the world through someone else’s eyes.

Leave your need to win at home. Trying to convert an opponent to your point of view is for another day. Today’s task is to bridge the gap and overcome divisions. It is not necessary for two people to agree in their ideas so long as they respect each other as persons. If you feel superior to your companion, she will almost certainly feel it.

Reflect. One of the most effective ways to establish connections with others is through the technique of “reflection,” holding up a mirror to help you both grasp the deeper meaning of what’s being said. “What I hear you saying is . . . Did I get that right?” The other person may say, “Well, sort of. What I really mean is . . .” Or maybe, “No. No. You got that all wrong. What I’m saying is . . .” Whatever the response, you have a pathway to better understanding each other.

Be prepared for failure. Sometimes the gap is too wide, or the leap is too scary, and you will not find common ground or even reach a truce, much less accord. Shrug it off. Give yourself a pat on the back for making the effort and move on. It wasn’t meant to be, at least not today.

By Bob Brandt

A lively, and largely respectful discussion on how and why the town could regulate heavy-duty truck traffic took place during the work session that immediately preceded the regular Town Council meeting on November 8. The purpose of the session was to review a draft ordinance tabled February 8, 2017 pending further study and results of pending litigation before the Arizona Supreme Court.

Town attorney, Mike Massée, began the session with his findings from the research he had done on cases involving other Arizona jurisdictions. His conclusion was that he feels the town’s draft ordinance does not conflict with state statutes and therefore does not pose a significant risk of being legally challenged.

The discussion on regulating heavy trucks (trucks with more than two non-steering axles) throughout the town focused largely on limiting the number of trips and the streets they would be permitted to use. The proposed ordinance will limit the number of trips for such vehicles to one hundred per week and no more than twenty of those will be allowed to occur between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The ordinance defines a trip as “...each time a truck enters upon a Town street directly from a county or state highway.”

The ordinance specifies the routes the heavy-duty trucks must use to access roads adjacent to town. To access Blue Heaven Road: Fourth Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue to Blue Heaven. To access Temporal Road: First Avenue to Gringo Road to Temporal. To access Harshaw Road: Taylor Avenue to McKeown Avenue to Columbia Road to Harshaw. The ordinance also permits the Town Manager to issue permits for overweight trucks to make one-time deliveries anywhere in town.

After hearing all comments, Council decided to present the ordinance without significant changes for adoption at the November 29 regular meeting.

At the council meeting that followed the work session, in anticipation of library staff retirements in 2018, Council approved an amended job description for Library Assistant I.
ADVANTAGES OF A RANCH-RAISED KID

By Richard Collins

Early on in Sonoita, I developed the habit each year of allowing the grasses around the headquarters to grow during the wet summer without much grazing. Now and then I’d turn the horses loose in the tall grass or pasture a cow with a short age calf to raise. The lightly grazed rangeland gave me a ruler I could gauge my other pastures by.

As autumn approached, grasshoppers of many shapes, colors and sizes swarmed through the grass. Some were coal black with scarlet wings that crackled when they flew. Sargent Majors had black epaulet stripes down their hind legs. Flightless horse lubbers the size of small mice crept along the ground, unable fly or jump.

On the days when my grandson Liam came for a visit, we always went to the barn to feed the horses. As we walked, the grasshoppers exploded like shrapnel around our feet. Because he was not yet two years old and built close to the ground, Liam saw more different kinds than I did, the small cone heads and katydids with long whiskers that took short hops and were easier to catch.

At the corrals, we brushed Frosty the mare, due to drop her foal soon. We had been watching her belly grow week by week and Diane and I told Liam that she had a baby inside. We looked under at the swollen udder to see if her nipples had waxed over. “That’s where the baby horse will get its milk,” Diane explained. Liam was still on the nipple himself, and that detail satisfied his curiosity. After we tossed hay to the mare, he scampered back to the grass, chasing the grasshoppers that were more his size and speed.

Psychologists claim that we humans form our first thoughts as sounds. Before children have words, they respond to their surroundings by instinct and touch; warmth, cold, hunger, pain, thirst, loud noises, Mother’s comforting hugs, holding onto Dad’s finger for security when taking those tentative first steps.

Because Liam lives on a ranch, his first words after Mom and Dad Were the animals he sees every day and the noises they make. Back then, if I said cow, he said “Moo;” if I said horse, he whinnied. Even though the burro looked like a small horse, he knew that it said “Hee-Haw,” because he had heard and seen it make that sound. When he heard a blue jay squawk, he waved his hand to imitate their swooping flight. The black and orange butterflies on Diane’s flower garden had different patterns of flight than birds, and Liam mimicked their wing movements by holding his thumbs together and flapping his hands. Once, on the way to the barn, we saw a tarantula creeping across our path with its articulated, octave tread, unbothered by our towering presence above it. Liam watched for the length of a held breath, then looked up at me with a quizzical expression as if to ask: “What does this creature say?”

Writer Richard Louv has coined the phrase, “Nature Deficit Disorder,” to link the absence of substantive contact with nature in today’s internet wired, TV addicted, video-gamed children to disturbing trends of childhood obesity, attention deficit disorders, depression and diminished curiosity about the world around them. Liam’s age group are part of a vast and troubling reality - children raised without real contact with the natural world. How, I wonder, will they know what the horse says? Even worse, how will they know a real horse if they are lucky enough to see one? This trend does not bode well for our watersheds and the wild because we humans are motivated to save only what we know. Liam is fortunate because his parents are raising him out-of-doors in a constant dialogue with the real world that surrounds and nurtures us all.

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Forest Service Approval of Rosemont Project Challenged

By Alison Bunting

A press release, dated November 27, from Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR), the Center for Biological Diversity, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Arizona Mining Coalition announced the filing of a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Forest Service’s permitting of the proposed Rosemont Mine. “The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, says the massive Rosemont Mine would violate nearly a dozen state and federal laws, threaten critical water resources and destroy Coronado National Forest land.”

Hudbay Minerals, a Canadian mining company, proposes to develop an open pit copper mine on over 5,000 acres of combined private and public lands in the Santa Rita Mountains. The Forest Service gave its approval for the Rosemont Copper Project in June when it signed a final Record of Decision.

The Rosemont project still lacks a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision on its Clean Water Act Sec.404 permit. Another lawsuit, recently filed by The Center for Biological Diversity, contests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “biological opinion,” that supported the issuance of the Record of Decision by the Forest Service.

The full press release and the lawsuit filing can be viewed at http://www.scenicsantaritas.org.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to Marshall and Fire Dept.

My company, J. Buglewicz Photography, has participated in the Patagonia Fall Festival for approximately nine years. On Sunday evening during the vendor ‘tear down’ after the 2017 Fall Festival, one of the vendors missed his step in the dark and fell face-first on the sidewalk.

I rushed to help him out and tried to ascertain the severity of his injuries. At first, they did not appear to be serious. But after a few minutes, I suggested we call 911 and have Patagonia Fire & Rescue look at his nose which was bleeding. I feared his nose might be broken.

The 911 dispatcher took the information. Within a fairly short period of time, Patagonia Fire & Rescue arrived at the scene. Marshal Joe Patterson also arrived at this time and illuminated the area.

The 911 dispatcher took the information. Within a fairly short period of time, Patagonia Fire & Rescue arrived at the scene. Marshal Joe Patterson also arrived at this time and illuminated the area.

All the responders did a professional job of assessing and treating the injury. What happened next was most remarkable. Instead of ‘packing up’ and leaving the area, these volunteer first responders and Marshall Paterson, helped the injured vendor take down his displays and loaded everything into his vehicle.

This event was handled in a competent, thoughtful and thoroughly professional manner. I have been affiliated with law enforcement and volunteer organizations for more than 40 years. The assistance with the vendor’s booth was above and beyond what was expected.

My compliments to Patagonia Fire & Rescue & Marshall office.

Cousens Enriched Patagonia

I love the PRT. I give thanks for its community building stance. I choose to see beauty. Dr. Cousen’s scope is international, but I am thinking about my personal experience with his beneficial impact on this town. When we met in the park to sing, “Let There Be Peace on Earth”, Gabriel joined us. I bought healthy supplements in his store. I have friends who drove here to take me to a delicious raw food lunch at the Tree of Life. I have been in the chapel and walked the labyrinth.

Patagonia has been enriched. Employment; awareness of what a healing diet is; the importance of spirituality in our lives; the presence of peace and harmony; and truly a sense of a field of good will.

The gifts I love most, are the people he brought here I know or remember few names, but many are part of our town now, as well as new ones we are still meeting. Kate Tirion, Susan Lange, Anu, Jehoshua, Liliane and Dierdre, Colin, Letitia, Chris, so many more. The caliber of humans Dr. Cousens has attracted here is surely indicative of the caliber of human Dr. Cousens is: Heart and mind expanding; so many to love. We should be proclaiming our good fortune. Proclaiming our peace and harmony, enjoying it. It is easy to live happily to a ripe old age within the ambience of this village. I give thanks for all of you.

With love and joy,
Bernice Pomeroy
Patagonia

In the November issue of the PRT, Ray Klein’s name was spelled incorrectly in the Council Notes. Our apologies for the misspelling.

Believes Tree of Life Article Inaccurate

Marion Vendituoli’s article “Tree of Life Pulling Up Roots in Patagonia” has some serious and negatively slanted inaccuracies.

We’re not “pulling up roots”; we’re limiting our public programs to allow us time to expand our internet presence.

Shanti and I will continue living in Patagonia with our core staff to continue the Tree of Life Foundation’s mission.

My medical license was never revoked; I maintain my California MD license since 1973; and I am, and have always been, eligible for an Arizona MD license. I use a homeopathic MD license in Arizona because it grants the credentials and freedom to develop my diabetes reversal protocol, which has led to the development of 17 diabete prevention and organic veganic farming programs in 11 countries.

Patagonia can be a harmonious example of unity in pluralism, but this will be undermined if the PRT lapses into such inaccuracy and negativity.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Gabriel Cousens, MD, MD(H)
and Shanti GoldsCousens, MA
Patagonia

Decries ‘Prejudices’ against Tree of Life

The PRT’s November article about the Tree of Life was intended to describe the Tree’s recent program changes. It ended up mischaracterizing the Tree’s mission and rehashing time-worn slurs against its director, Dr. Cousens.

The article mentioned nothing about the Tree’s economic contribution to Patagonia, its services to patients from 128 countries, or its global network of humanitarian operations ranging from an orphanage in Mexico, building 70 wells for drinking water in Ghana and advising world leaders on diabetes prevention.

Instead, the PRT’s article dredged up a 25 year old California medical practice violation which resulted in Dr. Cousens’ brief probation, but without restriction of any kind on his practice rights as an MD.

As a resident of this community for 20 years, I am aware of the unkind remarks that occasionally surface from the uninformed, but it is a serious concern when embers of intolerance are stoked under the guise of journalism.

At a time when we face the cleavages of the mining controversy, it is important to minimize division within the Town. This is a time for both this community and its newspaper to finally let go of the dismal prejudices that still trail Dr. Cousens and the Tree.

Stuart Brody
Patagonia

The 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.
Museum Seeks National Status For Old Main

By Bob Brandt

It’s a steep climb getting to Old Main at the top of School Street. The same might be said for the effort, currently underway, to get the grand old lady listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation reserved for a select group of edifices across America that feature preserved architectural characteristics and/or served as sites where events of historical significance took place.

Murphy Musick has devoted considerable time and effort to this over the past year. He’s not alone in his drive to win this prize; the Patagonia Museum, which operates its museum in the building under a lease agreement with the Patagonia Union School District, is the formal applicant and its president, German Quiroga, is working with Musick on the project.

Musick himself never attended the school but has a special love for the building, not just for its architectural beauty, but for the important role it has played in his family’s life. His children received their elementary education there and his wife, Kate, taught there for nearly forty years.

When its use as a school came to an end in 2014, it had been the oldest elementary school building in continuous use in Arizona, a period covering a full century.

Achieving the coveted national registry is no easy feat, Musick has discovered. It requires documentation that prominent architectural features from the period of its inception are intact and that its importance as an educational structure or center of community life is factually presented. The Old Main application will focus more on the importance of the building in the life of the community than on its architectural features.

Musick has documented the architectural detail still evident inside and outside the building; for example, the projected sills of the wood double-hung windows and the curvilinear parapets characteristic of the Mission Revival style used by architect O. J. Omstead.

But more facts are needed as to the significance of the schoolhouse to the community. Quiroga points out that, “Many of the area’s prominent citizens attended the school and we are hopeful that some of those folks will offer their remembrances of activities that took place in the building to strengthen the application.”

Anyone who has events or people that might be included in the application is requested to call or email Musick with the information. He may be reached at 520-394-2037 or email dospalmas@hotmail.com.

Veterans Lead Parades to Oppose US Immigration Policies

By Lynn Davison

On Veterans Day, November 11th, an estimated 350-400 people in Nogales, Sonora and Nogales, Arizona who oppose U.S. immigration policies and expansion of the border wall marched to the wall for a joint program led by veterans and indigenous people from the borderlands. Patagonia and Sonoita were well represented in Nogales by members of Voices from the Border. About 10 locals carried a banner originally created by Judy Mills of Patagonia for the Mothers Across Borders event earlier this year.

Marchers carried signs and banners proclaiming “No human being is illegal” “No border wall” and “Peace and justice for all.” Veterans led the marches on both sides of the line. Marchers on the Sonora side of the wall included individuals who had served in the U.S. military and were later deported to Mexico.

The activities at the Nogales border were part of a 3-day event organized by the School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) Border Encuentro, which took place in Tucson, Eloy, and both Nogales Arizona and Sonora. In Nogales, in addition to the marches on both sides of the line, SOAW organized a day of workshops at the Americana Hotel.

SOAW is an advocacy organization originally established to oppose the military training of Latin American troops at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning Georgia. Today, SOAW works with people in Latin America and the Caribbean in support of their struggle for social and economic justice. At least one U.S. veteran actively demonstrated against the march. A separate Veterans Day parade and ceremony also took place in Nogales, Arizona.
The Rare Birds of Winter

Some years special wild winter gifts come in the guise of rare and unusual birds that periodically slink into our region. These special species deserve our collective attention. Not only do they spice up an already extravagant fare of local biodiversity, they also are worth getting to know at an intimate level.

I am compelled to share the November rare birds list as a sample of what may be around this December - in lieu of a crystal ball. November was spectacular for Sky Islands bird rarities. So when I cast my eyes upon the following list I was mesmerized: cackling goose, greater scaup, Pacific loon, Heermann’s gull, green kingfisher, red-breasted sapsucker, eastern phoebe, winter wren, Pacific wren, black-capped gnatcatcher, rufous-backed robin, varied thrush, gray catbird, Tennessee warbler, yellow-throated warbler palm warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, rufous-capped warbler, scarlet tanager, clay-colored sparrow, “red” fox sparrow, McCown’s longspur, and Baltimore oriole. Whew! For a region renowned for rare birds, this is quite the list. Add to it our “normal” fare of more Mexican species and perhaps you begin to understand my enthusiasm.

The list goes in the same order as most bird field guides - from front to back, like species with like. These birds can be placed in baskets according to where they emanated from to some degree. Foremost among these categories are species normally found south of the international border. The green kingfisher, black-capped gnatcatcher, rufous-backed robin, and rufous-backed warbler fall into this much touted one, so I’ll focus my attention on these rare bird species.

Black-capped gnatcatchers, diminutive insectivores, frenetically pursue tiny fare in a handful of local canyons, many of which are known to birders. When I’ve explored beyond known spots looking for this species, though, I have found a few additional pairs. Perhaps they are becoming more established in our area. A real birding challenge is to sort this rare bird from the two look-alike gnatcatchers - the blue-gray and black-tailed.

Rufous-backed robins seem to visit our haunts mostly in the cooler months, especially October through April. This seems to be a banner year for this close cousin of the ubiquitous American robin. Dense thickets with some source of wild fruit to eat seem to be the recipe that attracts this sought-after Mexican Pacific-slope endemic. Many areas recorded a rufous-back in November.

Finally, green kingfishers - more common in Texas by far - have had a real influx year into the Sky Islands. Lurking quietly near our various lakes, rivers, and streams while seeking a piscivorous diet, these smaller cousins of the belted kingfisher breed here at times. Male-female pairs were in fact spotted this year.

Our last Mexican rarity, the rufous-capped warbler, has a few traditional breeding pairs between the Huachuca and Santa Rita Mountains. There it makes intrepid birders work hard for a glimpse in its remote and difficult-to-reach retreats.

More northerly breeders in the rare bird list include cackling goose, greater scaup, Pacific loon, red-breasted sapsucker, Pacific wren, varied thrush, “red” fox sparrow, and McCown’s longspur. Eastern rarities number: eastern phoebe, winter wren, gray catbird, Tennessee warbler, yellow-throated warbler, palm warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, and Baltimore oriole. The one bird species likely emanating from the west or southwest is Heermann’s gull.

Of course, any of these southeast Arizona rarities may have come here by a non-conventional route via storms or other means. Regardless of how they got here, have fun seeking these feathered finds!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org
Xmas Bird Count Slated For December 14

By Bob Brandt

All across the nation this holiday season, amid the hustle and bustle of shopping for gifts, a large contingent of ordinary Americans will find the time to serve as citizen scientists who contribute to an avian database more than a hundred years in the making.

Sponsored by the Natl. Audubon Society, this year’s Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is being coordinated locally by Patsy Vandenberge and John Hughes who have agreed to take over this project from long time volunteers Abbie Zeltzer and Matt Brown.

Nationally, the count will take place in a 24-hour period selected by local coordinators on a date between December 14 and January 5. The Patagonia event will take place on December 14 and will begin with an early morning gathering at the Gathering Grounds where participants will receive final field assignments along with instructions for recording their sightings and reporting them at day's end to Abbie Zeltzer who will compile the data for the Patagonia count.

For 118 years, the Christmas Bird Count has documented the total number of all species of birds seen or heard on a single day within 15-mile diameter circles that collectively represent a variety of avian habitats. This all-volunteer activity is open to birders of all experience levels, the novice participants being paired with experienced ones to ensure accuracy. Last year in Patagonia more than 30 people participated in covering field assignments while another five reported data from their feeders.

Many volunteers participate year after year, some preferring to cover the same territories they have done previously. New volunteers are always welcome. Anyone interested in helping with the Patagonia count this year should contact Patsy Vandenberge at 520-604-6601 or email her at Pvndnbr5@gmail.com.

Empire Roundup Educational and Fun Day

The 17th annual Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House on November 4 took on a new look while retaining the excitement and enthusiasm of previous events. Over 1,300 guests, hosted by 300 presenters and volunteers, enjoyed a wide variety of western activities and performances, wonderful music, great food, western vendors and tons of fun for families of all ages.

A special part of this year’s celebration was to thank fire fighters and fire crews for preventing any harm to the historic Empire Ranch headquarters during the Sawmill fire in April. The event was a wonderful opportunity to learn about and support the preservation and education efforts of the Empire Ranch Foundation. Free docent tours of the Historic Empire Ranch are offered on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Don’t miss the excitement of the annual Empire Ranch Trail Ride, coming up on Sat. April 7, 2018. Details at www.empireranchfoundation.org.

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Empire Roundup
Educational and Fun Day

Contributed Photo

Riders from Ft. Huachuca perform at the Roundup

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Patagonia Schools celebrated Veterans Day on Thursday, November 8th. Local veterans were served lunch at the school, followed by a special assembly to honor the veterans and their accomplishments. The ceremony opened with a welcome address and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by PUHS senior Duke Norton, a recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution by elementary students, and an introduction and slide show of local veterans. The guest speaker was Gilbert Alvarez, an air force veteran. Students readings, the National Anthem, sung by Yasmine Quiroga, a moment of silence and the playing of taps by Juan Urias and Isaiah Ruiz, rounded out the program.
Honoring Our Veterans
Patagonia and Elgin Schools Celebrate Our Local Heroes

The Elgin School and American Legion Post 113 hosted the annual Veterans Day ceremony November 9 at the Elgin School. Student emcees, eighth graders Rudy Granado and Aysialin Mountjoy, led the program which included a student honor guard, keynote speaker Colonel Tom Day, a replica of the submarine U.S.S. Tucson, a musical tribute to the service branches, the playing of “Taps” and a musical medley of patriotic songs by the Elgin School Choir. The audience enjoyed a breakfast prepared by the school and served by the students after the ceremony.

Photos by Leonard Sadorf

U.S. Navy veterans stand during the playing of “Anchors Away”

Superintendent Chris Bonn speaks at the Veterans Day ceremony. (From left) Sonora Schmitt, Pastor Steve Lindsey, Rudy Granado, Aysialin Mountjoy, Chris Bonn, Foster Drummond, Col. Tom Day, Richard Cardillo, Pastor Mike Wright
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**18th Annual Patagonia Holiday Art Walk**

By Carolyn Shafer

The 2017 Art Walk was well attended and featured local artists at various locations around town. All our local restaurants, food markets and retail shops, as well as several non-profit organizations participated in celebrating our local creativity. Our natural environment vibrates strongly with creative energy that inspires many to create tangible expressions of the beauty all around us.

The Holiday Art Walk was started in 1999 by local artist Linda Chase. Local gallery owner Regina Medley organized the event for several years. Currently, the owners of Creative Spirits Local Artists Gallery (Susan Corl, Gary Romig, Carolyn Shafer and Judith Whitcomb) volunteer their time to bring the event to reality.

By Carolyn Shafer

Artwork by Robert Berk

Photos by Marion Vendituoli

**Horsemanship Clinics at the Circle Z Ranch**

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Spotting the Difference

Not long ago a friend of mine asked me, “What is the difference between a pinto horse and a paint horse?” The short answer is paint horses are a recognized breed of horse with white patterns of color whereas pintos are recognized for their white patterns of coloring only.

Most of us who are horse savvy have some idea of what this entails, but when one gets looking in to more detail there is much more on the subject than meets the eye.

When I was just a little kid, this answer was much less complicated because the paint horse did not become recognized as a breed until the 1960’s. My father had a pinto mare who was half standardbred and half quarter horse. We bred her to a palomino American saddlebred stallion and the result was a strikingly beautiful palomino pinto colt who we named Apache King. Dad sold “Patches” as a four-year-old. The new owner registered him as a paint and changed his registered name to Copper Dawn. This would have been about 1970 and, based on the research I will now share with you, I would surmise that the stipulations allowing a horse to be registered as a paint have become stricter or Apache King would never have been recognized as a registered paint.

In fact, even in those times I am surprised that he got registered, because right from the start, the people creating the breed bred for a stocky build of horse like the quarter horse as well as the patterns. This colt coming out of a half standardbred mare and an American saddlebred stallion was not exactly stocky.

The American Paint Horse Association (APHA) is the second largest of the horse breed registries in the United States. It resides in Fort Worth, Texas and is responsible for registering paints worldwide. The APHA was formed to provide a registry for owners and breeders of these distinctive horses. Formerly, to be registered as a paint by the APHA, the horse would have to have at least one parent that was registered with the APHA, AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) or the Jockey Club as a thoroughbred. It was required to have a stock horse build and have the distinctive coat colorings and patterns that the breed is known for.

Two paints, however can give birth to a solid colored horse. Today this foal can be registered as a paint and, as of 2012, the horse must now have one parent registered with the APHA.

Horses with paint type coloring, except for draft horses, that do not meet the APHA’s requirements are not considered paints but can be registered with the pinto association.

It is not considered proper to describe a paint as a paint or a pinto but rather to call it by its base color. For example, if a bay (reddish brown) horse has white markings, the proper color call for this horse is a bay. It is a bay paint or a bay pinto. The markings or patterns on these horses are white (or properly grey spots since in the horse world, a seemingly white horse to the eye is still considered a grey).

There are also several terms to describe the variations of these patterns, including tobiano, overo, sabino, piebald, skewbald and tovero (also known as tobero), and even after having just looked up these terms I could not begin to explain to you the distinctions between them all. I would suggest talking to a paint breeder or expert if you are curious enough to find these answers or as they say, “Google it”! (smile)

Suffice it to say that while it is correct to call a horse that is spotted a pinto, it is not always correct to call it a paint.

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides specialized care for all beings large or small. Contact Cate at latecate1957@gmail.com.
Christmas 1917 was no doubt bittersweet for many families in the Mountain Empire. Fathers, sons, and husbands were in training or fighting in WWI. Preparations started early to insure soldiers were remembered by their families and friends. “The Nogales chapter of the American Red Cross completed 100 comfort kits yesterday for the boys in training camps, from Santa Cruz county... This is the second lot of kits which the chapter has completed, the other kits having been sent to headquarters...for distribution in France. The kits were made up of a needle case, shoe strings, Trench mirror, foot powder, writing tablet, envelopes, tobacco, cigarette papers, thread, pen points, pencil, handkerchief, bachelor buttons, a wash rag and soap.” (The Border Vidette, 12/01/1917)

Residents ensured that soldiers stationed in Nogales enjoyed the holidays. “The soldiers ... compose the 35th Infantry, a portion of the famous 10th Cavalry, a quartermaster’s corps and a medical corps. ...two young ladies of the city, Miss Maud McPherson and Miss Lena Keyte, teachers in the high school...proposed that during the Christmas holidays the doors of the homes of the city be thrown open to the soldier boys and a cordial welcome extended to all regardless of rank. The idea met with popular favor and the ladies all got busy. Each named the number they would entertain and the scheme was worked out with the regularity of clock work.” (The Border Vidette, 12/29/1917)

Everyone was encouraged to “Make This A Liberty Bond Christmas.” Governor Thomas E. Campbell wrote to all bankers encouraging “…a continued effort for...the widest possible distribution of Liberty Loan 4 per cent bonds. Our government requires every dollar of new money available for the purchase of its bonds during the war ... among investors who will hold them during the period of the war.” (The Border Vidette, 12/15/1917)

Schools organized community programs. “A Christmas entertainment will be given by the Patagonia school children at the Opera House this evening at 8 o’clock and a Christmas tree will be there to brighten the eyes of the little ones and lend color to the occasion.” The program included recitations, carol singing, a Silent Night pantomime, a star drill by 10 girls and a stocking drill by 8 boys. (The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 12/21/1917) The San Rafael School’s program featured a Christmas tree loaded with gifts and a lunch served in the evening, “as usual at most public functions in that most hospitable part of the county.” (The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 12/28/1917) The “local news notes” were replete with the names of those visiting or departing for the holidays, and even included gift announcements, “Yesterday Louis Koller presented his wife a handsome Christmas gift, one of the famous Zellner pianos.” (The Border Vidette, 12/22/1917) “Sam Lacey [of Locheil] is the owner of a brand new runabout.” (The Santa Cruz Patagonian, 12/28/1917)

Psyche’s search is not for a god named Eros but a Reaching without measure, a Longing with no end for Energy that is pure delight whirling within worlds a current carrying us into what we are before time.

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Psyches Yearning
By Patra Kelly

In Greek mythology, Psyche (which means soul) is a mortal woman who marries Eros, god of love and son of Aphrodite. The myth describes Psyche’s loss when Eros leaves and her journey to find him. This story of the soul’s quest, found in many cultures and often retold, suggests another meaning - the loss of our relatedness to our community and to the natural world - and our yearning to recover our feeling of connection with the universe. Though we experience ourselves as parts separated from the rest, this is an “optical delusion, a kind of prison,” Einstein reminds us, from which we need to free ourselves.

Psyche’s search
is not for a god
told of Psyche
stretching self
beyond bounds,
sweeping us up
with wild winds
weaving us into waves,
immersing us
in seas of Soul.

Stories and tales
from every where
in every time
tell of Psyche
stretching self
beyond bounds,
sweeping us up
with wild winds
weaving us into waves,
immersing us
in seas of Soul.
PUHS To Stage “Jamz’ Christmas Carol”
By Alicia Valenzuela

The Patagonia Union High School drama class will perform the play “Jamz’ Christmas Carol” at the school on Thursday, December 7 at 8:45a.m. for grades K-12 and at the Tin Shed Theater in Patagonia on Friday, December 8 at 6:30p.m. Admission is free.

“Jamz’ Christmas Carol,” an adaptation of Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” has a rapper theme to it, including two Christmas themed rap songs. On November 13, drama students learned about beats and whole songs - flocabulary- from drama teacher Augusta Lucas’ son, a professional rapper named Lord Young Wavvy. His songs have explicit lyrics, but the song he created with the drama class is “rated G.”

The cast of the play are Gideon Ellefson as Joe Allan McClendon, Kylie Kueneman as Annie Baggett, Joe’s assistant/employee; Johnny Quiroga as Laban McClendon, the cousin; Sophia Bergh as Patti B, the female rapper named Lord Young Wavvy. His songs have explicit lyrics, but the song he created with the drama class is “rated G.”

By Jennifer Beltrane

My first day as a sophomore at PUHS I stood excitedly in line for lunch: it was pizza. At my previous schools, Nogales High School and Little Red, I loved the pizza. It was delicious with a lot of pepperoni and the crust was thick. However, when I got my tray, the pizza here didn’t look appetizing to me; it was really greasy, it had too much cheese, and the crust looked like cardboard.

Transferring to PUHS, I expected to have good food. Even though PUHS is a really small school, I thought the school would have enough money to buy better quality foods.

When I asked about the quality of the cafeteria food, Alba Morales, Patagonia Schools Cafeteria Manager, told me that, “It’s what the government gives us.”

“The yearly food budget is $62,400,” Angelica Lucero, Food Service Supervisor, said. “It’s up to Ms. Morales to make the decisions about the food served.”

Although some students barely seem to notice what they are eating because they are so busy talking, I believe there are specific problems with the food. There aren’t many choices, there’s often not enough for everyone, and the salad isn’t as fresh as it should be. I believe this could easily be addressed and fixed.

I believe a student survey should be given to determine what foods kids like; next, food should be ordered from a company known for their high quality fresh food; and last, kids should pre-order lunches so the kitchen staff knows what to expect.

Let’s give better food choices to our students. Let’s prepare enough for even the students at the end of the line, and let’s improve the salad bar. It’s not as complicated as it sounds once you really think about; we’re just talking about good food.

CULINARY CLASSES SHOULD BE OFFERED
By Reyna Ochoa

In my second year at Patagonia Union High School I have realized that culinary classes should be offered at PUHS. I feel this for three reasons: it’s important for people to be independent and know how to cook for themselves, students need to learn about proper nutrition and the role it plays in leading a healthy life, and if someone is looking to have a career in culinary arts, he or she can get a head start.

High school is a place to prepare for college and life. PUHS offers academics, agricultural science, and sports, but we do not offer one of the most important skills in life - cooking. Cooking is constantly incorporated into our everyday lives because we need food to survive and function properly. If we do not know how to cook, we cannot truly be independent.

Without knowing how to cook, people are forced to constantly eat fast food and make bad food choices. These bad choices can eventually lead to health problems which impact a person’s ability to go to work or classes.

In previous generations, home economics was an everyday part of school life. However, with the gender equality movement of the 60’s, there was a push to remove home economics from the curriculum, as it was often perceived negatively as women gained more independence from stereotyped roles.

Today we’ve come a long way. My generation no longer sees cooking as a woman’s job. Lots of men and women love to cook, and where culinary classes are offered, they are offered for everyone. Nogales High School and Rio Rico High School offer culinary classes and they are always popular course offerings.

Culinary classes are not offered at PUHS and I think they should be. Although we are a small school, the Ag Science building is large and could accommodate the addition of ovens, stove tops, kitchen utensils, and sinks. A campaign to raise funds for the addition of a culinary arts program would be a worthy endeavor as the school seeks to meet the challenge of educating today’s students.
The Lady Lobos ended a challenging volleyball season on October 27th with a win against Valley Union, 3-0, at home. “The crowd was going crazy and the team was feeling the energy from the crowd,” Fabian Monge said. “It was a great game against Valley Union.”

Christina Novack and Juliana Quiroga, senior co-captains, played throughout the whole game. “I was really emotional but it was my best game because I had all the support from everyone that night and I wouldn’t have been able to do it without my teammates,” Novack said.

The coaches were impressed the way the Lady Lobos fought for their last game. “I’m really proud of them; they give it their all and that’s what matters,” Stephanie Padilla head coach of the Lady Lobos said.

“People are dying in vain because this country isn’t holding their end of the bargain up, as far as giving freedom and justice, liberty to everybody. That’s something that’s not happening. I’ve seen videos, I’ve seen circumstances where men and women that have been in the military have come back and been treated unjustly by the country they have fought for, and have been murdered by the country they fought for, on our land. That’s not right,” Mr. Kaepernick said.

At PUHS, students are using the morning “Pledge of Allegiance” as an opportunity to voice their opinion. Senior Exelee Budd is one of a handful of students who remain seated during the “Pledge of Allegiance.” She feels that by sitting she can, like Mr. Kaepernick, “bring attention to the bigger picture of what’s going on in America. I also don’t believe students are educated enough about the pledge and what it truly means,” Budd says.

Students sitting during the pledge has bothered a few. “It is their right to do it but I think it’s disrespectful and morally wrong,” John Hubbell, junior at PUHS, says.

The school administration has remained neutral. School registrar, Liz Collier, says, “Our constitution gives us the right to protest, and we should be able to do so.” However, she feels, “If you are going to protest, you have to back it up.”

I feel as if this situation has given a big wake up call to our government. We are not taking it anymore. We are going to stand up for ourselves, and so are public figures like Kaepernick. As Kaepernick said, “I’m seeing things happen to people that don’t have a voice, people that don’t have a platform to talk and have their voices heard, and effect change. So, I’m in the position where I can do that and I’m going to do that for people that can’t.”

PUHS students Duke Norton and Exelee Budd finished in first and second place at the Poetry Slam held at Bentley’s Coffeee House in Tucson on November 18.
Calendar

**Events**

**Dec 1 - Sonoita By Starlight.** 5-8:30p.m., Beginning at Many Horses Trading Co.

**Dec 1 - Mexican Baroque Music,** featuring members of the Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra, 5p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House. Free admission.

**Dec 2 - 7th Annual Christmas in Elgin,** arts & crafts fair at the Elgin Community Club from 10 - 4p.m.

**Dec 2 - FOSC presents Patagonia Lake and Sonoita Creek State Natural Area Developments.** Colt Alford, park manager, and Laura Mattox, assistant manager, will discuss changes at our local state parks and watershed impacts. 10a.m. at Cady Hall.

**Dec 3 - “The Advent of Our God,”** cantata by James Hansen. Santa Cruz Singers and Patagonia Community UMC Choir. 3p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House. Free admission.

**Dec 6 - Department of Corrections Appreciation Ceremony and Lunch,** 11a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

**Dec 9 - Fire Dept. Breakfast in Sonoita,** 8 - 10a.m.

**Dec 9 - Art Exhibitions on Screen: Painting the Modern Garden - Monet to Matisse,** 2p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Dec 9 - Missoula Children’s Theater presents “Peter and Wendy,”** 6p.m. at the Elgin School.

**Dec 9 - Levi Hernandez, Baritone, and Evan Kory, Piano.** 3p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House.

**Dec 15 - Community Christmas Party and Arts & Crafts Fair** at the Fairgrounds, 5p.m. Arts & Crafts Fair will be open Sat & Sun, 10 - 3p.m.

**Dec 20 - “The Nutcracker”** 2.5hrs, 2 intermissions w/food & beverage service. 6p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Dec 21 - Patagonia School Chili Winter Festival,** 5 - 9p.m. at PUHS.

**Dec 23 - “The Nutcracker,”** 2p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Dec 28 - “Saltwater Buddha,”** film. 7p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Dec 29 - “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,”** 7p.m. at The Movie House at the Tin Shed Theater.

**Dec 31 - New Year’s Eve Gala with the Tucson Symphony Jazz Trio.** 5p.m. at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House.

**Dec 31 - Patagonia New Year’s Eve Party,** 7:30p.m. - 12:30a.m. at Cady Hall.

**Dec 31 - 4-H Family New Year’s Eve Party,** 8p.m. - 12:30a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

**Meetings**

**AA - Pat. Seventh-Day Adventist Church Fellowship Hall,** Thurs. at 6:30p.m. Sonoita Bible Church, Tues. at 7:30 p.m. For more AA meetings, info, go online www.aatucson.com or call (520) 624-4183.

**Overeaters Anonymous -** Tue. & Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520-404-3490.

**CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) Board Meeting 3rd Mon. at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.**

**Patagonia Town Council -** 2nd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.

**Rotary Club -** 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30p.m. at the Steak Out. Info: Sue, 520-990-4648.

**Special Interests**

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

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

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

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

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


**Community Services**

**Lunch for Seniors** - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center. Noon - 1 p.m.

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

**Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop** - Fri. 10-2 p.m., Sat. 10-2 p.m.

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

**Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter** - usually twice a week. Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonoitapatagonialocals.com.
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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. Andrews Episcopal Church
Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita
Justice of the Peace Courtroom
2nd & 4th Saturdays: 10 a.m.

Sonoita Hills Community Church
52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita 455-5172
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
222 Third Ave., Patagonia 394-2954
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

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.

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

Harvest Christian Fellowship/
Sonoita Foursquare Church
3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m

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**FULL MOON**

DECEMBER 3
**AT THE MOVIES**

By Martin Levowitz

A couple of weeks ago I happened upon a really good movie - of semi-local provenance - at The Tin Shed Theater. The one I thought I'd come to see, something about ecology, would not be shown till later the same night. The one I saw, called "Lucky U Ranch," was created by Ginia Desmond, a Tucson resident who, beginning in her 60's, has written screenplays for a dozen years.

Desmond has led a rich and varied life, much of it in Tucson, and the movie is somewhat autobiographical. The editing, by our own part-time Patagonian, Michelle Gisser, and the production values, cinematography and acting were all excellent.

This feature-length film is emotionally engaging, a good old-fashioned story, told well. The main character, Junior, a pudgy, socially awkward eleven-year-old, who's taunted and bullied at school, lives in a dismal, semi-rural trailer park, outside of Phoenix, in 1953, with his kind, tired mother - a middle-aged waitress who's just getting by, and worn out. We're led to think her husband perished during WWII, but we're not sure. In any case, his son, Junior, exudes defeat and hopelessness.

The film-snags your emotions early and deeply. In an opening scene we watch as the dispirited boy, walking home alone, as always, after a bad day at school, lies down between the railroad tracks, his head up on one rail. It's creepy to the max. That's followed by a loud and shocking scene: a disconnected, close-up of a foot kicking a can. It jars your nerves.

And then, one day, some new neighbors move into the slot next door, Hollywood expatriates on an extended road-trip, pulling their shiny new trailer behind a Cadillac. The new adults are nasty, condescending, drunken scum who dabble in domestic violence. Their only kid, a daughter Junior's age, is pretty, gifted, kind, smart, and oppressed. Her parents treat Melissa like a dog. Like Junior, she would love to run away.

A dancer and athletic type, Melissa becomes Junior's mentor and friend. She teaches him to catch and hit a ball. Melissa, in return, is taught by Junior to play jacks, a lovely swap of conventional gender roles.

Lucky U Ranch will be released in February on several sites, including Amazon and iTunes. See it if you can, but bring a roll of paper towels, your mascara may run.

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**Pennies For Harvey**

By Sue Archibald

Rosann Clark counts the pennies collected to help students affected by Hurricane Harvey

A week after Hurricane Harvey hit South Texas, Rosann Clark, a member of the Mountain Empire Rotary Club and the counselor at the Patagonia School, wanted to engage her students in trying to make a difference for those affected. She came up with the “Pennies for Harvey” Project. Her school and the local community began asking for change. The enthusiasm caught on and Elgin Elementary School jumped on board. The students raised $1,019.10, the local Rotary club added $500 and Rosann had the “honor” of counting all that change!

The monies collected headed for the Beaumont Rotary Foundation this past week. Contact was made with the Beaumont Rotary District Governor who assured us that the donation will go to one of the local rural schools severely damaged by the storm. She informed us that all four schools in one area were destroyed and, since the hurricane, the students were only attending half days at a local community center. She also told us that 50% of the schools’ employees were left without homes. The community continues to be in crisis and she stated that returning to “normal” will take a long time. Some of our local students also sent along cards and notes for the Texas students. Everyone is looking forward to hearing about how their “Pennies” helped.

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**PYEC Hosts Conference**

By Anna Coleman

At the end of October, Patagonia Youth Enrichment hosted their third Adolescent Youth Conference, "Life is About Choices." Topics included Making SMART Choices in Everyday Decisions presented by Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Positive Responses For Different Social Situations by PYEC Peer Power Team, and Effects of Marijuana and its Consequences by Nogales youth group AADYCT. The guest speaker was Terrell Harper, a coach, PE teacher, and school counselor from Elgin School who spoke about personal choices that influenced his young teen life and how paths can change drastically by one small choice in life.

PYEC also worked with the Patagonia PTC to provide hotdogs at the "Trunk or Treat" activity on Halloween evening at the town's gazebo. PYEC served 250 hotdogs to local families during the event.

Now in its third year of operation in Patagonia, PYEC continues to offer a safe venue for the area youth to gather after school. Building community in a safe venue is the key to PYEC’s success. Working on projects and strengthening leadership and service skills are also happening at the youth center.

Three young adults are working as Peer Power staff members, providing positive mentoring and influences for the younger youth. For a few hours a week, Annika and Caitlyn Coleman and Frank Urrea work closely with the younger kids, laughing, creating, playing, and mentoring.

Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center is a nonprofit organization. The director, Anna Coleman, is a full-time volunteer at the youth center. All donations, monetary and in-kind, are welcomed at any time. For more information, please visit www.pyec.org. PYEC wishes to thank the community for the support over the years and continues to remain committed in providing this safe service for the area youth.

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Reflections from Cementerio Calle Reforma, Nogales, Sonora  By Kathryn Schrag

It was dusk when we arrived; some families still picnicking on the gravestones; others with bucket and mop cleaning up.

The large cemetery crowded with graves is tiered along a hillside. A four-person musical group in the graveyard played some cumbia tunes for us and the occasional passersby.

Plastic flower wreaths, and thousands of gold marigolds adorned most graves. I bought a bouquet and put a single gold flower on undecorated graves that called to me; silly but it made me feel good...That and the shot of whiskey that we carried along.

November 1st is Dia de los Angelitos, celebrating the lives of the children who have died; day two is to honor everyone.

Surrounding the cemetery, festival booths lined the street: skeleton cookies and pan de muerto, gravesite decorations, cheap plastic toys and light fixtures for sale, a huge booth with an amplified broker hawking garishly decorated synthetic blankets, street corner food stalls with churros, chimichangas and tacos.

Only we six Patagonians appeared to represent los gringos during our time there. We all loved it. The locals seemed happy for our interest and our dollars.

An hour from that so very authentic “we are IN Mexico” scene, we would be sitting in our homes reflecting on our good fortune to live so close to such a rich experience.

But first, the full moon walk to and through the in-between world of the border. The US entrance has been recently re-done; sterile and handsome, yet bizarre, with a very tall wall decorated with imprinted footprints crossing over the top. What???
Free Parenting Classes Offered at Fairgrounds

Parents of children who are exhibiting emotional or behavioral difficulties are invited to take part in NAMI SEAZ (National Alliance on Mental Illness Southeast Arizona Basics Parenting Class beginning Monday, Nov. 27 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. The free six-session class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the boardroom in Pioneer Hall.

For more information or to enroll, please call NAMI Southeastern Arizona at (520) 459-3228 or send an e-mail to namiseazinfo@gmail.com.

Classes will run twice a week for three weeks on Nov. 27, 28, Dec. 4, 5 and 11, 12. The new education program for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illnesses was designed around elements that have been extensively field-tested and found to be highly effective, including:

- Recognition of mental illness as a continuing traumatic event for the child and family
- Sensitivity to the subjective emotional issues faced by family caregivers and siblings
- Recognition of the need to help improve the day-to-day burdens of care and management
- Gaining confidence and stamina for what can be a lifelong role of family understanding and support

- Empowerment of family caregivers as effective advocates for their children

The NAMI Basics Course will address the following:

- Current information about ADHD, Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Childhood Schizophrenia and Substance Abuse Disorders;
- Current research related to the biology of mental illness and the evidence-based, most effective treatment strategies available, including medications used to treat mental illness in children and adolescents;
- Specific workshops to learn problem solving, listening and communication skills;
- Strategies that have been found helpful in handling challenging behaviors;
- Information about the systems that are major players in the lives of children and adolescents with mental illness – the school system and the mental health system.

Free child care is available on-site, and a light meal will be served at each class. The program is funded by grants from Cenpatico Integrated Care and the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona.

Free Parenting Classes
Offered at Fairgrounds

Patagonia Regional Community Fund awards grants to organizations that provide programs for children, seniors and community infrastructure in Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin and Canelo and awards scholarships to graduates of Patagonia Union High School. To add your gift to our community, send a check payable to Patagonia Regional Community Fund c/o ACF, PO Box 1208, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636.

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PUHS Students Excel in SSVEC Contest

PUHS junior Cole McGuire won an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. next summer in the 38th annual Sulphur Springs Electric Cooperative’s Washington Youth Tour competition. McGuire qualified for the contest by successfully completing a written test, and submitting an essay on clean energy. On November 8, the eighteen highest scoring essay writers from the eleven schools participating in the competition had to take a second written test and were interviewed by a panel of four judges.

Also placing in the top eighteen students were PUHS students John Hubbell, and Gianna Martin, who each received $200 awards.

Xmas Party, Craft Show At Fairgrounds

The Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association is hosting a community Christmas party at the Sonoita Fairgrounds December 15, 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.. Dinner, activities and crafts, free books and gifts for every child and a special visit by Santa make this event fun for the whole family. The Christmas party is free and open to everyone. Come enjoy the festivities!

New this year, The Christmas Corral craft show will be open all day Saturday and Sunday, December 15 – 16, as well as during the Christmas party Saturday evening. More than 30 artisan vendors will be on hand selling leatherwork, confections, ceramics, jewelry, wood crafts, photography and more. Find one of a kind locally made Christmas gifts for everyone on your list.

Santa’s Helpers Deliver Xmas Meals

Santa’s Helpers will be delivering Christmas dinners in Sonoita and Patagonia December 16. Organizer Martha Green has already received requests for 15 families and 30 children. She expects this number to grow. On average, the group delivers between 20 and 25 meals each Christmas season.

Donations of canned goods and unwrapped toys are being collected at the Sonoita post office, the Sonoita Mini Mart and at Dollar General. Money can be donated at the Sonoita Bank to the Sonoita Community Association account.

Santa’s Helpers was established by the late Margaret Carmichael approximately 30 years ago and is still going strong. Green asks that anyone who would like more information, or who knows a family that needs help this season contact her at 520-604-1174.

Community Invited to Chili Winter Festival at Patagonia Schools

Patagonia Public Schools is hosting the First Ever Chili Winter Festival on Thursday, December 21st from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The evening is going to feature a Chili Cook-Off, the Student Winter Concert performances and a 1950’s Sock Hop Dance. There will also be a Jumping Castle and rumors suggest that Santa Claus will make an appearance.

Patagonia Schools Superintendent Rachell Hochheim states, “This celebration is open to the whole community. I want to encourage local organizations to challenge one another and enter the Chili Cook-Off.

The Chili Cook-Off starts at 5:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Cook-off contestants need to register their intent and pay a small fee. To sample the various Chili entrants, the schools will be charging $1.00 for 4 tickets; participants can redeem a Dixie cup sample for 1 ticket. A full bowl of Chili is $2.00. The contest with the most tickets wins the People’s Choice Award. There will also be a panel of tasters who will choose the Judge’s Choice Award. The winners of the People’s Choice and the Judge’s Choice will split 15% of the proceeds and the rest of the funds will go to the Parent Teacher Booster Club at Patagonia Schools.

The Winter Concert starts at 6:00 p.m. in the MPR and will run one hour. The Sock Hop starts at 7:00 p.m. and will go until 9:00 p.m. The school will be hiring a DJ to provide music for the dance.

For questions regarding the Chili Winter Festival and the Chili Cook-Off, please call the school at 520-394-3000.

All Welcome at New Year’s Eve Party

The Patagonia Tree and Park Committee announces the PATAGONIA NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY. The DJ will be spinning tunes to please everyone - hippies to millennials, December 31, 7:30 to 12:30 at Cady Hall. Bring YOB, bring your dancing shoes, bring something to share, and bring a designated driver.

All are welcome. Everyone in the Mountain Empire is invited. There is no charge for this event, but donations to the Committee to improve the gazebo in the park are appreciated.

Underwriting Sponsors: Gerry and Lynne Isaac, High Spirits Flutes, Bob & Elise Misiorowski, the Duquesne House Inn and Gardens, Hal Arnest and Stephanie Wolfswinkel.

4-H Family New Year’s Eve Bash at Fairgrounds

The Santa Cruz County 4-H Livestock Skill-A-Thon Team is hosting a New Year’s Eve party, 8p.m. -12:30 a.m., December 31, at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. There will be games, a DJ and dancing. Admission is $15 for adults and $5 for children.
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