Forum Proposed in Response to Discord Over Mining Issue

By Ann Katzenbach and Donna Reibslager

At the Town Council’s meeting on July 10, Patagonia resident Carolyn Shafer informed the Council that Wildcat Silver had listed the Town of Patagonia on its website, as one of “Our Communities,” implying that it had received financial support from Wildcat. She said that she was not aware of any money having been accepted from the mining company by the Town of Patagonia and asked that the council tell Wildcat to remove the town from its website.

Charles Montoy responded that several town organizations, such as the fire department and the school district, had received donations from Wildcat. Then he mentioned that Wildcat had recently paid a bill from Brent Bowdon for work he did to repair a break in the town reservoir. Montoy’s comment led to questions about whether the town should accept money from Wildcat, and whether it might have already indirectly received financial assistance from the company.

Shafer noted that the Town of Patagonia’s General Plan includes several statements that reflect its opposition to the introduction of mining. She asked that her request to remove the Town of Patagonia from Wildcat’s website be added as an agenda item at the Town Council’s next meeting to allow for further discussion. Shafer says that she had perceived her request as a straightforward response to what appeared to be false advertising, but the issue sparked a strong reaction from both sides of the mining question.

In the weeks that followed that meeting, some people in the community voiced their agreement with Shafer’s argument that the town should not be represented as a supporter of Wildcat on its website. Others, who see Wildcat’s plan to mine here as a much-needed boost to the town’s economy, rallied around Wildcat, arguing that the town (continued on page 3)
Who’s in Charge?
AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY
By Ann Katzenbach and Donna Reibslager

Brian and Lindsey Young, who were terminated from their teaching positions at PUHS in May due to a staff reduction, met with PRT in June to talk about their experience there. The Youngs painted a bleak picture of the work environment at the high school, describing it as a stressful atmosphere in which staff felt intimidated by school principal and superintendent Denise Blake.

Since then we have talked to others to see how they felt about Blake. We learned that some people believe that she is doing an excellent job, and others are frustrated and sometimes angry with her style of management. Some say that in trying to shape PUHS to fit a system more suited to large schools, she has adversely affected the spirit of openness and positive exchange that used to exist among staff and in the classroom.

Her supporters remember the state of the schools before she took the helm, and they are thrilled with what she has accomplished. They say that her management is effective and has brought about significant changes in the physical plant, the curriculum, and discipline. They say she works very hard and is well organized, and most are willing to overlook occasional reports of her no-nonsense style of dealing with staff.

Fred Sang, chairman of the high school governing board, points out that “change is really hard. People are used to a certain pace and this has happened fast. People get stressed.” He knows that there are people in town and at the schools who are finding it hard to adjust to Blake’s style. He says in a small town like Patagonia, he knows most of these people, and it’s not easy to see the community divided. However, Sang, who has been on the board before and remembers how run down the schools were four years ago, says that the community needs to adapt to this new way of doing things.

But if the community needs to adapt, then so does the governing board. If the board continues to disregard the concerns of those who are critical of Superintendent Blake, they are only contributing to continued division in the community. Those criticisms, whether real or imagined, are affecting the relationship between the town and the school, and they need to be addressed.

When the board turned over complete management of the schools to Denise Blake, they overlooked an important piece of the puzzle. As policy now stands, a staff member who wishes to file a complaint against Blake is first directed to Principal Blake. If there is no resolution, the complaint can then be brought before the superintendent (in this case also Blake.)

Only if this second step fails to resolve the complaint does the staff member get to be heard by the school governing board. If he or she does manage to be heard by the board, as Gilbert Quiroga has experienced [see story on page 4], the Board can only listen. The school board states that its role is to oversee policy and that Blake is responsible for personnel matters. Thus, if someone attempts to convey a complaint to a board member, they are advised to direct their complaint to the superintendent.

This happened last year to Lindsey Young. She says she felt that Blake had behaved abusively toward her, and she wanted to report it. Then she learned that she could only report the abuse to Blake, and after consulting a lawyer, decided not to file the grievance. A system that requires our schools’ teachers to file a grievance against authority by submitting it to that authority is not serving their best interests.

There has to be a simple, straightforward way to open an avenue of communication for staff who wish to express concerns in confidence, and a means by which the board, or some other impartial entity, can respond to those concerns in whatever way it sees as fair. The school board cannot hide behind all its regulations and ignore those staff members who have a grievance against Blake. It is unethical, and it leads to an atmosphere of mistrust and frustration in the community.

Vesting all the power in one person, without checks and balances, is not a change for the better.
Forum Proposed in Response to Discord About Mining Issue, cont. from Front Page

Some members of the community who have lived in Patagonia all their lives see the arguments against mining as a campaign by newcomers who can't appreciate the realities of Patagonia's high unemployment rate—a perspective that serves to divide the issue along socio-economic lines.

Shafer, who is a board member of Patagonia Area Regional Alliance (PARA), realized that the inclusion of her request on the agenda for the Town Council’s upcoming meeting was likely to create an arena for argument and to heighten the division within the community. So, the day before the meeting was scheduled, she asked that the agenda item be removed.

Because PARA had received inquiries from many residents who planned to show support of Shafer’s request by attending the next council meeting, it sent out an email to its supporters, advising them that it had decided to pull such discussion from the agenda because of the “divisive feelings it has stirred up within the community.” The email noted PARA’s concern that the meeting stop arguing and come together. Amanda Montenez and Lisa Flagenzi expressed their frustration with all the negative talk around town, and urged the community to “stop all the bickering.” Will Stack asked that the community “embrace the mine”, and the economic benefits it offered.

Carolyn Shafer spoke last, agreeing with the other speakers as to the need to work together as a community. She then added that she was “passionate about protecting our water, our air, our land for our children, their children, and all future generations.”

Patagonia’s current Town Plan, which describes itself as a “citizen-driven plan” that articulates the community’s agreed upon vision and overall goals, declares as one of its objectives its intent “to closely study and reject mining (resource extraction) in the Patagonia area.” It adds that “the clear majority of planning participants was passionately opposed to the development of new mining activity in Patagonia....” Clearly there are some residents in the community who would argue that the Town Plan does not reflect their wishes.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Vice-Mayor Andrea Wood requested that an agenda item be added to the next council meeting, to plan and create a community forum that considers all views as to the impact of mining here. Hopefully such a forum will allow both sides to come to a better understanding, so that the community can work together on this critical issue.

Donations Sought Following A Tragic Death in Croatia

By Donna Reibslager

Shanti Carlisi, daughter of Patagonia resident Cynthia Carlisi, died in an auto accident in Croatia on July 19. Shanti, who was 27 years old, was traveling from Italy to Croatia to attend a music festival. Her mother flew to Croatia on July 20 with Shanti’s sister, Mira Howard, to bring her daughter home.

The cost of their trip was substantial. Kate and Murphy Musick have prepared several donation jars, which have been put out at Patagonia Market, Gathering Grounds, Red Mountain Foods, and Patagonia Library. In addition, the National Bank of Arizona in Sonoita has agreed to accept checks mailed to them, payable to Cynthia Carlisi, for deposit to her account. They will also keep any cards that are included with the checks, to give to Cynthia.

Shanti and her sister grew up in Patagonia. In February 2012, the Gathering Grounds hosted an exhibit of artwork by Cynthia, Shanti, and Mira, and Shanti attended the reception with her mother. [see photo at right.]

A memorial service will be held at Spirit Tree Inn on Sunday, August 4 at 10 AM, followed by a gathering at Cady Hall. The service was planned and organized by Maya Musick, daughter of Kate and Murphy Musick, who was a close friend of Shanti’s. For more information about donating, contact Kate Musick at 394-2037.

ABOVE: Shanti Carlisi and her mother, Cynthia Carlisi, at a reception held in February 2012 at the Gathering Grounds. The exhibit featured artwork by Cynthia, Shanti, and her sister, Mira Howard.
Supporters Question Motive for Quiroga's Termination

By Donna Reibslager

The termination of veteran school bus driver Gilbert Quiroga has continued to draw support from community members who have attempted to speak on his behalf at the past three meetings of the school governing board.

At a board meeting on June 12, shortly after his termination, many residents were present, and several spoke on his behalf during the "call to the public," including retired bus driver Patricia Matrecito and fellow Patagonia Town Council member Andrea Wood. Some questioned the motive behind his termination. David Woods told the board, "I believe if his contract is not renewed then it should be made public why with a just cause, and I do not believe one exists." Felix Wharton, a student at PUHS, said that "if Quiroga leaves it will build even more distrust between students and faculty."

The audience was told that the board couldn't discuss the issue, as it was not on the meeting's agenda, and said they would include it for their meeting on June 25. However, the meeting on that date did not include Quiroga's termination as an agenda item. Many supporters again filled the room, and Quiroga spoke to the board.

He told them that in September 2012, he discovered that a large number of school property items were being taken from the school site by the school's maintenance supervisor, Tony Velasquez. He reported the activity to his immediate supervisor, but nothing was done. Quiroga then decided to document the activity by taking photographs. He said that when School Superintendent/Principal Denise Blake learned what he'd done, she asked him to turn over the photos to her. He refused.

For his refusal to comply, he was docked one day of work. Quiroga said that three weeks after that, he observed that some trees that provide shade for the tennis court had been severely pruned. He complained about it to a school board member and was called in shortly thereafter to meet with Blake, who docked him for five days without pay.

After Quiroga finished speaking, many people from the community came forward to attest to his longstanding record as a responsible employee. Again, several of those who spoke expressed their belief that Quiroga was being punished for trying to protect the school's interests. Patricia Matrecito told the board that to discipline Quiroga for his actions was "pathetic." She described Superintendent Blake as a supervisor who "yells, screams, threatens" and said that the school was experiencing high teacher turnover "because of the way she treats her employees."

Patagonia resident Jeff Hifey asked the board whether a police report had been filed when Velasquez was fired five months later for alleged misuse of a school district credit card and theft of a set of new tires. Due to the strong community sentiment about the termination, the board agreed to include the subject on the agenda at the following meeting on July 12.

However, when the meeting on July 12 was called to order, Quiroga's termination was once again not on the agenda, and the meeting was again attended by many community members. Seven of them were permitted to speak briefly. Superintendent/Principal Blake sat at a table in front, showing no emotion as Richard Rutledge said that in all his years as a government supervisor, he "never fired someone because they disagreed with me." Jeff Hifey told the board they "should be firing her [Blake] instead of Quiroga." At none of the meetings did the board discuss the issue.

Superintendent Blake has said that Quiroga's contract was not renewed in part because he failed to comply with her written directives to him. She was quoted by The Bulletin as having commented that on four different occasions he didn't respect board policy by following the chain of command and instead took matters into his own hands.

Quiroga, who had worked as a bus driver at the school for nearly 37 years, has retained legal counsel.
MINING UPDATE

Public Comment Period Re-Opened
By Wendy Russell

The Forest Service has re-opened the public comment period for the Regal Resources Sunnyside mining exploration project in Humboldt Canyon. This is the same project that had an earlier scoping period back in November 2011. According to the scoping notice from the Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista District Ranger Mark Ruggiero has "decided to offer another scoping period in conjunction with this formal comment period to ensure that public involvement is current and comprehensive."

Regal Resources Inc. is a junior mining company based in Canada. Its property in the Patagonia Mountains consists of 295 claims on the Coronado National Forest totaling approximately 5,900 acres. The scoping notice states that the Sunnyside mining exploration project is for 6 drill holes to collect core samples to assess potential copper mineralization in Humboldt Canyon. The operation would run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Water would be hauled in and access for the project would be from the town of Patagonia by way of Harshaw Road, aka National Forest System Roads 49 and 58. Access within the project area would be via NFSR 812 and 4685.

According to the scoping notice, "if you submitted comments in 2011 regarding the Sunnyside project, you MUST advise us [Forest Service] in writing that you would like your previous comments to be considered as responsive to the legal notice for eligibility to appeal the decision: you do not have to re-submit your comments." If you did not receive the scoping notice and would like to receive that information from the Forest Service contact Patrick Morton, FS Geologist, at (520)388-8348 or pmorton@fs.fed.us.

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance will be cohosting a comment writing workshop with Sky Island Alliance on Thursday, August 1 at 6:30 PM in Cady Hall to assist folks who want to comment on the Sunnyside project. It is our only opportunity to get the Forest Service to examine all aspects of this mining exploration project that may concern us as local citizens who live and enjoy recreation around the Patagonia Mountains. Remember, you’re only eligible to challenge the decision rendered by the Forest Service regarding this exploratory drilling project if you submit a comment within the 30-day comment period. The scoping notice is dated July 11, 2013.

Also note: the Wildcat Silver Hermosa mining exploration project is expected to open its public comment period sometime in early August.

If you wish to submit a Comment to the Forest Service:
Please include the project name (Sunnyside Project) in the subject line of your response and/or email.

Comments may be submitted as follows:
Email: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
Facsimile: 520-388-8305, ATTN: Patrick Morton
U.S. Mail: Coronado National Forest, ATTN: Patrick Morton, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701

Hearing Postponed for Jeffrey Cooper
By PRT Staff

On April 27, 2013, a summons was issued to Jeffrey Cooper for one count of felony theft. The complaint arises from allegations that Cooper misappropriated funds from a local community organization. At a July 22 plea bargaining hearing, the Superior Court Judge granted Cooper’s attorney request for an additional 30 days to further consider his client’s alternatives.
Truth in Advertising

By Carolyn Shafer

“We Dig Jobs” is a new bumper sticker seen around town. Yet recently released reports state that while employment has improved in Santa Cruz County, there remains a high unemployment rate—so let’s talk about jobs.

Around 1960 the last mines closed. Jobs evaporated overnight. While ranching continued in eastern Santa Cruz County, the economy here was rebuilt around tourism. The region became known as a worldwide destination for birders and began to draw people from all over Arizona and the United States. Because of its significant biological diversity. Building on the strong economic base of ranching and tourism, other industries such as local food production, wineries (USA Today lists this region as one of the top 10 wine trails in the country), ecotourism and heritage tourism are contributing to the economic growth and employment opportunities.

In December 2011, the Mountain Empire Business Survey identified 217 small local businesses that employ about 800 people. Economist Dr. Tom Powers analyzed the survey and concluded that 51% of business sales and about half of the jobs are attributable to landscape and cultural amenities (hiking, biking, hunting, birding, equestrian activities, ranches, relaxation getaways, health and wellness, historic and cultural sites, artisans and artists, dining, shopping). Mining will destroy the landscapes and the cultural amenities, and, as a result, about half the business revenue and half of the 800 existing jobs will be gone.

Corporate representatives of Wildcat Silver were recently quoted in the media as saying that the Hermosa mining project will bring 250 jobs. However, it appears likely that this community could lose 400 existing jobs because of mining. It is doubtful that many of the 200+ local businesses could survive a 50% loss of revenue that might result from destruction of landscapes by mining.

Wildcat Silver projects that the mine would operate for 16 years, assuming best case scenario. After that, once again mining jobs would be gone.

One thing we can do is proactively engage our local unemployed citizens in vocational and educational assessments and other employment services provided by Santa Cruz County Career One Stop. Let’s create an economic model that emphasizes job stability, environmental sustainability, equitable economic justice, and the well-being of the individual and the family as opposed to the rate of financial return for only a select few.

AUTHOR’S FOOTNOTE: I asked the Wildcat Silver representative for specific information regarding the classification of those jobs, including salary ranges and qualifications (education, experience, skills). I have been told that information will be provided in a document that is being reviewed for release to the company’s investors. Wildcat Silver’s website states that the production jobs will be 12-hour shifts on a rotating night/day shift schedule.
The Cruelest Month

By Ann Katzenbach

If T.S. Eliot had lived in Arizona, he might have declared that June, rather than April, is the cruelest month.” He chose April, as I recall from some long ago English class, because it gives false hope. June has its false hope as well—cool nights and early mornings with brittle blue skies—but the relentless heat of the days soon takes over one’s being, and the days plod along towards the real hope, which is, finally, traditionally, RAIN!

And June is fire season in the Southwest, another cruelty, a double-edged sword. Fires have long been part of the cycle of life here, but, as human beings are wont to do, we got in the way of nature, let the dry brush pile up, built homes further and further from town, and then a spark in the parched world brings a conflagration.

We were lucky here in Patagonia. Our fire in May was actually close to what nature might have intended. It burned itself out with a lot of help from expert fire fighters. And those firefighters were fortunate. They worked incredibly hard under extreme conditions, and the outcome reflected their skill and dedication. No one was injured. No houses were lost. Habitat was destroyed, but the natural world is more accustomed and adaptable to fire than we are.

There were two Hotshot crews that came to Patagonia to fight the Soldier’s Basin fire. I was privileged to meet members of the Ironwood team just before they went home last month. I still have vivid memories of their faces warmed by the morning light and their easy, friendly manners, their boots, hats, sunglasses, and T-shirts proclaiming their affiliation. Oh, yes, and their physiques. These young men work out all the time. They run and walk for miles with heavy packs, so they are prepared for fire fighting in the wilderness. What they do, the way they go about it, give them heroic stature.

Lightning started a wildfire near Yarnell, Arizona, on June 28. When I heard at the end of a newscast that 19 members of a Hotshot crew had died, I selfishly prayed that it was not the men from Ironwood. That would have been too close, too tragic. So, in a small way I was relieved that the dead were not familiar. But I realized that these firefighters are a tightly knit brotherhood. They share each other’s pride and suffering. Their training keeps them safe 99% of the time. That sliver of chance is a reality with which they all live and sometimes die.

The Yarnell fire was fierce and fast moving. It burned through neighborhoods in the small town. The Granite Mountain Hotshot crew was caught when the wind split the fire, which surrounded them. There was no escape. They died doing what they all loved to do.

My interest in and regard for these brave men led me to read each obituary, and I found myself quietly crying as each one portrayed a man who was loved and respected for all kinds of positive qualities: humor, kindness and love of life being most evident. I have put them in a special corner of my memory.

A Near Death Experience

By Cassina Farley

Ah, monsoon season. I love the rain. I like the green hillsides and croaking frogs—the storms that break out in the middle of the night with heavy rain, gale-force winds and lightning, not so much.

The last couple of storms were doozies. The electricity went out and all we could do was creep around with a flashlight in the dark. Which leads me to a funny story. A few nights ago, prior to one of our nasty nighttime storms, I was awakened by flashes of lightning and the furious clanging of my wind chimes. Zach was sound asleep.

It seemed to me he would sleep right through this one. Not wanting to spend another sleepless night, I opted to use my earplugs. I figured if I can’t hear the storm it can’t hurt me, right? So with that I climbed back in bed, and as I had planned, went right back to sleep.

Well, as promised, the storm hit and nearly blew us off our foundation. Earplugs in place, I was sleeping right through it. On the other hand, Zach woke up and began to pace. I guess he assumed that I would wake up and when I didn’t, he decided to check on me.

Since I was wearing earplugs I was out like a light, so I didn’t hear the storm, let alone him standing over me assessing my condition. When I did wake up, it was because Zach was holding his finger under my nose checking to see if I was breathing. After I figured out what he was doing, I assured him I was alive, removed my earplugs and sat up wide awake through the rest of the storm, which was really loud and filled with light and rain.

Zach was right—only a dead person could sleep through a storm like that.
A Little Soap Box Outrage

By Binx Selby

“Those who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

(Written by Ben Franklin, sometime shortly before February 17, 1775)

After the terrible events of September 11, 2001, I met with my regular group of morning coffee buddies. One was United Airlines’ most senior pilot, a man who spent about half his time flying and half involved with United’s safety and training programs.

Like everyone else that day, we were in a state of shock. “As a pilot, what do you think we should do to prevent this from happening again?” He answered, “I’ve been thinking about that and know exactly what we should do. Put a secure door on the cockpit so no one can get in. Don’t do anything else. Then there would be no way to hijack a plane. There would be just the risks of flying that we have always lived with, like weather, pilot error, mechanical failure, or a planted bomb. But for God’s sake, don’t overreact and try to make flying 100% safe or flying will be unbearable and whoever did this will have won.” A year later he said, “Well, we have done a good job of shooting ourselves in the foot.”

I think we did a lot more than shoot ourselves in the foot.

1. We went to war with two countries. One might have been justified. For the other, the US Government trumped up false intelligence that was used to justify a war to save face around Desert Storm. What did it cost us? We abandoned all of our principles. We used torture, contrary to the Geneva Convention and basic human rights, and we used out-of-country prisons so we wouldn’t need to follow due process. We kept people as long as we wanted without charging them or giving them a fair trial, and we chalked up huge losses of men and women, ours and foreign, in death and injury.

2. The Patriot Act is a draconian joke. It is a law that allows the government to do many of the things our original Patriots fought to eliminate. The Patriot Act abridges the very limits on government that the Founding Fathers wanted for America to be the land of the free.

3. Drones and the concept that, without due process, the President can take out anybody he feels is a threat are very disturbing.

4. How can there be any question as to whether Edward Snowden is a hero or a traitor? At great personal risk, he exposed secret unconstitutional activities of our elected officials who took an oath to uphold the US Constitution. That makes him a true Patriot. This “wire tapping” e-mail monitoring is unconstitutional, and those doing it should be put in jail. We would probably need a special election to fill all the vacancies and create more jail space.

I have always been proud of America and am amazed at the miracle of its formation and the incredible insight and foresight of our Founding Fathers, and the Scottish enlightenment that helped pave the way. I have felt safe in the cradle of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and I have always been an optimist.

But that is changing if I can’t be sure my e-mails aren’t read and my phone calls aren’t listened to and if I’m afraid to say what I want to say—that I don’t trust that politician, that I’m going to vote for that other guy, that I have an unpopular view like “I think Snowden is a hero and that the President is the traitor.”

For the President of the United States to disregard and marginalize protections that have made this the great country that it has been—is that treason? He risks the integrity of the whole country and compromises our structure. He is the constitutional guardian and in a position of trust.

We should be outraged and demand that all of this be stopped, take the risk of trusting our fellow citizens, and tell the President to behave himself. If we stand by and don’t exercise our democratic rights and say we have to allow this loss of liberty to protect us from this risk, then maybe we are becoming a people who deserve neither liberty nor security.
Here comes the summer heat again. We open all the windows every night, then close them when we get up. This works quite well. I haven’t yet been on the roof to flush the cooler or replace its pads. Even more delinquently, I haven’t yet installed our window screens, so while the house is cooling off each night, we’re making lots of new six-legged friends. In other words, the house is full of bugs, and in the morning, in the sink, I'll sometimes even find a roach or two. (I'm gonna puke.) Although I wake up earlier than she, I leave the cockroach killing to my wife, who is, by nature, primitive. She grabs them little buggers by the butt, and, howling like a cuspidor, dispatches them ferociously, the same way Jody Arias stubs out a cigarette.

The ants are our most numerous new friends. They've found a way to come in underneath the sliding door. I leave the vacuum cleaner there and chase them all around the house with my long, throbbing tube. These particular ants seem more conscious than most: when they perceive the high-pitched whine as I descend on them, they freak, like foot soldiers hearing an enemy aircraft approach. Alas, for them there's no escape. They'll soon repose eternally in dust, beside the dried-out bodies of their kin. You have to wonder what it's like for them, sucked up the whining silver tube of Death.

A month ago or so an Oklahoma "monster twister" killed a couple dozen people living in its path. We got to hear the stories of the people who survived as they stood sobbing in the ruins of what were their homes. All that remained was shattered, worthless trash. I don't know about you, but to me tornadoes seem like Evil personified. Perhaps anything truly terrifying seems evil. Only problem is—gee whiz—I don't believe in Evil. People who prate about Satan make my horns itch. I'd like to strangle their ignorant, superstitious asses right on the spot. A friend of mine and I (he's a retired engineer) are working on a vacuum-cleaner truck—a giant hose and mammoth tank—with which to transport fundamentalists. We presume they'll be easy to capture, because they'll assume it's The Rapture.

Some philosophers reject the notion of two distinct forces, Good and Evil. They define Evil, instead, simply as "An absence of Good." I'm cool with that and hope they're right. I'm O.K., too, with those who propose two equal opposing forces. But those who claim that there are two forces and then smugly assert that "The Good always wins!", those particular folks get my goat. What evidence is there to say that goodness always wins? Have you not read or watched the news since 1922? The outside world—as you well know—is crooked and corrupt. It is within ourselves that Good and kindness always win. The other stuff within us is derived from fear and greed.

I'd like to be stoical about destructive forces, yet am unnerved by current astrophysical research, which indicates that Black Holes and "Dark Matter" account for 97% of the known universe and are thus the most powerful forces of all. Black Holes are mind-blowingly, pants-wettingly consumptive. They can swallow solar systems whole, bones and all! Compared to puny twistes only half a mile wide, they are to tornadoes as tornados are to my scrawny Hoover. Our minds are not equipped to process this. It don't compute.

Good and evil are two sides of the same coin, like love and marriage. The helix of your DNA and vortex in your toilet bowl are cousins, don't you see? In that sense you have sung "Hosanna," every time you pee. (Or when you flush!) As should be clear, you cannot have one pole without the other, the way you cannot have a dad if you don't have a mother!
In the final hours of the Arizona Legislature's 2013 session, the Republican members passed and Governor Brewer signed into law HB 2305, a sweeping election "reform" bill that gives almost everyone in the state a reason to be angry. Petitions are being circulated this month to demand that these changes be put to a public vote. Here are some reasons why all of us should sign on.

Dissenting voices will be suppressed by new rules requiring EVERY candidate to get the same number of nominating petition signatures regardless of party registration in their district. If you are a Democrat or Republican in a district in which your party is in the minority, it will be harder to get on the ballot. If you are a Libertarian or a Green Party candidate it will be practically impossible. Small party candidates would need thousands more signatures than in the past and it would be virtually impossible for their voices to be heard.

A second provision makes it a crime for any organization to direct its volunteers to collect early ballots from any voter. No longer will Democrats, Republicans, or for that matter, an independent organization like the Pima Council on Aging be allowed to collect ballots from nursing home residents. Those who are on the vote by mail permanent early voter list (PEVL) but choose to vote at the polls or choose not to vote over a two year period may be removed from the PEVL at the discretion of the County Recorder. Based on current voting statistics up to 75% of the voters likely to be purged from the PEVL in Patagonia's Legislative District 2 will be Hispanic. The law states that the county recorders should attempt to notify voters of impending removal from the PEVL, but the voters must take written action to be reinstated on the list.

Finally, the new law makes it much easier to challenge citizen referendums by requiring that petitions adhere to the "letter of the law" rather than the former "intent of the law" standard with respect to a myriad of technical details including exact margins and the placement of staples on the petitions. No longer will you be able to photocopy a few blank petitions when you run into an enthusiastic crowd and you are out of forms. No longer will a husband be allowed to fill in an address for a wife who can barely complete her signature because of a tremor. Even replacement of a faulty staple invalidates every signature on a page.

Our democracy thrives on the active participation of its citizens. Measures such as vote by mail promote citizen participation. They should be supported—not restricted. Third party candidates bring different views that deserve to be heard and debated. They have no voice under this new law. Citizens have the right and the responsibility to overturn bad laws passed by the legislature. Our legislature is making this increasingly difficult to do. Tell our legislators that we will not be silenced. A petition to force a public vote to repeal this suppressive law will be available to sign at the Grijalva Meet and Greet, August 7, from 4 to 6 PM at Patagonia Town Hall.

The Theory of Economics

Economics, despite much benediction, is science, 'cept without prediction. Today I thought I'd do a study to see what makes these waters muddy. So read this verse and when you're through please submit some peer review.

If you take the time to reflect upon it econ's biology under the bonnet, so all the theory's required to do is predict side effects of a DNA stew, and every man's unwitting duel to keep his genes atop the pool. If your genes are really good you can do things that others would find dangerous and really scary so girls like men who are contrary. And hence we have the coffin nails, why economics always fails. What makes gals desire and econs curse is men who hear theories and do the reverse.

—Tom Ballard
Taxpayers Foot The Bill For Local Community College

By Matt Parrelli

The Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College (SCCPCC) Board has voted unanimously to significantly raise your property taxes. The board met April 23 at the Old Court House in Nogales. Prior to this decision, the college’s claim on your property tax was .000699% of your “full cash,” “assessed” property value (third column in the “ASSESSMENT” box at top of your blue and white County tax bill). As a result of the board’s decision you will now be charged .0042% of that value—a 601% increase! The college’s budget for 2013 was $352,000. The projected budget for 2014 is $1.7 million—a 370% increase. The college plans to levy 2014 property taxes for $1.4 million of that total. The bulk of the whopping increase is to cover the cost of leasing and outfitting a classroom facility in Nogales. Personnel costs are projected to grow from $611,000 to $940,000—a 54% increase.

At the meeting on April 23 the board was asked if it had considered a bond issue to fund the needed capital improvements. Board members did not have the answer at hand and promised to provide it at the May 9 meeting. The May board meeting came and went, and still no answer. Fact is, yes, according to Arizona law, a provisional community college can issue bonds.

The question is, why was it not considered? Further, I did a little digging on the impact that a ¼ cent increase in county sales tax would provide on income for the college. Well, guess what? In 2012 the county garnered $2,847,980.99 from its ½ cent sales tax. If the county sales tax were to be increased by ¼ cent, the yield would be $1,423,990.40—an almost exactly what the college needs from its current property tax levy. Was that approach even considered? There are a lot of tax delinquent real estate properties in this county. That situation just means that good citizens are being gouged to take up the slack.

Folks, when the creation of the college appeared on the ballot in 2010 we were all warned that the cost of this venture was going to go nowhere but up—and that is the track it is on. I would be the last to make it difficult for youngsters—or oldsters for that matter—to better themselves through continuing education. The issue here is whether the right approach is being taken. I think not.

What’s the message here? The message is, the current property tax approach to funding the SCCPCC is wrong headed. While levies may dip in 2015, you know they will ramp up from there as course offerings are increased and additional staff hired. Simply put—we, the voters, need to rethink this whole thing.

EL OTRO LADO

By Marty Lahiff

The Strider

I passed a man on the highway Sunday night as the sun set behind the lower Santa Rita peaks. He was striding toward the south in dark clothes and swinging empty hands without any sign of a backpack. He was far from anywhere and no man belonged out there alone without wheels that day even if his jaunty walk looked like he knew where he was going, and wanted to get there fast. I was going near 60 and saw him as the car crested one of the nameless humps of hills that bring green relief, still at sunset, from the depths of lower Pima County, where it burned a flameless 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

I thought too late to stop and ask if he needed any help, maybe because I didn’t see him until he was suddenly there around the climbing curve and walking in the cut of highway that gave him the last of needed evening shade. And then, too far past him to stop without using hard brakes, I thought to leave at least the car’s plastic bag of water that he might, as well, have some use for. I didn’t do that, but thought next time it would be a good idea.

The almost happy way he walked, I thought, was like he’d lain somewhere in the desert’s bit of shade throughout the scorching day, rising with the sinking sun and heading out wherever he was going. My own trip home was otherwise uneventful, except for thinking on how my government pension might be affected if I’d stopped to help the man and got caught, or if he’d pulled a knife and left me there. Maybe he needed a ride that bad.

Maybe he was just a Mexican who didn’t belong here. Maybe he was out on the road looking for a ride and didn’t care who took him, or where. But he did it with a spring in his stride.

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Patagonia Declares
On July 4, the crowd that lined the streets was once again treated to a Patagonia-style parade, in which half the town gathered to watch the other half put on their red, white and blue and fall in step behind the fire trucks. Cars, horse and riders, wagons, vigilantes, trucks, ATVs and a few goats slowly rolled by, to the sound of sirens and the pulsing beat of techoband La Rezzia. A water theme prevailed, and bazooka water guns were the favored delivery system. As Lars Marshal says, “It’s a very interactive parade.”
Thank you Lars, and all the volunteers—and thanks to the Fire Department for another great fireworks finale!
The Spirit of Dogie Long by J.P.S. Brown

Local author J.P.S. Brown has published 14 books and won two lifetime achievement awards for his true-to-life novels of the Southwest. He has achieved an almost cult status among authors and fans for his gritty stories about cowboys and the hard ranching life. His prose is often compared to Hemingway for its clarity, and he is likened to McMurtry and McCarthy for the realism of his colorful characters. Drawing from a life filled with adventure on both sides of the border (he was born in Nogales), Brown's novels shine with a love for the land, the hard-won customs, and the codes of "the cowboy way."

The Spirit of Dogie Long is cast as a memoir, told in the straightforward vernacular of a young orphan boy (hence the name "Dogie"), raised by a crew of taciturn cowboys from the ABC Cattle Company. Found as an infant barely a week old (his parents drowned in a flash flood), Dogie is cared for by men who are stern but always fair, served but kindly. He learns the strict rules that govern cowboy life, and, more important, he absorbs the values that separate right from wrong, good from bad. Far beyond his years, he learns to pull his own weight, becoming an excellent horseman and crew member. And, although his nomadic life is short on overt affection, he feels comfortable and safe in the company of his "pards," and would not dream of any other existence.

But Dogie's life is split in two when a catastrophic event rips him from his friends and propels him into an entirely new band of folk, the Bravo family. For the first time he is among the company of women as well as men, and during the next months he finds the beliefs and ethics instilled in him by the ABC crew sorely challenged. Life with the Bravos is much more complex, and Dogie's mettle is continually tested as he picks his way among what is good and bad in the new life he is leading. A series of escalating adventures build up to a final confrontation in which Dogie's bravery is challenged almost beyond belief. The book closes with a completely unexpected ending, and the spirit of Dogie Long settles into our hearts for a long, long time.

Brown's novel is a primer on cowboy life, cowboy vocabulary, and cowboy values and superstitions. The first part of the book is about Dogie becoming himself; the second part is about Dogie's character being challenged and the obstacles he encounters as he tries to survive in difficult surroundings without losing his integrity. As Dogie discovers who he is, we see things through his eyes, feel what he is feeling. His love of animals and the vast, changing landscapes around him are expressed in language that is spare but poetic. Much of the book clearly comes from J.P.S. Brown's long life as a cowboy. That and his vivid imagination have created a heartwarming work that can be enjoyed by all readers, young and old. Highly recommended!


Little House on the Prairie
By Rhonda Brew

I lived in the city most of my life until June 23, 1987, when my husband, Dale and I moved from Phoenix to Sonoita. My son Joshua was 10 years old and Johnny was 3 months.

For the first two weeks or so, Dale left me and the boys at the ranch while he went back to Phoenix to finish up a job. I'll never forget that first morning waking up. "I'm in The Little House on the Prairie," I said out loud as I whipped open the curtains to let the sun in. There was a cow staring back at me. I mean its snotty nose was almost touching the window. I screamed. Nobody heard me....

After about a week, someone pulled into the ranch and drove around the house to the corrals in the back. This was the first person I had seen besides Dale’s folks since he left me there. I put my shoes on and went to meet the mystery man.

He was standing on the other side of a cow when I introduced myself. His name was Ron Fish. We had a real nice conversation, and then he pulled his arm out of the cow. He had a plastic glove on that went clear up to his armpit, covered with gunk. "Oh, my God!" I said. "I was just inseminating this cow," he explained. I had never seen anything like it.

"So you were doing that the whole time we were talking?" I asked. "Yes," he said. "Welcome to the country."

After a few days, I started to get bored. I was used to doing things. I figured I needed a hobby, so I read a book on raising chickens. It sounded easy enough. It took about a week, but I gathered up all the makings for a chicken coop. I didn't have a clue where to get the chickens.

One day before Dale got back, I drove to Patagonia to visit with the Hatfields, our first local friends. There were several people at Darrell's when I got there. I was telling them about my plan to raise chickens. They all seemed to think it was a good idea. Then Mark Caine said, "Wait right here. I know where to get you some chickens. I'll be about 45 minutes."

I was so excited. My plan was coming together. Mark showed up just like he said, with several baskets of chickens. We loaded them in the trunk of my ugly green Olds 98 and bungied it closed so they could breathe. When I got to the ranch in Sonoita, I left the trunk open while I built the coop. What an exciting day!

Dale came home from work late in the afternoon. I couldn't wait for him to come in the house. I ran out to his truck in my excitement. "Dale, we have chickens! Hurry up and come see them!" Dale stood there looking at the chickens, scratching his head. "You're not going to get very many eggs," he said.

"Why? Didn't I build it right?" "No," he said. "They're all roosters!"

Thank you, Mark Caine and all those who never even cracked a smile. It was a good joke!
Maria Montessori, born in Italy in 1870 (long before most women studied much of anything), was a doctor and educator. She developed a child-centered approach to learning that is followed today in schools around the world. Her ideas were revolutionary at the time and in many ways still are. Montessori saw independence as the aim of education, and to this end she developed materials and concepts that can be found in true Montessori schools throughout the world.

Because Montessori schools offer small classes and an approach to education that is individualized, collaborative and hands-on, they are usually private and expensive. But The Patagonia Montessori School is a public charter school, which means that it is supported by public funds and there is no tuition for grades K-8. The school in Patagonia has three teachers. Jamie Lattanzio is the primary teacher, Gary Grenier teaches the elementary level, and Jessie Beebe is the middle school teacher as well as the principal. Preschool children are 3-6 years old. The elementary group is 6-10 years old, and the oldest students are 10-14.

The three classrooms are bright and clean, offering a wealth of learning materials. In the primary area, youngsters practice the simple tasks of childhood, tying shoes, putting on aprons, pouring water, buttoning jackets. There is a math corner where everything is based on the number 10 and Montessori-developed materials such as blocks and beads help counting and give a visual sense of simple fractions and geometry. The materials in the room are designed to develop small motor skills, language, geography, and science, as well as music and art. Throughout Montessori learning, children are encouraged to handle and manipulate materials. They are also given plenty of time to work on a project that interests them.

In the elementary classroom, many of the same materials are there again, but with older children they are used in more sophisticated ways. The emphasis in the elementary environment is on collaboration, and children learn from one another. The students work at their own pace. The teacher makes sure they are receiving the fundamentals, but this seems to happen naturally as one project flows into another. Grenier keeps track of how and what is being learned, but there are no grades. From time to time there are tests which, he says, the children enjoy.

And testing is one of the proud achievements of Patagonia’s Montessori School. Because it is a charter school, students must take Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) tests, which measure proficiency in writing, reading, math, and science statewide. According to Principal Beebe, Montessori students score significantly higher than those at other schools in the area.

The older children have their own classroom, which includes a large activity room where other classes also can do art or dance or music. At the middle school level, state curriculum requirements are followed, but the teaching and learning happen much as in the early grades, with older students helping younger ones. Beebe is always there to guide or explain and to chart the learning of each child.

Although the school receives state funding, it is not equivalent to what a public school receives and the budget is tight. There is a small playground, but no gym or school bus route (although there is a big van, which goes on lots of field trips). Volunteers are an invaluable part of the mix.

Beebe says the teachers and the Board would love to see a full roster of students. Right now there are between 25 and 30 children enrolled. Beebe says 45 would be ideal.

The school is planning an open house on Monday, August 5, from 10 AM to noon and from 5 to 7 PM. Families are encouraged to see the Montessori School as a choice for their children’s education.
One of the highlights of my childhood was rushing home after my piano lesson on Saturday mornings to watch *Fury* on TV with my sisters. How I longed to be Joey jumping up on Fury’s bare back, riding into the mountains, sans bridle, free and wild!

Growing up as a horse crazy little girl in a village of two hundred people way up in the northeast, this was the closest I had come to a wild mustang until moving down here to southeast Arizona. Since then I have brushed shoulders with several of these amazing beings brought to the Sonoita fairgrounds for adoption. I drove but afraid of what I might witness, just as going to a Humane Society is not something I am capable of. It’s too horrifying for me to not be able to rescue every homeless creature there. I drove on and kept to my tasks-at-hand.

Then, later that afternoon, one of my friends, whose horses I tend to on a regular basis, among which are several rescued Mustangs, called and asked if I would be interested in accompanying her to take a look at the wild horses up for adoption. I told her I would love to but had been afraid to go there on my own.

So we met there. She was familiar with the process of adoption, having been through it before. We looked at every horse there, from beautiful full-grown mares and geldings to youngsters of one year old and less plus many adorable burros. Once more, I wanted to take every one home, but, luckily for me, I live on a cattle ranch, which, including my mare, is at its limit for equine allowance on the pastureland.

We inquired about the current rules of adoption and learned that the prospective owner must be able to provide a fenced enclosure that is at least six feet high. This was not an option in such a short amount of time, so that limited her choice to one year olds or two young horses that were already halter trained.

Several of her friends were in support of her adopting another Mustang; others were not. This is by no means, a lightly made commitment—any horse-savvy person realizes the costs and dedication that horse ownership involves.

After much study of options available to her, and conferring back and forth on our observations and all the possibilities, she said, “Well, I’m going to allow the universe to decide whether I go ahead with an adoption or not and if so, which horse it should be.” Oops! I’m out of room! I’ll have to fill you in next month on all the details of how the universe’s decision unfolded!

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**Louise Winchester**

*October 7, 1924 - July 3, 2013*

Louise Winchester, a former resident of *Patagonia*, passed away peacefully on July 3, in Tucson.

Louise was born in Gary, Indiana, and received an Associate of Arts degree from Northwestern University in Indiana.

While she was working in Chicago, Louise met Bob Winchester. Louise and Bob lived in the same apartment building. She would hear someone singing in the apartment below and think to herself, “What a great voice!” One day Bob got a letter that was addressed to Louise, delivered by mistake to his mailbox. He took it upstairs to Louise, and they got to know each other.

They were married in 1967, and in 1969 they moved to Washington, D.C., where Louise became personnel director for “Ship Hope,” a program that brings medical aid to people and countries in need. Her husband, Bob, was the financial director for HUD.

Louise and Bob both developed chemical sensitivities resulting from carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of exposure from a gas water heater that had faulty vents. After traveling across the country searching for a safe place to live, they found Patagonia, and in 1981 they made their home there. Louise’s social life and activities outside her home were limited by her sensitivities. Nevertheless, she joined the Santa Cruz Singers for one season. She also loved classical music, enjoyed writing poetry, and was a voracious reader—reading about 5 books per week.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Robert Winchester, and her son, Richard David. She is survived by son Dennis David, granddaughter Korena David, and brother, William Castle.

An outdoor service is planned for the fall, when the weather is cooler.

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**Kevin McDonough**

**Sentenced to Four Years Parole**

*By Donna Reibslager*

On June 18 a sentencing hearing for defendant Kevin O’Donough took place at Nogales Superior Court. McDonough was originally charged with first degree murder in the fatal shooting of Jacob Dodson in 2012. Last April, after the District Attorney received the results of evidence testing, McDonough was offered and accepted a plea bargain for negligent homicide.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Anna Montoya-Paez heard personal testimonials by several of O’Donough’s family members and a close friend, as well as by a family member of the victim. She then pronounced a sentence of four years of parole, and 30 weeks of time to be served, half through community service, and half through weekend incarceration.

The judge told those in attendance that a sentence of parole is, in fact, harder to complete successfully in some ways than incarceration, and acknowledged that this case was one of the most difficult for which she has had to pronounce sentencing.
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Growing up, I knew that I was related to Wild Bill Hickok. My maiden name was Hickok. I probably realized who he was when I saw the movie *The Plainsman*, an idealized film about Wild Bill, starring Gary Cooper.

A relative researched and found that my grandfather was Wild Bill’s second cousin, which made my father a second cousin once removed and me twice removed. Rapscallion or hero—the jury is out on Wild Bill. But it has been fun being his relative.

James Butler Hickok, later known as Wild Bill, was born in Troy Grove, Illinois, in 1837. He left home in his teens and became a scout in the Civil War. He had some gunfights that earned him notoriety as a very quick draw. During that period he became “Wild Bill.” He was a law officer in Hays City and Abilene, Kansas.

A part of his notoriety came from his appearance. A tall, well-proportioned man with long blond hair and piercing blue eyes, he was a dandy in his dress, favoring fancy frock coats and wide-brimmed western hats. He was said to have a large nose, which is a familiar characteristic in the Hickok family.

Calamity Jane claimed to have been a lady friend and even a wife of Wild Bill, but that claim has been discounted. She was known for caring for the sick in the mining town of Deadwood, South Dakota, where both she and Wild Bill ended up.

With fading eyesight, Wild Bill’s deadly accuracy with a gun was gone, and he came to Deadwood in search of gold and gambling, always his principal preoccupation.

He always sat with his back to the wall when playing cards, but on the day of August 2, 1876, the only available chair at the card table had his back facing the door. A man named Jack McCall, who apparently had a score to settle, shot Wild Bill through the head and killed him. The hand Wild Bill was holding was aces and eights, which has been known since as the “Dead Man’s Hand.” My nephew in Texas has aces and eights as his brand.

Wild Bill is buried in the Mount Moriah Cemetery in Deadwood. Calamity Jane had requested to be buried next to him, and her grave is near his. In part his tombstone reads. “Pard, we will meet again in the happy hunting ground to part no more.”

RIP, Cousin Wild Bill!!

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**Cousin Wild Bill**

**Second Cousin to a Legend**

By Posie Piper

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**DEPUTY RON DAVIS TALKS ABOUT**

**Back to School**

With July almost over and the monsoons here, it is not too early to start thinking about school. It’s just around the corner. Getting children safely to and from school is a concern for all of us. Some kids ride the bus, some drive, some ride bicycles and others walk to school. With that in mind, there are a few things that all of us need to think about as school routine begins.

**School buses** that are stopped should be given plenty of time and space to pick up and drop off students. Remember, when their lights are flashing motorists have to stop. Please allow yourselves plenty of time on your daily trips to account for school bus routes.

The **students who are driving** to and from school should drive responsibly. This includes driving a well-maintained vehicle with copies of current registration and insurance on hand. Don’t forget your driver’s license. All-terrain vehicles and motorcycles have special requirements that drivers should be aware of.

**Speed** is always a concern for those on the road. The speed limit is 5 MPH on school grounds. Those who drive on regional roads know that the speed limit varies. Pay attention and allow yourself plenty of time to get to school or work on time.

**Bike riders**, ensure that your bicycles are well maintained and have the appropriate lights and reflectors so that you can easily be seen by motorists. Kids should always wear helmets while riding their bicycles.

If you walk to school, cross at designated crosswalks whenever possible. Wear clothing that will make you easy to see.

Getting students to and from school safely is everyone’s responsibility. Enjoy the remainder of the summer and let’s make this a safe school year.
Strolling along a small arroyo in a light rain recently, I experienced my yearly monsoon “fig beetle fakeout.” These comely insects flash iridescent green in their hard outer wing coverings, rendering them a welcome and attractive sight. It was the buzz of their inner flight wings, however, that got my attention. The sound was just like that of a gargantuan tarantula hawk, those giant wasps that purportedly can sting the $%^& out of you. I deftly ducked the would-be assassin. Within seconds I realized the folly of my knee-jerk identification, my naturalist skills superseded by an understandable instinct for self-preservation. Welcome to monsoon season, Vince!

This is by far my favorite time of the year in our Sky Islands region. The sometimes torrential and always welcome rains of summer bring countless changes to our otherwise sere southeastern sector.

July harbors many attractions. You may see your first tarantula or rattler, toads and frogs breed, and tiny ants fly. Truly, though, the amazing transformations wrought by monsoon moisture are best experienced in August. By then las aguas have had ample time to work their collective magic, and in the relative blink of an eye it starts to feel subtropical.

Instead of California poppies we have summer poppies. Never mind that the latter are actually placed in the Caltrop Family and thus are more closely related to Creosote Bush. Their unabashed orange petals complement the verdancy of August. Creeping up seemingly every mesquite and cat claw acacia in our parts are a fine array of morning glory species in pink, red, blue, violet, candy stripes and white. Did I miss any? Regardless, all are distinctly tubular and attract moths, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

High on the list of dramatic appearances are our nectar-feeding bats: Mexican long-tongued and lesser long-nosed bats. Rather than echo-locating like most bats, they apparently use scent to locate their nectar and occasional insect meals. Botteri’s and Cassin’s Sparrows are breeding, their artful songs spurred by the first serious rains. Botteri’s are a bit of a Sky Islands specialty, found only in this corner of the U.S.

A host of diverse and invertebrates love it here in August. Click beetles, army ants, robber flies, an armada of grasshoppers, nozzle-headed termites, giant mesquite bugs, water scorpions...the list goes on. Throw in a few double rainbows and some serious bird migration and you may begin to understand why I think August is our best kept secret.

Many people bug out to latitudes where they think it will be “nicer.” “Adios,” I say. You’re not a real Arizonan unless you live here in all seasons. Too hot, too dry, too humid? No. Just right. In fact—no offense to any of us intended—fewer sightings of homosapiens are yet another reason to embrace monsoon season!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.
Tonto speaks

For me, no more following that beat-up trail, eating Silver’s cloud of dust, trying to decipher what the L.R.’s saying. Hard enough to understand the white guy without his mask but when he’s muffled up, darn near impossible. Still I admit, it was a great ride while it lasted.

We did some serious good in our time. Rescued a flock of distressed ladies, put plenty sorry scoundrels in cages where they belonged, had our share of excitement, and along the way we scattered beaucoup silver bullets. Never failed to confuse the muddle-headed townsfolk. “Who was that masked man?” Wouldn’t you think they’d have figured it out?

But that was then. Hi-Yo-Silver threw his last shoe at a Wild West show in Searchlight, Nevada, the underbelly of Las Vegas, on Feb. 19, 2003. The L.R. scraped up just enough cash to pay off me and Scout. We parted finally outside the Circle K on Sunday morning, 3 a.m. I watched him go. I tell you on my honor, Kemosabe, he never slowed down.

If you’re wondering, old Tonto’s ok. Me and Scout, we caught a ride back to the reservation we started from outside Detroit. Scout got a gig in a petting zoo and me, I’m calling Keno numbers in the smartest casino in southern Michigan. No more spitting dust; no more sitting on rocks chewing stew from a mess kit, smoke in my face; no sleeping under a saddle blanket, one eye open checking for critters. Not much of that I miss any more.

I have my scrapbook, old photos, clippings about the L.R. and me, wrong in some details but all in all, we had our fifteen minutes of fun. Some things still rankle though. I wake up wondering who’s watching his backside, who makes sure the fire is really out when he breaks camp, who walks old Silver at the end of the day so he won’t stiffen up and go lame. Old habits are hard to break. Do you suppose he ever looks back to see if I’m there?

— Janet Winans

Attention All Artists in Santa Cruz County

This year’s County Fair will include a special art contest to go along with the Fair’s theme, “Coming Together.” Each community in our county has its own special flavors, culture and occupations. The exhibit, titled “Portraits of Santa Cruz County,” will reflect the artist’s idea of our county and what makes it unique.

Images can be landscapes, portraits, or other images of life that personify our county to you. They may be created in pencil, oil, watercolor, or mixed media. The work must be 8”x10” and must be matted or framed and ready to hang. Prizes will be awarded for work that best captures the theme of the exhibit.

For more information and the drop off location, please contact: Jennifer Rinaldi at (480) 215-3845, or at naughtypony2go@gmail.com

Bring Your Talent to The Fair

If you’ve got talent, Santa Cruz County Fair organizers would love to showcase you this year in the first annual talent show and competition. with awards in many categories. Singers, dancers, musicians and variety acts of all ages from throughout Santa Cruz County and surrounding communities are invited.

All you have to do is audition by phone, video, in person or by teacher recommendation.

Suzanne Klasen will be available to offer mentoring and music editing. If you are a singer in need of a backing track, Suzanne also has an extensive collection of Karaoke tracks from which you may want to pick your song. Acts must be live and are limited to three minutes.

The show will take place from 3:30pm to 5:30 pm on Saturday, Sept. 21. If you are working at the fair, organizers will make every effort to accommodate your schedule.

All acts must be appropriate for a family audience. Microphones and a keyboard will be available. Acts will be judged on overall quality and showmanship. There will be lots of awards in various categories and age groups. For complete information and details please contact Suzanne Klasen at 520-310-0396, or by e-mail suzanne@klasen.us.
Land of the Free
Since 1814, America has been known as the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” But there is a city that has become the “land of the fearful and the home of the cowardly.” There is an organization that has become “the land of the fear-mongers and the home of the bullies”: Washington, D.C., and the NRA.
Those senators and representatives who have sold their souls to the NRA for the sake of funding a reelection campaign should be compelled to defend the indefensible position that allows felons, mental incompetents, and spousal abusers, among others, to obtain certain firearms that have no place in a civilized society.
Lest any person believe that I advocate the dismantling of the Second Amendment, which is a human invention, and not, as some have claimed, “a God-given right,” I say I do not. But this does not mean that it is cast in stone and should never be interpreted to reflect the dramatic changes that have taken place in America since 1791. Even the First Amendment has been abridged by our government. The time has come to look realistically at what “the right to keep and bear arms” means today, and how it must function in modern society.
The Supreme Court has ruled many times on the Second Amendment. In District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), the Supreme Court ruled that “the right is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.”
I urge our elected officials to look into the eyes of those who have lost loved ones due to rampant gun violence. Who among you wants to tell your constituents that you had the opportunity to help make their lives safer, but you cared more about your “good grade” from the NRA than you cared about their safety?
Be not the fearful and the cowardly, but be the free and the brave.
— Paul Spaesl

A Circle of Peace
Dear friends, We must sing side by side. I want a Circle of Peace. Can’t we all get along?
Let’s take all the energy of fighting each other and work together for the good of our children. I do believe everyone is wanting that. Let’s sit down together and listen and wonder, and explore what is possible.
Let us be together the village that it takes to raise a child. The focus of our school—what is the best we can do for our children? The focus of our village—how can we make this the safe, loving, nurturing environment that allows each of us to be the best we can be. So many talents and skills. How can we tap into so many resources? How can we recognize and appreciate so many gifts? Stars in my eyes.
— Bernice Pomeroy

Christopher Reindl, son of Bernardine and James Reindl of Sonoita, completed his studies at Northern Arizona University on May 10.
Christopher attended Cienega High School, graduating in 2008 as an Honors Student. AT NAU he majored in Business Administration, finishing his Bachelor of Science Degree with an emphasis in Business Marketing and a Certificate in Promotions.
## Events

### Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo Fundraiser
- August 8: Dinner, dance & auction; Doors & bar open at 5PM; steak fry dinner at 6PM; $20/person; Pioneer Hall, Sonoita Fairgrounds

### Congressman Grijalva
- August 7 at Patagonia Town Hall (see info on next page)

### Waffle Breakfast
- Saturday, August 10 at 9 AM; gospel music, puzzles, fellowship. Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3rd and Duquesne, Patagonia.

### Summer Sunday Social & Dance

### Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo
- August 31 to September 2 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds; Pre-rodeo at 12:30PM, followed by Open Rodeo; $10/adults, $5/kids ages 5-12; 4 & under free

### 3:10 to Yuma
- Thursday, Aug. 15 at 7PM at The Loft Cinema in Tucson; Pre-movie talk with Peter Ford, son of the legendary actor Glenn Ford and actress Eleanor Powell. Peter’s wife, Lynda, an actor and stuntwoman, will also be a guest speaker. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door. (888) 364-2819

## Special Interests

### Zumba Fitness with Edda
- Elgin Community Club (next to the Village of Elgin Winery), Fridays 9-10AM. Prepay monthly $7.50/class, Walk-ins $10.00. 520-236-2451

### Play Bridge
- Patagonia Comm. Center, Mondays & Thursdays at 1PM.

### First Thursday Poets
- Mariposa Books & More, Stage Stop Hotel, Patagonia; will resume meeting in September.

### BINGO
- at St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6PM; 455-5681

### Crossroads Quilters
- Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9AM; Donna Lee 455-9340

### Open Tennis
- PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4PM, Sat. at 8:30AM, except during school matches. contact Tod Bowden 394-2973

### Bikram Yoga
- Patagonia; for information call 520-604-7283

### Sonoita Tergar Meditation Practice Group
- Sessions held 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at a private home. Free. Information: Jonelle 455-9222, jonelle@tergar.org,

### Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club
- Share info on all kinds of gardening. For meeting info or newsletter contact clarebonelli@gmail.com

### Used Books
- Patagonia Library; good selection at great prices. Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM, Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM

### Singing Group forming
- see info on next page

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### News and Notes

**Community Services**

- **Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service**: Available 1st & 3rd Thursday to Sierra Vista, 2nd & 4th to Nogales, as requested. 394-2494

- **Patagonia Food Bank**: 3rd Ave. at Smelter; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9AM-11AM

- **Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop**: Fridays 10AM-2PM, Sat. 10AM-Noon.

- **Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop**: Our Lady of the Angels Mission Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Open Thurs-Sat 10AM to 2PM. Donations accepted during business hours info: 455-5262

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**Send your event information to prtevents@gmail.com. Include time, date location, and contact info. Next deadline: August 20**
Looking for Someone: We met at the Bisbee coffee shop & you were using an Apple laptop & said you were from Patagonia & went there sometimes on Fridays. Have looked but haven't seen you again. Hope you will contact me and say Hi!! GUY FROM DOUGLAS drguyhuston@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Boutique Sales Asst. ~ Global Arts Gallery & Lillian’s Closet; Experience and Talents: Retail sales exp., Computer & internet skills; Word processing, QB POS software, Arts background. Ability to self-motivate, multi-task, manage time and establish priorities. Ability to see both ‘the forest and the trees’; Salary: Hourly, commensurate with experience. Generous merchandise discounts. Please email your resume to: Adrienne@globalartsgallery.com

Congressman Grijalva Comes to Patagonia

Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva and Patagonia community leaders will be available to meet with the public at a Meet and Greet to be held on August 7 from 4 to 6PM at the Patagonia Town Hall.

Adventist Church Opens

The Seventh Day Adventist Church for Bible Study at the corner of Third and Duquesne Avenues has reopened. To celebrate and honor the dream of Dr. Delmar Mock, they held a Worship and Gospel Music Fellowship on Saturday, June 29.

Dr. Mock came to Patagonia in 1940, married, and helped start the church. He was medical provider to the community and served as mayor, firefighter, medic, and pastor. Dr. Mock passed away in 2010, but his wife, Cleo, celebrated her 97th birthday on July 16. It is said that Mrs. Mock hand dug the foundation for the church.

The church plans to have gospel music and singing on Friday nights from 7-8:30 pm. Bible study will be held on Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 am and the worship service takes place on Saturdays from 10:30-11:30 am. The community is invited to attend.

If You Like to Sing

A new singing group is forming. Our mission is for everyone who likes to sing to get together and have fun singing. We are multi-generational, made up of students, locals, and out-of-town folks. We’re planning a musical this fall and other music both frivolous and serious. We plan to meet once a week, and have a great director who has offered to lead us. If interested contact Binx at 303-809-1016.
www.LaFronteraAZ.com

Homes & Land, Ranches & Commercial Properties in Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Lake Patagonia, Tubac & the extended environs of Santa Cruz County

**10 FRAZIER DRIVE, SONOITA 85637**

1,361sf, 2Be/2Ba contemporary cottage in the richly wooded & rolling Papago Springs foothills. 3min. from Sonoita’s crossroads hub of activity. On 1.52ac, you’ll enjoy breathtaking, unobstructed views of Mt. Wrightson & the Santa Rita’s. Built by Empire Homes, the atmosphere is bright, airy & aesthetically engaging. Vaulted ceilings; good floorplan; excellent neighbors.

TAR/MLS #21122918  $194,500

**90 CASAS ARROYO ROAD, SONOITA 85637**

Nestled into Casas Arroyo’s richly wooded rolling hills - the serenity is breathtaking. C. 1976, this chic 1,907sf, 2Be/2Ba split-level is a Mex Modern burnt adobe w/high ceilings & open floorplan. Sophisticated & loft-like, features include a covered deck w/dramatic views & graceful circular drive. An incomparable setting directly adjacent to Tunnel Springs!

TAR/MLS #21306534  $242,250

**265 W NORTH AVENUE, PATAGONIA 85624**

Festive 1,265sf 2Be/2Ba/2CP SW cottage of burnt adobe c. 1984, in a wooded setting w/in walking distance of the heart of Patagonia. Saltillo tile floors; wood-burning FP; Mex tile features; hardwood cabinets, doors & trim; tile roof; double-pane windows w/sun filter on west side; walled garden CtYd w/cvd porch & plenty of room for a veggie garden, hammock & pets.

TAR/MLS #21209557  $164,500

**250 LOWER ELGIN ROAD, ELGIN 85611**

Rock-solid, builder-built home, built for himself to last forever. A 2,648sf 3Be/4Ba/2G sitting high on a gently rolling Sac hillside meadow w/spectacular 360 mtn views. 2 o/s Master suites; PAso w/LA Spa tub & built-in BBQ; fully fenced & cross-fenced; vaulted ceilings; ceiling fans & skylights; wood-burning FP; huge family Kitchen; mature trees; vineyard views!

TAR/MLS #21217121  $349,500

GARY RETHERFORD, 520-604-0897
Designated Broker, Owner, REALTOR®

KATHLEEN JAMES, 520-604-6762
Owner, REALTOR®

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