Residents Resist Courthouse Closing

By Marion Vendituoli

Anger and frustration were evident at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting February 21, as nearly 30 people stood up to speak against the proposed closing of the Sonoita Courthouse.

Santa Cruz County Manager Jennifer St. John had proposed that the county close Justice Precinct 2 (JP2), and the Sonoita Courthouse, late last year, as a cost-saving measure. JP2 Judge Keith Barth was notified of the proposal at the end of January. This measure was on the agenda for a vote at the February 21 Board of Supervisors meeting but was tabled until March 21. A study session has been scheduled for March 20.

St. John estimates that the county would save approximately $200,000 a year in salaries. Four full-time positions, Judge Keith Barth, Constable Art Hinker and two clerks, would be lost if the court were closed. She believes that the caseload in Sonoita could be absorbed by JP1, based in Nogales. According to her data, the Sonoita Court averages 15 cases per week, as compared to JP1 which sees an average of 193 cases per week. St. John believes that these savings are necessary because of the county’s budget deficit, which is further challenged by the rising costs to the county for employee retirement funds.

“The repercussions of not having a balanced budget means that the County uses its savings to make up the short fall of revenues over expenditures,” St. John said. “If the budget isn’t balanced before the savings are depleted or if another financial crisis occurs, the County could be in a situation where we would need to make drastic cuts.”

As soon as this proposal was made public, Sonoita residents began to protest the closing. On February 13, more than 150 people attended a contentious meeting at the Sonoita Fairgrounds to discuss this issue with District 3 supervisor Bruce Bracker and St. John.

Several speakers lined up to describe Judge Barth’s service to the community. One woman told the story of her daughter “who was on her way to getting in trouble.” “I credit Judge Barth for turning her around,” she said. Gary Soliere, of Sonoita, said, “This community is fortunate to have a man of this caliber.”

Tempers flared at times. Bracker referred several times to an ad hoc committee of residents that had reviewed the proposal. It was pointed out, however, by several audience members that the new courthouse in Nogales is not an option for Sonoita residents, which is why they fought the proposal so hard.

Sonoita and Elgin residents listen to comments protesting the closing of the Sonoita Courthouse at a meeting held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds February 13.

See COURTHOUSE/ Page 4

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Community Mourns the Passing of Fred Sang

Grayce Arnold left her Mark on Town

Pub Quiz Night Benefits Library
**PRT BOARD RESPONDS TO SURVEY RESULTS**

By Lynn Davison

The February PRT published summary results of our community survey and provided links to the entire data set. We truly thank the people who took time to complete the survey. Now… what will the Board do with the results? Here is what we have decided so far:

**Regarding who completed the survey:**

\- About 12% of the households in our region responded to the survey. Two-thirds were women and 90% were over 40. The geographic spread was 53% from Patagonia, 29% from Sonora and Elgin, 18% from outside our region. These demographics offer some opportunities.

**Actions:**

\- Increase under 40 readership by expanding content and calendar relevant to young adults and families and by significantly improving our online presence.

\- Continue the growth in readership in the Sonora, Elgin, and Canelo communities by maintaining balance in content between the communities served by the paper, striving for more balance in progressive and conservative view points, and by improving the community calendar range and availability.

**Regarding why people read the paper and what they like:**

\- Of the 282 responses, most people like the paper, read it regularly, and read it thoroughly. This is good news for us and for our advertisers. When asked what features they liked the most, the top four responses were regional news, local history, local government/public agency stories, and calendar of events. These were closely followed by monthly columns, letters to the editor, and art/photographs/drawings/poetry.

**Actions:**

\- The Editorial Board will strive to represent suggestions from the survey in future issues. We want more news stories, more opinion pieces from a variety of perspectives, and more articles of interest those who have lived in our communities for multiple generations. To do so, we must recruit more people willing to write news articles, opinion pieces, and feature stories. We need and welcome more writers.

\- We also welcome more contributions of photographs, drawings, and poetry. The PRT will also create an online gallery for local photographs by local photographers and print one photo from those submitted each month in the paper itself. We will also begin an artist of the month feature...look for it in this issue!

**Regarding why people don’t read the paper:**

Because the paper itself was the major means of distributing the survey, we had a much smaller sample of respondents, only 12, who said they did not read the paper. Their reasons fell in three areas: do not like the slant of the paper (too far left), do not have time, or have trouble finding a copy.

**Actions:**

\- The Board reaffirmed the PRT mission and notes the words open to all views within it. We have had difficulty securing opposing views on key local issues like mining and will redouble our efforts to find more writers who bring different perspectives. We will add a Point/Counter Point feature to the paper and strongly encourage people who have criticized the paper as left of center to offer their views.

\- We will review/improve our distribution system to assure papers are always available at the boxes located in Patagonia and Sonora.

**Regarding responses to questions about online viewing, length, frequency, proportion of advertising, subscriptions, and charging for the paper:**

People who responded were, for the most part, fine with the nuts and bolts of the paper. Three surprising results were only 15% read the paper online; a majority of people said they would pay something (between $.50 and $2 per issue) for the monthly paper on the street; and around 100 people were interested in buying a subscription in order to have the paper delivered to their mailbox.

**Actions:**

\- The board has discussed and will maintain the length, frequency, proportion of advertising (between 40-50%), not include ad inserts, and keep the PRT free on the street.

Regarding the latter, the Board believes that charging for the paper would reduce readership and that could reduce advertising income and private donations.

\- The PRT submitted a grant proposal to upgrade our website, add links to social media and an email distribution system to make the PRT more appealing and accessible on line. We will explore options for a mid-month news and calendar update on line.

\- We will actively promote the purchase of subscriptions for people who prefer reading a hard copy and who do not have easy access to papers on the street. Our focus will be on homebound people, former residents, and part time residents in our communities.

**Regarding encouraging more people to be involved with the PRT:**

Fifty respondents are currently involved in the PRT as donors, advertisers, volunteers and/or staff. Another 125 people want to get involved now or more likely sometime in the future. The Board is encouraged by this response, as the quality and sustainability of a community newspaper requires broad community participation.

**Actions:**

\- We will regularly publish volunteer opportunities in the paper and online.

\- We will recruit additional members for both the Board of Directors and the Editorial Board prioritizing more voices from families who have lived in the region for multiple generations, residents of Sonora, Elgin, and Canelo, people under 40, and people with differing perspectives.

\- We will build internal capacity to recruit and support donors. We have developed a fundraising plan with the support of a 2017 PCRF grant and submitted a 2018 request to purchase and implement an online donor database.

\- We will establish an ongoing feature recognizing local people who give to our communities their time, their knowledge and skills, their actions, and/or their financial resources.

The Board is excited about implementing these steps. Some you will see immediately, others will take us longer to put in place. We trust our readers will be looking and will hold us accountable!
By Cynthia Matus Morriss

On February 5, 2018, the Patagonia Schools lost an admired and cherished school board member, Fred Sang, in a tragic accident on Hwy 82. Fred served on the Patagonia Union High School (PUHS) Governing Board, and in collaboration with members of the Patagonia Elementary School (PES) Governing Board, from 1992 to 2004, and 2012 to 2018. For many years, these two districts have met and worked jointly to provide a more creative approach to educational service delivery for our community’s children.

Fred served as President of the high school board for several years. He was a planner, an organizer, a troubleshooter, and caretaker, all of which contributed to him being an invested and competent leader. The respect and trust Fred had with his colleagues was clear, as he was again elected to the role of President by his fellow board members on January 16, 2018.

In addition to monthly board meetings, Fred participated in administrative meetings, study sessions, and board trainings. Attending school celebrations, band concerts, and sporting events were always a joy for him. He took great pride in presenting the diplomas to his graduates every school year, many of whom he knew personally, and had seen develop as a student over the years. His rapport with students was evident to family and friends and demonstrated through the bear hugs and jubilant expressions he gave graduates on their special day.

During his tenure, Fred, his high school board colleagues, and the PES Board members went through several superintendent searches and selections. This is a time when one gets to know school board colleagues and experience the commitment and dedication each board member contributes. Fred’s service to his team and our community’s students, especially during these crucial times, was an example to others.

Fred had a good relationship with both the elementary and high school boards and the superintendent. Summer Lewton, current PES board member, shared that Fred was going to construct a wall for the school garden, pending the outcome of a grant. Not receiving the grant, Fred said “Well Sum, let’s get you that wall.” Lewton, the teachers, and Superintendent Rachell Hochheim continued moving forward by creating a team to make this construction happen. Lewton added, “One of the things I admire about Fred is he always set the tone of ‘How can we make this happen?’ [He was] a forward thinker. Fred wore so many hats in our community. He was a pillar of strength. He had amazing vision for his own businesses, our school, and town.”

Ron Pitt, PUHS board President (elected on February 12, 2018) stated, “Fred epitomized the definition of the word ‘citizen.’ Everything he did was focused on making our community a better place to live. He was a positive force that made other people better citizens.” PUHS Board Clerk, Jim Cosbey offered, “I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to serve on the Patagonia High School Governing Board with Fred. He was such a fine giving, gentle man who truly cared about all our community children. He will be sorely missed.”

Clare Bonelli, former PUHS board colleague, remarked, “Fred was one of the finest people I know. I don’t ever remember hearing him down-talk anyone or anything. He was just plain kind, compassionate, thoughtful. And things didn’t rattle him. Something would come out of left field in a school board meeting and my mind would go blank, but Fred’s never seemed to. May we try to emulate his example.”

Fred was greatly missed and we will do everything possible to honor his name by working to make the school the very best possible for our students. We’ve seen the successes that arise from them. The benefit of working together through big challenges is celebrating the successes that arise from them. Though Fred’s leadership, collaboration, and “what’s best for kids” attitude, our schools and students are nurtured, respected, cared for, inspired, and always seeking more resources for better educational experiences and outcomes.

I would like to close with the thoughts of former PUHS board member, Geoff Millar, who says it best and to which we all can relate: “I was privileged to call Fred my friend.”

“Fred was one of the finest people I know,” said Clare Bonelli, a sentiment shared throughout the community.

Fred Sang
March 30, 1951 - February 5, 2018

Frederick Bissell Sang, 66, earned his wings on February 5, 2018. He is survived by his wife: Irma Sang; Son: Frederick B. Sang III (Stephanie); Daughter: Brenda L. Somoza (Ernesto); Brother: Robert Sang; Sister: Elizabeth Miller (Gary); Grand-daughters: Annabelle Grace Somoza and Amaya Cierra Somoza.

Hard-working - Fred never stopped. He couldn’t just sit around, there was always work to be done and he didn’t stop until it was finished. He was proud of his work and did it with integrity.

Respectful - Fred respected everyone he met and taught all his loved ones to do the same.

Loyal - Fred was loyal in all aspects of life. To his loving wife, family, friends and work.

Honest - Fred took pride in his work and telling it the way it is. If he said he was going to do something, he did it 100%

Fred was a dive-master who enjoyed life out on a boat surrounded by ocean. He enjoyed golfing. While Fred had many hobbies & interests, simply being with his family was his priority and what he enjoyed most in life whether it be just spending time with them at home or cooking out for them, planning annual trips, camping out by the lake and so forth. Fred was an active member in his community by being part of both the Rotary Club & president of the school board. Being a part of the school board was very important to him, and he cared deeply about the student’s succeeding and the staff being happy.

While Fred didn’t have a specific favorite flower, he absolutely loved when Spring rolled around and his wife gardened, filling all their pots with beautiful, bright flowers.

Fred would want to be remembered for the honorable man that he was. A loving, hard-working man for his family, a beloved brother to his siblings, and to his community to whom he was always loyal.
out that Santa Cruz would become the only county in the state with only one Justice Precinct. “It’s not just a court,” he said. “It’s a service to the people.”

Melanie Pyle, of Elgin, asked that the supervisors “keep our local court. Nogales doesn’t have a clue what we do,” and suggested that secession would be a viable alternative if the court were closed.

David Green, of Sonoita, said, “This outcry from the Sonoita community is not just about the closing of the court.” He estimated that Sonoita and Elgin residents pay $3000/person in property taxes as opposed to a county-wide average of $300/per person. He also cited activity at the fairgrounds and at local businesses and wineries as a positive force in the county. “Sonoita brings its ‘A’ game to keep the county in growth and tax revenues,” he said.

Doc Clyne, of Elgin, told the supervisors to look for other ways to save $200,000. “I’d rather drive on a bumpy road to Sonoita to pay my many traffic tickets than drive a paved road to Nogales.”

One person, Peter Potaska, of Elgin, spoke in favor of closing the courthouse, even though he said that he planned to run against Judge Keith Barth in the upcoming election. He believed that all court business could be done via face time on the telephone.

Elgin residents George Whitmill and Kat Crockett questioned St. John’s motives for wanting to close the Sonoita Courthouse. Producing blown up photos taken from Facebook of St. John in the company of JP1 judge Emilio Velasquez and his brother, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo Velasquez, they asserted that the reason she is proposing the closure of the Sonoita Courthouse may be to benefit Judge Velasquez and poses a potential conflict of interest. “Even the appearance of personal gain should be scrutinized,” Whitmill said.

One photo showing St. John holding up campaign signs for Velasquez may be evidence of a violation of the Hatch act, according to Crockett, and gives, at the least, “the appearance of abuse of authority.” Barth believes that this possible conflict of interest should be investigated by the attorney general’s office. “Somebody from the outside needs to look at this.”

“I have no conflict of interest as defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes,” St. John wrote in response to these charges. “The Hatch Act and its prohibitions are not applicable to either my former position or my current position and therefore, I have not committed any violation of the Hatch Act. The County does have policies regarding political activities and I complied with all county policies. Just for clarification, at the time I was the Administrative Services Director and not the County Manager.”

COURTHOUSE
Continued from Page 1

Judy Neal speaks about her opposition to the closure of JP2 at the Board of Supervisors meeting held February 21.

members that there was no such committee. Donna Federici, one of the mediators of the meeting, at one point told Bracker, “That smug look on your face is uncalled for,” and frustration grew as he was asked several times, but did not answer directly, if any other positions in the county were being eliminated. “You should step down or be recalled,” shouted one audience member.

High taxes and lack of county services were the subject of many people’s remarks, as was the idea of secession from the county. Kurt Baht, of Sonoita, stated that Sonoita and Elgin are “treated like the stepchild of Santa Cruz County.”

At the end of the February 13 meeting, Bracker addressed the audience, saying, “You believe passionately that the court should stay. I hear you, I really hear you.”

Speakers at the Board of Supervisors meeting eight days later continued to press to keep the courthouse open. Judy Neal, of Elgin, addressed the supervisors saying, “This single cut makes no sense whatever,” and called for a “comprehensive review of all departments” to see where else funds could be cut. She believes that the data presented by St. John was outdated and incomplete, and that this incident has cost the county a “loss of respect and trust of the people.”

Judge Barth spoke of the threat to public safety if the court were closed. His court is responsible for issuing orders of protection that might not get issued if victims have to travel to Nogales to ask for help. He pointed out that Santa Cruz would become the only county in the state with only one Justice Precinct. “It’s not just a court,” he said. “It’s a service to the people.”

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Research Ranch Director Retires
By Bob Brandt

After more than a decade at the helm of the National Audubon Society’s Appleton-Whitell Research Ranch, Dr. Linda Kennedy has, with somewhat mixed feelings, turned over the lead responsibility for the ranch to a new director effective January 23, 2018.

Dr. Kennedy first came to the 8,000-acre ranch as an Arizona State University Ph.D. botany student in 1995 to research why native sacaton grass was not faring well in the Southwest. She fell in love with the facility and before the end of the decade was named the ranch’s assistant director, a post she held until she was selected in 2006 to be the ranch’s fifth director, succeeding Dr. Bill Branam.

Dr. Kennedy looks forward to spending more time with her husband, range conservationist Dan Robinet, gardening and volunteering at the ranch doing some of the botany-related work she didn’t have time for as director. Asked to cite the thing she’s most proud of accomplishing at AWRR, she responds without hesitation: the creation of the Apacheria Fellowship Program, which solicits donations to help undergraduate and graduate student scientists further their research goals. Most of all, she says, “I will miss being part of such a unique operation.”

The research ranch reins are now in the hands of Cristina Francois, a youthful yet very experienced and energetic professional who is completing a doctorate in entomology from the University of Arizona. Specializing in the study of moths, Ms. Francois brings a rich background of teaching, research and community outreach to her new position. Having officially started her new job on January 23, she introduced herself to the community at the AWRR monthly potluck on February 10. Obviously thrilled to have landed her new position, Ms. Francois said she has been attracted to Southeast Arizona ever since she came to study moths on Mt. Lemmon as a Cal State-Fullerton graduate student.

To balance her professional work, she admits to having a “somewhat out of control “collection of cacti and succulents, having a weakness for kittens (she serves as a foster parent for them) and to being a craft-o-holic. She loves to cross-stitch bugs (scientifically accurate, of course) and crochet plushy-cacti. Ms. Francois lives on the ranch with her foster kittens, her Desert Tortoise Tater Tot, her “sweet chickens,” and, of course, her husband, wildlife biologist John Kraft.

As the new director Ms. Francois hopes to build on the work of Dr. Kennedy to increase involvement of the wider community in the ranch’s activities. If her lively presentation at the potluck are any indication, her casual, friendly manner and sense of humor will ensure her success in that regard.

The Research Ranch encompasses both privately owned and leased government land and is the brainchild of Frank and Ariel Appleton who, while managing the cattle-raising operation on the ranch in the 1960s, wondered what the land was like before cattle were introduced. To find out, they convinced the state and federal agencies involved to set aside the entire ranch as a research facility that would remove grazing entirely and thus serve as a reference area that would enable researchers to compare grazed land with land left in its natural state. Since its founding in 1968, the ranch has served as a first-class base camp for hundreds of researchers, many of whom live on the premises for varying lengths of time while they conduct their research.

Retiring AWRR Director Linda Kennedy (L) and incoming Director Cristina Francois share a moment at the AWRR potluck on February 10.
In Memory of Fred Sang

The Board of Patagonia Creative Arts Association, as well as myself, would like to acknowledge a $500.00 donation made to PCAA. This donation was given in honor of Fred Sang with the desire to continue Fred’s good work in the community that he loved.

A fund has been created at PCAA in response to this donation called the Fred Sang After School Fund. All donations to this fund will be used to fund after school programs. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to Global Arts Gallery for this seed money and to Fred for planting the seed of community involvement.

Sincerely,
Cassina Farley
Director, Patagonia Creative Arts Association

Kudos to Town Council

Coming from a remote part of Alaska where native villagers look helplessly as a Canadian mining company is poised to blast their traditional hunting grounds and salmon spawning habitat to smithereens in search of gold and copper, I observe with great admiration the ingenuity and fortitude of the town of Patagonia as it deals with a similar challenge.

Patagonia is a unique town whose character would be irrevocably changed by the impact of constant heavy truck traffic. It is just one of many valid reasons why some people aren’t enthusiastic about the mine. Regarding the attorney general’s ruling on the truck ordinance, I take exception to Brent Bowdon’s remark “the only outcome is that it has created ill will between the mining company and the town of Patagonia.” While he may be willing to trade this town’s individuality and serenity for short term profit, he should respect the opinions of those who wouldn’t. If anything the ruling should help to dispel any ill will between the mining company and the town.

The town will survive and the mining company will invest its vast resources in an alternate route. The people have spoken through their elected representatives and it is refreshing to witness a small town standing up to powerful politicians and foreign special interests. Now let’s hope for a continual supply of clean water from our taps.

Craig Coray
Patagonia

Plea for Mediation at Public Meetings

Among other things that occurred at an emotional Patagonia Town Council meeting on February 14, two words resonated with me. Transparency and Bickering. Both were at the core of a moment of civility was restored when council unanimously approved a motion by Vice Mayor Wood to authorize Krzys to proceed with his proposed water study.

In a refreshing change in the tenor of the meeting, Library Assistant Laura Wenzel used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce her proposal to erect a temporary StoryWalk in the park that would feature movable mounted pages of a children’s book aimed at encouraging children to read and participate in library activities. Her proposal to seek a grant of approximately $5000 to pay for the project received unanimous approval.

In other business, the council approved the appointment of David Budd to fill a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Melissa Murrietta announced that she and Amanda Montanez had resigned from the committee and that Sharon Calvert is now serving as its chair.

Note: The Planning and Zoning Committee is seeking additional members. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest to Town Manager Dave Teel.

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.

Errors and Omissions

Ron Pulliam’s title was incorrectly stated in the article last month on wildlife cams. He is founder and board member of Borderlands Restoration.

The address and contact information for Dream Weavers, the new textile shop in Sonoita is 3123 Hwy 83, Sonoita, AZ 85637. 520-559-0515.

Our apologies for these errors and omissions.
MARTY SMARTY Responds

By Martin Levowitz

Well, almost 50 years have passed since I’ve apologized for being cynical. A savvy, older guy I knew, who later drank himself to death, rejected my apology, back then. “Oh, no, my friend” he said, “you’re not a cynic in the least. You are a disappointed idealist! You want the world to be a better place. That’s why you’re angry all the time.” He polished off his 6 oz. glass of Scotch. Then, pointing wryly to himself, he said, “I am the cynic. I lost all hope two dozen years ago.”

In February’s PRT, my colleague (and my friend) Bob Brandt, wrote an excellent opinion piece decrying today’s undignified political discourse in general, and my vitriol, in particular. I think it deserved to be said. The current atmosphere is neither cordial nor polite, and most of us grow weary of the nasty, spiteful partisan debate. No dialogue undertaken in an antagonistic spirit can produce any serious gain.

So, yes, Bob’s right, up to a point. My column this month considers what may lie beyond that point.

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

ALARM

By Martin Levowitz

Annoyance is normal when you’re roughly startled awake. As Beatle J. C. Lennon said, “The truth will set you free. First it will piss you off. Then it will set you free.” The lion eats the lamb, it’s true, and it’s never the other way round. Can you accept that as a part of God’s Plan? Can the lamb? Should we emulate Jesus and Mahatma G., responding to aggression with refusal to react, while keeping only kindness in our hearts? It’s a lovely idea, but it’s hard to enact. If what J.C. and Buddha did were not exceptional, by now we’d have forgotten both their names.

Civility is valuable when times are good, no doubt. In times of war or dire threat, it makes more sense to shake your fist and shout. (Should Paul Revere have whispered on his famous midnight ride?) When history flips you the murderous bird, civility becomes absurd. If the house is in flames, or a bear’s in the yard and he’s hoping to snack on your kids, or vile narcissistic thugs in tailored suits (with small cute patriotic pins on their lapels) disman
tle our democracy, should we maintain a gracious, civil tone? Or is it more effective, and, thus, wise, to bang some pots or break some glass and even scream out loud? How spacious is the middle ground between polite civil-

ty and outrage - even violent revolt? Obey, conform, be nice; remain polite; and then “go gentle into that good night” without a fight? Umm, Thank you, No. Just think of all the docile slaves and Warsaw Ghetto pawns who did and died. (Each thought he’d just lay low till things cooled down. Things didn’t cool down.) I’d rather perish poking Satan in his lying eye than yield to evil without giving vitriol, or maybe even violence, a try.

We humanists are pretty slow to face reality. The world is not as we would have it be. We don’t like to be negative. We won’t think ill of anyone unless we’re really pushed, including those who hate or threaten us. We give them all the benefit of our exten
dive doubt. We care about democracy and work to safeguard human rights and are not often known for starting fights. By the time we wake up and get out of the house with our boffers and capiscum spray, the other side has leveled city hall with planes and tanks. By then, the tiger is within the gate; so once again we liberals must swallow our grim fate. In God we trust. Gulag Or Bust.

At last, when it’s too late, we would-be pacifists will fight. Back in the Spanish Civil War, the International Brigade consisted of idealists from all over the world, including many artist/poet types. They had no material stake in the game but loathed and feared the fascist threat enough to risk their lives and even die. In spite of the high cost, the good guys lost.

I marvel at our dopey inability to learn; our cordial reluctance to see or react. Our wishfulness and laziness incline us to deny until the truth pokes out our eye. When will we so-called “decent” people finally ever learn?

Next time the world goes up in smoke, will we wake up and face the truth or just “be nice” and let the sucker burn?

TO MY SECRET (NON)ADMIRER

By Cassina Farley

Well the big PRT survey is done and the results are in and apparently one of you readers does not like my column. So, for those of you that do, sorry, this column isn’t for you. This is just for him or her, but feel free to read along.

So, my dear Column Hater, ever since reading your comment about getting rid of my column in the PRT, I have been imagining who you are. Sure, it’s easy to imagine you glaring at me in the grocery store clutching your non-reusable grocery bag full of saltines and canned soup in your Make America Great Again hat right after I made fun of You-Know-Who, but that’s too easy. Maybe you’re a man who just doesn’t like how I routinely use my husband as the butt of my jokes. “Not a proper wife” so on and so forth. (FYI Zach approves every story about him before I submit anything.)

Maybe you are an English major that hates my constant use of parentheses and my run-on sentences or that I am not formally trained or whatever you literary types get mad about when someone like me rambles on and on in a local paper (hee-hee.) I even imagined that you were the person who didn’t like the drum circle and perhaps kittens and babies. Does nothing make you laugh? Maybe you are someone I see every day (heck, you may even be related to me) who just finds me annoying and doesn’t want to read my thoughts in the paper.

I can handle that. Ok, so maybe at first, I couldn’t. Maybe when I read your comment about getting rid of my column in the PRT, it got under my skin, or - the real truth - it bruised my ego. My “super, giant everybody loves me” column“ ego. Thanks for keeping me humble. Just so you know, of the 200 plus responses, yours was the only one that didn’t like my column.

You’re a trend setter, a maverick, you’re a man/woman that speaks his or her mind. You had the guts to take an anonymous survey. Ok, so that last comment probably didn’t win you over.

It’s probably my sarcasm you hate the most. I feel the need to explain. Month after month, year after year with no formal training I put myself out there, my name and photograph attached to each column I write. Not to take over the town or change your view of the world, it’s just because I’ve been given the opportunity to write. Turns out people like it. Everyone but you (and maybe a few others who don’t take surveys). If this was the old west I’d challenge you to a duel, but we live in the time of anonymous comments. So, I’ll just have to keep guessing who you are month after month. Don’t get mad. And promise me that when I guess right you’ll let me know. It’s the least you can do.
UNCIVIL DISCOURSE

By Tom Shore

When I read the PRT editorial, “A Call For Civil Discourse,” I asked myself if this verbally caustic atmosphere we live in is different from other stressful historical eras. In my opinion, it is not. The technological catalyst – the cell phone – provides an instantaneous, semi-anonymous and emotional release to every word uttered. The new idiom for “Look before you leap” should be “Think before you tweet.”

Vitriol has been part of our political landscape since politicians’ faces showed up on the bottom of chamber pots. People should read the banter between Adams, Jefferson and Hamilton. The language is more refined, but the banter is essentially the same.

There are many worthy nonprofits in Patagonia’s long history. Many have been town employees, and many have been just private citizens doing their part. In every part of our community you will find unsung heroes giving of themselves to make our home the wonderful community it is. One of the places where we find heroes working for the town, but also contributing as private citizens, is at our library.

Our library is a beautiful jewel set in the crown of our mountain home. The people that organize and maintain that space are charged not only with keeping interesting media on its shelves but also filling its schedule with events and programs for all ages, often writing their own grants to acquire these funds and then staying after hours to manage the event, all the while containing adolescent chaos and ensuring our free speech. To say the job is demanding is an understatement but the opportunity to serve our unique community at our incredible library is worth every bit of time we give it. This year we will be saying goodbye to a couple of the library’s best caregivers.

The loss of civility in our political discourse has come from a cauldron full of American voters who are slowly beginning to boil. They are realizing they are losing control of the political agenda via the elective process.

Witness:
• “Buckley v. Valeo” – 1976 (Money is speech)
• “Citizens United” – 2010 (Corporations are people)
• “Shelby County v. Holder” – 2013 (Attacks the 1965 Voting Rights Act)

The principle of one man’s vote being equal to another man’s vote is supposed to be a core legal concept. Should we blindly believe that our individual vote is equal to that of a billionaire or a corporation that can donate millions to politicians and campaigns?

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Wildlife Manager Working Her ‘Dream Job’

By Marion Vendituoli

Brit Oleson loves her job. As the wildlife manager for Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), her primary district extends from Nogales to the San Pedro, but she covers calls from as far away as McNeal and Elfrida.

Oleson, who is 30 years old, hardly looks old enough to be a game warden. “When I first came here,” she said, “people called the Tucson office to see if I was real. They didn’t think I was old enough to have a gun or to be a game warden.” She started out in Bullhead City five years ago, but always knew that the Patagonia was her “dream district,” and three years ago jumped at the chance to move to Sonoita.

Oleson, who is originally from Illinois, came to Tucson as a graduate student in wildlife conservation and management after graduating from Lawrence University in Wisconsin. After three years of study, she joined AZGFD, then attended six months training to become a state certified peace officer. This was followed by an additional six months of training with AZGFD, where she learned additional skills, including how to identify condemned meat, how to dart and transport wild animals, capture techniques, how to operate a boat and an ATV, and how to engage in high speed chases. During the summer, Oleson spends a good deal of time at Patagonia and Parker Canyon Lakes checking fishing licenses and life jacket compliance. During hunting season, she puts in 16 hour days checking licenses, tags, and whether the hunters are using legal weapons. Checkpoints are set up in Hog Canyon and Gardner Canyon during quail season. “In my line of work the vast majority of people that I talk to are law abiding citizens,” she says. “The thing that worries me the most are drunk drivers.”

Brit Oleson gets ready to go to work as district wildlife manager, patrolling from Nogales to Elfrida and McNeal.

She also responds to poaching calls. “The laws are very specific and highly regulated. You are allowed to use this weapon at this time on this animal in this area,” she said. “Any violation is considered poaching.” She works together with the county sheriff’s offices, DPS, the Park Service, the Forest Service and Border Patrol. “Border Patrol, honestly, it’s my back up most of the time,” she said.

Oleson also responds to any calls concerning injured wildlife. If the injury is not too severe, she will transport the animal to a wildlife rehabilitation center. A common situation that she deals with are deer stuck in fences. “Sometimes I’m able to save them, but a lot of the time I can’t,” she said.

“We deal with wildlife attacks and other serious nuisance wildlife issues,” she said. “We deal with cases involving restricted live wildlife (basically, pets you’re not allowed to have as pets). I have had some interesting ones, including a little old lady out on the Colorado River who was living in a tiny trailer with an adult male African vervet cat. She said she bought it because the dealer wouldn’t sell her the tiger.”

She is responsible for monitoring nine wildlife water catchments in the area and arranges for water to be brought in when the levels drop too low. “I’m also involved in education and outreach. She is especially interested in encouraging youth to get involved in the outdoors. “I want to increase the amount of activities for these rural kids,” she said.

One of the most interesting aspects of her job is the surveying of wildlife populations in the area to sustain fishing and hunting limits. Surveying fish in Patagonia Lake is done at night with lights. An electrical charge stuns fish, which are scooped up and placed in a live well on the boat. She has netted 40 and 50-pound flatheads at Patagonia Lake, some of which are microchipped to monitor their growth.

Game species are surveyed from a helicopter once a year. She spends a week or two flying around the area counting javalinas, deer and pronghorns. “We assign permit numbers, and that’s the data we use,” she said. “For bears and lions, we don’t have a good way to survey them,” she said. “I’ll see maybe a lion a year from the helicopter.”

“Hunters have to have a tag. Any lion or bear has to be physically checked out by an AZGFD employee,” she said. “Information about the age, sex and where the animal was harvested is used to establish population models.”

Another factor in the number of permits issued for each species is the available hunting territory. For instance, “many of the San Rafael pronghorns are on private land with no hunting,” she said. They are counted, but the lack of access is taken into consideration. AZGFD works with many large ranchers to keep their land open to the public. “We don’t want hunting to become a rich man’s game,” she said.

She has observed a fall in the number of mule deer in the area, due, she believes, to climate change and loss of habitat. Doe season is “pretty slow,” according to Oleson, but dove numbers are doing really well. There is no set season for coyotes, cottontails and jack rabbits. “We like to leave small game alone, so people can fill their freezers,” she said.

Turkeys seem to hold a special place in Oleson’s heart. “No one in the world has as much gould’s turkey data as I have on my laptop,” she said. Turkeys were hunted out of existence in southern Arizona 100 years ago. In 1983, a number of gould’s turkeys were successfully relocated to Santa Cruz County from Mexico. The population has risen to several hundred birds, and now Santa Cruz County turkeys are being relocated to other areas. A few years ago, 60 turkeys from the district were traded to New Mexico for 40 pronghorns. This year, the Mule Mountains are set to get turkeys, to augment the flock of 33 birds that were released there previously. Oleson uses a walk-in trap to capture turkeys, but they are proving to be elusive. “I need a couple more big toms,” she said. “I’ve got my eye on a few. I’ll get them.”

Moonstruck

By Robert E. Druchniak

As far away as the moon is, it’s as much a part of our home as the oak tree glowing in its light.

The moon astounds me rising over the stage in the vast space of a velvet night or when clad in a costume of cloud.

She lifts more than the seas, tugging at the heart of young lovers or urging growth in moon-loved plants.

Her twenty-eight by twenty eight lunar clock keeps her spinning just once on her axis in time with one cycle around earth, keeping her face always toward us while her backside’s kept demurely from view.

Such aller-retour in nature is more than hope. Love, true love is like that cycling through an array of brilliant light and dark periods with a constant beating of the heart.
**Looking Up**

*What’s Going on in the Sky This Month:*

By Laura Wenzel

**March 1** - Full Moon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would soften, and the earthworms would reappear. The Farmer’s Almanac says that this moon has also been known as “the Full Crows Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusty from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last Full Moon of winter.”

https://www.farmersalmanac.com/full-moon-names

**March 7** - According to National Geographic, “early risers in late February and into early March will be able to watch a planetary alignment dominate the southeastern sky at dawn, as Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter will seem to hover near each other in the sky. Over a few nights starting on March 7, the waning gibbous moon will appear to pay visits to each planet in the lineup. And on March 8, the moon will tuck itself between Mars and Jupiter.”


**March 11** - Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. EST, but we Arizonans don’t have to worry about moving our clock hands forward like the rest of the country.

**March 13** - During the middle two weeks of March, Mercury and Venus are visible together low in the west. Shortly after sunset on the evening of March 18, the crescent Moon joins the duo for a beautiful display. The Moon appears near Mercury and Venus for one night only; but the two planets remain in the area for about two weeks, before Mercury sinks below the horizon while Venus drifts slowly upward.

https://www.almanac.com/content/sky-map-star-chart-march-2018

**March 20** - Vernal equinox. The first day of spring here in the northern hemisphere.

**March 31** - Full Moon, Blue Moon. Since this is the second full moon in the same month, it is often referred to as a blue moon. 2018 is particularly unique in that January and March both contain two full moons while February has no full moon.

There are several SpaceX rockets set to launch this month, almost all of which can be watched live on space.com, where these launch dates and others can be found https://www.space.com/32286-space-calendar.html:

**March 13** - A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch the Dragon CRS-14 spacecraft on a cargo delivery mission to the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

**March 18** - A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch 10 Iridium Next satellites from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 11:19 a.m. EDT (1519 GMT).

**March 20** - A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

**March 30** - A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will lift off from Cape Canaveral, Florida to launch the Bangabandhu 1 communications satellite for the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

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**Trivia Teams Compete at Library Pub Quiz**

By Lynn Davison

The Patagoons receive their prizes at the library fundraiser. From left: Lynn Davison (MC), Martin Levowitz, Cynthia Bower, Caleb Weaver, Kathryn Schrag, Ryan Egan, Cheridyn Egan, and Judy Clegg (MC)

Over 80 contestants stretched their brains and their wallets during the Patagonia Library pub quiz, aptly named “Books, Beer, and Brains,” a fundraising event held February 3 at Cady Hall put on by the Friends of the Library. Pub quizzes originated in Ireland as a way to bring more customers into local taverns. They are now found across the world, and not just in pubs!

Fourteen teams, in friendly but spirited competition, engaged their memories through six rounds of trivia questions. The questions were tough. Do you know Warren G. Harding’s full middle name? Or the year that the Patagonia High School football team won the State Championship? How about the names of the seven wives of Henry VIII? Or the sum of the number of vertebrae in the human body + the number of ribs – the number of teeth?

Amazingly, at least a few people actually knew these things. However, as one contestant commented, “I never spent so much money to feel so stupid...at least it was for a good cause.” The evening was orchestrated by two oddly-costumed “quizmasters”... Luke and Lucretia. They were only modestly helpful to the crowd, and one had the annoying habit of ringing a bell at seemingly random moments. Only in Patagonia...

The winning team was the Patagoons, Ryan and Cheridyn Egan, Cynthia Bower, Martin Levowitz, Kathryn Schrag, and Caleb Weaver.

The keys to their success seem to have been having a good age spread, including a retired librarian, and buying extra points. It was a winning combination all around.

All contestants were plied with fine pub food cooked and served by the Friends of the Library and beer provided by Copper Hop Ranch and Micro-brewery.

You could buy points to pad your team’s score in each round, make a donation to keep your team well supplied with beer and wine, and buy raffle tickets to win over 20 prizes. All proceeds of the event went to the Friends of the Library to help fund the library’s Summer Lunch Program.

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Glimpses Into Our Past
By Alison Bunting

By 1918 the U.S. allies in World War I were experiencing severe food shortages. President Wilson established the Food Administration, headed by Herbert Hoover, to “manage the wartime supply, conservation, distribution and transportation of food.” Americans were encouraged to cut back on their use of meat, wheat, fat, and sugar so that these food resources could be sent to our troops and civilian populations in Europe. The full text of most of the articles quoted below can be found in the Library of Congress database, Chronicling America. Images of the Santa Cruz Patagonian are available on The Patagonia Museum website: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org.

In late January of 1918 food restriction rules were publicized, affecting businesses and individuals, or as Herbert Hoover announced - Americans were put on a “War Bread Diet.” Specifically this meant that two days per week (Monday & Wednesday) were to be wheatless days, plus one meal of each day was to be wheatless. Wheatless meant “no crackers, pastries, macaroni, breakfast food, or other cereals containing wheat.” Also one meatless day in every week (Tuesday), and one meatless meal in every day was required in addition to two porkless days (Tuesday & Saturday). Meatless was defined as “without hog, cattle or sheep products”, porkless meant “without pork, bacon, ham, lard or pork products” (The Bisbee Daily Review, 1/27/1918). Due to a worldwide sugar shortage, sugar was rationed. “The larger use of sorghum, corn and cane sirup [sic.], maple sugar and sirup and honey is urged” (Santa Cruz Patagonian, 3/15/1918).

Local papers featured stories with recipes and advice for coping with the restrictions and the rationing. The baking of “Victory Bread,” which used 20% less wheat flour by substituting other grains, was encouraged at home and required of bakers. Victory gardens were promoted, church congregations pledged to go totally without wheat from June to September, and the deprivation even inspired poetry:

My Tuesdays are wheatless
My Wednesdays are meatless
I’m getting more eatless each day
My house is all heatless
My bed is sheetless
They’ve been sent to the Y M C A
The bar rooms are treatless
My coffee is sweetless
Each day I get poorer and wiser
My socks they are footless
My pants they are seatless
But my Lord how I do hate the Kaiser
Albuquerque Evening Herald

The nation’s efforts were successful. “In spite of a subnormal food supply in this country, the American people have been able to ship to the Allies as well as our own forces overseas 141,000,000 bushels of wheat, besides 844,000,000 pounds of meat, during the year ending June 30 last. This has been made possible by the whole souled co-operation of the people, who, besides practicing self-denial, have speeded up production and responded nobly to the appeal from abroad” (The Border Vidette, 8/24/1918). By September the wheat restrictions were relaxed a bit and

Articles of Faith
Everything Has Changed
By Pastor David Daffern

Everything has changed for Christians and for churches.
We may not like it. We may long for the “good old days.” But we don’t live in the 50’s anymore. Back then, everyone went to church because that was the cultural norm in America. Churches were universally respected by those in the community, even if they didn’t attend themselves.

But, the reality is that everything has changed in the new millennium. The change began incrementally in the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s. And then the pace of change in American culture went into overdrive as we turned the calendar to the new millennium.

This means that the need for Christians and churches to adjust is staring us in the face.

Granted, it’s easier to moan and groan about it than to actually change. But, whining about it will not reverse the growing tsunami of disdain for Christians and churches.

So, like it or not, Christ-followers and churches must adjust to the new reality. No, I’m not advocating that we reinterpret the Bible. The Word of God is unchanging (Isaiah 40:8) because our great God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8).

What must we do? With apologies to Michael J. Fox and Hollywood, we must go back to the future.” We must go back to the New Testament Book of Acts, because the first-century church faced exactly what we face today: a smorgasbord of indifference, hate, ridicule, and persecution.

We must do just what the first-century church did. They imitated Christ.

Twenty centuries later, we must do the same. We must do just what Jesus did, because Scripture instructs us to be imitators of Christ (Ephesians 5:1).

So, Christ-followers and churches today must refrain from name-calling and finger-pointing. No demonizing. No hate. When we disagree with others in our community, we disagree politely and without rancor. The Bible reminds us that our enemy is not our fellow man (“those people”), but Satan and his minions (Ephesians 6:12).

The greatest thing proactively that Christ-followers and churches must do is “love.” Obviously, we must love the Lord (Matthew 22:37-38). In addition, we must love our fellow Christians (John 13:34-35), even if we disagree on a theological position.

But we also must love those who are not like us (Luke 10:25-37). Jesus goes so far as to instruct us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48).

What our world needs to see today is Christ-followers and churches that live a life of love. What our world needs to experience today is Christ-followers and churches that actively care for people (love!) like Jesus does.

The song was written and recorded 53 years ago by Hal David and Burt Bacharach. But the lyrics still speak to us today: “What the world needs now, is love, true love . . . ” And, that “true love” is best personified in Jesus Christ. Let’s be imitators of Christ!

Editor’s Note: David Daffern began serving the community in July 2015 as pastor of Sonota Hills Community Church in Elgin. He can be reached at 520-427-6160.
leaves until the monsoons. Maybe now our drought-deciduous swifts from the effects of drought. Trees, too, need a deep soaking any time of year and will generally recover over the years — namely, that many cacti perk up during a rain event. This rain, however, felt like a game-changer. It was so much — about 2 inches plus — and still going as I write that I cannot imagine a scenario where wildflowers as a whole don’t respond to some degree. It’s a bit of a no-brainer that wildflowers can and will swiftly bloom in a desert environment. Locally, though, we live at higher, cooler, and wetter elevations than true desert climes. Thus, our spring wildflowers tend to be more rain finicky than the hit and run response easily observed in the Sonoran and other deserts. Even the same species observed in high and low elevations, such as Mexican poppy, flower much more readily in the latter given the same precipitation.

This winter has seen depressed populations of many rodents, lizards, and butterflies among others, thus the rain might indirectly benefit these species as well. A solid plant response through the remainder of winter and into spring certainly can help provide some green forage for herbivores, seeds for granivores, flowers for nectarivorous species, insects for predators, and ultimately dead plant material for detritivores. How much relief from depauperate drought conditions various species receive should begin to unfold as the PRT goes to press.

I’ll end by hedging my bet, as I’ve learned one thing about our weather over the years — the results of the rain lottery are wildly and wonderfully unpredictable. Maybe that’s why I love participating in these fascinating ecological forecasts and their impact on the Sky Islands ecosystems!

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
PUHS Career Fair Offers Opportunities For Students

The Mountain Empire Rotary Club and the Patagonia Public Schools are partnering again this year to host a Career Fair for students at Patagonia Middle School and High School on Friday, March 16 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Middle school students from Elgin have also been invited to attend. The event will take place in the Patagonia Union High School Gymnasium and consist of individual booths for the participating organizations and professionals and a series of breakout discussions and presentations made by industry professionals.

Mountain Empire Rotarian Randy Heiss states, “The purpose of the event is to introduce students to area businesses and professionals as well as workforce specialists so they can learn about the opportunities that can happen for them after high school. We want students to think about what they will need in the future in terms of education and training in order to prepare for those careers. Most important, we want to emphasize that students need to work at keeping their options open for the future.”

This year, the fair has brought back several PUHS graduates to talk about their successes and their experiences with finding meaningful careers after high school. PUHS Counselor, Rosann Clark, states, “We want the students to hear the stories of success and the challenges encountered by former students that they know and can relate to. Ultimately, we hope the experiences of these graduates inspire our students to work hard and make the right choices.”

There is an impressive list of organizations participating from the health care community, local utilities, law enforcement, military and border protection, environmental restoration, community colleges and universities as well as a host of local entrepreneurs. There will also be demonstrations by Lifeline and the Army Canine Unit. The key note speaker is Trevor Stokes, Workforce Program Manager from the Arizona Office of Economic Security. The list of post secondary institutions includes University of Arizona, Grand Canyon College, Prescott College, Cochineal Community College, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and Pima Community College (PCC). PCC will have local representation from the Santa Cruz Center, representatives from their main campus, their archeology program and several workforce programs.

“We want the students to visit the booths where they can have a conversation and gain information on the various career opportunities,” Clark said. “We believe that there are education and employment options for students locally and we want to make sure the students are aware of them. At the same time, we want the students to know what job skills and training are going to be expected of them.”

There are two major types of long-haired dogs. A single coat consists of one type of hair all over the dog’s body. A double coat is made up of a coarse, outer layer with a soft, dense undercoat. Single-coated dogs like poodles, lhasas apsos, shih tzus, etc. can be shaved because their hair will grow back normally. Shaving double-coated breeds of dogs such as labradors, shepherds, huskies, golden retrievers, those in the herding group, spitz-type group, mastiff-type group and the largest group of all, the terriers, is not recommended. It does not benefit them by keeping them cooler and it is actually not healthy for them in many ways.

Double coats are designed to capture and use air as an insulator to both keep the cold out and the heat at bay, enabling the dog to regulate its body temperature. Without this insulating layer, it becomes susceptible to heat stroke.

Dogs don’t cool down like humans do. When humans are overly warm, our skin perspires over our whole body and the evaporation of the perspiration helps us to cool down. In dogs, this evaporative cooling process is limited to a very small area – the foot pads, which sweat, and the lungs, where panting allows for latent heat to be removed through evaporation. Shaving the coat will have no effect on these areas.

Dilated blood vessels in dog’s ears and on their faces carry warm blood to the surface of the skin, allowing heat to escape. Again, body shaving will not influence this.

A dog’s fur coat protects him from sunburn and decreases the chance of developing skin cancer. Think of a bald human head at the beach in the sun; a light hat allows the occupant to be cooler and his head to be better protected from sun damage.

Shaving a double coat can also result in improper re-growth. The undercoat, the insulation, is shed regularly. The outer coat, or guard hairs, is coarser, fewer and longer, which gives the dog its color and is not shed as often. If this type of coat is shaved, the undercoat grows back quickly and sheds normally, but the guard hairs don’t grow out as quickly and sometimes cannot grow back at all, because they are crowded out by the faster-growing undercoat. This can result in color and texture changes in the dog’s coat, a patchy appearance to the fur, follicle damage and clogging, plus the loss of weather and water protection that guard hairs provide.

A knowledgeable groomer will make suggestions to the dog owner based on each individual dog. Some double-coated dogs may, for whatever reason, have reached the point of being so matted that there is no alternative but to shave. Hopefully, the dog can be protected from the elements while the new coat grows back in, and hopefully it grows back in just fine.

Another alternative is to comb out the excess and/or matted undergrowth and then to trim the outer coat down to an inch longer than the undercoat.

There are other ways to help your dog stay cool: Provide lots of fresh, cold water. Make sure the dog always has shelter when it is outdoors. Do not leave the dog outside in hot weather. Remember that it is easier for us to cool down than it is for them, so if it’s hot for us, it’s hotter for them.

Regular grooming is paramount. A clean and fluffed coat is a dog’s best defense against the heat. Using a tool that helps remove the undercoat the dog is already shedding due to warmer weather is very helpful.

Nature has seen to it that a dog’s hair affords it protection from the sun, heat, insects, dirt and water. Perhaps we should not undermine the process by shaving.

Dog Shaving: Helpful or Harmful?

By Cate Drown

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.
**Grayce Left Her Mark On The Town She Loved**
*By John Arnold*

Anyone passing through Patagonia on Naugle Avenue will have noticed Grayce’s Gift and Candle Shop, a cornucopia of arts, crafts, and specialty goods that celebrates its 40th anniversary this October. If you’ve failed to spot the ad touting organic medjool dates, you’ve surely noticed the sign for the Day of the Dead Museum. And if you’ve ventured inside, you’ve likely seen African baskets, photos and memorabilia of the Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, stylish hats, a trove of cosmetics, coffee from Chiapas, killer-bee honey from Bisbee, and a miniature motorcycle exhibit. And that’s just for starters.

Grayce Noteboom (the last name means “nut tree” in Dutch) was born in 1908 in Philadelphia and died in Patagonia in 2005. The Notebooms were Quakers and tenth-generation Americans. Her neighbors frequented Grayce’s kitchen - Pennsylvania Dutch pastries and her artistic talent. Her best friend in Doylestown was author Pearl S. Buck. During the Second World War, they traded turns as volunteer school bus drivers.

In the early 1950s the Arnolds moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, traveling there in a 1949 Ford panel truck they converted into what was to become a prototype for RVs. In Mexico Grayce continued to refine her recipes, ceramics, and sculptures.

The family moved to Nogales in 1956 and later to Tucson, where Grayce studied with the famed artist Ted De Grazia and learned how to make sand-cast candles and masks.

In 1978, after her husband’s passing, Grayce moved to Patagonia, living in a miner’s home built in about 1908 by Neil McDonald, head engineer for the local mining company. Grayce once stated that she had never balanced a checkbook when she opened the shop, but she adjusted and continued making sand-cast jewelry called “jewelry for life,” designed and made by single mothers who use the income to support their families.

Grayce’s candle-making workshop has been an award for her work with small-business women. Grayce’s son, John David Arnold, travels worldwide, establishing contacts with creative and unique artisans, many of them female. He is currently featuring goods made by Afro-Mexicans in Oaxaca who are descendants of slaves, and West African jewelry called “jewelry for life,” designed and made by single mothers who use the income to support their families.

Grayce’s candle-making workshop has been restored, and sand-cast candles are still made. Admission is free, and dates, coffee, honey, and African skincare products are available through a 24-hour dispenser on the back porch where the honor system applies. Guided tours are available, too. For more information, email info@graycegiftsandcandleshop.com or call 520-394-2035.

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**It’s Not Too Late to Claim Your AZ Tax Credit for 2017**

*By Liz Collier*

There is still time for all taxpayers to claim their Arizona Tax Credit on the 2017 tax return. Donations made before April 15, 2018 are a dollar for dollar deduction on your 2017 AZ state return and if you itemize your federal tax returns, they are a deductible item. Arizona law (A.R.S. 43-1089.01) allows taxpayers to receive a tax credit of up to $200 for a single individual or a head of household or $400 for a married couple filing a joint return for donations to public school districts. All Arizona tax payers are eligible: you do not have to have children within the school district to benefit from this law nor do you have to live in the school district where you make your donation. Most important, it is not just a deduction, it’s a tax credit - it reduces what you owe in state taxes, dollar-for-dollar.

For small rural districts such as Patagonia and other public school districts in Santa Cruz County, these donations are crucial for extra-curricular activities such as sports, music and the arts as well as specialty programs. Patagonia Dean of Students, Carmen Gomez, states, “The AZ Tax Credit Donations are very important to us! We only charge high school students $50/year to compete in sports, $30 for middle school students. Most schools charge students at least $50/sport; if a student participates in Soccer, Basketball and Baseball, it could cost a family $150/year. That is just too much for a family struggling to make ends meet. We have a high percentage of Title 1 students and want to keep our activities affordable so all our students have an opportunity of participate.”

At Patagonia, you can designate your donation to High School or Middle School athletics, the Band, the Swimming Pool, the FFA program, or allow the school to apply your donation to the area of greatest need. You can also designate for a specific child’s participation in an extracurricular activity.

Last year, Patagonia Public Schools (high school and elementary) received a little over $23,000 in tax credit donations. The law is very restrictive about how the funds are used; all dollars must be applied to support efforts that directly benefit the students. For example, funds that go to the pool can only be used for swim lessons and life guards.

Last year, Patagonia used all the funds donated to sports for travel costs to away tournaments and other costs related to maintaining a competitive schedule. FFA also uses their designated funds to pay for travel expenses to their regional and state competitions.

Patagonia Athletic Director, Kenny Hayes states, “To date, we have received approximately $11,000 less than we received last year. I was hoping to increase our tax credit donations this year so we could compete in additional tournaments so the students gain more experience or pay for additional equipment to improve student performance.”

You can download the Extracurricular Tax Credit form from our website at http://www.patagonia.k12.az.us. If you have any further questions, you can call the school at (520) 394-3000.

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In the early 1950s the Arnolds moved to Patagonia, living in a miner’s home built in about 1908 by Neil McDonald, head engineer for the local mining company. Grayce once stated that she had never balanced a checkbook when she opened the shop, but she adjusted and continued making sand-cast candles, sculptures, masks and other creations out of natural materials. Grayce often referred to the shop as her home and customers as her guests. When filming near Patagonia, actresses Faye Dunaway and Joanna Cassidy befriended Grayce, took her out to the movie sets, and frequented her shop, attracted to her masks and Tarahumara sculptures.
Open for Business
New Business News

House Calls Are Back
By Heather Dodge

Angela and Rafael Lopez provide in-home chiropractic care in eastern Santa Cruz County.

If you are old enough, you may recall a time when doctors made house calls, a service long gone, but being revived in the Mountain Empire by husband and wife chiropractic health care providers, Drs. Rafael and Angela Lopez, D.C.

When they sold their clinic in San Jose, CA, population over 1 million, to relocate to Sonoita, AZ, population under 1000, the couple knew their business model had to change. So they set up a unique patient-centered house call practice, Lopez House Calls, specializing exclusively in bringing chiropractic care directly to the client in their home, workplace or lodging.

Beyond relief for injury and chronic pain, the Lopez doctors emphasize the wide range of therapy that chiropractic care imparts. “Today’s lifestyles can generate physical, mental and emotional stress on a regular basis. By taking house calls to the comfort, safety and privacy of one’s home, guest room, or office, we can directly improve quality of life by bringing the nervous system and whole body into fuller, more resilient function, without the added stress of driving long distances to a clinic,” says Rafael Lopez.

Angela and I focus on the immediate care providers, Drs. Rafael and Angela Lopez, Arizona.

the added stress of driving long distances to a clinic,” says Rafael Lopez. “Angela and Rafael are no strangers to the area. Rafael’s parents are Romaldo and Lydia Lopez, owners of the Metamorphosis Art Gallery in Patagonia until fall of 2017. Angela says, “Like others in our community, we left the busy urban life to be close to family and to enjoy all the wonders of the high desert. We think our practice model, ‘We Come to You,’ is a perfect match for the country lifestyle.”

Lopez House Calls spans Sonoita, Elgin, Canelo and Patagonia. To schedule a house call and learn more about the chiropractic services of Drs. Angela and Rafael Lopez, go to www.lopezhousecalls.com or call 520-357-1711.

Residents of rural eastern Santa Cruz County have a new option for healthcare. Desert Streams Family Practice held an open house last month to introduce their new clinic located at 3124 Hwy 83, Suite B, in Sonoita. Family nurse practitioner Cynthia “Cigi” Smith, MSN, FNP-C, and her husband, Marc Smith, RN, will be available for physicals, wellness exams, adult and pediatric sick visits, suturing, treatment of minor orthopedic injuries, and trigger point injections for neck and back pain. Cigi Smith also specializes in bio-identical hormone therapy for women, which she believes is a more effective therapy than synthetic hormones.

Cigi has 20 years’ experience as a nurse, and has worked in pediatric ICU, emergency rooms, in GI labs, and was a hospital supervisor at North- west/North Valley hospital. She hopes to tie in with the local 911 system and would be available for stitching and minor injuries, potentially saving patients from having to make emergency room visits. “Overall, my approach is holistic,” she says. “I do use evidence-based medicine from both western and integrative practices.”

Marc worked in emergency medical services for ten years before becoming a nurse in 1990. He has worked in emergency rooms, in ICU, and was a flight nurse for eight years. The couple are planning to move to Sonoita. “We wanted out of Tucson,” Marc said.

“We’ve always loved smaller towns. The sense of community drew us here.”

The clinic is not associated with a specific hospital or medical practice, and they do not accept insurance. “As a result of that, prices are significantly lower and more affordable,” Marc said.

They will be able to draw labs, which may be covered by insurance. The clinic will be open Mondays and Thursdays until April, at which time it will be open five days a week. Office visits are by appointment, but walk-in visits are also accepted. Phone 520-224-3401 for more information.

New Clinic Opens in Sonoita
By Marion Vendituoli

Desert Streams Clinic in Sonoita offers a variety of medical services. From left: Marc Smith, Cigi Smith, and administrative assistant Marisa Montgomery Bell

A multi-jurisdictional planning team comprised of representatives from Santa Cruz County, Nogales and Patagonia, has been meeting regularly over the past several months to participate in a hazard mitigation planning process. The purpose of this process is to update the current version of the Santa Cruz County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan according to The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K).

The DMA2K requires all local, county, tribal and state government to have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible for certain federal disaster mitigation funds.

The draft of the newly updated 2018 Santa Cruz County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed and is ready for public viewing and comment. The updated draft of the plan can be downloaded by visiting http://patagonia-az.gov/santa-cruz-county-multi-jurisdictional-hazard-mitigation-plan/ or you can contact Dave Teel, Town Manager @patagonia-gov@qwestoffice.net 520-394-2229, or Ray Sayre Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Management (520) 375-8000 rsayre@santacruzcountyaz.gov.

Public Input Invited

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Act Now To Reduce Fire Risk

By Ray Sayre
Director of Emergency Management
Santa Cruz County

Information on how best to mitigate your risk can be found at www.firewise.org and at http://wildlandfire.az.gov/prevention_news.asp. The 2017 fire season was very active with numerous wildfires in Santa Cruz County with several homes lost in Sonoita.

The National Weather Service sent an email to Emergency Managers last week: “Our winter has been abnormally warm and dry and that trend is expected to continue right into the spring. Drought is expected to persist and perhaps worsen with another potentially very busy fire season ahead.”

I encourage you to take a few moments and watch the NWS video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvDNTXpgRwI. Of particular interest is the drought index, reported in the video as “Severe,” but which was changed to “Extreme” last Thursday. The last time we faced these conditions was 2011 when we had the Monument Fire in the Huachuca Mountains which burned or damaged 50 structures, and several mandatory evacuations occurred.

For us who live in Santa Cruz County we have had many notable fires:

- 2005 Florida Fire - 23,183 acres
- 2011 Murphy Complex Fire - 68,078 acres
- 2011 Empire Fire - 600 acres
- 2011 Empire II Fire - 2,009 acres
- 2012 School Canyon Fire - 7,049 acres
- 2011 Empire II Fire - 2,009 acres
- 2011 Florida Fire - 23,183 acres
- 2011 Empire II Fire - 2,009 acres
- 2011 Murphy Complex Fire - 68,078 acres
- 2012 School Canyon Fire - 7,049 acres

All County and Tribal Emergency Managers in the State met in Phoenix Wednesday with the primary topic of “Ready, Set, Go, Evacuate” for wildfires. We met with the fire management officer from BLM who presented “Ready, Set, Go, Evacuate” for wild fires in the Huachuca Mountains which burned or damaged 50 structures, and several mandatory evacuations occurred.

Participants in the three day reenactment of the Mormon trek to Salt Lake City walk into the headquarters of the Empire Ranch February 24.

Over 190 youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Tucson South Stake) spent four days of their school break re-enacting a Mormon pioneer trek on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). Between 1856 and 1860, several thousand Mormons, who could not afford to join wagon trains to travel to Salt Lake City, made the 1100 mile trip on foot pulling handcarts carrying their belongings.

The trek re-enactment allows participants to experience the hardships and challenges encountered by their ancestors. Dressed in period clothing, the youth pulled handcarts between four LCNCA locations (Cieneguita, Ag Fields, Airstrip, and Empire Ranch Headquarters) travelling more than 23 miles on foot and camping in below freezing temperatures. The trek ended at Empire Ranch Headquarters where they added cement blocks carried in the handcarts to a “temple” structure. They were greeted with cheers and applause from their enthusiastic families and friends and enjoyed in a celebratory lunch before returning home.

Youth Re-enact Mormon Trek on the Cienega

By Alison Bunting

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**Quilts For Veterans**

Seeing handmade quilts flying in their booth during the Art Walk, staff from the newly created Boulder Crest Retreat in Sonoita approached board members from Family Health Care Amigos to ask if they could provide quilts or afghans for wounded warriors. It was explained that quilters in Virginia supply quilts or afghans for wounded combat soldiers participating in retreats in Virginia. These handmade covers are for the warriors to take home with them and are given to them as a part of gift baskets. Boulder Crest staff wanted to know if Family Health Care could provide covers for the soldiers’ gift boxes in Sonoita. They advised that men and women warriors are served in these therapy-themed retreats.

The board decided this was a worthy community project and on January 29, Linda Huffstetler-Dearing along with quilter Barbara Turner and crochet artist Joan Bennett from Family Health Care Amigos met with Public Relations Director Suzanne Bott of Boulder Crest Retreat to provide three quilts and four afghans as part of their commitment to give 30 covers during the next year.

If other local quilters or knitters want to become involved in this project, please contact Linda Huffstetler-Dearing at 520-7213. If residents have cotton fabric or yarn they can donate, assistance is greatly appreciated.

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**Golfing For Scholars**

The Mountain Empire Rotary 13th annual Golfing for Scholars Tournament is April 7, 2018 at the Kino Golf Course in Nogales. Tee off is at 9 a.m. The fee covers lunch. A raffle and prizes are also a part of the event. Proceeds from the tournament support the children within the communities of Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia.

Each year the local Club awards college scholarships for high school students, provides dictionaries to all third graders in our local schools, recognizes high school and middle school students for academic excellence and leadership, and, at the Patagonia Elementary School, each student receives a brand new book for his or her birthday. The club is also in the process of building a park on the Fairgrounds in Sonoita as well as numerous other service projects and activities. For additional information regarding sponsorships, donations for the raffle or to sign up a team or player contact Leslie Kramer at (520) 455-0055 or kramerlaw@earthlink.net.

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**Dances of Mind**

By Patra Kelly

Thinking is slow footed plodding through almost everything.

Musing meanders everywhere pausing to create a shield surrounding our coherent being protecting us from seeing more than we can bear.

Wondering melts this veneer sending us spinning into a maelstrom unravelling all outer and inner garments.

Marveling sometimes seizes sweeps us into an ecstatic exhilarant ride our frames and forms cannot long sustain.

Imagining becomes Reality when no word or image reveals the intensity and velocity rolling us in tidal waves past origins of particles swirling in superfluid fields in an energy Sea stretching into quasi-infinity where we always were Once Before Time.
Broadway Comes to Patagonia

By Marion Vendituoli

Audiences at the Tin Shed Theater on February 9, 10 and 11 were entertained with selections from show tunes in “Way Off Broadway” created, directed and produced by Julia Green, with co-producer Karen Lewis. The cast, Mark Berg, Chip Fears, Andy Gould, Johanna Landis, Toni Pavelka, Gloria Small, Nancy Webster and Laura Wenzel performed 13 songs, including numbers written by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Gilbert and Sullivan. The singers were accompanied by musicians Julia Green, Karen Lewis, Toni Pavelka, Mark Berg, Gloria Small and Jim Small.

A highlight of the evening was the performance by Laura Wenzel, singing ‘Bill’ from “Show Boat” by Jerome Kern, as Chip Fears, dressed in boxers, an undershirt and a bathrobe, pantomimed his responses to the song’s lyrics that depicted him as less than an ideal man.

Proceeds from the performances were donated to the East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank, PALS Animal Shelter, in Patagonia, and Kitty Kasa Rescue, Inc., in Sonoita.

Photos by Marion Vendituoli

Producer-director Julia Green and co-producer Karen Lewis greet the audience after the first performance of “Way Off Broadway.”

Patagonia residents, Jude Weierman and David Clark want to share their love of the opera with the community. Thanks to a generous donation from Jude and David to the Patagonia Creative Arts Association, Tin Shed Theater opera goers will get two chances to see Royal Opera House performances for free. The performances are “Rigoletto” on February 17 and “The Magic Flute” on March 28th. Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy this unique experience. PCAA wishes to thank Jude and David for their continued support of our programming and for giving back to their community.
Patagonia Student Wins Statewide Photo Contest

14-year-old Thomas Montanez, of Patagonia has been named the winner of the Arizona School Boards Association Annual Photography Contest. Montanez, who is an 8th grade student at the Patagonia Middle School, is the son of Bill and Amanda Montanez. The theme of the statewide student photography contest was “Arizona Outdoors.” Winners of this contest receive certificates of achievement and are invited to attend a special photography workshop led by Jeff Kida, the photography editor of Arizona Highways Magazine.

This is Montanez’s second time winning this award. In 2015, his photo of a Sonoita windmill won first place as well. Locally, he was a winner in the recent photography contest held by High Spirits Flutes. That entry will be featured in the 2018 High Spirits Flutes calendar.

Student Scientists Shine at Elgin School Science Fair

By Annette Koweek

All Elgin School students grades 5th-8th complete a traditional science fair experiment or engineering project each year. This year’s projects were some of the most creative ever! From designing cleaning gloves with scrubbing sponges attached to make it easier for people with weak hand grip strength to investigating if solar or wind power is more efficient in Sonoita, our students came up with some really great projects. Here are the results for this year’s science fair:

5th Grade:
1st Place: “Trash to Gas” by Ryan Bronstein and Johnathan Fields
2nd Place (Tie): “Power of Smell” by Mia Oswald
3rd Place: “Testing the Waters” by Oskar Bergh

6th Grade:
1st Place: “Don’t Drink Cola” by Mackenzie Beyer and Jayla Umfleet
2nd Place: “Coloring Flowers” by Julianna Romero and Annaliise Youngblood
3rd Place: “Ice Rings” by Tyler Young and Cade Hubbell
Honorable Mention: “Fire Fence” by Cason Scuten

7th Grade:
1st Place: “The Levitating Car” by Nicholas Dekhtyar
2nd Place: “Scrubbing Made Easy” by Olivia Barton
3rd Place (Tie): “Soil Erosion” by Sophia Routledge
Honorable Mention: Bomb Blast Radius

8th Grade:
1st Place: “Hand Eye Coordination” by Alyssa Copeland and Tavania Padilla
2nd Place: “Biodegradable” by Rudy Granado
3rd Place: “Flammability Test” by Serena Hubbell and Madison Vines

6th graders Jayla Umfleet and Mackenzie Beyer stand with their prize winning science fair project, “Don’t Drink Cola.”
Elizabeth McKay
**An Artist’s Eye**

By Alicia Valenzuela

Elizabeth McKay sees the world’s beauty. After high school graduation, McKay plans to go to community college at Cochise College in Sierra Vista and then a trade school to learn about photography. “If I could work with anyone I would work with the photographer Jake Chamseddine. He is my favorite and I love him because he captures feelings and emotions in his photographs and is also a really good concert photographer. I would really like to learn more about that and how to do it,” McKay said.

McKay has been an art student for four years at PUHS and a member of the San Rafael 4-H Club art project for seven years. McKay has won Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Honorable Mention awards for multiple years at the Santa Cruz County Fair for her paintings and photography. In December 2017, McKay’s art was featured at The Gathering Grounds Restaurant in Patagonia. “It was my first show and it was pretty successful. I arranged for the show and put up all the artwork with the help of my friends,” McKay said.

Throughout high school McKay worked for Harris Heritage Growers in Sonoita doing farm work and last summer worked for Borderlands Nursery where they grow all the plants for forest restoration projects. “I love working at the nursery because it has shown me that restoration projects are really important to Southern Arizona because of the water erosion problems we have in the desert. We grow plants that keep soil intact.”

“If I had a month off, I would have a road trip and travel to really beautiful places in Arizona that are really good photo opportunities. Places that I feel like are close to me. The ‘Wave’ is a rock formation near the Grand Canyon. I’d like to hike there and take pictures,” McKay said.

McKay knows for sure there is good in the world and if she could do anything she would make the world a happier place and end war. “I feel like there is a lot of sadness in the world, so I want to be a photographer who captures emotions and changes someone else’s point of view. I want to bring light to certain situations because I think America is kind of sheltered. People don’t really know what’s going on in other countries, like their wars and their problems. My dream job is to work for National Geographic. I want to photograph the aftermath of wars and impact people with my photography,” McKay said.

PUHS English teacher “Journee Hayes inspires me because she is an amazing, sympathetic person, and I would like to be more like her. My parents have been a big influence because they expect a lot from me and push me to follow my dreams. They support me no matter what. I push myself to do well in school and I’m hard on myself when I don’t do well,” McKay said.

“My favorite app is either Instagram, where you can share great photos and keep tabs on other photographers and learn from them, or Twitter because it is ‘just funny,’” she said. In her free time, she enjoys painting, YouTube, hiking, hanging out with friends and watching Netflix. “I think life lessons should be learned throughout your life and I haven’t learned much so far. If I could talk to my 13-year-old self I would tell her to just do her homework,” McKay said.

Christina Novack
**Awaiting Adventure**

By Fabian Monge

Christina Novack, senior at Patagonia Union High School, remembers the time she was cared for so well by nurses after being involved in a serious accident. With this experience in mind, she wants to join the U.S. military and go into nursing because, “I want to help others,” says Novack. “When I was in the hospital I was treated very well, and I would like to do the same for others.”

Residents in Patagonia might remember Novack as an outstanding athlete, playing varsity basketball and volleyball all four years of high school and tennis for two years. “Christina is a very talented, athletic person with a kind heart, definitely an asset to our team. She will be missed!! Horchata will (an inside joke to tell her to calm down after a game),” says coach Ralph Padilla. Novack dreams of continuing her athletic career; “I think it would be cool to be an assistant coach if I had the opportunity.”

Reflecting on her high school experience, Novack is thankful for the influence of her coaches. “Being around them all the time, taught me a lot of leadership and life skills,” says Novack.

Christina loves food and taking adventures. One of the places she’d love to explore someday is Italy for its beautiful environment and great tasting food. On a more immediate note, her senior class has planned their end-of-school trip to L. A. and San Diego, where Novack says she wants to “do fun things, make memories, and enjoy our last moments together.”

Like most teens these days, Novack’s favorite app to use is Snapchat because, “Snapchat filters are fun. It is a fun way to talk while showing your facial expressions, whereas, with only texting, people might take your message out of context when they can’t see your face,” says Novack.

Novack has worked at The Steak Out Restaurant in Sonoita, but spends her summers working at the Patagonia High School pool as a lifeguard. “I really enjoy the sun and swimming, but mostly the people I work with,” says Novack.

After completing 12 years of schooling in Patagonia Schools Novack knows for sure that, “I will make the most out of my life, travel, take adventures, and see as much as I can. I also know whatever I choose to do I’ll be happy and successful.”

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Artwork by Cassidy Williams

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Contributed by The **LOBO LINGO** PUHS Journalism Class

**Senior Spotlights**

This month, the journalism class at PUHS continues a series of profiles of the class of 2018. Look for more profiles of these talented and interesting young people in upcoming issues of the PRT.
**Boy\’s Basketball Protects Home Turf, Loses at State**

The PUHS boys\’ basketball team made their way back to state playoffs for the second year in a row after beating Lourdes Catholic School Warriors during the final game of the season, February 2nd, finishing their regular season with an 11-4 record.

Chris Miranda, starting point guard, returned to the action that night after an ankle injury at The Gregory School that caused him to miss four games. \"I was pretty sad about what happened, but in the end, I was lucky enough to get back out on the court and play with my team,\" says Miranda.

The win over Lourdes of 54-29, was a team effort from the starting lineup of the Lobos, putting junior Victor Barajas at the top with 24 points, and seniors Alex Escoboza, Isaac Vasquez, Jhorsen Lopez, and Chris Miranda all working together to get the victory and celebrate their last home game win on senior night.

On February 14 the team travelled to the state playoffs held in Prescott but lost 33-52 in their first game against Phoenix\’s Valley Lutheran High School.

\"Watching the seniors play in their last home game and second state playoff game was a treat. It would have been nice to win a couple of state playoff games, but the experience is great for both the older and younger kids,\" Coach Hayes said.

**FFA Teams Score Big At Regional Competition**

By Arianna Ochoa, PUHS FFA Reporter

Thursday, February 8 started with an early morning for the PUHS FFA Chapter. They left the school at 5 a.m. for the Dean Merrill South Central District FFA Competition at Central Arizona College in Casa Grande, returning home with four plaques, cash awards, and an overall feeling of accomplishment.

Our forestry team earned the title of district champions for the South Central District, with Karina Norton in first place, Johnny Quiroga claiming third, and Dylan Jacob placing fourth. The forestry career development event includes identifying trees, bushes, and identifying equipment used in forestry tasks.

Our nursery and landscape management team were named district champions, with Arianna Ochoa in first place, Gianna Martin in second place, Reyna Ochoa placing third and Stefania Tejeda placing sixth. The top three individuals won cash awards for excelling in their category. The nursery career development event includes identifying Arizonan plants, landscaping equipment/tools, plant disease/disorder diagnosis and treatment, and creating a landscape plan.

The livestock career development event includes evaluating different livestock animals, such as sheep, goats, cattle, and swine, and performing a set of oral reasons to a judge to defend their selection. Our livestock evaluation team also claimed the title as district champions for the South Central District, with John Hubbell claiming the top individual award. Juliana Quiroga finished in second place, Ralphie Quiroz was sixth, and Alex Pallanes placed tenth.

Our dairy evaluation team came in second place for the South Central District. Ila Barker placed third, Brianna Young placed eighth, Ember Hubbell placed eleventh, and Andres Burgess finished in fourteenth place. The dairy career development event includes judging dairy cattle, solving a client\’s issue and preparing an oral presentation to a panel of judges.

The ag mechanics career development event includes welding, surveying, soldering, and electric wiring tasks completed within a certain amount of time. The PUHS team placed sixth. Julian Vasquez placed fifteenth, and his brother Sebastian Vasquez placed twentieth.

Our one job interview contestant Gilbert Osuna won sixth place. He had to create a resume and cover letter, complete a job application, and participate in a one-on-one interview.

Our horse evaluation team came in seventh place for the South Central District. Lauren Fletcher placed tenth and Alicia Valenzuela placed twenty-first. The horse career development event includes evaluating horses based on performance and confirmation and presenting a set of oral reasons.

Our veterinary science team also came in seventh place for the South Central District, with Carolina Quiroz placing in twenty-first place, Brayden Johnson in twenty-second place and Hannah Young in twenty-fourth place. The vet career development event includes applying veterinary technician skills to faux animals.

The Patagonia FFA Chapter is extremely proud of all their members for a job well done and look forward to their state competition that takes place Friday, March 2 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.
### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Vintage Duo: a program of organ and piano music presented by Bernice Pomeroy and Sonia Johnson. 7 p.m. at Patagonia United Methodist Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Historic Canoa Ranch Heritage Fair. Dedication of the George Redondo Church. 7 p.m. at Patagonia United Methodist Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>A Woodwind Quintet. Rising stars from China, Mexico, Brazil, Wisconsin and California perform. 3 p.m. at Benderly-Kendall Opera House. For reservations, visit <a href="http://www.sfcpapresents.org">www.sfcpapresents.org</a> or call (888) 202-1942.</td>
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<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>A screening of the film Las Buenas Hierbas (The Good Herbs). Courtesy of the Mexican Consulate. 6 p.m. at Patagonia Public Library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Friends of Sonoita Creek panel discussion with people heading organizations having a major impact on the town of Patagonia and the Sonoita Creek watershed. 10 a.m. at Cady Hall.</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Friends of Sonoita Creek conference. 4 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater.</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Frank Talk: Challenges to Democracy from the Extreme Right. Dr. Albrecht Classen, Dept. of German Studies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Nogales Barroco perform 19th Century Music, joined by violinist Candy Amato. 3 p.m. at Benderly-Kendall Opera House. For reservations, visit <a href="http://www.sfcpapresents.org">www.sfcpapresents.org</a> or call (888) 202-1942.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>The Magic Flute. A Royal Opera House presentation. 6 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater. Free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>The Magic Flute. A Royal Opera House presentation. 6 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater. Free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>The Magic Flute. A Royal Opera House presentation. 6 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater. Free.</td>
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### MEETINGS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA - Pat. Seventh Day Adventist Church Fellowship Hall, Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Sonoita Bible Church, Tue. at 7:30 p.m. For more AA meetings, info, go online to <a href="http://www.aattucson.com">www.aattucson.com</a> or call 520-624-4183.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. &amp; Thurs. at 8:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520-404-3490.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board meeting 3rd. Mon. at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Town Council - 2nd &amp; 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.</td>
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### COMMUNITY SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon - Fri, noon-1 p.m. At the Patagonia Senior Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop - Thurs - Sat, 10-2 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Farmers Market Thursday 10a.m - 2p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods</td>
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<td>Sonoita Farmers Market Sat 10a.m - 1p.m. Corner of Hwy 82 and 83, Sonoita.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nogales Mercado Farmers’ Market - Fri 3-6 p.m. 163 N Morley Ave, Sonoita.</td>
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### CHURCH SERVICES

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<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church</td>
<td>387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia</td>
<td>990-4648</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Liseux Catholic Church</td>
<td>222 Third Ave., Patagonia</td>
<td>990-4648</td>
<td>Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church</td>
<td>Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000</td>
<td>990-4648</td>
<td>Sunday Services: 9 a.m. School: 10:30 a.m. (except third Sunday)12pm Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd Sunday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoita Hills Community Church</td>
<td>52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita</td>
<td>990-4648</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
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### SPECIAL INTERESTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Museum</td>
<td>Oct-May</td>
<td>Chup.</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Rafael Community 4-H Club</td>
<td>2nd Mon, Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall, 5:30 p.m. Info: 455-5681.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz Singers</td>
<td>5 p.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crossroads Quilters</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Mon, Sonoita Fire Dept., 9 a.m. Info: 520-732-0453.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Tennis</td>
<td>Saturdays, PUHS at 9 a.m. Info: 394-2973.</td>
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HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING - HIGH SPIRITS FLUTES
Please email your resume to admin@highspirits.com.

STRONG BACK? ABLE TO TRANSFER 200 LBS?
If you’re an experienced or certified caregiver, call Patagonia Assisted Care: 520-604-8179.

THE PATAGONIA SENIOR CENTER WISHES TO HIRE A COOK(S) for its five-day-a-week lunch program. Either one full-time or two part-time cooks will be considered. The applicant(s) should have an extensive cooking background and be able to conform to federal and state menu requirements. For those interested in applying, please call the Senior Center at 394-2494 and leave a message. Your call will be answered promptly and further specifics will be given.

HOUSING RENTALS

PATAGONIA COMFY CASITA
Monthly rental, quiet location. Very Enviro Clean Filtered water. Walk to downtown 520-394 2460.

NICE SMALL HOUSE FOR RENT
Within Patagonia town limits but private and quiet, fully furnished, available for rent from May 1 to October 1, 2018; 1 bedroom, 1.5 bathrooms, screened porch; $650/month plus utilities. Call Lynn at 206-276-2019.

MISCELLANEOUS

SONOITA SELF STORAGE+RV/BOAT STORAGE RENTALS 5x10, 10 x 10,10x 20. 520-455-9333 or 520-455-4641.

DIRTY GIRL FARMETTE FARM STAND
Every Saturday 9-12. 283 West North Ave. Local and Organic, Fresh off the Farm.

RETIRED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WILL HOUSE, PET, PLANT, SIT 3/10 - 4/28 Only $125/week. sfbmib@aol.com

THE VELVET ELVIS WILL REOPEN MARCH 1, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. during the high season. 520-394-0069

Available for Adoption

Lizzie is a 3 1/2 year old Cattle dog mix. She’s very sweet, playful and lovable. She gets along great with male dogs and dogs her size.

Stewart is a 1 year old cat, very lovable, sweet and loves to cuddle. He enjoys spending time around people and loves attention.

Santa Cruz Humane Society
232 E. Patagonia Hwy (Rt. 82)
Nogales, AZ 85621 (520) 287-5654

Important Dates in March
March 1: National Pig Day
March 1: Purim
March 3: Employee Appreciation Day
March 3: Caregiver Appreciation Day
March 4: National Potato Chip Day
March 8: International Women’s Day
March 11: Johnny Appleseed Day
March 12: Girl Scout Day
March 15: The Ides of March
March 17: St. Patrick’s Day
March 17: National Quilting day
March 19: National Poultry Day
March 20: Vernal Equinox
March 25: Palm Sunday
March 28: Weed Appreciation Day
March 30: Good Friday
March 30: Passover begins

March is designated as National Women’s history Month. It is also Frozen Food Month and National Peanut Month.

The 2nd Week of March is National Bubble Week.
www.LaFronteraAZ.com
Homes & Land, Ranches & Commercial Properties in Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Lake Patagonia, Tubac & the extended environs of Santa Cruz County

108 CAMINO LA PAZ / $499,000 / TAR/MLS #21731094
24 MARVIN LANE / $312,000 / TAR/MLS #21722061
242 SANTA RITA / $321,500 / TAR/MLS #21802757
4 BACA COURT / $294,000 / TAR/MLS #21710964
26 BLACK OAK DRIVE / $348,000 / TAR/MLS #21716387
18 LADO DE LOMA DRIVE / $325,000 / TAR/MLS #21724363

La Frontera Realty LLC
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Owner REALTOR®