When the news broke of the death of Brent Bowdon, a successful businessman and community leader in Patagonia, the reaction from residents was one of shock and disbelief. Bowdon was shot and killed by three officers of the Lake Havasu police force in a confrontation early Wednesday morning, July 25, according to a statement released by the Lake Havasu Police Department. The officers were responding to a 911 call concerning an apparent domestic dispute.

“I’m struggling to understand what happened,” said Bowdon’s friend Greg Lucero. “It was just total shock.” Dean Fish echoed that sentiment, saying, “Like everyone else I was shocked. This is a tragic loss to the community.”

“He’s going to be missed,” Ike Isakson, Mayor of Patagonia, and Chief of the Patagonia Fire Department, said. “I depended on Brent a lot.” Bowdon was known for his commitment to the town of Patagonia. He had volunteered at the fire department for more than thirty years, according to Isakson, and served as Fire Chief. “He would do anything for the town and for the fire department. He built all our trucks and kept them running” Isakson said.

Bowdon had sold his business, DM Excavating, in January of this year, and was looking forward to devoting more time to the fire department. He was still operating his RV park in Patagonia at the time of his death. Fish recalled being with Bowdon recently. “He was really excited about this new chapter in his life and what he was going to do next,” Fish said.

In addition to the fire department, Bowdon was president the Patagonia Regional Business Coalition, organized the annual town clean up in Patagonia, and volunteered as auctioneer for several local events, including the annual steak fry to benefit the fire department, at the fundraiser for Daniel Fish, and at the fairgrounds to help raise funds for the Sonoita Races.

Fish remembers Bowdon showing and selling pigs at auction as a young 4-H member. “He always supported the 4-H livestock auction and was very generous. He knew how much that made a difference in kids’ lives,” Fish said. “His 4-H experience might have started his interest in auctioneering. He was really good at reading people and caring about them, and that was what made him such a good auctioneer.”

Bowdon grew up in Harshaw, attending school there and in Patagonia. He was a proud Navy veteran, and a tireless volunteer. “He was willing to help out with anything,” Jimmy Lewis said. “He was always trying to help somebody.”

“It’s just incredible what he put into this town,” Isakson said. “I have no idea how we are going to replace him at the fire department. Nobody can do what he did. What are we going to do?”

“People don’t know how much he did for the community,” Lucero said. “He did it because it was the right thing to do. He leaves a huge void.”
The PRT and Political Advertising

Our readers will notice that the PRT has started accepting political ads this summer. We came to this decision after establishing that we could, as a non-profit organization, accept these types of ads, and after some soul searching about whether it was in keeping with our mission statement. Ultimately, we concluded that political advertising can and does inform voters, and our publication is committed to fairness and freedom of expression.

We thought that we should share some of our guidelines concerning political ads with our readers:

The PRT does not endorse candidates for political office. We do accept political advertising, as a business transaction, from all candidates for any public office and from all registered political committees and organizations supporting or opposing such candidates or ballot measures related to our coverage area.

We also accept public issue advertising related to issues that affect our coverage area. We follow generally accepted journalistic policies, and all candidates have equal opportunities to advertise.

An advertisement will be considered political if it involves a political figure, party or government issue, regardless of whether an election is taking place. As a neutral platform, we welcome political advertisements regardless of the political views they represent.

Because of the necessity to maintain a clear separation between news and advertising content, any advertisement that we believe blurs this distinction will be declined. The Patagonia Regional Times reserves the right to decline to accept any advertisements that we deem inflammatory, libelous or in bad taste. The ad must contain a line that identifies who has paid for the ad.

For the complete text of our paid political advertising policy, please visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org.

Aisha Chapra Sander joins PRT Team

I have to admit I was crushed when Laura Wenzel, our assistant to the editor, announced that she would be leaving us this summer. I understood her decision, given all she does for the library and her other commitments, but Laura has been by my side since I came to the PRT, and I depended on her, not just because of her editorial and administrative skills, but for her good advice, her support, her common sense and sense of humor when things were heading off the rails at the PRT. She is missed.

So, I was pleasantly surprised, when we ran our ad for a new assistant to get five applicants, all of whom were qualified, skilled and a pleasure to interview. I am constantly amazed at the talents and richness of experience out there in our community here in eastern Santa Cruz County.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Aisha Chapra Sander as our new assistant to the editor at the PRT. Aisha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the paper in so many fields. She is spearheading the creation of our new website, working to increase our online presence, and will be writing articles and posts to engage a wider audience, as well as providing support behind the scenes. We are so impressed by her commitment to the paper and her willingness to become part of our team.

Teamwork is the key to the success of the PRT. It is, above all, sustained by the unique collaboration between our hard-working board, our staff, and, above all, our community and local businesses, who support us, not only financially, but with the gathering of news and opinions from throughout our region. We couldn’t do it without you. Thank you.

Contribute Today to Support Your Paper

The PRT is an independent locally owned and operated non-profit newspaper committed to community journalism. We are the only news source dedicated to the Elgin, Patagonia, Sonolta region.

Your contributions keep it that way.

5 ways you can participate
1. Become a volunteer
2. Advertise your local business
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4. Give a donation
5. Become a monthly sustaining member

We Rely on Your Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasures

Contact us through our website www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org, Email at prteditor@gmail.com, or PO Box 1073, Patagonia, 85624

The PRT: Your Community Your News Your Paper
Mary Faley
New Supt. for Sonoita District

By Marion Vendituoli

Mary Faley has been appointed the new Superintendent of the Sonoita School District, and as Principal of the Elgin School, replacing Christopher Bonn, whose contract was not renewed by the School Board last spring. Faley, who took over the position in July, was one of 16 applicants. She was appointed on June 19 after completing two interviews with the board and participating in a community forum.

Faley comes to the Sonoita area from Port Huron, MI, where she worked for 23 years in public education as a teacher at the primary, secondary and college level, and as curriculum director, assistant principal, and assistant superintendent in four different districts which ranged in size from 1800 to 5600 students.

“I’m thrilled to be selected,” she said recently. “I have been keeping my eye out for a position in this area.” She and her husband have been frequent visitors to Southern Arizona and have family in Santa Cruz County. Previously, Faley had been selected as one of three finalists for the superintendent position for the Patagonia Schools, which was ultimately offered to Rachell Hochheim.

The small size of the Sonoita School District appeals to Faley. “The most exciting thing for me is the opportunity to connect with the students and their families,” she said. “In my last position there were 220 teachers. It was difficult to know them, let alone the students and families.” The challenge of such a small district, she feels, is “preserving the small school environment,” citing funding issues as a constant challenge for small, rural schools.

Faley does not foresee any immediate changes to the curriculum at the Elgin School. “In the beginning it is important to listen and get a sense of what’s working and not working,” she said. She believes in the importance of technology in the classroom, which was a priority for her predecessor. “It really is the way to connect kids to the broader world, but I see it as a tool, not a be-all or end-all,” she said. “I think the arts are important, too. These are tough decisions.”

She does not plan to fill the position of instructional coach in the near future, which has been vacant since the end of this last school year. “I want to get more familiar with the budget and see how we are functioning before deciding to rehire,” she said. The duties of that job are being distributed among the staff at this point. She will also see how the restructuring of the fifth grade, which has been incorporated into the middle school, works out this year before revisiting that issue.

Faley hopes to work closely with the community, as well. “The more we can bridge that gap, the better,” she said. “Working with the community is empowering for the students.”

“I am a very collaborative leader,” Faley said. “You share your vision, but you work with teachers and you bring them along. We have a very strong staff here and I think we’re going to work very well together. If we focus on the students in our classrooms, we’ll make the right decision.”

Contact Janie Trafton, PRT Ad Manager
520-604-7390 or prtads@gmail.com

Mary Faley looks forward to working with teachers and students at the Elgin School.

Mary Faley looks forward to working with teachers and students at the Elgin School.

Property taxes and the possibility of secession from Santa Cruz County were the main topics of discussion at the community meeting held July 25 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. Sonoita resident David Green led the meeting. Matt Parilli, of Elgin, led the discussion on property tax issues.

Green began by describing the impetus for proposed changes. “There are a lot of reasons to be unhappy with the county,” he said, citing the closing of Justice Precinct 2 (JP2), the lack of services and the high property taxes paid by the eastern side of Santa Cruz County as examples.

“Are we being taxed fairly compared to the rest of the county?” he asked before turning the meeting over to Matt Parilli, of Elgin, who summarized an analysis of property tax data from the years 2010 to 2018. “The real issue is property valuation,” Parilli said. In a comparison of limited property values for residential properties in Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia vs. comparable residences in Amado, Tubac, Rio Rico and Tumacacori, his committee found that the average values for the eastern region of the county were as much as 153% higher.

They found that a residence in Elgin, for example, is paying $4100 in taxes, while a similar property in Rio Rico is being charged $2700. “There needs to be a change in assessment methodology at the county and state level,” he concluded. “The county uses market values in assessing valuation,” Another method that could be used to assess valuation is cost of construction. A hybrid method or a totally new approach needs to be investigated, Parilli feels.

A lot of folks complain about taxes, but not enough challenge them,” he said. “As long as they don’t get a lot of complaints, the assessors think we’re happy.” Engaging state officials in the discussion about changing the valuation system was also discussed.

Green commented that he believed that talk of secession has caused the county to become more cooperative, citing the fact that Parilli had been given the tax data for free by the county. He also felt that there had been more successful tax challenges, saying that the county had “felt the drumbeat of the secession movement.” “We’ve let the county know we’re not going to take it lying down,” Green said.

He then reported on efforts to establish the feasibility of the Sonoita Elgin area seceding from Santa Cruz County and joining Cochise. He reported that Peggy Judd, chairman of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, was “very receptive and excited about the prospect” of annexing this region to her county. Cochise County legal experts concluded that a possible secession would probably require a countywide vote, with 50% of the county approving the split, which Green felt was not feasible.

One option is to seek new legislation at the state level to allow the split. Green spoke to Gail Griffin, AZ state senator for District 14, who offered to introduce the legislation. There was also a discussion of working towards having all of Santa Cruz County absorbed into Cochise County. “Maybe this is the best option,” Green said.

“Have you done an assessment of the benefits of joining Cochise?” asked an audience member. “Not a detailed assessment. We need to get deeper on that,” Green answered. “We need help in looking at the pros and cons of secession.”

Other suggestions raised at the meeting included a protest in Nogales, swamping the tax assessor’s office with property tax challenges, and working to get legislation introduced to increase the number of supervisors from three to five.

At the end of the meeting, 114 people signed a petition to continue pursuing the issue of unfair property taxes and whether to continue exploring possible secession from the county. Voters could also list other areas to explore. 61% of those who voted opted for pursuing the issue of unfair taxation and 59% voted to explore secession. 13% voted to continue efforts for better representation, including votes to recall Supervisor Bracker, finding a replacement candidate for his position and redistricting.

There were two votes to establish a charter school and two votes for consolidating the Sonoita and Patagonia school districts.

South32, an Australian mining company, has signed an agreement to purchase Arizona Mining Inc, which is developing the Hermosa Project in the Patagonia Mountain. South32, which already owned 17% of AMI stock, agreed to pay $1.3 billion for the remaining 83% of the company. No change in personnel is expected at this time, according to Greg Lucero, vice president of AMI for community and government affairs. “They like the people who are in place right now. They don’t anticipate making any changes,” he said. “All contracts, including with Boart Longyear, will remain in place.” AMI shareholders are scheduled to vote on August 2 to approve the sale.
1 Why are you running for mayor? The seat is available, and it opens my seat for a new council member.

2 Have you had experience with public office? Yes: 9 years on the Patagonia Town Council, and 16+ years on the School Board.

3 What volunteer work have you done? Besides the School Board, I’ve worked in the Community Garden.

4 Do you have any ideas for strengthening local schools, programs for youth, fire department, Senior Center, creative arts programs, library, or community garden? Yes.

5 What is your understanding of climate change, and should the town worry about it? We should all be concerned with environmental issues.

6 In a time of drought and weather uncertainty, what measures do you think would help insure the town and region's future supply of water for personal & agricultural uses? Monitoring and protecting.

7 For the last ten years or so, a new mining economy have been promoted in the Patagonia area. Many believe that industrial mining is not ultimately compatible with the nature-based ecotourism economy which has sustained the town since the last mining bust in the 1960’s. What are your thoughts on this? There should be policies in place to protect our community.

8 Some Patagonians have noticed that the 2009 Patagonia General Plan seems to have been put on a shelf and ignored in recent years. How familiar are you with the General Plan, and would you support a discussion of it for the revision of it that’s supposed to happen every 10 years? I could give a clearer answer when it is reviewed among the Council.

9 In the deepest depths of your heart, what do you REALLY most deeply care about? Just about everything! I care about people, community, and sustainability for us now (us old folks) and the babies that we are leaving our world to. After all, it’s not just about us.

10 Why are you running for mayor? Because I think we’re going to be faced with significant change from the mine coming – changes in population, demographics, and demands on services and infrastructure such as roads, water, police & fire protection.

1 Have you had experience with public office? No.

2 What volunteer work have you done? I’m president of Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA), and have worked with PABA (Patagonia Area Business Alliance), Santa Cruz Performing Arts Association, and PRBC (Patagonia Regional Business Coalition.)

3 Do you have any ideas for strengthening local schools, programs for youth, fire department, Senior Center, creative arts programs, library, or community garden? Yes.

I think we need to develop vocational education. With the mine coming, there’ll be jobs, but the key is training.

5 What is your understanding of climate change, and should the town worry about it? We should do what we can, but I’m not sure what official activities that the town can adopt or enforce.

6 In a time of drought and weather uncertainty, what measures do you think would help insure the town and region’s future supply of water for personal & agricultural uses? We could consider 1) Drill a deeper test well, and 2) Contract a more detailed hydrology study of the aquifers.

7 For the last ten years or so, a new mining economy have been promoted in the Patagonia area. Many believe that industrial mining is not ultimately compatible with the nature-based ecotourism economy which has sustained the town since the last mining bust in the 1960’s. What are your thoughts on this? I don’t believe the two are incompatible. I believe we can continue to have a tourism economy, but the question is how do we cope with the ramifications of mining?

8 Some Patagonians have noticed that the 2009 Patagonia General Plan seems to have been put on a shelf and ignored in recent years. How familiar are you with the General Plan, and would you support a discussion of it for the revision that’s supposed to happen every 10 years? I’ve read it and believe revision is needed, such as solutions to issues stemming from mining.

9 In the deepest depths of your heart, what do you REALLY most deeply care about? I really care deeply about honest respect. I’d like to see more open discussion and debate, without the divisiveness.
On August 25th there will be a referendum on the ballot for the people of Patagonia to vote to take a stand against the Border Wall. I have lived in Patagonia for more than 45 years. During that time everyone mostly got along with each other: the young and the old, the rich and not so rich, the highly educated and the less so, the cowboys and the hippies and the old timers and the newcomers.

This referendum means nothing. There will be no points, no extra kudos, no gold stars, and no government grants to receive from taking this stand. It is money and energy wasted. Though the cost may be minimal, there are better uses for our money like fixing potholes, donating to the food bank or some other pertinent need.

Remember there is a reason why Americans cast our vote in a private manner; because it is private. Let’s keep it that way. No matter how you feel about the wall, the referendum serves no purpose but to divide our community unnecessarily. I urge everyone to vote ‘no’ on dividing our community and vote ‘no’ on wasting money and energy. Let’s keep our community neutral from the hatred that has crept into our country.

Peace,
Charlee Farley
Patagonia
COUNCIL NOTES

By Bob Brandt & Robert Gay

The June 27 council meeting, though very brief, included two actions of note by the council: 1) authorization for a council member to go before the county supervisors and ask them to acknowledge and support the town of Patagonia’s road regulations and 2) approval of the Trail Riders of Southern Arizona to camp in the town park for their November trail riding event, in return for which the group will make a generous donation to be used as the town sees fit. Marshall Patterson said he is 100 percent behind the group. Also, at this meeting, Carolyn Shafer requested that the Fall Festival organizers’ decision to not allow PARA to have a booth at the festival be placed on a future agenda.

At the July 11 meeting, in support of its Community Rating System application, council approved a resolution re-affirming that the town parks and community garden plots are to remain as a permanent open space. David Budd reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee will begin the process of updating the town’s General Plan. Council also authorized Councilmember Michael Stabile to go before the county supervisors and ask them to acknowledge and support the town of Patagonia’s road regulations.

At the July 25 meeting, Charlee Farley spoke about the problem of feral cats. She listed several actions including regulations with fines. She expressed frustration at trying to get the town to act on the feral cat situation unsuccessfully for a year. Later in the meeting, under “Future Agenda Items,” the feral cat issue was made an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting, August 8.

Town Manager Teel explained the complexity of the choice to either close the Town’s landfill, which is almost full, or keep it open for the annual town cleanup. He is awaiting an engineering report on the landfill’s remaining capacity, and the cost of closing it.

He feels that townspeople hoard waste materials until the annual cleanup, and the amount of such materials is growing yearly. No specific date for a landfill action proposal to the Town was mentioned.

In other business, the Town Council approved Arizona Craft Distillers application for a Fall Festival liquor license without discussion.

VOTE TO DECIDE FUTURE OF NO BORDER WALL TOWN

By Lynn Davison

On August 28, all registered voters in Patagonia will have an opportunity to vote on whether Patagonia should be a No Border Wall Town. The referendum was put forward in response to a Town Council vote, held on April 25, to become a No Border Wall Town. The Council’s 3-2 vote came after strong comments were made, on both sides of the issue, by those in the Council chambers. That vote added Patagonia to a number of other towns and cities in the U.S. who have made the same decision. There are no direct costs associated with the designation.

Some who opposed the Council’s action decided to take it to a vote of the people through the referendum process. Charlie Montoya led the signature gathering process to put the referendum on the ballot. To do so required getting at least 23 voters, 10% of the number of people who voted in the last election, to sign a petition. Dave Teel, the Town Manager, estimated the cost of putting the referendum on the ballot to be $800 - $1000, primarily to cover the cost of printing and postage.

The referendum to oppose the approved resolution states “Patagonia is a NO Border Wall Town. We believe political positions should be left to individuals, and by the governing council to vote on such positions, revokes the right of the people to choose such positions for themselves. Freedom includes the right to a personal opinion regardless of how unacceptable it might be to a governing body.”

Referendum para oponerse a la resolución aprobada que declara, “Patagonia no es un Pueblo Fronterizo. Crememos que las posiciones políticas deben dejarse en manos de individuos, y por el consejo de gobierno para votar sobre tales posiciones, revoca el derecho a una opinión personal, independientemente de cuán inaceptable pueda ser para un cuerpo gobernante.”

A YES vote on the referendum means you do not want Patagonia to be designated by the Council as a No Border Wall Town. A NO vote means you believe the Council decision should stand and Patagonia should be a No Border Wall Town.

Todd Norton, who supports the referendum, said “I don’t know whether the border wall is a good idea or not, but I do believe it is wrong for the Town Council to adopt a political point of view on behalf of all the residents. I had hoped for a more balanced and civil discussion on the issue at the Council meeting. If we could just talk more with each other, there would be less divisiveness in our community.”

India Aubrey opposes the referendum because “I believe the Town Council’s decision on April 25 reflects the perspective of a majority of its constituents and should stand. The U.S. can find far more effective and humane solutions than the border wall to the immigration crisis this country faces. As a border community I feel strongly that our voice in this matter be heard by the rest of the country”.

Our two mayoral candidates have different views on the referendum. Andy Wood will vote ‘No’ on the referendum because the Council considered the No Border Wall Town designation over two meetings, heard comments from residents who supported and who opposed the issue, and voted to make Patagonia a No Border Wall Town. She added that she does support the right of citizens to bring an issue to a vote of the people through the referendum process. Jerry Issac will vote ‘Yes’ on the referendum because he does not believe the Council should take actions on behalf of the town related to national political decisions. He added that his vote was not based on his views about the border wall.

Whatever your opinion about the referendum, please exercise your right to vote on August 28.
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS
IMMIGRATION AND ABORTION

By Martin Levowitz

There are interesting congruencies between two of today's more troubling topics. Both involve voyage and possible death, compassion and morality. Both enflame passionate advocacy, pro and con. And both raise questions of decency and empathy. Who is human and who's not? Is it my job - or yours - to intercede for someone who needs help, no matter whom? If you say Yes, is that because your conscience or your pastor tells you to? If you say No, has your hard heart suppressed awareness that - but for “God’s Grace,” (i.e., “Blind Chance”) - it could be you?

Only a true simpleton could pretend that the question of abortion is easily answered. It may be that for someone with no heart, to kill a human embryo would be no more upsetting than to smack a fleeing cockroach with a shoe. (That’s upsetting enough!) But those of us who think and feel must wonder, after thinking through the practicalities (like what effects another kid might have on budget or career), what effects an ended pregnancy will have upon the destiny of who the canceled fetus might have been if allowed to develop and, finally, be born. We humans cannot really know. And then there’s the question of whether it’s murder or not. Is a fetus, in utero, human or not? And, if so, at what point along the way? (When it’s conceived, before the ink is dry? The day it’s born? And who says so?) And, if you take the morning-after pill, are you a murderer or not? If you use contraception, are you guilty of denying life to disembodied entities who, in their souls’ trajectories, stand waiting to be born? So, should we mourn? Is contraception murder, too?

If someone - say, a lovely couple with three sweet young kids - abandons home and family to flee from brutal violence and almost-certain death back in El Salvador, then struggles north with desperate yearnings for security, is it the good and Christian thing to lock them out or call the cops to nab and send them back? Does that make you a murderer as well? Is it not odd - or “interesting” - that many of the ardent voices raised to advocate for unborn babies’ safe arrival, are either silent or opposed to sheltering the refugees who show up in The Promised Land, just hoping for survival? Does God lose interest once we have been born? Or is it that being white is a reward for virtues we cannot identify - reflecting the approval of Big Daddy in the sky? Are humans color-coded to determine who’s kept out and who gets in?

A normal frog or turtle lays about six hundred eggs, and only one in ten of them survives. If that’s the norm, and natural, does that make it OK? If you say No, the problem is a kind of pesky vertigo within your heart of hearts, conscious or not. If you had been aborted, say, or, at the border, turned away, or eaten by a hungry gull just moments after slipping from the womb - where would you be? Would you exist on some less concrete plane? Is that where we all dwell before we are conceived and born? For guidance into these and other profound mysteries, we must rely on SCOTUS and our moral chaperone, Donald J. Trump.

THINGS GOT REAL

By Cassina Farley

One thing I swore I’d never do as an adult was buy an economy pack of those carefully folded underwear in those tight plastic packages.

If you notice, men do it all the time. It’s almost a given that while shopping at Wally World for BBQ essentials they toss in a sack of BVD’s and no one bats an eye, while we women buy ours from a specialty store on little tiny hangers with enough lace and elastic to cut off all our circulation.

So what’s the big deal? Well, for starters, when I decided to make the transition they had moved the whole display to the front entrance of the store so everyone coming in could see me perusing the panties.

I felt panicked trying to decide between high cut, low cut, briefs, boy cut and bikinis. Some were easy to move aside - the XXL thongs (I just lost half of you) for example. As a punishment for choosing packaged underwear, they make you sift through a cardboard display trying desperately to find your size. I found my “style” but definitely not my size and vise versa several times.

It was almost like an underwater dive. I’d hold my breath and go in to dig around quickly and come up to the surface. On the last dive I found the right kind - twelve pairs of perfectly folded multi-colored economy priced gems that I had to hide right away. I stuffed them in the cart under the bag of potting soil and pressed on.

Buying underwear when you are younger starts in a mall somewhere where they wrap your over-priced undies in tissue and give you a cute little shopping bag to tote around the building. When you are older, you buy your underwear at the same place you buy potting soil and dish soap.

Things have gotten real.
WHAT PLACE POLITICS?

By Molly Anderson

The Sky Island Tourist Association (SITA) recently signed a contract giving control of the Patagonia Fall Festival to the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA). We were dismayed by SAACA’s initial refusal to allow any local political or other advocacy organizations to participate in this year’s festival. Following negotiations between local activists and SAACA’s executives, we were excited to be offered booth space, only to learn that the rental fees would be exorbitant for these volunteer groups and the restrictions on our activities would be such that there would be little meaningful contact with the public.

Republican and Democratic clubs and county organizations have had a presence at the festival for over 20 years and we welcomed the opportunity to greet the public. Local citizens were often pleasantly surprised to learn they had neighbors who shared their political concerns. Candidates and sitting legislators used the booths as an opportunity to connect with constituents in a meaningful way that allowed them to listen closely and to express their views in a setting that permitted more than just the usual candy sound bites.

The question we ask now is: if not at public gatherings, then just when do locals have the opportunity to connect with those who represent, or hope to represent us? While big money has way too much influence, the personal relationship of constituents with their representatives is still a driving force that keeps our elected officials focused on the issues important to us. It is also an opportunity for Patagonia to get to know our candidates in relatively intimate settings. Getting the word out about these events has been difficult. Although we did get a story publicizing the fact that the two clubs survived a few joint meetings, our candidate events have never been covered by the press. Our local newspapers have maintained a hands-off policy on anything that hints at partisanship. We believe this is a disservice to our community.

There are so many issues today that divide us. Public discourse is key to understanding each other and seeking common ground. We invite you to visit the booths we hope to set up outside the boundaries of SAACA’s Fall Festival. Our political clubs will have more candidate and issues events in the Patagonia/Sonoita area as the election season heats up.

We encourage the community to engage with us.

Molly Anderson, Vice Chair Santa Cruz County Democratic Party
Emmett McLoughlin, Former Chair Southern Arizona Republican Club
Damien Kennedy, Republican Chair Legislative District 2
David Hetrick, Chair AZBorderlands Democrats
Mary Darling, Chair SCC Democratic Party

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PATAGONIA?

By Valerie Neale

The word is that the Hermosa-Taylor mine project will bring great opportunities for Patagonia. We hear it everywhere.

The Nogales International ran a 16-page supplement by Arizona Mining Company where the word “opportunity” appears in 10 of the 17 articles attesting to the wonders of the project. From the Governor of Arizona, Doug Ducey, “Ample OPPORTUNITIES for today’s students”; from Manuel Ruiz, Chairman of the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors “The increased OPPORTUNITIES for skilled and highly trained workers will have the benefit of helping small businesses in Patagonia”; from Rick Grinnell, VP of the Southern Arizona Business Coalition, “Expanded career OPPORTUNITIES” for example.

All residents of Patagonia would love to see increased opportunities for their town and the county. Whether you were born here or moved here recently, there is no doubt that everyone here has a passion for this area. But if you look at the industry literature surrounding this project, it is clear that the true opportunities may lie elsewhere.

South32, an Australian company which already owns 17% of AMI, is to acquire the remaining 83% of the stock of AMI in an all-cash offer. The price to be paid for the remaining 83% share is $1.3 billion. By the time this issue of the PRT hits the stands, the deal probably will have closed, and, according to AMI's corporate presentation dated July 2018, this buyout will represent a 6100% increase in share value. If you had invested $50,000 in AMI at inception, this statement in AMI’s presentation would imply you will now walk away with over $3,000,000.

After just one year on the Board of AMI, the Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, is set to make $1,000,000 when the deal closes. South32 CEO Graham Kerr, talking in the Financial Review, an Australian business and finance newspaper, calls the deal a “game-changer.” Because, according to the article, they have “hooked one of the world’s most accretive growth options.” Accretive is a financial term that means growth in value of a corporation’s earnings per share. The Hermosa-Taylor project is exciting for South32 because it will increase the earnings per share of the company.

South32 sees the Patagonia project as a replacement for its Cannington mine in Australia, which is in the last 10 years of its life. According to the Financial Review article, the Cannington mine brings in over $1 billion per year after expenses. That one billion dollars “accretes” to the company and its shareholders.

Valerie Neale is a CPA who resides in Patagonia
At Our Backdoor: News From the Front Lines

By India Aubrey

Through the community activist group Voices From The Border, a few friends and I have been going to help the Central American asylum seekers arriving since May 12th at the Port of Entry in Nogales, Sonora. The following are excerpts from my journal entries:

I am at once heartbroken, hopeful, devastated and inspired. Though terrified, the asylum seekers are impossibly resilient and courageous. I promise and inspired. Though terrified, the asylum seekers are impossibly resilient and courageous. I promise myself I will maintain equanimity and then fall helplessly in love. I love them because they are just like me. And you. And most of the people I know.

I deliver socks, underwear and toiletries to people who receive them so gratefully it breaks my heart. The indignity is too much to comprehend. I notice that each person only takes one or two things from our donations of clothing. I am humbled by their restraint in the face of such gaping need.

We met a 14-year old unaccompanied minor from Guatemala who made the dangerous journey on top of the fast-moving train, ‘La Bestia’. He’s smart and savvy or, perhaps, falsely confident. If he is sent back to Guatemala, he will likely be killed by the gang that tried to recruit him, the same gang that killed his father. When asked what he wants to do in the US, he replies in English, ”I want to study” and, with a big grin, “go to Nueva York”. I notice that he wears a rosary underneath his shirt, so I give him my Guadalupe milagro and tell him that She has travelled with me for many miles and many years. Now she will make the rest of the journey with him. He looks away so that he does not cry. Later, he pulls up his sleeve for me to reveal the words, “All we need is love”, written carefully in pen ink on his arm. He says it is his favorite song.

In English he says to me, ”You need to learn Spanish.” This cracks us both up. He is not impressed by my mongrel blend of high-school, college semester, Rosetta Stone Spanish. I ask him to write down his full legal name: Anibal Manuel Perechu Ixquiactap. He writes slowly and thoughtfully. Perhaps later I can locate him in some database, find out where he is, write to him, help him in some way. And so begins the practice of asking many of the asylum seekers to write down their full legal names and country of origin in my notebook. As with Anibal, they each write carefully, nervously, deliberately. I am surprised by my own emotional reaction to it.

In this one simple act, such intimacy and vulnerability. This is who I am, I exist. I matter. At this moment, my name is all that I have. And I hope that I matter. I hope the lives of my children matter to someone else who will determine our fate.

I take the notebook and thank them, always making eye contact. I want them to know that they are seen, witnessed. This is one of the few things I can offer besides socks and underwear. I feel fiercely protective of every one and then feel the weight of my own impotence in this sea of sorrow. I must find my way out of that drowning darkness quickly.

So I go home, tear the pages from my notebook, and put them in my altar drawer where at least their names will be safe, honored, tended to.

I light Guadalupe’s candle on the altar. Maybe She will protect them in all the ways I cannot.

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Gerry Isaac for Mayor of Patagonia

Patagonia is on the verge of great change. As the new mine develops we will see 400 new young workers and their families move into the area, causing the median age of our population to drop from 56 to 44. Our days as a mostly retirement community are numbered. School attendance will double. Wages will increase with higher paying mine jobs. Demand for housing, commercial services and town infrastructure will grow. Among the things we’ll need to do are:

• Create vocational schooling for young people seeking new job opportunities.
• Provide guidelines for affordable housing while avoiding cookie cutter tract development.
• Provide guidelines for the type and possible locations of new commercial enterprises.
• Ensure adequate clean water supply and sewage treatment for a growing population.
• Provide for street repairs and improvements to accommodate increased traffic flow.
• Provide the resources, support and training for additional police and fire protection.
• Maintain and improve attractive open areas for our town parks and playgrounds.
• Continue our efforts to build tourism with more art, music and cultural events.

Many in our community are worried some of these changes will destroy the charm and character of Patagonia. I believe we can avoid that fate by guiding our future with comprehensive planning and management.

My experience and skills uniquely qualify me to lead our town at this challenging time. Over the past 40 years I’ve successfully managed major change in business and community organizations, large and small. I’ve built businesses from the ground up and overhauled failing businesses, just like we’ve done with the Stage Stop Inn. During the 1980’s I was a principal strategic planner for General Motors on two continents, and I am no stranger to balancing the often chaotic demands of competing interests. I’ve held top executive positions in finance, law, product planning, marketing, and strategic planning.

Planning and managing our future will require many hours of time and substantial financial resources. Unlike larger towns and cities, we do not have full time planning or economic development staff to take on this job. Nor do we have the financial resources to fund it. We must undertake this work with community volunteers and find the funding to support it. The responsibility for leadership lies with our town government. Our mayor, council and staff must come together with our citizens to develop a consensus vision of our future, and exercise the leadership to make it happen.

I am running for Mayor of Patagonia to help develop this vision and contribute to its leadership. I pledge my full energy, skills and experience to this important work.

We must all come together to design our future as we would like it to be, and not become victims of unmanaged change.

I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE FOR MAYOR ON AUGUST 28, 2018

PAID FOR BY GERRY ISAAC

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**68% Sold Out!**

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**Cosmic Seer**

By Patra Kelly

She sees secrets hidden in drawers, basements, dusty attics of the mind, tears covers off protected pretenses, unmask deceit, exposes truths lying naked behind symbols, heightens brilliance, unties tethered feelings—propelling her into the cosmos where she probes farther than telescopes, sees stars exploding and imploding, peers deep into black holes, breathlessly beholding endless sheets, whirlpools, waterfalls of galaxies as she spirals through space generating her power, igniting her soul in quantum fields of excited energy—there she sings.

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**VOTE as if your life depends upon the health of the ecosystem not how much money can be made from planet Earth’s resources**

Paid for by Carolyn Shafer, Initiated Earthkeeper and Grandmother

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**Republican State Senate Candidate**

Bobby Wilson’s “Plan to Make Arizona Great” is causing quite a stir in Legislative District #2.

Main Points of his Plan are:

1. **Lower** property taxes for everyone based on increasing the state’s property tax base.
2. **Phase out** our state’s income tax over a two-year period.
3. **Fully fund** our Public Schools, without the annual legislative brawl.
4. **All this to be accomplished without raising anyone’s taxes!**

Watch him explain his remarkable and brilliant Plan on Facebook or, on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/8NsmSP47-yA

**Remember to Vote for**

**BOBBY WILSON ON AUGUST 28TH**

in the Republican Primary for Real Change. Independent voters can vote too, by selecting that Primary on their early ballots, or by going to their respective polling locations on Election Day.

www.bobbyjwilsonforaz.com

Paid for by Bobby Wilson for State Senate Committee

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Polling Site Moved in Sonoita
By Pat McNamara & Marion Venditelli

The voting location for the 832 registered voters in Sonoita Precinct 15 has been moved to Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds after the Sonoita Elgin Fire District Board of Directors, on May 24, voted not to renew the polling place agreement with Santa Cruz County to hold elections at the fire station.

SEFD Chief Joseph De Wolf stressed that the current political climate is not a factor and Chris Johnson stated, “As times change, we must change with them and adapt to the growth in the community.”

The Fire District cited safety reasons, as well as concerns about compliance as reasons for not renewing the agreement. Chief DeWolf stated that having civilian vehicles in the parking lot has become a hazard, with the potential for hindering emergency vehicles and increased risk of accidents. Adding to the congestion is the loss of parking spaces due to the construction of the Dollar General Store next to the fire station.

The fire department building has undergone some remodeling which has changed the structure of the voting area. According to DeWolf, the law requires that the restroom facilities must be ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliant, which is not currently the case at the fire station. Melinda Meek, clerk of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, however, stated that this is not a county requirement for polling places, and that she was unaware of a state requirement for ADA compliant restrooms.

Chief DeWolf also stated that phone and fax lines had to be updated by county law. That also factored into the decision to move to another venue, according to board member Chris Johnson. Meek, however, denied that this was true.

“Young years ago, we needed internet access, but since 2016 we no longer modem results into. Ballots are picked up by a deputy and taken to Nogales where they are hand counted,” she said.

Meek feels that the Sonoita Fairgrounds is a good location for the polling place, noting that voting used to take place there in the past. “There’s plenty of space for parking and in the building,” she said. The polls will open there on August 28 for primary voting.

Empire Ranch Events
By Alison Bunting

Over 300 enthusiastic visitors celebrated National Day of the Cowboy at the Empire Ranch on July 28. The Pima County Supervisors passed a resolution declaring the day “Empire Ranch, Walter L. Vail, and Arizona Cowboy Heritage Day.” The day’s events included Western heritage demonstrations, Van Fower’s re-enactment of the “Story of Walter Vail,” a presentation on “Multi-generational Ranching” by Ian and Addie Tomlinson, and the opportunity to view some western pilot movies.

The main Ranch House at Empire Ranch Headquarters was open after a 15-month closure for a major stabilization project. It will take several months to put the Ranch House back in order but those participating in the docent-led tours saw rooms without bracing supports, a smooth coat of lime plaster on the exterior walls, and explored the Children’s Addition which has been inaccessible for years for safety reasons.

There will be a free outdoor screening of 3:10 to Yuma starring Glenn Ford and Van Heflin on September 20 at 7 p.m. at the ranch. The showing is part of the Loft Cinema’s Shot on Location series. Bring your own chairs, blankets, food, and flashlights and enjoy an evening under the stars at the historic Empire Ranch.

Addie and Ian Tomlinson of the Vera Earl Ranch in Sonoita share their thoughts about operating a family ranch.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

This is the third article in a series that highlights the owners of Patagonia businesses that advertised in the Santa Cruz Patagonian and other local newspapers in 1918. Pat Patterson is listed as manager in the Patagonia Garage ad. That turned out to be one of his many occupations; he was best known for his law enforcement activities in Santa Cruz County. 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.

Harry John “Pat” Patterson was born in Junction, Texas on October 13, 1888. In 1910 he was working as a blacksmith in Stephens, Oklahoma, living with his sister and her husband. By 1914 he is registered to vote in Santa Cruz County, working as a mechanic. The 1916 voter registration record lists his occupation as county ranger and his political affiliation as Democrat. That year he partnered with Albert A. Gatlin in a telephone franchise: “Application for a franchise was made by A. A. Gatlin and Pat Patterson, two young business men of this town, to build, equip and maintain a telephone system from Patterson, two young business men of this town, to build, equip and maintain a telephone system from Nogales to Patagonia, thence to Sonoita and Elgin, and on towards Fairbanks, where it will connect with the toll lines of Cochise County and other parts of the state. The promoters are amply equipped financially, and as Mr. Patterson has had much experience in the telephone business, there is every reason to believe the venture will be a great success.” [Santa Cruz Patagonian, 8/18/1916].

In September of 1916, Pat married Mabel Mae Sipe. Mabel was the sister of Albert Gatlin’s wife, Leota. On July 24, 1917, Pat and Mabel’s daughter, Helen Elizabeth, was born. Tragically she died from a cholera infection at age two and was buried in the Patagonia cemetery. The 1920 census lists Pat’s occupation as deputy sheriff of the Patagonia district of Santa Cruz County. That year Pat decided to run for the “high sheriff” position: “Pat, who is one of Patagonia’s best known, most progressive citizens, has served as a deputy sheriff of this county, and he has made an enviable record as a peace officer. He is thoroughly familiar with every section of the county, is honorable, intelligent, brave and capable of doing his duty as the high sheriff of Santa Cruz county, without fear or favor.” [The Border Vidette, 5/9/1920]. Not long after announcing his candidacy he made a highly publicized arrest: “Jose Maria Borbua, who was recently arrested by Deputy Sheriff Pat Patterson, at Patagonia, on suspicion, has confessed at Phoenix to the murder on June 6th of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Erhardt. By this arrest Patterson is entitled to about $4500 in rewards…and incidentally adds greatly to his laurels as an efficient officer in Santa Cruz county.” [The Border Vidette, 7/3/1920]. Pat did not win the election in 1920 and tried again in 1922.

In 1922 Pat, along with his brother-in-law Albert and many other local citizens, participated in “one of the greatest manhunts ever witnessed in Arizona. Manuel Martinez and Placido Silvas, convicted murderers of Mr. and Mrs. Prank Pearl of Ruby, were captured last Tuesday forenoon, four miles west of Amado, owing their escape at the time the automobile which was conveying them to the state penitentiary at Florence, overturned on the Nogales - Tucson road killing Sheriff Geo. J. White, and injuring Deputy Sheriff Leonard Smith.” [The Border Vidette, 7/22/1922]. Pat was unable to meet the voters in 1922 because he was quarantined due to a smallpox infection. Mabel and Albert campaigned for him but once again he lost.

By 1930 Pat and Mabel are living in Nogales after Pat’s election as Santa Cruz County Sheriff in 1929. He served as Sheriff for one year. Mabel’s occupation in 1930 is chief operator of a telephone company. Pat and Mabel divorced sometime between 1935 and 1940. In the 1940 census Pat is back living in Junction, Texas with his older brother and parents. He died in 1946 in a tuberculosis sanatorium. In 1940 Mabel is still living in Nogales, continuing her work as a chief operator of a telephone company. No record of Mabel’s death has been found.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

A Conversation With Mother Vicki

By Juanita Havill

Mother Vicki, OCSO, Prioress of Santa Rita Abbey, has been at the Abbey in Sonoita since 1972.

In February 1972, Sister Victoria Murray and five other nuns of the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance left the lush green and wooded landscape of Mount Saint Mary’s Abbey in Wrentham, Massachusetts to found a monastery in southern Arizona. Five years earlier when Sr. Vicki had entered the monastery as a novice, she had not anticipated that she would volunteer to found a daughter monastery in the “Wild West.” Nor had she expected 40 years later to be elected prioress of that monastery, Santa Rita Abbey.

Mother Vicki took time from her duties to respond to my questions. Her responses below have been edited.

1) When did you first understand that you were called to be a Cistercian nun?

When I was about ten years old. When I became a teenager, at the advice of a priest I knew, I dated and had normal social life — and enjoyed it very much. Then in my late teens I realized that marriage was not the call for me; I heard the call to the Cistercian life resounding in my depths. The Cistercian way was just the life I was looking for: simple, direct, and deep.

2) What was your first reaction when you learned that you would be founding an abbey in Arizona?

Your reaction when you arrived at the site of the future abbey? What were some of the challenges of those first years?

My first reaction was shock, joy at the thought of being able to spread Cistercian life, sorrow at having to leave the sisters at Wrentham, whom I had come to love very much, and excitement at the thought of living in the Southwest. My reaction to seeing the small ranch house that would one day become Santa Rita Abbey was one of complete love at first sight. I fell in love with our surroundings, too. The challenges were many at the beginning: adjusting to living with six sisters in a remote area after living with 58 sisters at Wrentham in a well-populated and easy-to-reach area, finding an industry to support ourselves, and commencing a building program because all we had for a monastery was a small ranch house. We built a chapel, guest room, visiting room, and dormitory.

3) How would you describe the life of a contemplative nun?

A contemplative nun would be someone for whom God was the center of her life in such a way as to be open to the transforming love of God in every person, creature — in all of life. It is a life of journeying into God in the “ordinary, obscure, and laborious” ways we call life and knowing in our depths that God is present in it all. 4) How does the Abbey support itself?

We support ourselves primarily through the making and sale of altar breads. Sr. Esther’s sculpture and the income from the retreat house are other sources of income.

5) What are your thoughts about the future of monasticism?

I think there will always be monastics. Maybe not by the hundreds, but I am sure there will always be some few for whom living for and with God is a hunger that draws them to open their beings to the transforming love of God for a lifetime. I think that every person has a bit of “monk” in them, as an archetype almost. But there are some who choose to go deep and yield themselves to God.

For more information about the Abbey, go to: www.santaritabbey.org.

The PRT welcomes submissions to the Articles of Faith column from all faiths and belief systems. Contact us at prteditor@gmail.com for more information.
Mesquite: Arizona’s Tree of Life

Few local species provoke such mixed reactions as does our mesquite tree. To some, this is the epitome of an unwanted “alien” species that has “invaded” our otherwise harmonious wildlands. As a wildlife biologist, however, I know that mesquite boasts a legion of both wildlife and human uses that render it a keystone species—one that has inordinately positive ecological impacts upon the area where it resides.

Is mesquite native to Arizona? The short answer is a resounding “yes!” Studies on pollen found in southern Arizona’s ancient packrat middens confirm that along with giant saguaro and various cacti, mesquite gradually migrated into our region as the climate became warmer and drier—approximately 8,900 years ago according to paleobotanists. This new community of arid-adapted plants gradually supplanted a more mesic plant community of pinyon-juniper-oak woodland, owing to a natural shift in climate, not any human-wrought environmental changes.

Fast forward to the late 1800’s, when overstocking of cattle in southern Arizona resulted in widespread degradation of rangelands. Grasses were largely reduced to the point where naturally-occurring fires diminished severely. These fires had served to keep mesquite abundance down in grassland and other fire-prone habitats. Mesquite at this time became more prevalent within its already existing range.

While cattle helped mesquite to increase within its existing range, the large mesquite bosques or woodlands so characteristic of our riparian bottomlands and rivers started to be cut down by people. Far more insidious, however, was the drawdown on various aquifers, upon which these tree-sized mesquites depended. Some ranchers, noting the poor range quality, seized upon mesquite as a sort of ecological scapegoat. They reckoned that since mesquite showed up, the range became poorer for their cattle, when in fact it was cattle overgrazing that allowed mesquite to increase in habitats that used to burn more frequently! Ironically, the cows themselves help the spread of mesquite, as they disseminate its seeds in their droppings.

Not only is mesquite native here, but many species have coevolved a deep-seat
dependence on these trees. The roots support various native underground herbivores, such as pocket gophers and insects. The wood is munched by various beetle larvae, including mesquite girdler beetles. The leaves and twigs are eaten by whitetail deer, mule deer, jackrabbits, cottontails, and others. The leaves are also one of the foods of marine blue butterflies. Red-naped Sapsuckers seek out mesquite sap. Last, and certainly not least, mesquite pods are consumed by a myriad of species, such as coyote, common gray fox, collared peccary, and a wide spectrum of insects.

Human uses are equally as ubiquitous, with various cultural groups employing mesquite for: food (pods and sap), medicine (sap and leaves), fuel (wood), tools (wood), weapons (wood), varnish (sap), tattooing (spines), and more. I doubt that the progression of native cultures that have collectively dwelt in Arizona over the millennia since mesquite came on the scene would agree with the common practice of vilifying this supremely useful plant! Birders, too, seek out mesquite, which supports many avian species. Hence, even our local economy is bolstered by mesquite.

Importantly, mesquite along with other riparian trees helps to shade our streams, rivers, and lakes, cutting down on evaporation rates and thus allowing our water resources to thrive.

Bottom line? Mesquite is native to Arizona and most of the Southwest, where its abundance has waxed and waned over thousands of years into the present. Its presence supports our rich and spectacular biodiversity, while offering beauty and shade for all who behold it. Any unwarranted and unscientific calls to “cut down mesquites” would spell ecological and cultural disaster for our Sky Islands region.

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

Summer Library Programs Engage the Community
By Laura Wenzel

Approximately 1600 people, both adults and children, attended June and July programs held at the Patagonia Library.

In June, the library screened two films, “Crazywise” and “Neither Wolf nor Dog,” both of which can be found in the library’s collection. Matthew Gurnsey, aka The Kilted Man, performed traditional Irish and Scottish music. These programs were made possible by a Library Science and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For the second year in a row, Cleo Mock held her birthday at the library during the Music Jam and Coloring program; this year she turned 102! Dozens of community members came to eat cake and ice cream and listen to music with Mock for her birthday.

Teacher David Clavosko-Wharton returned this summer to lead STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) and Chess programs in Cady Hall three afternoons a week. Kids conducted a variety of science experiments, ranging from soda bottle rockets to solar oven s’mores to dancing balloons and water tornadoes. Clavosko-Wharton also took kids to the library’s Community Garden plot to plant a 3 Sisters Garden with seeds from Patagonia Library’s Seed Library/Semilloteca. Children created artwork, including silhouette collages, a collective M. C. Escher tessellation, and painted their own canvases, all of which were entered in an art show and chess tournament held at the end of June.

Other programs for children included the weekly Summer Reading Story Time with Miss Laura; a Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) and Patagonia Creative Arts Association Arts and Ecology gourd instrument workshop with Zach Farley of Homegrown Instruments and Perin McNelis of BRN; the Patagonia Borderlands Earth Care Youth Institute Nogales and Patagonia Chapters Graduation and Community Taco Party, which brought in around 120 community members from around Santa Cruz County; and a cupcake decorating workshop with Cassina Farley.

Perhaps the keystone to all of the library’s summer programming for children is the Summer Lunch Program. This year, library staff and 17 volunteers served almost 1000 free homemade lunches to children ages 18 and under. Between Friends of the Library fundraisers and private donations, the library was able to fund and create affordable, delicious meals for Santa Cruz County children throughout June and July.

Patagonia Library would like to thank all of the volunteers, partners, and donors who helped make our summer programs possible. Thank you!
Once upon a time there was little girl born in the old Stork’s Nest Hospital in Tucson. She had a dream. It was to survive.

Unfortunately, like too many other children, she lived in a home where anger abounded. Her father had Hodgkin’s lymphoma from “cocooning” the old planes at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. He was afraid of dying and was perpetually angry.

So, at a very young age Sharon Scofield learned to be invisible. She learned to defer to others as a defense mechanism.

Sharon was 18 when her father died, and that’s when she began to “live.” That’s when she began to dream again.

At 39, Sharon began taking karate lessons. She quickly discovered that during karate, she could completely focus and set aside everything else.

At age 20 she placed third in the state championship. Mike Stone, the reigning karate world champion, presented her with her medal. He also gave her a kiss, to the delight of the onlooking crowd. More importantly, Sharon had her first “pat on the head” of affirmation in her life.

Later, she transitioned to the “fighting arena” of karate and became a state champion. “Karate gave me a place to go where I had peace for the first time ever,” she said.

Some years later, with karate in the rearview mirror, she met Carl and Dorothy Satterfield, both legends in the world of quarter horses. Sharon became Dorothy’s protégé. She bought and showed quarter horses for several years, competing in a circuit that included Tucson, Sonoita, Douglas, Safford, and Phoenix. But for Sharon the most incredible part of it all was that this “champion” cared for her.

In her mid-20’s Sharon got married. It was her daughter that introduced her to her latest passion. Her daughter bought a bicycle, so Sharon bought one. It was her first bike ever, at age 50.

Anything Sharon tried, she did so with gusto and fortitude. Twice she won the female division in the 35-mile El Tour De Tucson. She won multiple state championships. For 10 years she raced on a closed track and went to nationals and placed several times.

Now in her late 60’s, and with many trophies in her rear-view mirror, Sharon recognizes even greater rewards from her journey. “The reward is being an example of possibilities,” she said. “The reward was when other women learned they were good for more than just marriage and babies. The reward was helping people understand that age is not a limiting factor.”

Sharon has had to overcome a lot in her life: born with a club foot, a life-long battle with asthma, the very dysfunctional home as a child and two horrific bicycle accidents. Nevertheless, Sharon chooses to focus on the blessings.

“I have a lot to be thankful for. I have had the good fortune to experience more of life than I could have dreamed of,” she said. “I had people believe in me when I couldn’t believe in myself. I was moved forward by a source greater than myself.” Sharon, a Sonoita resident, now helps others achieve their goals as a certified personal trainer and exercise therapist.

Once upon a time, Sharon dreamed of being invisible. But as an adult she revised the dream and along the way has made a positive impact on many lives, especially women. She learned and demonstrated that “you can be what you want to be, but you have to believe.”

Once Upon A Time

By David Daffern

Sharon Scofield smiles after winning the female division of El Tour De Tucson.

At Arizona Mining our commitment is to the communities we serve. From helping our youth in programs like 4H to seniors at the Patagonia Senior Center.

From one generation to the next.

Our Commitment is to You

To learn more about Arizona Mining visit our website at www.arizonamining.com, or follow us on Instagram.com/arizonamininginc
SCP Receives Grant from Delta Dental of Arizona

With a mission to serve and support the Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin areas with assistance on nutrition, health, transportation, education and social services, Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc. (SCP) is now proud to offer oral health and dental hygiene support through a $6,000 grant received from Delta Dental of Arizona, through its Foundation.

Although the primary focus of SCP is on serving senior citizens, the organization also provides assistance to residents with disabilities. The recent funding for dental will allow SCP to provide partial or full payment for several dozens of seniors’ dental bills. The primary focus will be on those individuals who have not received dental treatment in more than three years.

Additionally, SCP provides and distributes information on proper oral hygiene techniques to prevent further oral health issues. For many seniors, cavities, dry mouth and gum disease are very common and can become more serious when arthritis or other mobility issues make it difficult to care for teeth and gums.

“So many of the senior residents in Patagonia and surrounding areas are on fixed incomes, mostly social security, and so dental care is not a top priority because of cost,” says Charles Kelly, treasurer at Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc. “With this funding, we hope to start our seniors down a path to better oral health by either paying for their dental work or at least educating them to take better care of their teeth and mouths.”

According to Kelly, SCP had a previous dental program in place about six years ago that was successful, but since had been dormant until the recent grant from Delta Dental allowed the organization to revive its offerings in the oral health space.

“It is our goal that everyone, regardless of age and income, has access to proper dental care,” said Allan Alford, Delta Dental of Arizona chief executive officer. “Taking care of your teeth and gums not only helps maintain a healthy mouth, it helps maintain a healthy body – especially as we get older.”

For more information on the dental program, please call SCP at 520-394-2494.

Borderlands Restoration Network held its first of 6 Art+Ecology youth workshops at the Patagonia Library on July 11th. The workshop was free and open to the public and was organized with help from the Patagonia Creative Arts Association and support from the Patagonia Regional Community Fund.

Perin McNels of BRN’s Native Plant Material Program talked with participants about cultivated plant varieties and their wild relatives that are native to this region, and the importance of wild native plants to both humans and ecosystems. She highlighted the Coyote Gourd and its value in Ecological Restoration work. Then, Zach Farley, local artist and musician of Home Grown Instruments, guided the kids in creating custom designed gourd shakers that they got to take home.
Flower Farm
A Growing Business

By Marion Vendituoli

“I’m feeding the soul with flowers,” Aishah Lurry, owner of the Patagonia Flower Farm, said as she looked around her garden, a small area enclosed by galvanized panels, behind High Spirits Flutes in Patagonia. In this space she is growing thousands of plants, both for their flowers and their foliage, for use in bouquets and arrangements. Her flowers are available at Red Mountain Foods, through her flower subscription program, and by special order. She is also consulting with Borderlands Restoration to promote native flowers.

Her goal is to sell to flower designers for weddings and is working to develop the market for her flowers in Tucson. “More brides are looking for locally grown flowers rather than ones grown in South America,” she said. “It’s nice to know they are grown locally.”

There is no rigid system to the plantings, although there is one area set aside for perennials, and a border of roses. It’s my own system,” Lurry said laughing. “They’re not even sorted by height.” She simply plants new flowers as space opens up in the beds. The result is a rich, varied tapestry of colors and shapes interspersed with fountains to encourage birds to visit the garden and help in pest control.

She follows organic practices, although is not certified as an organic garden. She feeds her plants with a fish emulsion and protects her sunflowers and zinnias in organza bags to keep out pests.

Lurry is constantly experimenting with new plants. She successfully grew anemones and ranunculus last year and had flowers all winter from bulbs planted last October. Daffodils, also, did well, but not tulips or dahlias. The roses were a new addition this year.

“They’ll never pay for themselves, but I love them,” she said.

She has discovered that the native columbine and datura are beautiful as cut flowers and is growing blackberries and raspberries for their foliage to use in arrangements, as well as some native grasses. She is also growing hops and other plants for their seed pods and experimenting with cotton to see if it would work in arrangements.

“So excited about zinnias,” Lurry said, pointing to a bed bursting with bright flowers. But as she walked through the garden, it was apparent, as she reached out to gently touch flowers and foliage, that she would have a hard time deciding which plant would be her favorite.

Lurry is looking to build a greenhouse and to expand her business. “I’ve sold everything I planted this year,” she said. Next year she hopes to be able to offer potted plants to customers, as well as cut flowers. She sees a bright future for small scale flower farming. “It’s more profitable than growing vegies.” She would like to see more flower farmers in the area, and to form a collective to better market flowers in Southern Arizona.

For more information about flower farming or to order flowers, Lurry can be contacted at 480-225-7910 or email at patagoniaflowerfarm@gmail.com.

Flower Farm
A Growing Business

By Marion Vendituoli

Aishah Lurry shows off one of her zinnias in her garden.

She has discovered that the native columbine and datura are beautiful as cut flowers and is growing blackberries and raspberries for their foliage to use in arrangements, as well as some native grasses. She is also growing hops and other plants for their seed pods and experimenting with cotton to see if it would work in arrangements.

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12 year old Alyssa Mullen waits to show her horse, Any Cowboys Dream, in the Showmanship at Halter class at the Sonoita Horse Show.

This year was the 80th year of the Sonoita Quarter Horse Show. This show is the oldest Quarter Horse Show in the world. Much fun was had by all, with buckles, saddle blankets and lucky exhibitor awards. The monsoon held off until the show was over, giving everyone the chance to show their horses in good weather. The Sonoita All Breed Circuit Show was held in conjunction with the Quarter Horse Show. Many thanks to our major sponsors, Hudbay & Excel EQ by Excel Supplements.
KPUP Broadcast Schedule
Summer - Fall 2018

Monday:
7:00pm to 8:00pm; eTown repeat of Saturday’s show.

Tuesday:
10:00am to 12:00pm; World Jazz with Mark Berg
7:00pm to 9:00pm; Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen

Wednesday:
11:00am to 12:00pm; Lars Marshal with Patagonia Montessori School
7:00pm to 10pm; Sean Alexander show

Thursday:
11:00am to 12:00pm; Lars Marshal with PUHS - Alternating weeks
7:00pm to 10:00pm; Possibility Explorers. “Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties”. Hosted by Graves

Friday:
7:00pm to 9:00pm; Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse

Saturday:
12:00pm to 1:00pm; eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire a diverse audience through music and conversation”
6pm to 8pm; Acoustic Café – “Today’s great songwriting talents. A bit of country, rock, blues, folk, pop”
8:00pm to 10:00pm; Folk Alley – “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”

Daily Shows:
Swing Hour: 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
Best of the Oldies: 1:00pm to 2:00am.
Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8 am., 12pm and 6pm., Sat. 8am & 6pm., Sun. at 8am.
Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour. Ponder that if you like.

MOVIES AT THE TIN SHED THEATER
2018 SCHEDULE

AUGUST

August 7 6pm “Water Matters More” by local filmmaker Michelle Gisser. Discussion to follow.

SEPTEMBER

September 28 6pm Broadway on Screen - “An American in Paris” $10.00 Suggested Donation

OCTOBER

October 5,6,7 Time TBA “Peace, Love and Cantaloupes: A Cosmic Spoof on Spiritual Truth” Live theater, written by Chris Whitcoe.
$10.00 Suggested Donation. There is a need for actors, stagehands and behind the scenes help - Contact Chris at 520-668-7511.

October 27 2pm Royal Ballet - “Mayerling” $10.00 Suggested Donation

NOVEMBER

November 3 2pm Royal Opera House - “Die Walkure” $10.00 Suggested Donation

December 8 Exhibitions on Screen - TBA
December 22 Discover Arts Film - TBA

*Dates and Times Subject to Change*

PCAA wishes to thank all our generous sponsors of the 2018-2019 season at the Patagonia Movie House. If you would be interested in sponsoring upcoming events, please contact Cassina Farley at 520-394-9369.

Visit www.patagoniacreativearts.org or 394-9369 for more information.

Lending Shed Needs Volunteers

Have you been thinking you need to get out of the house more? You’d like to help a worthy cause in your community? Do you have one morning a week to spend at the Lending Shed helping others? Maybe you are someone who gets swept up in a selling frenzy when you are having a garage sale. If so, the FHAmigos-sponsored Lending Shed needs you! We are an all-volunteer organization with a mission to serve anyone in the Mountain Empire area who needs durable medical equipment or adult incontinent supplies and we have space for a volunteer one morning a week. Our biggest fund raiser is an annual rummage sale during the Earth Day celebration in the town park. It is a two-day event that could use some-one to sell whimsical and practical used goods to the community. If either of these opportunities speak to you, call 520.256.7213. Our members say they get as much out of helping as the people we serve.

PAGE 18          PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES          AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018
HERSTORY

Courageous Women Honored at Parade
By Kathy Pasierb

When I saw Helen at a Frida Kahlo art exhibit she was sporting a painted on unibrow, the signature characteristic of Ms. Kahlo. That encounter generated an idea between Helen and me. Frida Kahlo was a creative spirit in the face of adversity and she was not alone. Historical and present-day women have made astounding contributions to our global community.

I thought of women whom I admired. On the top of my list is Jane Goodall, primatologist and environmental activist. I wondered if other women in my community had similar admiration for women in their lives.

E-mails zoomed through cyberspace from a long list of women I have known in my community. I wondered how they would feel about participating in the 4th of July parade in costume as their own personal heroine. In the meantime, Helen gathered together a group of horsewomen who were enthusiastic to participate in the parade. A trailer for the “float” was acquired and a theme was developed. It looked like we would come together as courageous women in time for the parade.

Fourteen women and one young girl came dressed in costume to proudly ride in the 4th of July parade, behind fire trucks, police cars, sirens blaring, political candidates riding in gas guzzling vehicles and a community youth center float.

Our float was well received by many in the crowd. We were greeted with smiles by many women who gave us a thumbs up. I giggled to myself when we passed a few of our local men who held flummoxed expressions. I am grateful to all the women who participated and contributed to make this happen. Special thanks go to Helen Chester for her enthusiasm, her trailer and connections to gather many horse riders. A big thanks to Rhonda Brew for the painted banner, Patra Kelly who provided ideas, Janice and Ron Pulliam who contributed their vehicle to pull the trailer, Pam Waters and Jeri Sober for the straw bales and Cynthia Martin who kept everything on track.

“HerStory,” is a monthly column for and about women. Call Patra Kelly for more information about appropriate subjects, length of articles, how to submit, deadlines, or to talk about your ideas. 520-604-8119.

Fourteen women and one girl rode in the 4th of July parade portraying courageous women including Mother Earth, Morgan La Fay Jane Goodall, Elizabeth of York, Mary Peace Douglas and Wonder Woman.

La Frontera Realty

LOCALS JOIN BORDER PROTEST

On June 30, 2018, the national organization Families Belong Together held a rally in Nogales AZ’s Nasib Karam Park to oppose separating children from their asylum-seeking parents. Introduced by Peg Bowden of Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans, speakers U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva, John Fife (co-founder of the Sanctuary movement), three area ministers, and several inspiring long-time activists addressed an enthusiastic crowd, estimated at 500 by the Tucson Sentinel, and including around 50 locals (Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin).

The rally was followed by a march to the Mexican border led by the local group Voices From The Border. It was a lively but peaceful demonstration.

Herstory

Fourteen women and one girl rode in the 4th of July parade portraying courageous women including Mother Earth, Morgan La Fay Jane Goodall, Elizabeth of York, Mary Peace Douglas and Wonder Woman.

Charming Cozy Cottage

1,235sf home w/3B, 2Ba, amazing mountain views. Interior features include IKEA-like kitchen w/butcher block counters. Living area plumbed/prepared for wood or pellet stove; Closet hanging system. Exterior features include Jeld-Wen Low-E dual pane windows; HardiePlank Exterior siding. The property has ample space for a garage, patios, garden. Conceived, built & competitively priced to sell quickly. It’s immediately move-in-able. A must see..TAR/MLS #21803621, $208,000

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PAGE 19 PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018
Elgin Student Places Third in Nat’l Essay Contest

By Michelle Sebert

Elgin School Eighth grader Luke Anderson won third place in the National Essay Contest sponsored by the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), which sponsors an annual essay contest to promote the spirit of Americanism and patriotism among the country’s youth. It is open to all students, grades 7 through 12, including those who are home schooled. Students submit a 350-word essay through an FRA member or local FRA branch. This year’s topic was “What Patriotism Means to Me.”

Anderson, the son of Linda Anderson, of Elgin, took first place for 8th grade for southwestern Arizona. The Green Valley FRA Branch 77 provided an award ceremony and luncheon, as well as a $50 prize and certificate. His essay was then submitted and won first place for the multi-state Southwest Region.

At his 8th grade graduation on May 23rd, Anderson was presented with a certificate and $100 by Pete Firos, representing the Green Valley FRA Branch. Firos then surprised Anderson by informing him that he was the third place 8th grade winner for the nation. Luke received an additional $1,000 and will also receive a plaque from the national FRA headquarters.

What is Montessori?

By Leah Lynn

Patagonia is known for its progressive nature. Our little town is home to so many innovative institutions, including a nature conservancy, creative art center, public library, historical museum, opera house, and more. Founded in 1998, Patagonia Montessori Elementary School is yet another expression of local innovation, drawing students from Sonoita and even Sierra Vista.

Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, this model of education is based on the scientific observation of children and their natural interests at each stage of development. In a Montessori classroom, children are invited to engage in purposeful activities that appeal to their innate love of learning.

Benefits of Montessori education include emphasis on cognitive structure rather than rote knowledge. Students receive support for development of self-regulation, self-discipline and the ability to educate one’s self through self-teaching materials. Intrinsic motivation is cultivated instead of external rewards or incentives. Each child is valued as a unique individual moving at his/her own pace in a close, caring community in a multi-age classroom, emphasizing, kindness, peace, responsibility, and respect. Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and to help each other and are given the freedom and tools to pursue answers to their own questions as well as multi-sensory materials accommodating all learning styles. All students receive violin lessons, which are not only life enhancing, but also aid academic success.

The Montessori method has been time-tested with over 100 years of success throughout the world, fostering creativity and inventiveness.

While charter schools receive less funding than traditional public schools, the K-8 program at Patagonia Montessori is tuition-free. Scholarships are available for the early childhood program for families in hardship. The school is a non-profit organization raising funds for infrastructure and the music program. All donations are greatly appreciated.

For more information about our school, please call us at (520)394-9530 or visit our website at www.patagoniamontessori.org.
Patagonia Celebrates the 4th of July

Photos by Robert Gay & Cynie Murray
Aug 4 – Red Beard Rally starting at the Elgin Club. Registration starts at 6:30a.m. 10k - 7:50a.m., 5k - 8a.m. Register online to run, walk or volunteer at www.redbeardrally.com.


Aug 9 – Patagonia Senior/Community Center – Featuring Oldies but Goodies by DJ-Pl 6p.m. to 10p.m. $5.00 donation includes Dessert prepared by chef Carla Haro, refreshments. All ages welcome.


Aug 12 – Patagonia Candidate Forum. 6p.m. at Cady Hall.

Aug 14 – Pancake Breakfast to benefit Santa Cruz County Fair. 7a.m. – 10a.m. Pioneer Hall, Sonoita Fairgrounds.


Aug 16 – Patagonia Candidate Forum. 6p.m. at Cady Hall.

Aug 18 – Volunteer Work Day at Empire Ranch Foundation. 8a.m. – noon. All welcome. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org.


Aug 20 – Broadway on Screen - “An American in Paris” at the Tin Shed Theater. 6p.m. $10 suggested donation.


Aug 24 – Red Beard Rally starting at the Elgin Club. Registration starts at 6:30a.m. 10k - 7:50a.m., 5k - 8a.m. Register online to run, walk or volunteer at www.redbeardrally.com.


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**HUGO** is one of the sweetest cats we have at the moment, always waiting for a hand to caress him and always giving love. He is about 1 year old and he has a beautiful silver tabby coat. He’s very friendly with cats and people. Loves the attention and loves people!

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Email resume: Adrienne@globalartsgallery.com

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**HUGO** is one of the sweetest cats we have at the moment, always waiting for a hand to caress him and always giving love. He is about 1 year old and he has a beautiful silver tabby coat. He’s very friendly with cats and people. Loves the attention and loves people!

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