In a fast-moving real estate deal, the empty lot next to La Misión has been sold to Gopher Golf, a company based in Las Vegas that is expanding its miniature golf course holdings across the southwest.

The Patagonia Town Council will meet this month to decide whether to approve the project. The proposal has been kept low profile, and council members are reluctant to talk about it, but feelings about the idea are mixed. The course would provide a healthy boost to the local economy, and possibly become a popular diversion for locals. However, one council member voiced the opinion that “it would turn McKeown into a carnival boardwalk.”

Mannie Hogan, CEO of Gopher Golf, says, “It will be one of our smaller courses but we think we can get nine fun holes in there and even have room for a central water feature.” He says he understands that setbacks might be limiting, but, “Hey, we deal with ordinances all the time in Nevada. We always find a way.”

Hogan explains that small towns like Patagonia need to strengthen (continued on page 2)
Mini Golf, continued from page 1

their economic base and that Gopher Golf courses have been a magnet for tourists, townspeople with nothing to do, and folks from nearby cities looking for an outing. “We’re still trying to decide if we’ll give the course a mining theme or a birding theme.” He thinks some old ore cars and signs that warn of cave ins and toxic gas would add atmosphere, and water could seem to be perpetually pumped into a tunnel and out the other end. “You hit your ball into that tunnel and not know where it might come out. Or maybe it would get stuck,” he said smiling at the thought.

“The bird theme would attract those tourists who come at this time of year. What do they have to do at night after the birds go to sleep? We could stuff an owl and hang it in there. Flamingoes are always good on a golf course.”

When asked if he thought the council would approve his project, Hogan nodded emphatically. “What have you got now? A vacant lot with weeds. Gopher Golf will transform the downtown!”

From Our Readers

I have just reread an article in the February 2, 2016 issue of The Weekly Bulletin titled “Speaker Touts State’s Rights to GOP Club”. My initial reading of this article left me with a nagging concern about certain statements by Jeffrey Utsch, the Southern Arizona Republican Club’s guest speaker on Jan. 21 at the Sonoita-Elgin firehouse. My second reading of this article confirmed that what I had originally read was indeed a cause for concern. As the Vice-President of Education for Compact for America, Mr. Utsch said the following about how he would educate someone who disagrees with him:

“When I hear somebody say ignorantly that the Supremacy Clause means that the federal government is sovereign over us all in all cases whatsoever, what do I want to do? I want to grab them by the head and slam them on a rock because they are ignorant to the core and they do not understand what it means to be an American.” The article did not say if anyone in the GOP audience disagreed with Mr. Utsch on his way of showing what it means to be an American. I do.

— Murphy Musick, Patagonia

Walter’s Bench

Rhonda Brew paints a memorial to Walter Andrew

Walter Andrew, co-founder of the Patagonia Regional Times, died in December of 2014. We at the paper miss his wise council, sense of humor, and nose for news. When the PRT opened its small office in the Visitor Center at the corner of Third and McKelown, several of Walter’s close friends thought it would be appropriate to mount a memorial plaque on the bench that sits on the porch. This is a corner that Walter passed most days on his way to the post office, where he would schmooze and search out town news.

It has taken over a year, but on March 12, a day before the first anniversary of the opening of the Regional Visitor Center and the PRT office, Rhonda Brew painted a memorial message on the back of the pink bench on the porch. It says, “In memory of Walter Andrew, newspaper extraordinaire.”

It probably won’t last as long as a bronze plaque, but we think Walter might find a plaque to be a little too stuffy and formal.

Please stop by and sit down for awhile. It’s a corner where a lot happens. Walter would like it.

Results of the AZ Presidential Primary

On March 22, Santa Cruz County Democratic voters chose Hilary Clinton and Republican voters gave Donald Trump the majority vote. Clinton received 66% (2726 votes) and Sanders 41% (1383 votes). in Santa Cruz County Republicans went for Donald Trump, 48% (853 votes). State results were similar, with Clinton winning 57% (242,064) and Donald Trump 48% (258,384). Only registered Democrats, Republicans, and Green Party members were eligible to vote in the primaries.
NO MORE PATAGONIA 4TH OF JULY?

Unfortunately, this is not an April Fools joke.

For several years, the Fourth of July festivities we look forward to have been coordinated almost entirely by Lars Marshal, who even kicked in money for part of the costs. A few weeks ago, Lars told town manager Dave Teel that he would not be able to continue that role. Teel says the town is "hoping someone will come forward to take it on." If that doesn't happen, Patagonia will lose one of its biggest traditions—one that brings the whole town together.

The celebration wasn't always quite as big as it has become. Ten years ago, it was from out-of-town, and the park is lined with food concessions. There is musical entertainment throughout the day. Its good for some of the local businesses, but Patagonia's Fourth of July has spiraled into an undertaking that requires a dedicated committee to make it happen, and a budget that is more than the town can afford.

Now, the town faces the prospect of no celebration at all. Will someone step up and take on the organizing that this event requires? Find volunteers to share the load? Rally the community's financial support? Perhaps scale back the costly entertainment and promotion?

Patagonians love this holiday, and most of us have always assumed that it's something we can count on. That's no longer a realistic expectation. If the community doesn't come together to make it happen, it will lose the town's most community-wide holiday.

PRFC Announces Grant Awards for 2016

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund (PRCF) recently announced its 2016 grants made to local charitable organizations. These grants were determined after a thorough review and consideration process by PRCF Steering Committee members, German Quiroga, Nancy McCoy, Susan Scott and Jim Schatz, Chair of PRCF’s Steering Committee, with valuable input from local community members, Jan Herron, Mary Strohm and Don Wenig.

The entities and programs receiving total grants of a little over $24,000 this year are as follows:

- **Senior Citizens of Patagonia** to continue its weekday congregate lunch program under which locally cooked meals are provided to area seniors.
- **Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center** to provide a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) computer program for local youth in which they will be taught to use CAD (Computer Assisted Design) software and a 3D printer to design and build structures and machines. Participants will display their results at the Patagonia Library to show the community what they have accomplished.
- **Patagonia Animal Lovers (PALS)** to help it complete new kennels using in-kind materials and labor donations to enable the Town of Patagonia to shelter stray and quarantined animals in a safe environment.
- **Hummingbird Monitoring Network** to fund the final year of a three year program employing qualifying PUHS students to help manage its research and monitoring data with goals of conserving hummingbird diversity and abundance and to teach STEM skills in the process.
- **East Santa Cruz County Food Bank** to continue providing monthly food boxes to needy residents.
- **Patagonia Creative Arts Center** to help it present independent films for adults at the Patagonia Library during the summer and to enhance film appreciation through the expertise of attending Arizona Humanities scholars.
- **Patagonia Library** to fund the provision of an additional month of USDA summer lunches at the Library for children who qualify for free or reduced fee school lunches.
- **Family Healthcare Amigos** to further a program to lend area residents needed durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs.

Jim Schatz says, "We thank, and are very grateful to, all community members who made donations during our 2015 year-end appeal as well as to all those who have made donations in earlier years. It is such donations that allow us to support worthwhile programs, such as those described above, now and forever into the future."
Bring your household hazardous waste items such as old paint, anti-freeze, oil, light bulbs, car batteries, pesticides, etc between 8 a.m. and noon to Doc Mock Park (across from the public rest rooms on 4th Avenue) in Patagonia. NOTE: No biomedical waste or household batteries such as A, AA, 9-volt, etc. The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition is coordinating the collection of these items.

Bring your old electronics (computer CPUs, computer flatscreen monitors, printers, scanners, cell phones, etc) between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to Cady Hall in Patagonia. Ed Schaefer and Terry Plympton of Better Bytes will collect these items and take them to recycling facilities in Tucson.

**IS A GREAT TIME TO RECYCLE!**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 & THURSDAY APRIL 28**
**THE PATAGONIA LANDFILL WILL BE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM.**
**FREE DROP OFF**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**
**ANNUAL TOWN CLEAN UP DAY**

The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition will coordinate pick up of non-hazardous trash & debris.

If you are interested in volunteering with this event (people, trucks, trailers welcome), contact Charlie at the Patagonia Gas Station (394-2363). For residents who may be unable to get trash and debris to the curbside on their own, contact Ray Klein (394-2530) at least 24 hours in advance to arrange special assistance.

**SEVEN DAYS A WEEK:** Bring your left-over prescription drugs and unused over the counter medications to the Nogales Police Department at 777 N Grand Avenue.

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patagoniarolfer@gmail.com  https://michaelstabile@abmp.com
There is a new concession operator at Patagonia State Park. Ho hum, you say, what is newsworthy about that? Actually, the new operator, Aramark, has plans to make some pretty swell improvements over the next year or two. The store has already been spruced up and hours of operation have been extended to 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on weekends and 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays, March - September. A major expansion of the dock is under construction now. By the end of the month, a new fleet of boats will be at the marina, including flat bottomed jonboats, kayaks, bicycle boats, pontoon boats, and paddleboards.

Park Ranger, Colt Alford and Aramark Manager, Elaina Cole are excited about the new partnership and have a number of additional improvements in the works. WiFi will soon be available in the campground. Four short term rental cabins will be built near the beach to expand choices for visitors. Alford says WiFi and cabins are the most common requests they hear from visitors. Aramark has also proposed adding an annual Fourth of July celebration on the weekend nearest the holiday. The annual Mariachi Festival will continue, this year on May 21st. It is always quite the party and definitely worth experiencing, at least once!

Perhaps the biggest news is the plan to construct a new pavilion along the beach. This would serve local wines and microbrews and be available for a variety of events. It could be a real draw for locals and visitors alike. Stay tuned for more info on the timing for the new pavilion.

Aramark is an international firm, based in Philadelphia. They also run the concession at Kartchner Caverns and have a number of other contracts within the state of Arizona. Aramark was selected through a competitive bidding process. They took over operations on February 1, and have a 10-year contract with the option for two, five-year extensions. For any questions about services, you can reach them at the same number as the prior contractor, 520-287-5545.

Aramark will employ 15 people, including jobs in retail, maintenance, office, and at the dock.

Combined with the eight permanent and three seasonal staff employed by the state, Patagonia State Park is a major employer around here. The park’s 200,000 annual visitors will keep all these folks pretty busy!
At their monthly meeting on March 14, the Patagonia Public Schools Governing Board, celebrated Bernice Pomeroy's award as a local Hero of Public Education (HOPE). This award was part of the Arizona School Board Association’s statewide HOPE campaign. Winners of this award advocate for the many needs and challenges in our public schools. They possess “super-powers” in their own way and work with diligence to positively impact the lives of students. Current members of the Patagonia Schools Governing Board nominated Pomeroy for this award.

Superintendent, Denise Blake, says about Bernice Pomeroy, “She has been a tireless and dedicated advocate for Patagonia and our children. She taught in public schools for 26 years and served on our Governing Board for over 15 years. Education went beyond a career for her, it was a vocation. It continues to be her life’s work – she is 93 years old and still teaching piano lessons.

We are so grateful for her years of nurture and caring service for our community and the students of Patagonia Public Schools.”

The HOPE campaign was created and launched by the Arizona School Boards Association as the annual theme to kick off 2015. The campaign is spotlights educators, parents, legislators, business partners and community members who inspire and influence students throughout Arizona. HOPE recipients will be showcased on the Arizona School Board Association’s website, Facebook and Twitter sites and printed in various publications.

The Arizona School Boards Association is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting elected local governance of public education and continuous improvement of student success by providing leadership and assistance to school district governing boards statewide. ASBA represents more than 1,000 school board members and more than one million Arizona children.

Congratulations to Bernice, who only pretended to cut the beautiful cake made for the award ceremony by Cassina Farley. “I didn’t come here to work,” she said with a smile and a twinkle in her eye, as she handed the knife over to Lila Davison, one of several friends who came to celebrate Bernice’s well-deserved recognition as a Hero of Public Education.
Trails Day * Earth Day * Arbor Day
a celebration of our biological diversity, cultural heritage and local resiliency

GUIDED WALKS * PRESENTATIONS * YOUTH ACTIVITIES * FAMILY FUN

Friday, April 22
6:30 pm at Tin Shed Theater: “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History” with Julian Lim, Assistant Professor of History at Arizona State University. Program made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association and is brought to you by Arizona Humanities, Patagonia Creative Arts Association and Patagonia Library. Music by the Moreno Brothers.

Saturday, April 23
8 am - Noon: Hazardous Waste Material Collection at Doc Mock Park
10 am - 3 pm: Recycle Electronics at Cady Hall

PRESENTATIONS at Town Council Chambers:
10 am: “Local Arizona Trail Update” by Zay Hartigan
11 am: “Sky Islands Invertebrates” by Vincent Pinto
Noon: “Natural Building Methods” by Robert Castle Gay
1 pm: “Growing Food Crops in the Sky Islands” by Evan Sofro
2 pm: “The Quest for Unique Achievement on the Arizona Trail” by Team Ultra-Pedestrian Ras and Kathy Vaughan
3 pm: “Intro to Seed Saving” by Pete Seites-Rundlett

GUIDED WALKS:
8 am - 10 am: “Meet and Greet” at Tucson Audubon Paton House with Nick Beauregard
9 am: Naturalist Saunter at TNC Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve guided by Vincent Pinto

more Saturday, April 23 events
9 am: Montessori School Bike-A-Thon / Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser (meet at Visitor Center)
10 am: Tree Planting at the Tucson Audubon Paton Center. Cliff Hirsch will demonstrate the best way
2 pm: Patagonia Historic Walking Tour (meet at Visitor Center) guided by Bob Bergier
6:30 pm at Tin Shed Theater: “Inhabit” a documentary exploring the many environmental and agricultural issues as well as solutions using the ecological design process called permaculture

YOUTH ACTIVITIES at Community Center:
10 am to 4 pm: Youth Art Exhibit, Face Painting
10:30 am to 11:30 am: “Food Alive” by Leah Lynn

INFORMATION & FUN at Cady Hall 10 am - 4 pm:
Community service organization information tables in Cady Hall

Friends of Patagonia Library Book Sale
Farmers Market: local food producers

Sunday, April 24
2 pm at Tin Shed Theater: “Ours is the Land” a documentary about the spiritual, cultural and physical connection of the Tohono O’odham Peoples to Ce:wi Duag (the Santa Rita Mountains) presented by Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

OTHER EVENT: The Paton Center will be hosting birding events for Tucson Audubon’s annual Birdathon fundraiser. The Patagonia “Big Day” birding tour is Friday, 8am-4pm and the “Big Sit” at the Paton Center is Sunday from 8am-noon. Registration is required and donations are encouraged. More info at www.tucanaudubon.org/birdathon.
The People Is a Scary Beast
To Say the Very Very Least

by Martin Levowitz

Between its sand and alkalinity, stucco is hell on your hands. Yesterday I mixed a batch and, when it was time to smear it on, looked for a pair of gloves. I found brown cotton gloves, yellow leather gloves with tall, stiff cuffs, black nylon gloves with rubber-impregnated palms, and a couple of thick, synthetic-fiber gloves which offered protection, but no friction. Every goddamn one of them was a left glove. I had to go out to the truck to find a right glove, and it was missing a finger. Where had all the right gloves gone? They must be with the missing socks. It drives me mad.

On LSD, once, years ago, unbidden, the names and faces of a dozen kids -- from kindergarten through middle school -- came seeping back to me from some dead corner of the brain. Those kids had simply disappeared over the years. Some, like Matty Battles, in sixth grade, had been cast out. Matty was almost six feet tall and had an awful temper. One morning, summoned to the teacher’s desk, and resentful, she began screaming obscenities, then hit the teacher in the face. To, the rest of us, dutifully correcting our spelling tests, this was literally astounding. Matty was escorted to the principal’s office and never seen again, at least by us.

Some disappearances happened even earlier, when we were still too young to “know,” in words, what was wrong with our peers. But, even as a little kid, you have a sense when someone’s “off.” They radiate fear, anger, or befuddlement, and almost always sit in the back of the room, just waiting for the class, the day, the year (and life, itself?) to finally end. When school reconvenes in the fall, they are gone.

In seventh grade, Jimmy Petras was clearly on his way to being a career sociopath. One morning, summoned to the teacher’s desk, and resentful, she began screaming obscenities, then hit the teacher in the face. To, the rest of us, dutifully correcting our spelling tests, this was literally astounding. Matty was escorted to the principal’s office and never seen again, at least by us.

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In seventh grade, Jimmy Petras was clearly on his way to being a career sociopath. Once, after school, I witnessed an exchange between the Principal, Mr. Scrubski, and Jimmy’s mother, who’d been summoned, again, to be informed of her son’s current shortcomings. Several days earlier, during recess, while everyone else was out on the playground, Jimmy was confined to quarters, as punishment. He expressed his displeasure by urinating in the teacher’s lower left desk drawer. Informed of this, Mrs. Petras was outraged. “You’re making mountains out of molehills, Mr. Scrubski,” she complained. “It was only a couple of drops, after all!”

I had also completely forgotten the Carola brothers, King Mickey and Little Nicky. My family lived in a lower/middle “working class” neighborhood. But the next block over, beyond Lee Avenue, was genuinely depressed: long rows of gloomy tenements, three or four stories tall, each housing six or eight families, with tumble-down garages out in back, where, later, the cops found Mickey’s stash of stolen blasting-caps. (He went to jail.) When I was walking home for lunch one time, in second grade, King Mickey, who was nine or ten, slammed me in the head with one of his “special” snowballs, packed with pebbles, then dipped in water and frozen solid. Man, I saw stars.

Another time, I remember being amazed when little brother Nicky, then only four years old, stood out in the middle of the street in broad daylight, screaming “Aah, go shit in your hat!” And, to whom was he giving such profane advice? To his mother, of course. How uncouth!

Why am I telling you this? Because one interesting part of Donald “UberLout” Trump’s current victory lap is his appeal to large numbers of disgruntled Americans who usually don’t even vote. Most of them are too busy watching “professional” wrestling. They know it’s phony, but are so full of pent-up frustration that even overblown charades help appease their glandular thirst for violence. They’re sick to death of mealy-mouthed mauldings, civility and political correctness. They don’t give a damn about being open-minded or inclusive. On the contrary, they rejoice in a candidate who panders to their surly truth and won’t play by the rules. Despite that he’s a billionaire, they think he’s one of them. (Isn’t that cute?) They may have disappeared from second grade, but they’re still here. And, God have mercy, They Can Vote!!!

It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in Word, to prteditor@gmail.com. PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals for language, length, and content.
We just returned from a wonderful trip. The weather was perfect, landscape spectacular, birding incredible, people friendly and hospitable, history and culture rich and accessible, bus transportation far superior to the US, and everything very affordable. The funny thing was we saw almost no travelers from the US in our two week adventure. There were Canadians, Europeans, Australians but few Americans. As you have no doubt guessed, I am describing Mexico (and our latest trip to Copper Canyon and Alamos).

Most Americans are afraid to go to Mexico. While there are times, that may be risky for travelers, the fear seems well out of proportion with the current realities. We saw nothing that raised concern while traveling by bus through Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Sonora…..all states that are mentioned in US State Department website as not recommended for travel. I wonder what the State Department would say if asked to rate traveler safety in major American cities today? Much of the violence in Mexico is related to battles among drug lords for territory and most of the uninvolved victims are Mexicans. Sounds a little bit like Baltimore or Detroit.

I have been mugged in the US, but not in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Vietnam, Nepal, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Cuba, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada, or Mexico or anywhere else. Does that mean I should restrict my travel to the US? Of course not. If you choose to travel, anywhere, it is important to be smart about where you go, when you go, what you wear or carry, and if you can travel solo. Taking a few simple precautions while traveling is no guarantee of safety, but it can reduce the risk.

We came to live in the borderlands of Sonora and Arizona in part because we love Mexico and want to spend time there. It pains us that crossing the line can be a hassle, that the fear-based plunge in tourism has seriously impacted the economy of many Mexican communities, including Nogales, Sonora, and that many American’s only images of the Mexican people are illegal border crossers or drug dealers. On our most recent trip, we had a fascinating conversation with a taxi driver in Los Mochis, Sinaloa. He wanted to know if we supported Donald Trump and, if so, he thought we must be as crazy as Trump. He is for Hillary. The cabbie went on to say that he thought it ironic that the US supplies the market that keeps the Mexican drug lords in business, but at the same time advises all its citizens not to come to Mexico because of drug-related crime. Hmmmm.

Mexico has an amazingly rich culture and can be stunningly beautiful. We are privileged to live in the borderlands, where culture and ecology don’t recognize a geopolitical line. People used to move freely across the line too. While it takes a little more planning and care these days, don’t forgo what Mexico and the Mexican people have to offer. It’s a treasure.
THE LAW OF SMALL THINGS
(common integrity dilemmas)

IV. Hogging A Table
At Starbucks

By Stuart Brody

Let’s just say...
You walk into the Starbucks in Tucson, get coffee and sit down at a table. You feel like being alone and you have important work to do before meeting a friend for dinner so you spread out your belongings to discourage anyone from sitting at your table.

So, what’s the integrity dilemma in this scenario?
Is it a breach of integrity to array your belongings in a way to discourage others from sitting at your table?

What can we discern about practicing integrity from this scenario?

Hogging a seat at a crowded coffee shop, airport waiting area, or aboard a public vehicle is intended to place a hurdle in front of anyone wishing to use the space. We know we are inconveniencing others, but it seems, well, inconsequential. We tell ourselves it is a small price to pay if someone really wants the seat. After all, when they ask, politely or not so politely, we will yield to our duty and make the space available.

So the question is, why put someone through this? Let’s think back to our early childhood. What did our parents and teachers call the things we do to show respect for others? Manners, right? If you think manners are inconsequential, then recall how angry, wronged or hurt you felt when your expectations of respectful behavior, even from people you didn’t know, were dashed. Assuming that at least a portion of those reactions were reasonable, it tends to show that even strangers have duties to one another.

So let’s define manners, and apply a familiar term to it: civility. Civility is the gestures we make to demonstrate our willingness to interact with others for mutual well-being. Civility is a duty because it arises from the reasonable expectations we have even of strangers.

Imagine a world without civility! Actually, we don’t have to imagine it. We experience such a world every day: Not just common tactlessness like expressing extreme political views at a dinner party, forgetting to turn your cell phone off in a concert or even road rage, but premeditated and serious acts like vitriolic political campaigns, outsourcing customer service to robotic English speakers overseas, airlines letting people linger for hours without accurate information about delays, loud and misleading advertising, and so forth.

The duty of civility is a duty each of us owes to everyone else. It is a broad acknowledgment of our responsibility for respectful engagement, even with people we don’t know. At Starbucks, we don’t know who might walk in needing the seat but we have a duty not to block their way.

Spreading your belongings across a table at Starbucks is not simply a private wish to be alone. We will see later that wishes and thoughts are not breaches of integrity. But here, the thought is outwardly expressed as a calculated act of deterrence. The gesture is unmistakable, and it is not a civil one.

What do we learn about the practice of integrity from this scenario?

Stu Brody is a student and teacher of philosophy, law, politics, and other fields related to personal decision-making. He is nearing completion on a book entitled: “The Law of Small Things: Integrity, Authenticity and Freedom in American Life” which examines misconceptions about the meaning of integrity and outlines how we can maintain a more consistent practice, by focusing on small things.

Hogging a table in order to discourage others from sitting down is a breach of the duty of civility.

So, the next time you feel like blocking a seat to expand personal space try this:
Picture yourself holding up a sign saying: “Stop. Don’t sit down. I don’t want to deal with you.” Chances are, the breach of the duty of civility will no longer appear so small.

And remember the law of small things
Civility is the duty by which we ensure the success of interactions with strangers.
This story was born months ago when I happened to be introduced to Richard Connolly following a town council meeting. How we got on the topic I can't remember, but somewhere in our brief getting-to-know-you discourse he mentioned his work restoring wagons here in Patagonia. A lover of any story that increases my knowledge of local folklore, I knew I had to follow up on this one, and Connolly was happy to get me started.

I wasn't far into my research when it became clear that the wagon building and restoration industry that flourished in this modest town in the latter half of the twentieth century was perhaps the premier facility of its type in the world. In its heyday it drew the attention, and the dollars, of such lofty clients as Budweiser, the National Park Service, and Hollywood moviemakers.

The story of how the wagon trade became such a prominent part of Patagonia's persona in the latter part of the 20th century begins with Anne Stradling, an easterner who, enabled by the considerable wealth her family derived from Bethlehem Steel, chose Patagonia as the place where she would bring to life her dream of building and operating a museum dedicated to the horse. A woman of vision and the financial means to reach it, she acquired the property that now houses the retail shops, hotel and other businesses on the southwest corner of McKeown and Third Avenues in the 1960s. It was here that she erected a new metal structure over some of the existing structures in which she would operate her museum. Soon after, she also built a hotel to host the throngs of visitors she envisioned (unrealistically, as it turned out) being drawn to town to tour her new museum.

For some years leading up to the opening of the museum, Stradling had been collecting all manner of western and American Indian art and memorabilia including original paintings, sculptures and numerous horse-drawn wagons and coaches, many of which were in need of extensive restoration to make them museum-worthy. Enter Doug Thaemert, a blacksmith from New Mexico who had trained under renowned blacksmith, Frank Turley. How Stradling came to know of Thaemert is not clear but she persuaded him and his wife, Claire, to leave their home in New Mexico and move to Patagonia where he would assemble and head up a team of skilled artisans to restore Stradling's collection of horse-drawn vehicles.

The business of restoring wagons to their original condition was meticulous, demanding work requiring the services of a number of specialists including carpenters, wheelwrights and carriage smiths. Thaemert hired Lee Gordon as his wheelwright, Dick Volz and Sonny Showalter as carpenters and Richard Connolly as his carriage smith. Together they constituted a team that quickly gained widespread recognition for their rigid adherence to the highest standards of museum-quality restoration.

Whether by design or by happenstance, Thaemert's blacksmith shop, by virtue of its location, was incorporated into the museum experience. This was no fake smithing operation in which Thaemert and his team would forge little trinkets for sale in the museum gift shop while pretending to be restoring wagons. No, this was the real deal and museum-goers were able to interact with Thaemert in real time as he and his staff brought all sorts of horse-drawn conveyances—wagons, buckboards, stagecoaches, you name it—back to life. And if my sources are correct, Thaemert was a truly dedicated artisan who did extensive research on many of his wagons and demanded exceptional attention to detail. He also loved demonstrating and explaining his art to those touring the museum.

As Thaemert and his team worked on Stradling's many wagons, gaining valuable experience and distinction in the process, he realized there was a demand for his services well beyond the museum. He thus decided to start his own business, which would continue to serve the museum but take on other clients as well. This decision led to his purchase of the Lopez Pool Hall building on Duquesne Avenue which, at the time, was also owned by Stradling. Using local tradesmen, he more than doubled the new space and added a paint shop and other special facilities in preparation for the launching of his new enterprise: The Southwest Wagon and Wheel Works.

Part II—Craftsmen at Work (and Play) will appear next month.
WHAT’S GOING ON AT THE LIBRARY?

By Jan Herron

April 1: 7 p.m. Patagonia Library’s Semilotea presents Flower Love: Flower Gardening for Bees with Jordan Thompson. Free.
April 5: 6:30pm Adult Coloring Night, all materials supplied. Free.
April 13: 5-6:30pm “A Voice for Young Authors” library open house. Celebrate our youngest authors who have created artistic treasure boxes and stories at the art center and library. Free.
April 19: 7:00pm: Patagonia Library’s Semilotea presents “Dryland Farming and an Intro to Seed Saving” with Evan Sofro, a Spanish language presentation, at Cochise College, 2021 North Grand Ave., Nogales, AZ Room 6. Free.
April 22 6:30pm A screening of Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, with music by the Moreno brothers, followed by a discussion with Julian Lim, assistant professor of History at Arizona State University, trained in history and law with a focus on immigration, the U.S. - Mexico border. Hosted by Patagonia Creative Arts Association and the Patagonia Library in the Tin Shed Theater.
April 23: EarthFest activities and displays in and outdoors at Cady Hall, including the Friends of the Patagonia Library Book Sale. See EarthFest schedule for complete list library events.
April 30 10:00 a.m. Brunch with William Hertmann, author of Searching for Golden Empires: Epic Cultural Collisions in Sixteenth-Century America. Hertmann’s book recounts the explorations of Spanish conquistadores and their native allies. Nearly forgotten fluctuations of power and persuasion are revealed as the explorers probe from Cuba, through the Aztec world, the borderlands to New Mexico, the Grand Canyon, southern California, and as far as Kansas.

The shared history of the United States and Mexico is unveiled in episodes both tragic and uplifting. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and autographing. This is a Friends of Patagonia Library fund raising event with a great author and sumptuous brunch in Cady Hall. A limited number of tickets are available at the library, $20 each.

For years, Jim Harrison and his wife, Linda, spent winters here in Patagonia, where he wrote, took long walks, hunted, and often enjoyed drinks at the Wagon Wheel Saloon. On March 25 of this year, Harrison and ten close friends enjoyed an evening at an outside table there, honoring a tradition of such spontaneous gatherings—not knowing it was a final and fitting farewell.

On March 26, he died of an apparent heart attack while sitting at his desk writing a poem. He was 78.

Harrison was born and raised in Michigan, where his father was an agricultural agent who passed onto his son a love of reading and literature. After earning a degree in comparative literature, he briefly pursued a career in teaching, but left it to devote his time to writing. After the publication of his first collection of poetry, Plain Song, in 1965, he worked as a freelance journalist and laborer until he began to earn a living from his writing, which was achieved when he received critical acclaim for his book, Legends of the Fall, in 1979.

Considered a master of the novella, Harrison also wrote novels, non-fiction and always, poetry. He is one of America’s most colorful and beloved writers, whose work has been translated in 22 languages.

His poetry publisher, Copper Canyon Press, calls his voice, “impassioned, natural, and wisely self-deprecating.” Joseph Bednarik, a long time friend at the press, says, “Much will be written about Jim Harrison. For us at Copper Canyon he was first and foremost a poet of tremendous depth and heart. His poetry will be read long after we’re all dead. That said, I miss my friend very much.” Margalit Fox, who wrote Harrison’s obituary for the New York Times, referred to his dislike of being compared to Hemingway, saying, “At bottom, Mr Harrison was not so much like Hemingway as he was like someone out of Hemingway…a mustachioed, barrel-chested bear of a man whose unapologetic immoderation encompassed a dazzling territory.”

Author and friend Philip Caputo describes Harrison as “a legendary figure in American letters, a man who could be difficult but never ever dull, and one of the most original personalities I have ever known. Irreplaceable. And he will be missed.”

He was bawdy and caustic. His love of a good meal was legendary, as was his excessive consumption. Those who knew him have shared a multitude of stories about his appetites, his irreverent wit, his love of nature, and his larger-than-life presence.

Here in Patagonia, as elsewhere, this gravel-voiced poet and storyteller with a lust for life will be missed by many.

His wife Linda died in October. He is survived by two daughters, Jamie Potenberg and Anna Hjortsberg; a sister, Mary Dumsch; a brother, David; and three grandchildren.
Our Night In The Canyons

Phil Caputo Remembers Jim Harrison

Jim Harrison’s voice, as unique as the man himself, sounds as though his vocal cords are made of coarse-grained sandpaper. “Phil, my brain-pan hurts,” he says over the phone. “Get your dog. We’ll do a quick hunt before dinner. It won’t take more than an hour.”

The time: late on a cold January afternoon in 2002 or thereabouts. We and our wives, Linda (Jim’s) and Leslie (mine) are to leave for dinner at a Sonora cafe at precisely 6 p.m. (Harrison is fiendishly punctual). I’m not in a mood to go quail hunting but persuade myself that I’ve been yearning for it all day. Harrison’s friends call him “The General” because of his uncanny ability to get you to do what he wants to do.

There was the day, some years before, when we were at his cabin in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, where he was working on a novel whose protagonist jumps naked into a river intending to float downstream into Lake Superior. Jim wondered how that would feel, but lacked the nerve for hands-on research. Would I be his guinea pig? I saluted, stripped, and dove in, informing him upon my return that I had suffered near cardiac arrest, felt as if someone had driven ice picks into my temples, and experienced a shrinkage of you-know-what so severe that I could have won the title “Mr. Grape Nuts.”

Shortly after the summons to go hunting, Jim arrives at my house. I load my English Setter, Sage, into the back of his Land Cruiser, where Sage’s aunt, Jim’s beloved Rose, is nestled. We drive out on Temporal Road toward a labyrinth of canyons and draws as complicated as the human vascular system. The trip takes half an hour, during which Jim smokes half a pack of cigarettes while we talk about food, sex, and money. The food topic du-jour is, if I remember correctly, oysters. I boast that I set my personal record in New Orleans, consuming three dozen. Jim, whose motto could be “Nothing Succeeds Like Excess,” scoffs. He’d once gone mano-a-mano with twelve dozen and survived.

We come to the area The General has chosen. He tucks the Land Cruiser into a turnout, and we head into a side canyon, the dogs ranging out ahead.

“We’ll hit a ranch road, and follow it back to the main road,” he rasps confidently.

Usually, I carry basic survival gear while hunting; compass, waterproof matches, flashlight, water bottles, and a foil-like “space blanket.” Because this is a short jaunt, I am free of such encumbrances.

Sage and Rose point a covey. I shoot one bird, Jim another. The dogs pursue the birds, and we follow, winding up in a corridor between 100-foot walls. It is now approaching 5 p.m. I ask, “Where is this ranch road?” Harrison scratches his stocking cap, screws up his face, and says, “I don’t know.”

The light fades. It grows colder (turns out the temperature dipped to 16 degrees). We trudge down one canyon after another. Night falls, like a shroud. A moonless black. The General commands me to climb a snowy ridge to get an approximate fix on our location. Scaling this ridge is beyond him, because he is a dedicated adversary of physical fitness. Up I go, down I come with the news: I have no idea where the hell we are. We do know that these canyons are pitted with old mine shafts. To go on would be to risk falling into one, so we resign ourselves to spending a miserable night, if we live.

This is when Harrison’s nicotine addiction rescues us — he has a pocketful of Bic lighters. I drag a fallen tree trunk to a pile of tinder we’ve collected, Jim flicks his Bic, and pretty soon, half the tree is ablaze. We eliminate the risk of forest fire by clearing everything burnable within a ten-yard radius.

Fairly soon, we are comfortable, cuddled up with our dogs.

“We’ll need something to eat,” rumbles the famed trencherman. “We’ll roast the quail.”

After a prolonged discussion, we decide to save the quail till daylight, and share a root-beer candy that Jim has stored in a pocket.

The dogs suddenly grow alert. A few seconds later, a nearby mountain lion emits a half-cough, half-retch. “It’s only throwing up fur balls,” The General proclaims. “Just like a housecat.” I clutch my shotgun in one arm and embrace Sage with the other.

Some hours later, we hear the throb of a helicopter.

“Are they looking for us?” Harrison asks.

“It’s probably Border Patrol after drug smugglers,” I say, gloomily.

But then the chopper begins to circle overhead. Our wives have called everyone but the Coast Guard, we will find out later; a psychic has been consulted to determine our whereabouts (she was wrong); bloodhounds are sniffing; friends are combing the hills. Our fire is easily visible to the chopper’s pilot. A spotlight sweeps over the canyon bottom — the pilot is looking for a safe landing zone, of which there is none.

“Phil! Run out there and fire your shotgun at them so they’ll know we’re here!”

It is now time for the Private to disobey The General. “You idiot! If that is Border Patrol and I shoot at them, they’ll hose us down with machinegun fire!”

The helicopter lands on a ridge high above us. Two young Arizona state troopers descend on foot.

“Are you Philip Caputo and James Harrison?” asks one.

“We are,” comes my sheepish reply.

The trooper informs us about the search parties, and that he and his fellow officer have radioed our location to an Arizona Fish and Game ranger seeking us in a jeep. He can follow a web of trails to our impromptu campsite.

“You can wait for him or climb the ridge and we can fly you out,” he adds.

The General looks at the steep ridge, rising in the blackness, and lights up an American Spirit.

“We’ll wait for the jeep,” he says.
TNC’s 50th Celebration
By Ann Katzenbach

Despite a lack of shade and the dusty air, supporters of The Nature Conservancy came from around southern Arizona to celebrate Sonoita Creek Preserve’s fiftieth anniversary celebration on March 19. There were walking tours into the preserve’s cottonwoods, Bluegrass music by Greg Morton, grilled hamburgers courtesy of the Sonoita Elgin Fire Fighters, booths from area non-profits, and a speech about environmental preservation delivered by Ron Pulliam.

The most popular visitors by far were the reptiles and the birds. The Huachuca Area Herpetological Association brought their snakes and lizards, some in cages, others that are accustomed to being held by humans. These giant constrictors elicited a variety of responses and provided many photo ops. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum also brought wildlife that museum personnel talked about and handled while onlookers watched and asked questions.

Ron Pulliam’s talk centered on the changes that have occurred over time here in the Sky Islands, the loss of wildlife habitat, flowing streams, and extinctions. But he was optimistic, describing how the variety and richness of the environment is being restored through many efforts in Santa Cruz County. He reminded the audience that the Patagonia Mountain area is one of the most biodiverse spots in the United States.

Congratulations to the Sonoita Creek Preserve for all that it does to protect and improve the environment in this remarkable corner of Arizona.
A Generous Donation of Four Acres to CHOP

By Tod Bowden

Former Patagonia Lake residents, John (Jack) and Caroline Walsh have donated a 4-acre parcel of land to Community Homes of Patagonia. After a property listing had expired and with the blessing of their family, the Walshes who are CHOP members and long-time supporters of the Patagonia community thought a local nonprofit organization might be able to benefit from the land acquisition. CHOP was the first organization that came to mind.

Jack and Caroline attended the February 15, 2016 CHOP Board meeting to present the idea. It may have taken the board all of five minutes to accept their generous offer. CHOP’s Board of Directors is currently deciding upon the best use of the property to further its mission of creating affordable housing opportunities. One such option could be to sell the Patagonia Lake property and use the proceeds toward the development of the in-Town Gopher Field project. CHOP and all its supporters want to thank the Walshes for their thoughtful contribution. Jack and Caroline currently live closer to family in Denver, Colorado; but continue to make an annual visit to Patagonia during February and March to spend time with their many friends.

Wheelchair Access Ramp Installed

By Tod Bowden

Transferring a family member who is in a wheelchair up and down stairs to enter and exit the home can be an exhausting task for a caretaker, resulting in less than optimum outdoor time for both. Thanks to Kevin McKay, Will Stack, and Karl Swuager of McKay’s Custom Home Furnishings who provided the labor as an in-kind donation, and Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, United Way of Santa Cruz County, and CHOP fundraiser donors who provided support for the materials costs, a ramp was installed that will provide a family in need with much easier access. CHOP Directors, Gilbert Quiroga and Irene Smith, championed the project. CHOP member, Anu Kryzs, also provided initial drawings to support the project. CHOP’s Home Repair Applications may be found at Patagonia Town Hall and the Patagonia Library.
On the east end, a gabion that abuts the west end of the dam.

All life forms depend on the quality and quantity of water—communities have always located around a reliable water source. Our region has been inhabited for more than 12,000 years because of the presence of ground water and surface water flows from Sonoita Creek and Harshaw Creek.

Recognizing that the watershed is a vital component of this community’s well being, the Sonoita Creek Flood and Flow Study Committee first met in October of 2015, with a commitment to advocate for our water. The committee’s mission statement is three-fold. One aspect of its mission is to make recommendations to the Patagonia Town Council with respect to best practices within its jurisdiction to manage erosion, enhance water flow, create optimal flood mitigation and promote the long-term health of the riparian corridor. A second aspect of its mission is to look at the entire watershed area to influence upstream conditions and to optimize downstream consequences. And the third aspect is to share information about our watershed with all community members.

Committee members have agreed on goals and action steps to support this mission. Meeting attendees include Kate Tirion (Deep Dirt Farm and Borderlands), David Seibert (Borderlands), Brent Bowden (DM Excavating), John Hays (Santa Cruz County Floodplain Coordinator), Anne Townsend (Friends of Sonoita Creek), Luke Reese (TNC Patagonia Sonoita Creek Preserve), Nick Beauregard (TAS Paton Center for Hummingbirds), Chris Peterson (local rancher), Mark Byrum (local rancher), Carolyn Shafer (initiated Earthkeeper and Patagonia Area Resource Alliance), Meg Gilbert (town council member) and David Teel (town manager).

Flood & Flow meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at the town council chambers. All are welcome to attend. The town’s website, http://patagonia-az.gov/, publishes agenda and minutes as well as the goals & action steps document. The documents are also available at the Patagonia Public Library.
A collection of photo essays are now on display at The Patagonia Museum, representing some of the most noteworthy Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) work projects that I have found in the Patagonia area. I have lived at the mouth of the CCC Canyon since 1977. A few years ago I was told that FEMA considers my residence to be in a flood zone, requiring the purchase of flood insurance. In the course of my efforts to establish that the map was in error because the dam protected me from flooding, I gained a greater awareness and interest in this very well engineered and solid earthen dam. I began reading historical articles and walking all over the dam with a new appreciation for its construction.

Built in 1940, CCC Dam is 26 feet tall and spans 210 feet across the CCC Canyon. The base of the dam is 110 feet wide. A 12" pipe extends under the dam that acts as a control valve to slowly allow the water to drain in a controlled fashion to prevent flooding. The spillway is about six feet below the top of the dam and continues on a grade to the end where it discharges into another canyon to the west.

There are nine earthen dam and rubble structures in the first half mile of School Canyon, each with large, deep detention ponds from which the earth was excavated to build the structure. The dam pictured in this article is the one closest to Patagonia near the mouth of School Canyon. It is by far the strongest and largest of them all.

I have begun locating and photographing as many of the CCC work projects as I can find, with the hope of interesting someone in writing a study and report on the history of its construction.

CCC Dam can be reached by taking Third Avenue up the hill as it turns into Blabon Way. Mapes Way is on the right hand side and is a dedicated town road that crosses the top of CCC Dam. Park and walk to dam. Be careful not to block private entrance at Mapes Way.
The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center is celebrating its second year of operation by hosting an open house on Saturday, April 30th from 2-6 p.m. The community is welcome to join the youth, board of directors, and Anna and Steve Coleman in this celebration! There will be food and displays of the current activities available as well as a few of the collaborating organizations on hand to share their work with the PYEC youth. The youth center is housed behind Ovens of Patagonia in the Plaza de Patagonia at 277 McKeown Ave.

Over the past two years, PYEC has been growing by leaps and bounds, thanks to the generosity of local donations, in-kind donations, and grants. The original space now encompasses an art room and a study/lab room. The new industrial arts ramada area is being used regularly, the garden is currently being prepped for planting, and there are plans for the youth to build and install an irrigation system, a hummingbird garden and possibly a clay outdoor oven in the coming months. In addition to the regular activities of homework, snacking, Dock Moc Park planning, playing games, and being together, PYEC has several specific projects planned for the local youth (ages 10-20) in the near future. PYEC recently received generous grants from the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation and UNIDAS. The PRCF grant will help fund the STEAAM projects (science, technology, engineering, agriculture, art, and math) for the industrial arts projects, which includes a 3D printer to stimulate the local youth’s inventiveness.

The UNIDAS grant has enabled PYEC to offer a Girls Empowerment Project. The project is the result of Annika Coleman’s dedication to help build younger women’s self confidence and allow them to have hope and grow stronger. Coleman, a PUHS senior, got the help of her friends, another PUHS senior, Gaby Bueras and PUHS sophomore, Exelee Budd, to become leaders for both the middle school and high school groups. The groups meet weekly to support each other, create empowering projects, and allow the local young women to come together to discuss subjects such as self image, friendship, loneliness, relationships, careers, money, future, health, and individual issues that affect the participants.

PYEC is a nonprofit organization with a 501(C) 3 status. For additional information, please visit www.pyec.org or email the Director, Anna Coleman at coleman272@msn.com.

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Yellow Sky
Too many summers
Have me pretending
I don’t feel the cold

But all the rumors are true
The sky is crushing yellow
Not gray or blue

And my house with thick walls
After rain fall
Takes a great while
To dry

— Colin Jay

Artwork by Donna Reibslager
The Space That Death Leaves Behind

By Ann Katzenbach

The first and last thing to say about the production of “The Year of Magical Thinking” that came in March to the Tin Shed, is that it is brilliantly acted. The resume of Wendy Ishii, who performed the play, includes numerous awards, over 150 acting roles, the founding and running of a theater in Fort Collins, Colorado, and over the years, she has been known not just as an actor, but also director, teacher, and advocate.

Joan Didion, one of America's foremost writers, adapted her book of the same name as well as its sequel, “Dark Nights” to create the play.

The drama begins with Ishii warning the audience, “And it will happen to you. The details will be different, but it will happen to you. That's why I'm here.” What will happen is death, and that's what the play is about – how it happens - how one woman deals with it.

The term, “magical thinking” describes that illogical thought process that all cultures share, the belief that if you perform the right actions and think certain thoughts, there will be a good outcome or an unavoidable event can be averted. In Didion's case, the event she wants to avert is the death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne, who collapses and dies at the dinner table one evening in New York. To make this particular death more devastating, we learn that John and Joan have spent the afternoon with their daughter, Quintana, who is in an induced coma at a nearby hospital. In response to her husband's sudden death, Didion becomes obsessed with trivial details. She names the hospitals, notes the exact timing, the precise medical nomenclature, the distance to the hospital, and she recalls poems. This buzz in her head is meant to keep the truth at bay. She cannot immediately face the loss of her husband. At one point that night, she realizes that it's three hours earlier in Los Angeles and thinks perhaps she can turn the clock back in New York. A few days later, she cleans out John's closet but cannot give his shoes away because he will need them when he comes back.

This first part of the play is powerful. This kind of behavior is understandable and written in powerful language. The memories well up. There is a funeral. There are also moments of laughter that break up the intensity. Time moves forward. Quintana gets better. And then she gets really sick and then the play starts to go down hill. We can only take so much self-involvement and wringing of hands and naming of medications and procedures and designer hand bags. It's a long journey. For the sake of the audience, it should have been shorter.

However, Wendy Ishii's talent as an actress transcended the play's shortcomings. Her performance delivered a very nuanced and thought-provoking experience. Didion's words and Ishii's acting evoked the aching, empty space death leaves behind.

Thanks to Eva Wright for her hard work on the production and for bringing Wendy Ishii to Patagonia.
APRIL CALENDAR

MEETINGS

AA - Patagonia Comm. Ctr., Sun., 8 a.m.; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon - Wed. at 6 p.m., Sonoita Hills Comm. Church, 52 Elgin Rd., Info: 237-8091

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

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

Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua Winery, 6 p.m. Call (520) 907-5829 for more info.

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

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

The Woman’s Club - 2nd Thurs. at 1 p.m. at Cady Hall.

Community Youth Group—2nd and 4th Wed., 6-8 p.m. April 13 meeting at Sonoita/Elgin Fire Dept.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. thru Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center.

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

Patagonia Food Bank, Community Center; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

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

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

EVENTS

April 1 - 2: Rummage sale and swap meet, Sonoita Fairgrounds. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

April 1 - 2: Suzy Boguss concert, Pioneer Hall, Sonoita Fairgrounds. 7 p.m. Call 800-838-3006 for ticket info.

April 6-10: Santa Cruz County Nature & Heritage Festival. See http://natureandheritage.org

April 9: Golfing for Scholars Tournament, sponsored by Mountain Empire Rotary Club, 8 a.m. Check in at Kino Springs Golf Course, Nogales. For information call 520-216-0155.

April 10: Brad Richter and Viktor Uzur, guitar and cello duo will perform, Oak Bar Ranch, Nogales at 3 p.m. SCFPA Benderly Salon Concert Series. Admission $25-members. scfpapresents.org or call (888)202-1942.

April 13: Patagonia Montessori School Open House/Enrollment for new students, 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the school, 500 N. 3rd Ave. Call 394-9530 for more info.

April 14: Woman’s Club card flash game party, 1 p.m., Cady Hall. All local ladies are invited.

April 16: Annual Patagonia Montessori School Garage & Bake Sale, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at The Pat. Senior Center.

April 16-17: 5th Annual Southeast Arizona Winegrowers & Music Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 370 Elgin Rd. in Elgin. winegrowers.eventbrite.com.

April 22-24, EARTHfest, see info on page 7 of this issue.

April 29: C.H.O.P. Fundraiser, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Gathering Grounds, tickets at door $15.

April 30: Patagonia Montessori School Open House/Staff Meet & Greet for new and returning students. 2 - 5 p.m. at the school, 500 N. 3rd Ave. Call 394-9530 for more information

April 30: Annual Town Cleanup Day. Pickup of non-hazardous trash and debris . See p.5 for more info.

April 30: Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center Open House, 2 - 6 p.m. See p. 21 for more info.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Stretch and Strengthen Class, Weds., 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Sonoita Bible Church. $7.

Drum Circle, Mons., 4-6 p.m. at Sonoita Crossroads courtyard by Chuckwagon Grill, Free. No exp. reqd. 490-4991.

Bird Walks at The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve every Sat. @ 9 a.m. Meet at visitor center. Nature Conservancy fees apply. Patagonia residents Free. 520-394-2400.

Melodica rehearsals, every Wed., 9:30 a.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle, Patagonia. New members welcome!

Yoga for Seniors: Mondays, 8:30 – 9:45 a.m. at Ecobody Acupuncture, Patagonia Plaza, Patagonia. $10. (520) 559-1731.

Adult hand-building ceramics classes Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. $65 Call 604-0300

Bikram Yoga - Patagonia; 520-604-7283.

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

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

Open Tennis - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4 p.m., Sat. at 9 a.m., Call 394-2973 for info.


FULL MOON

APRIL 22
Patagonia Lake Visitors Center Activities

Bird Walks at the Park: Mon., Wed. & Fri. at 8 a.m. until April 11. Free after admission to Park. Meet at east end of Campground. Avian Boat Tours of Patagonia Lake: Sat. & Sun. at 9 & 10:15 a.m. Lake Discovery Tours at 11:30 a.m. Twilight Tours on Sat. evenings. All boat tours end for the season on April 10. Reservations required. Call Visitor Center 520-287-2791 to reserve and for details. Cost: $5 per person per tour. Junior Ranger activities: Saturdays at 2:p.m.at the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4: p.m. Thursday through Monday. The Visitor Center will be closing for the season on April 11.

HOUSING RENTALS

1 BR 1 BA $750 util. included ; 3 BR 2 BA $1450 util. included. Call John 394-0148, or 360.317.4281

BRIGHT, PRIVATE 1-BR/1-Ba VACATION RENTAL in town. Kitchenette and courtyard. Nightly or weekly. 520-904-0877 or CasitaEncanta.com

JACK AND JILL BEDROOMS AVAILABLE w/ shared bathroom, $350/mo. each. Seniors preferred. Short term rentals available. Call Don at 520-297-7065

RENTAL HOMES Contact Kathy O’Brien @Sonoita Realty 520 455-5381

SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2BD/2BTH. All appliances, W&D, front & back yards. $900/mo 520-400-2949

HELP WANTED

Strong back? Able to transfer 200 pounds? Are you an experienced or certified care giver? Please call Patagonia Assisted Care Agency : 520-604-8179

MISC.

SONOITA SELF STORAGE RENTALS 5x10, 10x10, 10x20; 520-455-9333 or 455-4641.

JULIA GREEN VOICE AND PIANO STUDIO voice & piano lessons $45.00/45 mins . 505-350-8543 Patagonia 85624 www.juliagreenmusic.com

NEED MORE ROOM? Call Les’ Storage Units 520-988-0421 Patagonia, AZ.

CHURCH SERVICES

Patagonia Community United Methodist Church 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita Justice of the Peace Courtroom 2nd & 4th Saturdays; 10 a.m.

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

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

Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita 455-5779 Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church 12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita 394-2954; Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

Canelo Cowboy Church Hwy 83, MP 14 455-5000 Sunday Services: 8:45 & 11:00 (except third Sundays)

WANT TO PLACE AN AD? CALL JANIE AT 604-7390 OR GO TO prtads@gmail.com
Youth Explore Job Fields While Learning to Love the Land

By Allegra Mount

Local high school students who have attended the Borderlands Earth Care Youth Institute (BECY) have come away with a renewed love and respect for our land and its potential. Carlos Mingura, an early graduate, said that the experience had changed his life. Danny Miranda, a graduating senior at PUHS who spent last summer with the Borderlands project reports, “I’ve begun to appreciate things I normally wouldn't appreciate, like types of soils. As nerdy as that is, it is something Borderlands Restoration ecological restoration company has opened my eyes completely.”

More than 30 young people have graduated from the institute since 2013. This school year, ten high school students will graduate from the new BECY practicum with viable job skills and business know-how to continue their own entrepreneurial enterprises. The summer practicum takes place during the school-year, unlike the summer institute, and is the brainchild of Borderlands Restoration L3C with help from Garden Inc. in Tucson and the USDA’s Rural Business Development Program. Students are introduced to a variety of job fields - ecological restoration, traditional herbal products, fence building, marketing, and value-added products—and are guided through the process of small-business creation and development.

These young people are working to create a future of diverse employment opportunities and regional economic growth through the practicum experience that builds from their summers with BECY. Not all of this year’s participants graduated from the 2015 summer institute; in future years BECY hopes to tie the two programs together more closely to create clear pathways for its graduates.

PUHS’s burgeoning Future Farmers of America (FFA) program is a natural fit with BECY. FFA ties in directly with classwork on business plan development. Students meet once a week to build infrastructure on the school campus to support their business plans working with the local professionals and small business owners.

The mosaic of support for our community’s youth is a unifying force in the region - a force that has grown over the years into one of the strengths of our community. At Patagonia’s Eighth Annual Earth Fest on April 23, you will have the opportunity to meet some of these students as we celebrate their invaluable contributions to the future of our community.

Two Perfect Patagonia houses for sale in town

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eltaoselay@hotmail.com
New Teacher at Montessori School

The newest member of the Montessori faculty is David Clovesko-Wharton, “Mr. CW,” as students call him. David CW and his family have been active members of the Patagonia community for the past 16 years. He is a certified Montessori Middle School teacher with 22 years of teaching experience. He was recognized as Teacher of the Year at AJ Mitchell in Nogales, and has created successful, innovative, educational programs that inspire students.

As the new Patagonia Montessori Middle School teacher, he plans to initiate a permaculture-based program that will study indigenous plants in land laboratory campus gardens. He says he hopes to be able to team up with Patagonia’s master gardeners, horticulturists, and restoration specialists. In addition, he plans to start a hiking club and a tennis club. To track all the events of the coming year, the new Montessori Middle School Journalism Club will document events with photos and publish articles.

One of the fundamental aspects of the Montessori philosophy is providing specially designed, age appropriate materials and curriculum that allow the children to learn in a hands on way.

Jessi Beebe, who has served as principal of Patagonia Montessori School for nine years, says she looks forward to Clovesko-Wharton joining the Montessori teaching staff.

There will be an open house on Saturday, April 30 when staff will meet and greet new and returning students from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Organic fruit, ice tea, and cake will be served. The school is located at 500 North Third Avenue in Patagonia

For more information about the Patagonia Montessori School or to schedule a tour, please contact Jessi Beebe at 394-9530.

So, fellow equine owners and guardians...here we are in fly season again.

Other than annoying the horse, biting flies can cause physical irritations and damage.

Flies congregate around the horse’s face trying to drink the fluid at the corners of the eyes. Since flies carry bacteria on their feet, they deposit bacteria, larvae and parasites on the horse’s face and around the eyes.

Pay attention to any symptoms of irritation in and around the eyes. Flies often deposit Habronema larvae on the eyes and on open wounds. Swelling of the lids or redness of the eye can indicate infection or Habronema. If this is not addressed quickly it can lead to blindness. Please call your horse’s veterinarian at the first signs. I have witnessed several horses being treated by a vet for Habronema in the eye. The horse must be sedated. Then the vet removes each larvae one at a time - a long, tedious and very uncomfortable procedure.

I have also seen several donkeys and horses with more sensitive eyes that tend to run, whether from allergies or particles blowing in the wind, to the point where flies actually eat the flesh beneath the moisture.

Since scratches and scrapes are common on horses’ legs and flies tend to gather there, it is of paramount importance to check the horse’s legs daily for any scrapes developing into open wounds.

Treat the wounds with antibiotic ointment. There are many to choose from at your local feed store. Spraying fly spray on top of this is also important. Again, there are many fly sprays, some with chemicals and some all natural. Your feed store can educate you about various options.

Use fly spray on the horse’s body, but be very careful around the face. Choose a product that is safe around the eyes and spray it on a cloth, then rub it on the face and around the eyes. Do NOT spray the face.

Fly masks are a good way to protect the horse’s eyes. It is worth the extra few dollars to purchase a mask with soft material around the edges to keep the mask from wearing away the horse’s hair by rubbing and causing discomfort. Fly sheets for the entire body are also available for horses, termed as “thin skinned,” that are extra sensitive to fly and mosquito bites.

There are myriad forms of fly control at our disposal today both for the stable environment as well as direct application to the body of the horse. Depending on your situation, some are more effective than others. You can search on-line for information and products involving fly control as well as the ointments to treat areas already affected.

Cate Drown, certified Sumerel Therapy technician, specializing in equines, can be contacted at drown-cate@hotmail.com
A Blizzard of Birds

April in Arizona’s Sky Islands heralds an invasion of both birds and droves of birders coveting sightings of these avian wonders. Due to a confluence of biomes, altitudes, and latitudes we are endowed with a seemingly disproportionate number of bird species. About 500 species, representing approximately half of all North American birds, have been recorded in southeast Arizona. We are a birding Mecca of the highest caliber!

As for biomes, we have several unique bioregions that converge at about 32 degrees latitude-- the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, the Chihuahuan Desert, the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico, Tropical Thornscrub, also from Mexico, and the very diverse Sonoran Desert. All of these are about the same as much of North Africa, Israel, Pakistan, India, and southern Japan, sharing a subtropical influence to one degree or another, depending upon the vagaries of local geography.

Geology plays a crucial role in our avian diversity. Given the stepping stone-like arrangement of tall, forested mountains stretching between the Sierra Madre to the south and the Rocky Mountains to the north, our Sky Islands provide a region of significant mixing between temperate and tropical biota. Many bird species are at either their northern or southern terminus here. Furthermore, at altitudes in this region of intermingling range from about 2,000’ to well over 10,000’, a wide range of local plant communities complement our near subtropical latitudes and our convergence of biomes. Thus, a wide range of breeding, wintering, and migratory opportunities are afforded to our blizzard of birds.

This great mixing zone is reflected in the birds of April. Lingering white-crowned sparrows that winter here and which may breed as far north as the tundra of Canada are joined by tropical gray hawks who breed locally in riparian areas. Meanwhile, resident species such as canyon towhees, greater roadrunners, and great horned owls stay put, watching many wintering species depart and breeders arrive. Thus, April represents an axiom of avian diversity within one of North America’s true birding hotspots.

Many birders come to the greater Patagonia region in April seeking our regional species - Mexican specialties in particular. These are birds whose ranges lie predominantly within Mexico, but which barely enter the U.S. Our local list of such avian treasures include: elegant trogon, gray hawk, brown-crested flycatcher, Botteri’s sparrow, Montezuma quail, broad-billed hummingbird, and many others. A birder who ardently and cleverly pursues their quarry should easily see about 60 species in a day, though even more are possible.

Beyond mere identification, watch for a variety of interesting bird behaviors in April. Zone-tailed hawks return this month, reviving their local turkey vulture “impersonation” act. Appearing as yet another would-be scavenger, they ply our local skies in an attempt to dupe small prey into complacency. Various secondary cavity nesting birds - those who generally cannot excavate their own nest sites - can sometimes be seen vying for such rare vacancies this month. Pairs of elegant trogons have been observed in heated struggles with coupled sulphur-bellied flycatchers - both species looking to secure cavities in Arizona sycamores. I once watched as a pair of ladder-backed woodpeckers got ousted from their Palmer agave stalk nest cavity by a more persistent pair of ash-throated flycatchers.

With breeding and migration both experiencing seasonal peaks in April, it promises to deliver deep satisfaction to both novice and experienced birders alike! Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run Raven’s Way Wild Journeys. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.

Turning Birdseed Into Breadcrumbs

By Heather Dodge

If you’ve been to the visitor center recently, you’ve noticed the souvenir birdseed bags are now connected to a drawing for a 5th printing of Audubon’s Birds of America book along with a collectible piece of bird pottery by Mata Ortiz artist, Armando. Each $5 donation for the birdseed serves as an entry into the drawing to be held when all the bags have flown the coup. Our plan is to distribute these bags far and wide so people who love birds will know that Patagonia is the place to find them.

Since everyone in town knows someone, somewhere, who loves birds, please consider a $5 donation by sending a bag of seed that becomes a trail of breadcrumbs leading your friends to Patagonia for our spectacular birding season. You may enter yourself or your friends in the drawing for an additional bonus. And you’ll be supporting our visitor center in the process.

Run In Color

By Sabrina Mendoza

Want to experience a 5K run/walk, a splash of color, fitness, and health? On Saturday April 16, the First Annual Patagonia Pack Paint Run will take place. The event consists of completing a 5K cross country running/walking course through town and onto the Train Track Trail while being doused in multicolored powder. The run/walk will start and finish on the Patagonia Union High School Campus.

Registration begins April 1. It’s $5 for students and $10 for adults. There is a team registration option that includes a maximum of four people for the price of $35. White shirts of all sizes are included with all registrations. The run/walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Journee Hayes at jhayes@patagonia.k12.az.us.
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Elgin School’s Reading Challenge

Elgin school kids spent the first week of March participating in the “Love of Reading” national contest. Over a dozen community leaders came to the school and read to the students. The school celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday, and School Superintendent, Chris Bonn, challenged the entire school to read 1,000 books during that week. The students and staff were so motivated that the 120 students at Elgin School ended up reading 3,745 books in that one week. The third grade boys and girls read 1,075 books as part of the total.

The highlight of the week was Sharon Raymond and her reading dog, Splash. A golden retriever, Splash is a certified therapy dog and has been visiting reading classes for all of his seven years. Sharon and Splash are part of a national organization called Pet Partners. They certify dogs for this work after testing them every two years in 21 categories of service and skills. Splash is also certified as an Advanced Therapy Dog by the AKC organization.

Sharon and Splash have been going to Sierra Vista twice a week for the last five years, helping kids learn to read at Bella Vista School and the Boys and Girls Clubs, and have also worked with Title 1 children. Their visit last month to the Elgin School was a special and rare treat for the kids.

They visited a class of children in grades K – 1. Sharon and her special retriever sat on the floor while the children gathered around. As she read to the students, Splash mingled with them while they took turns petting the dog. Having a gentle dog in the circle has been proven to help children enjoy reading more, lowering their blood pressure and eliminating any fear or apprehension. Sometimes the kids pretend the dog is reading to them. Sometimes they whisper their inner most secrets into the dog’s ear.

Usually, says Sharon, when they visit school children, the kids read to the dog. Sometimes Splash falls asleep while they read. When asked why, Sharon says “you are such a good reader of bed-time stories he can’t help it”.

School Superintendent Bonn supports the idea that there is a correlation between students who are proficient readers at grade level and above and their later success academically and professionally. He says that “If we want students to be successful and productive citizens in society we should place more emphasis on making reading important, exciting and relevant.”
American Legion Seeks Help with Recognition For Local Vets

Local American Legion Post 113 needs public help in locating gravestones of former vets for a Memorial Day flag ceremony.

During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, local vets will be placing U.S. flags on gravestones at the Black Oak and Fruitland Cemeteries. Friends and loved ones of vets resting at these two cemeteries are asked to contact the American Legion Post this month. They would like to know the vet’s name, branch of service and location of grave in order to honor them for their service.

The Legion has not honored our vets in this manner before so would like to compile a complete and accurate list before the May solemn observation.

Richard Cardillo, Post Commander, says the Legion members are taking on this project to honor their fellow vets and using their member dues to purchase the needed flags. However, he points out, public donations are accepted by the American Legion Post 113 at PO Box 156 in Sonoita.

Black Oak and Fruitland Cemeteries here in Santa Cruz County are historic, and there is not very much public information about who is buried there. Families can send their information to rcardillo1@outlook.com.

Border Patrol’s Informative Open House

The local Border Patrol office in Sonoita held their first public open house and seminar at the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds on March 24. Those who attended were given a day of historical information about the Border Patrol and a close up look at the BP’s tracking and prevention equipment.

The event started with a presentation of colors by a local agent color guard complete with bagpipes. The presentation was to honor former Agent Lon Parker who was killed in 1926 during an encounter with smugglers in the Huachuca Mountains near Brushy Canyon.

Retired Agent Jim Power, a forensic tracking instructor, explains how studying footprints can help the agents profile a missing suspect through observation, detection and deduction techniques.

Agent sits inside his command truck which carries a high powered telescope on a tell boom. Hidden from view behind bushes, this scope can see for miles into the mountains and valleys via real time vision and x-rays.
The Art of Simplicity: Danny Miranda
As told to Katherine Miller

Basketball star, restorationist and thespian, Danny Miranda reflects on the lessons that have guided him through high school and into his future.

Growing up in Patagonia is definitely a different kind of lifestyle. You learn how to socialize differently, and to have deeper connections than just “hey,” “hello” and “bye.” Life is simple and you have to learn how to love the simplicity, because if you don’t, you are miserable.

My family is very important to me, and they teach me so many things. My grandma, she’s very big on being honest. Honesty is everything. She’s preached to me to be “the best man you possibly can” and to do things that fill your heart with love, whatever that is, no matter what people think. I think those things are important to know.

I really like helping others and if there is any way I can help an individual who is having a bad day, then that really brings me joy. I enjoy the simple things, like that feeling of sitting in a field with long grass and hearing the wind cut through. I think moments like that are what I really love. I’ve begun to appreciate things I normally wouldn’t appreciate, like types of soils. As nerdy as that is, it is something Borderlands Restoration [a local ecological restoration company] has opened my eyes to completely.

My family comes from a military background. I grew up hearing my grandpa’s stories of the military and his military experiences, as well as my uncles and other relatives. It just sounded really nice and happy. They’ve taken so many life skills away from the military and it was an experience none of them regret. I want to do something I’ll never regret and I know I’ll make a difference in this country. I plan on enlisting in the United States Air Force and becoming a para rescue man, which is a combat field nurse. I plan on pursuing nursing and medicine as a career, but I also have interests in environmental restoration now, and I have interests in personal training and physical training. Health and the environment is where my heart is.

If someone is sick or not well, I want to bring them back to health. That is what brings my heart joy, not expecting something in return and knowing that you are making a difference. That is the person I want to be, I want to make a difference.

Transforming to Serve: Danny Schrimpf
By Garrett Fish

Danny Schrimpf and I first met at the Little Red Schoolhouse in second grade. I can remember the first day of school. I was new, but welcomed by a warm grin on a proud, blonde seven-year-old. A decade later, that bond we created still holds strong as we prepare to go onto higher education at the University of Arizona. Throughout the years, we have shared countless memories. One of our favorites is of our freshman year when we sarcastically mocked a pair of good friends who called themselves, “Married Partners.” However, this quickly backfired because it seemed like we were the ones more likely to “wed.” Ironically, the title of “Married Partner” or “Marrieds” still stands strong between us to this day.

Today, Danny Schrimpf has high aspirations and goals that, as a friend, I know he will achieve with his work ethic and humor. Overall, one of his long term goals is to become a federal agent working for the FBI. Danny wants to serve and protect the people that he cares about, while making people’s days better. To him, there is no greater feeling in the world than making someone genuinely happy. Next year, Danny will be attending the University of Arizona to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Spanish. He says, “Having a degree in this field opens up doors for later in my career.” One of the senior’s greatest influences was his older brother and Patagonia alumni, Ryan. Danny has always viewed him as a role model and appreciates that he “just taught me so much about everything.”

Danny has had a wonderful four years at PUHS, where he says the town and school have been kind to him. This is a place that he’ll appreciate for the rest of his life. A favorite memory of his was going to the state tournament for tennis, where he spent about 90% of the time laughing, but still made it to the quarterfinals with Carlos Mingura, ’15. Outside the classroom, Danny has been active in extracurricular activities like sports and weight lifting, and plans to stay “huge.” He advises everyone, especially underclassmen, to “enjoy yourself and relax because if you take things too seriously, you’ll miss out on the fun things in life.”

Javier Mingura: Patagonia Native
By Gianna Martin

Javier Mingura, who is best known around campus as Barack Obama for his stunning resemblance to the president, is graduating from PUHS. Javi is a Patagonia native and has never been to another school. He is a proud Lobo athlete that has played football and basketball for his whole high school career.

After graduating, Javi plans to enlist in the U.S. Air Force for four years, and then go to college. Javi wants to attend Cochise College, and then transfer to Oregon State and major in cybersecurity. Cybersecurity also known as IT security, is the protection of information via the internet. Javi has always loved computers because he never gets bored with them. Everyday there is new software and something new to learn. (continued on page 25)
The Class of 2016

From South Carolina to Southern Arizona, Savannah Gillespie
By Gabi Bueras

“Helping those who cannot help themselves is what I want to do,” says future veterinarian Savannah Gillespie. Savannah came from the city life of South Carolina to the rural desert living of Arizona and will graduate from Patagonia Union High School this May. The positive experience of living with her aunt and uncle and their one dog, nine cats and seven horses has helped this senior find her calling. Savannah is still deciding if she wants to attend the University of Arizona or Pima Community College to major in Animal Science. Throughout her senior year Savannah was manager for girls’ volleyball, and basketball. She was a key component in resurrecting the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program at Patagonia. Savannah’s favorite event this year was a camping trip that the seniors took together at Mount Lemmon. “Mr. and Mrs. Coleman wanted to give us the best memory and bonding time that we needed as a class and I couldn’t thank them enough for it,” said Gillespie.

Being a transplanted southerner, Savannah says, “I love the weather here in Arizona, that’s one thing I don’t miss about South Carolina, but I do miss my family.” She especially misses the tradition of her mother and sister going to Cracker Barrel three times a week. However, during the winter break she did go back to South Carolina to celebrate Christmas and keep alive the tradition of going to the Waffle House every Christmas morning.

When first entering Patagonia, Savannah had no idea what to expect, but after being here for a year she saw how much the teachers care about the students, especially Mrs. Hayes, who she would like to thank for giving her so much support and showing that she genuinely cared about her. Then she made a friend that will always be in her heart forever, Johnny Swift. It is commonly agreed around campus that if you see them together it’s like they’re the dynamic duo; it would take a lifetime to find a friendship like that. Johnny says, “From the first day we met we just became best friends. She is such as caring person and I hope the best for her future.”

Savannah’s outlook on her life journey is encouraging to others. “No matter what you want to do in life remember to do the best and work hard for what you want.”

Senior Spotlight: Sid Skiver
By Garrett Fish and Kathryn Miller

With strong rodeo influences running through his bloodline, Sidney “Sid” Skiver knows he can make a living from what he’s passionate about. Sid is avid about agriculture and cowboying, especially because he says, “You’re not in the city, you’re one with God, you get to ride amazing animals, and you get to see amazing country.”

The four-hundred year old Guevavi Ranch, where he was raised, has definitely impacted his life journey. Sid acknowledges that without his childhood territory, he probably wouldn’t have been accustomed to agriculture or the lifestyle he maintains today. “I grew up in the ag lifestyle and that’s what I see myself being. I want to be the person that makes changes and experiences new things.”

The University of Arizona-bound senior, plans on majoring in Agricultural Sciences and credits some of his success and inspiration to his father and cousin. “I look up to my dad. He pushes me and makes sure I don’t quit. He taught me everything I know!” Sid is a keen rodeo participant who has been active in high school rodeos and currently competes in team roping with his father. “My father was a big part of the rodeo life. He won a lot of awards and I felt like it was my turn.”

His dad, Danny Skiver, a past bronc rider, now travels with Sid across the state. Rodeo travel has given the father-son team the opportunity to create fond memories. Sid has also been inspired by his cousin, RC Landingham, who is a professional bare back rider. Landingham has shown perseverance during his mother’s fight with cancer, a trait that Sid admires.

Sid has had many successes in high school, like being active in FFA, 4-H, rodeo, and football. He even saved up the money he earned from his 4-H projects to buy a Camaro when he was 13. This agriculture advocate wants to drive home the message that, “People that aren’t in that (agriculture) lifestyle don’t care about the planet and don’t realize that the food they find on their plate came from hardworking cowboys and ranchers.” Sid hopes to carry on the legacy of the Old West and plans to take over his family’s ranch, work for everything he has, and be self-sufficient. He eventually wants to have his “own herd of cows and a herd of kids.”
Support for the preservation of the Sonoita Creek watershed was much in evidence on the morning of March 5, as the Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC) held their twelfth annual meeting in Cady Hall. More than 50 people attended the event, which featured a keynote address by Dr. Laura Norman, Research Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

FOSC president, Anne Townsend, told the audience that Friends is now focusing on the creek’s entire 31-mile watershed and collaborating with as many partners as possible, not just Arizona State Parks. She then highlighted the following Friends accomplishments: 1) Planted several cottonwood branches along Sonoita Creek within The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Nature Preserve to improve shade for and protection of the creek. 2) Received training in the Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment (RSRA) and performed initial assessments in portions of the creek within the TNC preserve and below the dam at Patagonia Lake. 3) With the assistance and cooperation of Arizona State Parks, AZ Game and Fish and local ranchers, began a survey to document the status of fencing around the perimeter of the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area (SCSNA) in hopes that this activity will lead to the entire perimeter’s being surveyed and eventually effectively fenced to keep cattle out of the protected area. 4) Raised $675 at a silent auction and party and an additional $800 as a result of a challenge grant issued by an anonymous donor.

Townsend said that FOSC is planning several hikes in the coming weeks, and that FOSC will be continuing the RSRA assessments and the SCSNA fencing survey—for which they are seeking volunteers.

Guest speaker, Dr. Norman, who has worked for the USGS for more than 20 years, then gave a presentation on Water Issues in the Sonoita Creek Watershed. There was a constant flow of questions from the audience as she showed slides she used to document the origins of the water supply in the watershed and the threats to that supply, particularly mining activities.

One facet of Dr. Norman’s presentation that seemed to really resonate with listeners was her detailed discussion of how water and rock interact. Her graphic depicting the many tunnels and shafts created by the Mowry Mine demonstrated the complexity of tracing where water flows and how it is affected by mining activities.

Judging by the number of people who came to hear Dr. Norman, the rigor of the discussion that permeated and followed her talk, and the large number of volunteers who are current members of FOSC or actively involved in its activities, the Sonoita Creek watershed will be fiercely defended against threats to its health, a benefit to all who live in, work in or visit our piece of the Sky Islands.
In early March, Carolyn Baird, along with 17 other RVs, set up her solar panels in the park at the south end of Patagonia. In a recent conversation with her, she told me that in the nine days of their visit here, members of the Wandering Individuals Networks (WIN) went kayaking, biking, birding, and hiking. They enjoyed music at the library, ate out a lot (including a pot luck at the Methodist Church) and were so impressed by the Patagonia Museum, they gave a gift of $210. On their last day in town, two travelers stayed behind to help work on trails with local volunteers.

Baird is a long-time friend of Emily Riney’s, and five years ago one of WIN’s winter tours got permission from the town of Patagonia to gather here for four or five days. This year they were planning to move on to Sonoita and meet up at the Empire Ranch, but the possibility of rain kept them in Patagonia. “We didn’t want to get stuck in the mud,” said Baird.

Members of WIN are single campers and solo travelers of varying ages. They have circuits across the US, Canada, and Mexico. They average 80 caravans, circuits, and gatherings each year, providing activities for all solo travelers: hiking, biking, sightseeing, kayaking, zip-lining, boat tours, museums, plays, factory tours, and more. From Patagonia, the caravan will move onto Sierra Vista and then to Wilcox followed by more stops in Arizona and ending in Knab, Utah in May.

This WIN contingent added a lot of energy, involvement and financial uplift to Patagonia, as they likely do wherever they go. It’s a special lifestyle that includes community involvement, and we are fortunate to be on their itinerary. If you’d like to know more about WIN, check out rv singles.org.
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