Wonder Woman Spotted in Patagonia

Photo by Cindy Mohr
MISSION STATEMENT
To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

WHO WE ARE
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July in southern Arizona: The rains have finally arrived, the fire season is drawing to a close, and the cattle are getting fat and happy on the new, green grass.

Patagonia Regional Times Wants Your Feedback

We are excited to present the first ever PRT Community Survey in this issue of the paper. We want to hear what YOU want from your local newspaper, and urge you and your family and friends to take 10 minutes to complete the survey (either on-paper or on-line).

The survey (with instructions) is on pages 14 - 15. Or, a simple way to participate is to go to our PRT website (www.patagoniaregionaltimes) and click the Survey link to fill it out electronically. We are also taking this opportunity to connect with individuals. The PRT depends on the gifts of time, treasures and talent of our community members. Please will you provide us contact information so we are able to stay in touch with you? We hope that you also consider volunteering or giving a financial donation. Complete this form and send it to us, PRT, P.O. Box 1073, Patagonia, AZ 85624, or do it electronically (the Contact Me link is also on our website).

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Filmmakers Document Life On The Border

By Linda Jade Fong and Linx Selby


This is not the film you expect to see about the U.S.-Mexico border.

Linx Selby, age 23, came back from Canada to her hometown of Patagonia this summer to create what she hopes will broaden the national conversation about the border. Having grown up here, she wanted to capture the feeling of living and thriving in the Borderlands, a crucial part of the conversation that is often left out. Her documentary comes from this personal perspective, not the version popularized by visiting reporters or ‘photo-op’ politicians.

She convinced four collaborators, including executive producer Veronica Aronova, to leave their jobs in Toronto and come join her in Patagonia in the making of “Devil’s Claw.” The focus of the film became life in the heart of the Borderlands through the eyes of three young Hispanic women, a population not often given voice in news or popular media.

Three of the film crew first came to Patagonia two years ago with Selby back when they were students at McGill University in Montreal and, while here, discussed the beginning ideas for this film. Hugo Eduardo Vera Valenzuela, from Chile, was enticed to return to work as production manager because of the “opportunity to be part of discussions that need to be addressed globally regarding our perceptions of borders, race, and integration. Being here in the middle of South and North America is complex and interesting, and we need to ponder about what is happening around us.”

Production assistant Sage Jubelius came drawn by Linx’s other border videos, and also by her description of community interest. Jubelius discovered firsthand Patagonia’s “generosity and nurturing environment.” She and others have volunteered in town, including at KPUP where she and Nakhai have their own shows.

Aronova notes that this is a passion project with team members paying out of pocket to start it. A social media IndieGoGo campaign has been augmented by local contributions, including $2500 from an environmentalist and $6000 from a ranching family. Borderlands Institute founder Ron Pulliam hosted a rollicking fundraiser, which featured musicians from Nogales, Sonora.

Aronova says the next steps are getting final video to start post-production. Fundraising is ongoing with donations much appreciated. For more information see the Devil’s Claw Documentary page on Facebook or contact operationdevilsclaw@gmail.com.

“People with all different views can co-exist and support each other,” says Selby. “Patagonia is super-American but functions off a Mexican structure of values of warmth and strong community—and a gazebo! Our film tells stories like this.”
AFTER THE FLAMES

Photo by Steven Vendituoli

A fire truck is illuminated in the flames during the Encino Fire in Sonoita

Until the fire is nearly eating away at your shoes and the heat is so intense you dare not drive forward and cannot go backwards, until the sight of horses running side by side to escape their flaming pasture, and until the dead silence in the back of the SUV lets you know your dogs are quivering in their crates as you drive through a wall of flame, until there are hundreds of other disconnected thoughts coursing through your head, until then you have no idea what it is like to be a victim.

Three minutes to evacuate. Perhaps we could have taken longer, but it was only the phone call from a neighbor that even let us know there was a fire. I grabbed medications because you always read of old people forgetting that. Asked later if I had gotten my computer, gotten those important papers – Hell, no! We stepped into the wind and the fire, taking only one another and our dogs.

I think I did not begin to awaken to the reality for perhaps two weeks. “At least you have your home” becomes a mantra from those well-meaning folks who are the non-fire affected. We do not even dare to think how those who lost their homes must feel.

Our clean-up will take forever. We will give the oaks at least one spring and perhaps two. As I sit here I look out at a dead pyracantha yet to be cut down. Each day the birds come looking for the green or red berries and find only burnt leaves.

The drive down Papago Springs Rd. is a grim reality now. I have yet to drive further south than Terry Lane to see the damage.

We have owned this property since the 1970’s. Papago Springs Road was a single dirt lane then, with five cattle guards that connected the very few homes in this little oak forest to the crossroads.

The first week after the fire, I think we lived in shock. We had been told our house was safe, but that twice the flames had crept close, licking at the walls. What we were not prepared for was the utter devastation of our land and trees. It left us unable to function beyond the simple needs of each day.

In our courtyard, the light is all wrong. Our privacy is gone with the loss of my Tombstone rose and its arbor. The junipers and manzanitas are ravaged as are the acres that were filled with saplings awaiting their turn. Worst of all are the oaks. Gold leaves sometimes look like exotic plants when the sun hits them. The barren beauty of their spoilage is not a comfort.

Our story is not unique. Neighbors tell their stories, and their emotions are just as raw. No need to embellish. It will forever be ‘Before the Fire’ and ‘After the Fire’. The restoration has just begun in what I sadly realize will be a grueling struggle to regain our lost sense of home.

SEFD Reports High Number of Fire Calls

By Marion Vendituoli

“I’m glad it’s almost over,” SEFD Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf said about this year’s fire season. The fire departments in both Sonoita and Patagonia have responded to an unusually high number of fires in the past few months. As of July 20, there had been only three days out of the last 50 when no fires were called in to the station, according to Katie Goodwin, administrative assistant at the Sonoita Fire Station.

In Patagonia, firefighters have responded to approximately nine fires in their area and were involved in several of the fires in Sonoita. “It was kind of an average season for this area,” Patagonia fire Chief Ike Isakson said, “but we were active fighting Sonoita fires.” Approximately 35,176 acres burned in the SEFD district this season. SEFD was involved with fighting a total of 101,376 acres of fire, both in and out of district.

Although five houses and several outbuildings were lost in the Encino Fire in Sonoita on June 20, this number could have been much higher. “What a great job the community does here to create defensible space around their homes,” DeWolf said as he commended area residents. “What an awesome community we have here,” he added. “The most phenomenal thing, I think, is how well our community came together and worked together during these fires.”

A house and truck destroyed by the Encino Fire.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Donors

A fundraiser for the “Devil’s Claw” documentary on living on the U.S.-Mexico was recently hosted by Borderlands Restoration Founder Ron Pulliam at the spectacular Pulliam home.

Without the help of so many important local businesses and dozens of helping hands, the event could not have been as successful as it was. We, the film crew, would like to thank all of those that have contributed their attention, their time, and contributions to this project.

First off, a special thank you to Diana & Rick Nash of Circle Z Ranch, Marcey Olajos of NAU, and our first Donors, Anne McGreevey and Quentin Lewton. Contributors to the fundraiser included Mel & Tom of Copper Hop Ranch and Microbrewery, Rancho Rossa Vineyards, Rick Rivera for a beautiful handcrafted mesquite stool, Hannah Hill’s Vineyard, Global Arts Gallery, Wilhelm Vineyards, The Cafe–Puckle’s Place, Mercedes Restaurant, Callaghan Vineyard, Lightning Ridge Cellar, Paula Wittner, Maryanne Pomeroy, Yunghi Choi, Barbara and David Ellis, Chuck Kelly and the Senior Shuttle, and Zaida Farnham for wonderful handmade chocolate truffles. We would also like to thank El Trio La Roca of Nogales, Sonora and Bryan Jungers for bringing the tunes. The ongoing generosity of resources, advice, and encouragement from Ron and Janice Pulliam has been incredible.

We would also like to thank everyone who came and took part in the fun and excitement of that evening! We very much appreciated all your donations. We are also grateful for the support we have been receiving in this magical town. It all gives us great inspiration for continuing our work on creating a new look at living and thriving on the Borderlands.

Sincerely,

Linx Selby, Veronica Aronova, Hugo Roy

Tribute to Maureen O’Brien

I only knew Maureen O’Brien through playing bridge. She met me in the parking lot of the Senior Center in Patagonia years ago, where I had been invited to play bridge by Bob Bowman. She asked where I was from and I said “A tiny town at the end of Long Island. She asked me “Where on Long Island?” and I replied Bridgehampton. She said “I know exactly where that is. My family had a home on Dune Road in Westhampton.”

From that point on she took me under her wing and inspired me to continue improving my bridge skills. I hadn’t played bridge since I attended college. I Absolutely love the game and both she and Craig, the man with a smile and a twinkle in his eye, are responsible for my moving forward with the game. What a gal! She had such a wonderful sense of humor.

And yes, Maureen and Craig were a match made in heaven. She once told me that when Craig proposed she replied, “Oh Craig, I don’t want you to be a three time loser.” I will miss you Maureen...Love you till the mountain crumbles.

Barbara Jean Mansfield

Community Pitches in After Fire

By Anna Coleman

Friends and neighbors pitch in to clean up the debris at the Coleman’s home left after the Encino Fire destroyed several outbuildings.

Sunday morning, July 9th, friends and family gathered at Steve and Anna Coleman’s home, equipped with gloves, shovels, wheelbarrows and other tools to help clean up after the devastating Encino Fire.

The Colemans were one of many families affected by the June 20 fire in Sonora. The fire took their barn, corral, storage shed and well house roof, leaving a large amount of rubble, charred metal, and an emotionally-charged, overwhelming feeling for the family of four.

After attempting to clean the debris on their own, the Colemans realized it was too big of a job to do alone, so they decided to reach out to their friends, family, and community members for help. In the process of planning the Clean-Up BBQ, the Colemans found that others wanted to help but didn’t know how, so the work party provided an outlet for community building as well as a time of healing.

“We often forget how to ask for help when it is really needed, so hopefully this event can help others reach out and ask when the need arises. It builds community for everyone. We are very thankful to be surrounded by new and old friends today,” Steve Coleman said.

The work party began at 7a.m., included a group of approximately 50 people coming from Phoenix, Tucson, Patagonia, and Sonora/Elgin, and ended with a BBQ potluck party four hours later. The sweat, dedication, love, and support was shared by all who participated.

The Encino Fire changed the Colemans’ lives and rearranged their physical property, but the love of friends, family, and community restored their hope in rebuilding and moving forward.
It’s normal for a new regime to trash the sacred icons of the old. Who can forget those images of American soldiers pulling down the famous statue of Saddam? Remember that, despite the tanks and chains, it would not fall? It hung there, cockeyed, for the longest time. Which could be called an omen of what lay in store for us. Today, we’re still entangled in Iraq.

ISIS and the Taliban’s wanton destruction of ancient cultural treasures like Palmyra, Syria or the famous Reclining Buddha in Chillicothe, Ohio, is merely one more item in the ancient, endless chain, where brutish men who think like dogs must pee on everything they see to reassure themselves that they exist. The nastiness of their approach is doubly indecent since they exercise their malice in the name of the divine.

Another classic foolishness involves confusing symbols with the things they represent. Consider those who burn flags or brassieres: Clearly, someone who burns a perfectly serviceable bra does not think that the world will be importantly improved by there being one less. To someone purely practical, a flag or bra is just a piece of cloth. But those who are enflamed politically regard such things as emblems of great ethical import. To veterans and patriots, The Stars and Stripes are sanctified. (“How dare they trample on the flag for which my father risked his life at Mosul or My Lai?”) Likewise, a lot of feminists regard the bra to be a nasty, male-inflicted bond, akin to the burqua or chastity belt - that famous metal muzzle for milady’s private parts. (How private can they be if they are owned by someone else?) - developed in the patriarchy’s never-ending quest to keep its women under both wraps and control. Instead of learning to constrain their own salacious minds, the menfolk make the women cover up. One might ask why they don’t just close their eyes or look away. But we know why.

But, back to changing icons, s’il vous plaît: A different calculus applies where there has been no revolution, conquest, and/or coup. Following Dylan Roof’s murder of nine black parishioners in a Charleston church, South Carolina legislators finally voted to remove the confederate flag from atop their capitol, thereby concluding - or at least obscuring - two centuries of racist pride. In New Orleans, when lawmakers voted to take down several statues of Confederate war heroes, the rhetoric got pretty hot. Scum Richard Shelton’s coterie of white supremacists were there, proposing that those lawmakers be shot. The statues were removed late, late at night, by workers wearing battle-gear and backed up by police - just in case things “went South,” so to speak.

While racists are the lowest of the lowest of the lame, it seems to me their protests may have raised one valid point: Those statues were of men who were the heroes of their time - who fought and risked their lives for what their comrades of that era thought was right. If I were a descendant of the men thus disesteemed, I’d be incensed. Such revisions are driven, as often as not, by more venal concerns - e.g., fear of economic boycott - than by lofty ideals. It’s true that time has passed and public sentiment has changed, but does that mean you just blot out the once-deemed-noble past? Are those who thus erase the past akin to those who have denied the Nazi holocaust? Or is it true that any change, just because it is change, seems to sneer at the past?
HANGING BY A THREAD

By Cassina Farley

There was an old country song my Grandma would sing to us when we were kids. It often came when we were over-tired and sent to bed and we cried all the way to the bedroom. As she helped us into our pajamas, and put us into bed she’d sing “You’ll get tears in your ears for crying on your back....”

I recently tested this theory lying on a table in a mall in Phoenix. Having just spent nearly two hours peering at $250 dresses and $1000 purses, we wandered into an unassuming henna store. This store sold all things bohemian, or hippie for you less sophisticated, plus henna tattoos.

As we worked our way to the back of the store we discovered a line of men and women waiting to have their eyebrows threaded. (Google it.) Having never experienced this ancient method of hair removal I, of course, was intrigued. I watched as women and men lined up to have a lovely Asian woman with thread wrapped around her fingers go to work on misshapen brows making the unruly, ruly and for only $10 I was sold.

While I waited my turn I looked into a giant wall length mirror planning out my new brows and feeling excited for my future face, and then my self-esteem took a major blow. When I laid down I had brows on my mind but the lovely Asian lady said “So we do your mustache?” Wait. What? My mustache? I have a mustache? I didn’t even look at my upper lip in the giant wall length mirror, or in any mirror for that matter. If she saw it, how many other people have seen this thing on my lip? So I said the only thing I could say, “Yes and my eyebrows.” (don’t forget the eyebrows!)

She smiled a smile that said “Buckle up Butter-cup” and began ripping out entire sections of hair on my upper lip. ENTIRE SECTIONS! This is where the tears came in; slowly at first, one eye only and then she reached the area right under my nose and both eyes joined the party.

She stopped to give me a tissue and commented on how normal my sudden water works were. My lip stung so much I hardly remember my eyebrows. At that point she could have removed my entire brow and I wouldn’t have noticed.

After she finished up and brushed me off (I must have been covered in hair), I sat up and felt violated. I dabbed my face for leftover wetness and discovered my ears full of tears. My God it’s true; you really do get tears in your ears from crying on your back.

I walked out of that store with a flaming red upper lip, shapely eyebrows and a proven theory. I think that might be Science. I spent my summer learning, what did you do?

MEDICARE FOR ALL

By Bob Brandt

As Congress struggles to figure out how to make healthcare available and affordable to all of us, I can’t resist the opportunity to weigh in on the side of a national single payer plan such as Medicare for All.

It should be clear to any impartial observer that the Republicans, who now control both houses of Congress and the White House, are paralyzed on this issue... and for good reason. For all of its faults (and there are many), the Affordable Care Act did bring some very popular reforms to our broken system, like not being denied coverage for preexisting conditions and making coverage affordable for millions of hard-working, low-income Americans. And, contrary to the Republican mantra, despite some glaring exceptions, health insurance premiums overall have risen at a slower annual rate than before the Affordable Care Act was implemented.

Even with these advantages, however, the current system of delivering and paying for healthcare is unsustainable. It is by far the costliest per capita in the world; no other country even comes close. It leaves millions without coverage and without access to care, its complexity and profit-driven nature result in huge administrative costs and it literally bankrupts tens of thousands of people each year.

Meanwhile, having recently celebrated its 50th birthday, Medicare is wildly popular among its subscribers, has extremely low administrative costs, offers far more choice of providers than any private network and is much more affordable than comparable plans in the open marketplace.

Recent national polls indicate that a majority of Americans now favor some form of government-guaranteed single payer healthcare system. Medicare has proven that a government-run program can not only serve the common good, but can do so efficiently. Conservatives and liberals alike should get behind Medicare for All to bring universal health coverage at the most affordable cost to all Americans.

Medicare— if it’s good for seniors, it’s good for all. If you agree, join the growing number of activists who believe the current impasse in Congress offers an opportunity to bring this common-sense idea to fruition.
The pros and cons of Voter ID

The pros and cons of Voter ID requirements have been widely debated, and each year more states have adopted their own versions. Proponents argue that voter ID keeps the voting process honest and eliminates voter fraud. Opponents believe that many people would be disenfranchised because of lack of documentation. This includes the elderly, some disabled people, the poor, and some minority groups.

Arguments presented on debate.org regarding voter ID bring up other considerations. Requiring a voter ID could be a deterrent to committing fraud. According to the website, “requiring a state-issued photo ID enables the use of common technology to further improve the integrity and efficiency of our election system. A simple computer terminal and a card reader could replace old-fashioned, wasteful and error-prone paper voter registrations and roster books when coupled with an ID requirement. Long lines could be eliminated, voter check-in would be faster, data more accurate and less money would be spent on inefficient, outdated data entry practices.”

Consider however, the financial costs to citizens and local governments to pay for this system: The website points out that “voter IDs, to remain constitutional, must remain free of charge. … office hours must be expanded, States must pay the cost of obtaining supporting documents required for getting an ID, educate the voters on changes to laws through advertising, and administer extra training to officials.” The expense of obtaining proper documentation, including a birth certificate can be an obstacle for many people, as well.

Local Birthing Center Pioneer Recognized

In her book, “An Analysis of Voter Fraud in The United States,” Lorraine C. Minnite writes that it is easier for organized groups such as political parties, campaign organizations, PACs, and lobbyists and even corporations (remember, corporations are people?) to commit fraud because they have access to resources that the individual voter does not. These groups can “perpetrate fraud by obtaining and voting absentee or mail-in ballots, organize large-scale vote buying and paying off local election administrators or poll workers to commit fraud through vote rigging, not counting or destroying ballots or allowing votes that should be barred.”

Since 2003, Arizona has required Voter ID for registration and voting. In 2013, Arizona attempted to add “proof of citizenship” as part of the registration and voting process, but the initiative was denied by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. Today, if you want to vote and do not present voter ID, you can still vote but, “an elector who does not provide the required identification shall receive a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are counted only if the elector provides identification to the county recorder,” according to Arizona law.

Fear is perpetuated by both Pro and Con camps. Citizens should be concerned about the intent behind the initiative to establish a voter ID and whom a Voter ID requirement benefits. The only way to be sure is to pay attention, get involved at the local level, and know your elected officials and what they have to gain by the presence or absence of voter ID requirements.

Kathryn Schrag, MSN, CNM, FNP, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the American College of Nurse Midwives. The ACNM Distinguished Service Award “recognizes a CNM/CM or other professional for an unusual and exemplary effort in the field of community service, innovation in midwifery practice, education, or research.”

In 1982 Schrag co-founded the first birthing center in Arizona, which is still in operation, and served as its director for more than 20 years.

She is a past president of the American Association of Birth Centers, and is a committee chair and lead faculty for workshops focusing on how to start a birth center. She is also on the faculty of the Frontier Nursing University, a graduate school based in Kentucky, which has been ranked #1 nationally among graduate schools of nurse-midwifery.

Schrag lives in Patagonia with her husband, Martin Levowitz, where, among other activities, she serves on the board of the Patagonia Regional Times.
Lucy in The Sky With Diamonds

By Ann Katzenbach

Most herding dogs think their job is to keep creatures moving. My dog Lucy, a mix of several herding breeds, never gave this job a thought. What she was born to do was greet anyone she thought would be her friend. This greeting job was primarily carried out with a cadenced and enthusiastic bark and the wagging of a full-on tail. She ignored cattle when we walked through Dave Martin’s pasture in the morning, but when the time came to announce her presence, to say hello to her friends, to communicate her wish for a treat, she showed amazing talent and intelligence.

Library patrons would all look up when Lucy came through the door with her joyful greeting. Mostly this brought smiles, and whoever was behind the desk would stop whatever she was doing and get Lucy a treat. Global Arts, the post office, High Noon Feed, Sonoita Hardware, the visitor center, Donna and Ron Reibslager, all were on her radar.

Whenever I was on duty at the visitor center, Lucy would lie in wait for the next passer-by, jump up and deliver her greeting. This charmed many strangers. They often asked if there were any more where Lucy came from.

Last winter she didn’t always get up for this ritual greeting. It was clear that she was aging and her hips were wearing out, but she always wagged her tail and welcomed a friendly pat on the head.

When we moved away, Joyce Sander and Ken Ludwig adopted Lucy. I worried that she was too old for a trip back east and an entirely new living environment with attendant stress. She transitioned easily to a household with cats, two caring adults, visiting grandchildren and plenty of walks and good food. As ever, she was loving, joyful, observant and smart.

Yesterday, on July 20, exactly three months after our departure, Joyce called to say that Lucy hadn’t been eating and could barely stand up and that no medications were making any difference. Dr. Rojas, who saved Lucy’s life when she was bitten by a rattlesnake, helped her out of this life, and if there’s any image that has helped me through this last sad day, it’s imagining Lucy at the pearly gates greeting each new arrival.

I can never thank Ken and Joyce enough for taking Lucy into their home and their hearts. And thanks to everyone who offered love back to this little black and white dog spirit.

Chigger Fest

By Ali Morse

When August’s heat warms up the earth, Monsoons drench sunbaked soil; The grasses soar and weeds explode, And so, begins my toil.

Eradicate unwanted plants, I dig and pull and whack; With time (or sheer insanity), This chore becomes a knack.

I soon meet up with mighty mites, Trombiculids by name; In larval stage with just six legs, My skin cells they dare claim.

They cling to me and aim to find, My warmest, dampest regions; They pierce my skin, and start their feast, These mites have come in legions!

A stylostome is what they craft, A straw, of sorts—how quaint! Digestive enzymes in their spit, Disgusted, I grow faint.

Red welts appear, and itching starts, From head to toe I’m spotted; I rub and scratch (and make things worse), My new task’s been allotted.

Create a brand-new regimen, These chiggers can’t endure; I wash with Dawn, then Clorox, And finally found a cure!
WOnder Woman Reborn

By Patra Kelly

Wonder Woman rode her horse triumphantly through the streets of Patagonia on the 4th of July this year. Helen Chester, in the Wonder Woman costume she and Cindy Mohr designed, chose this role because: “I was totally enamored by the new movie—by the strength in the woman, and that love was the winning power.”

Wonder Woman has enjoyed a long history, having been fighting for good for nearly 80 years. She began life in 1941 during World War II as a comic book superhero created by William Moulton Marston, his wife, Elizabeth Marston, and their friend, Olive Byrne. William wanted to design a new, more humanitarian comic book hero, one who had superhuman physical and intellectual powers but who, instead of brute force and blood-curling violence, triumphed through compassion and love.


Marston combined his vision with Elizabeth’s and Olive’s feminist ideals to create a strong, independent superhero model for women and girls. Wonder Woman continually rescued herself from bondage, rejecting the cultural demand that women always be rescued by men. In the newest movie, which premiered this summer, Wonder Woman not only defends her own life time and again, but gloriously leads battalions of soldiers to safety through the last battles of World War I. This behavior would have pleased her creators since they meant her to be an allegory not only for the ideal woman but for the ideal leader. Marston said of her, “Wonder Woman is the psychological profile for the new type of woman who should, I believe, run the world.”—Grady Hendrix, “Out for Justice,” The New York Sun, December 11, 2007.

When, in the late 1960’s, Wonder Woman’s magical powers were taken away, Ms. Magazine came to the rescue with a lobbying campaign and restored the supernaturally powerful Wonder Woman to the mythic mind of America. Gloria Steinem put her on the cover of the first issue of Ms. Magazine in 1972.

Many have commented that the greatest message of the movie is not just the presence of a female superpower, but that Wonder Woman uses this power in ways that women are still rarely permitted. She does not ask permission of - or even understand - male authority. She makes her own choices, and when horrified at society’s injustices, simply goes forward by herself to eliminate them.

The movie evokes a strong visceral experience, making us feel energized by the power of Wonder Woman’s passion as we take magnificent leaps with her, deflecting barrages of machine gun fire with magical bracelets, and conquering with the glowing Lasso of Truth.

We can join with her in asking women’s eternal question: ‘Why is mankind destroying itself and the world?’ When her friend Steve muses that perhaps this tendency to destroy is innate in all of us, Wonder Woman responds, “It is not in me.”

Wonder Woman reminds all of us of our responsibility to look steadily at the harm humans are wreaking; and then, out of our profound love for all that lives on earth, act against it with every ounce of our moral and ethical courage. At the end, in her guise as secretary Diana Prince, Wonder Woman concludes that “I once thought I could save the world, but now I know it can only be saved by human love.”

COUNCIL NOTES

By Bob Brandt

The July 26 meeting agenda contained two matters of considerable interest and consequence. The first was whether to invite Arizona Mining Company to give an updating presentation to Council in council chambers. Mayor Isakson reported that the company was planning to do a program for the community soon. That being the case, the Council directed Town Manager Dave Teel to contact Arizona Mining to request that they attend a study session in council chambers following their community presentation. Community member Ray Klein urged the council members to remain impartial in discussing the mining issues.

The second agenda item on July 26 was a lawsuit brought by plaintiff April Rivera against the town and Marshall Patterson. This issue was not discussed openly. Rather, council went into executive session with Town Attorney Michael Massee.

Earlier in the meeting, District 2 State Representative Daniel Hernandez introduced himself and urged the council and others attending to advise him of concerns they may have and to keep the lines of communication open so he can get the sense of Patagonia area residents’ opinions on matters that come before the State Legislature. His toll-free phone number is 800-352-8404 and email is dhernandez@azleg.gov.
Lessons From Clyde, A Hound

By David Seibert

Clyde is a dog, most of the time.
At other times a blur, an inspiration, a figment,
He first appeared in town a few months ago,
a photograph and caption on a bulletin board:
‘Hi, my name is Clyde and I need a new home.’

He’s building that now through crazed runs each the best ever,
every meal unparalleled, every nap better than the last;
thick-boned, block-headed, deep-eyed with loving smile,
100 pounds of thickmeatymuscle tremendously gentle
until haunted by an uncertain past.

Troubled dreams lead to midnight wanders
to touch a hand and so confirm a physical world of possibility
through dark doglips and whiskers; to touch, just touch.
Daily he’ll lift, stretch, and reach to hook and hold with legs and
paws the arms and hands of other beings, not knowing what
does he do but try.

Hold on, Clyde. Hold on.

Beast of flesh and fur, poorly-healed rib and damaged soul,
likely from the hard kicks of a two-legger before his first
birthday,
multiple attempts at breakage.
[You failed, whoever you were.]

Clyde stands.

Unbroken, each day packed with potential,
defending his yard from the fun threats of roadrunners and cats,
learning-excited-content-vulnerable without consequence;
no past times, no past places—this. Just This.

Eater of wasps, grass, whole books, six-pack holders,
total bars of soap, dish towels and toilet paper rolls,
he challenges the material world to pass through him.

Strained and wild-eyed at times, sensitive to touch but willing to try,
in the field he thinks he’s unstoppable, and that matters.

He matters, is matter;
throwing his heavy frame about reckless unfettered,
bounding jumping lunging laughing,
there is so much to do here, now, his tail might fly off with joy.
He returns riddled with thorns, cuts on his stomach,
heavy pink tongue hanging to his knees, salty nose,
away and return, away, return,
always laughing, laughing.

Up hills, down, across arroyos, through thickets,
keen on anything that shows life that might match his own,
relentlessly pressing his substance into the world,
testing them both.

Jack Kerouac’s On the Road unleashed another such figment:
Dean Moriarty careening cross-continent reckless unplanned,
lurching, driving, sleepless manic life-consumptive unstoppable,
relentlessly insistent on a cryptic mantra
for inhabiting and daring a world of potentials:
‘We have no time now’

Not a nervous strain to be somewhere else, to think something else,
to be something else,
instead these words re-mind, Clyde re-minds
of an adjacent possible:
We have no time. Now.
The Tucson Audubon Society has begun intensifying efforts to improve wildlife habitat and beautify an area along Sonoita Creek. The project, which began in 2016, involves removing invasive Johnson grass to allow the restoration of habitat for the federally threatened western yellow-billed cuckoo, for pollinators, and for hummingbirds.

Johnson grass (Sorghum halapense), native to the Mediterranean, is considered one of the top ten invasive plants in the world. In certain situations, Johnson grass out-competes and excludes native plants once it is established. Tucson Audubon Society will be removing Johnson grass and other invasive species from the riparian edges of Sonoita Creek east of Pennsylvania Ave and directly opposite the Paton Center property, and replanting with appropriate native vegetation for the site. The project area is approximately five acres and will improve another stretch of this important wildlife corridor.

“We are concentrating our efforts on a section of Sonoita Creek used regularly by locals and seen by thousands of visitors when traveling to visit the popular birding sites of the Paton Center or the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve,” notes Restoration Project Manager, Andy Bennett. “Throughout the year we’ll remove Johnson grass through a combination of hand pulling, mechanical treatment, and spraying. We’ll replant the area with native species like Netleaf Hackberry, Arizona Walnut, Sacaton, and Desert Honeysuckle. The result of our work will be an attractive natural space that benefits the community and local wildlife.”

The work will be led by Tucson Audubon Society’s Field Crew, though volunteers have already been involved with invasive species removal and planting. In November 2016, over 60 students from Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson participated in restoration work at the site, and the Borderlands Earth Care Youth Institute participated last summer to get things started.

“We’ve been fortunate to involve a large number of students in the early stages of this project. We welcome groups and individuals who are interested in learning about the local ecosystem through volunteerism,” Bennett says. “We appreciate the community’s involvement and patience and as we transform the landscape along this popular stretch of Sonoita Creek, upstream of the Paton Center.”

To learn more about Tucson Audubon Society’s conservation work in Patagonia, please visit www.tucsonaudubon.org. To learn more about the project, including volunteer opportunities, contact Restoration Project Manager, Andy Bennett, by emailing abennett@tucsonaudubon.org or by calling (520)262-1314.

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TAS Project Improving Habitat Along Sonoita Creek

It was a simple idea to help beautify our small town of Patagonia. Don Wenig sought to revive and refresh the small garden in front of the Patagonia Post Office. A few dedicated friends joined him to prune existing vegetation and pull weeds. A few weeks later, when the rains let up, they designed a new flagstone path, laid landscaping cloth, planted new flowers and succulents, and spread gravel over the area. The garden now looks attractive and well cared for.

Ongoing maintenance, future plantings, and a possible water line/irrigation system are all being discussed. If you’d like to contribute to this worthy cause, you can send a check to: Patagonia Garden Club, PO Box 1208, Patagonia, AZ 85624, ATTN: Audrey Wood, Treasurer. Be sure to indicate the funds are for the Post Office Garden by writing that in the memo space.

Photo by Jim Burns

Western yellow-billed cuckoo

---

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The Lending Shed

a non-profit community project by Family Health Care Amigos

Provides wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower benches, mobile commodes and much more, free of charge to residents of Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita.

(520) 297-7065 * (520) 603-7330
Mini Monsoon Menagerie: Social Sap-Suckers

It’s been a dry year - one full of dust, heat, fires, and...well, more fires. Finally, the rains are here, offering a salvation of sorts and a temporary reprieve from all things arid. Amidst the pre- and post-rain natural pleasures that I happened upon the other day was an unexpected assemblage of insects all congregated at an equally surprising spot.

The location was a desert broom, one of our most common shrubs. Certainly, this ubiquitous drylands dweller attracts legions of hungry insects to its flowers in mid-to-late autumn, but this rather desiccated specimen was far from flowering or even flourishing. Languishing in our current drought, it seemed to harbor a paper wasp nest. I jumped a bit upon seeing perhaps half a dozen of these industrious hymenopterans. Upon closer inspection, however, I also observed several metallic blue-green solitary wasps moving amidst their cousins. Intrigued, but preoccupied by other tasks, I made a mental note to return to the desert broom within a week.

When I next visited the broom, I soon witnessed an even odder assemblage of insects. They all seem to be drawn to a handful of lower stems. Not only were they seeking some unseen resource in proximity to each other, they were also fiercely competing for this invisible prize. In lieu of flowers or even any leaves on these lower stems, I deduced that desert broom sap was their collective target.

On numerous occasions, both in Arizona and beyond, I have observed a wide variety of insects partaking of the caloric/nutritional benefits proffered by various plant saps. Butterflies, beetles, and others sometimes help themselves to the lifeblood of plants to sustain themselves. Never before, however, had I seen such a diverse group of sap-feeding insects.

Now that I had a moment to observe this broom brotherhood of sorts, I soon added other species to the list of visitors. A few small flies came as no surprise, as they are renowned at detecting a wide variety of food sources, as any picnicker well knows. Paper wasps too, are rather ubiquitous and attracted to anything remotely wet-looking, such as sap.

The solitary wasps, however, caught my attention, not only for their striking appearance as shining, stinging, and colorful beacons, but in this case also for their sheer abundance. I normally spy this species alone and somewhat infrequently. Here, they were by the half dozen, crawling over each other in a feeding frenzy.

Even more surprising were the Velvet Ants. Normally solitary, they numbered from three to six on the broom. A fig beetle clung to one stem and, on another occasion, a marvelously patterned longhorn beetle joined the party.

Aside from merely chronicling the species present, I was truly fascinated by their behavioral interactions. Like so many predators and scavengers at a carcass on the African veldt, these tiny treat seekers had an intriguing feeding hierarchy. The clear king of the sap were the velvet ants. These misnamed creatures are wingless (at least the females) wasps. As they make a living parasitizing other wasps and bees, they are veritable tiny tanks and hence nearly impervious to stings. Even the much larger solitary wasps were unable to budge the feeding velvet ants, despite repeated attempts. Likewise, the paper wasps were no match for their solitary relations, and were easily displaced.

Perhaps the biggest revelation was that the two beetle species seemed completely oblivious to the competing sap-stealing stingers, holding their ground at will.

Revelation: even the most common Sky Islands species, such as desert broom, can supply enough fascinating fodder for the curious naturalist to ponder our unique biodiversity.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation Organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

SCC Cowbelles Celebrate 70th Anniversary

The Santa Cruz County Cowbelles gathered at Hops and Vines Winery in Sonoita June 7 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organization, to recognize Keri Jelks, of Elgin, the newest 40-year member of the SCC Cowbelles, and to introduce two of this year’s Cowbelle scholarship winners, Luis Rubio and Clarisa De La Ossa, of Rio Rico.

Previous 40 year member honorees include Posy Piper, Noemi Quiroga, Pat Basinger, Linda Vensel and Nora Daley.

The Santa Cruz County Cowbelles serve to contribute to the growth and development of the cattle industry and the preservation of the ranching way of life.

The organization participates in fundraising activities to support youth in agriculture and to provide scholarships for area students.

Santa Cruz County Cowbelles is one of 12 affiliates of the Arizona State Cowbelles, which is an affiliate of the American National CattleWomen Association.

Betty Barr recognizes Keri Jelks for her 40 years of membership in the SCC Cowbelles.
HOW CAN WE MAKE PRT A BETTER NEWSPAPER?

Dear Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita resident or visitor: The Patagonia Regional Times (PRT) would like to know what our community wants from its newspaper and how we can increase our readership. The results of this survey will be summarized in a fall edition of the paper. We are grateful to the Patagonia Regional Community Fund for financial assistance in making this survey possible.

How to fill out this survey (it should take you less than 10 minutes to complete):
1. Go to this electronic Survey Monkey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRTCommunitySurvey and fill it out online via the internet. The link to the survey is also on the home page of the PRT at www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/
2. Answer it on paper in this edition of the PRT, and mail in the results to PO Box 1073, Patagonia, AZ 85624, or drop it off at The Patagonia or Sonoita Library (can be left in book drop.)
3. If you have questions or would like to talk to someone from the PRT about your ideas rather than completing the survey, please contact us at prteditor@gmail.com.
This survey is anonymous, but we would like to be in contact with you. If you’d like to talk to us, please separate the Contact Me section when you return the survey.

1) How often do you read the PRT?
   ___ Most issues   ___ About half
   ___ A few issues   ___ Never*
*If you do not read the paper please skip to question number 20

2) How much of each issue do you read?
   ___ Most of the content
   ___ I read half the content
   ___ I read a few pages

3) How many times in the last year have you looked at PRT on line?
   ___ Never
   ___ 1 - 5 times
   ___ More than 6 times

4) Which features of the paper do you enjoy most? (Rank each subject below as follows: 1 - I don't like this, 2 - I feel okay about this feature, 3 - I really enjoy this feature, or 4 - N/A.)
   ___ News items   ___ Opinion pieces   ___ Monthly columns on nature, animals
   ___ Art: photos, drawings, poetry
   ___ Monthly Calendar   ___ Local government   ___ School events and news
   ___ Classified ads (rentals, job, etc.)
   ___ Letters to the editor   ___ Local history   ___ Advertising
   ___ Book reviews on subjects of local interest

5) What new content would you like to add?
   (Check all that apply.)
   ___ Local science features: astronomy, weather systems, bird sightings, etc.
   ___ Stories about people in our community
   ___ Profiles of local organizations, businesses
   ___ Some content in Spanish
   ___ Puzzles, word games
   Other ideas: ____________________________________________________________________

6) If we charged for the paper, what is the most you would pay for a single issue?
   ___ $2   ___ $1
   ___ Less than $1
   ___ I wouldn't buy it

7) How do you feel about the length of the PRT?
   ___ Too long
   ___ Too short
   ___ Just right

OUR STORY: The PRT is a free non-profit monthly newspaper that serves Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia and Sonoita. Our mission is to be “open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.” Since its humble beginnings in 2009, the paper was staffed largely by volunteers and funded by advertising dollars and donations to cover the cost of printing the paper. But by 2016 it was clear that this was not sustainable; part-time staff were hired and fundraising efforts were increased. The PRT is published 10 times per year, with a length of 20-28 pages. Current and past PRT issues are available on line.

OUR CONTENT: The PRT contains current local news, regular columns, articles of interest, photographs, art, and limited paid advertising.

OUR BUDGET: We print approximately 23,000 papers annually (2000-2400 for each of 10 months). Our 2017 budget is a total of $46,000, thus our total actual cost per copy of the paper is $2.00.
Our income is approximately half from our advertisers, and half from donations from individuals. In order to cover the cost of additional staff positions, we have increased the advertising space to 30-40% of the paper. Most newspapers nationwide exceed 40% advertising and many sell the newspaper.

HOW WE PROSPER: The PRT is sustained by people who believe our community benefits from its presence. We depend on income from our advertisers, donor contributions, and the gift of time from our volunteers (board and committee members, reporters, writers, editors, artists, distribution assistance, etc).
8) How do you feel about the current amount of advertising?
   ____Too much  ____Too little
   ____Just about right

9) How do you feel about including “ad inserts” (loosely inserted pages dedicated to ads or coupons) as a way to increase advertising revenue?
   ____OK with me  ____I hate the idea
   ____I have no opinion.

10) Should we change the frequency of publication?
    ____No
    ____Yes, publish it more often
    ____Yes, publish it less often

11) Would you like the option for a paid subscription delivered to your home?
    ____Yes  ____No

12) Using a 0-10 scale, how likely is that you would recommend the PRT to a friend or neighbor (with 10 being “strongly recommend” and 1 being “do not recommend”)
    1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

13) Do you have any comments about why it is (or is not) a good thing for the community to have the PRT?
    ____________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________________

14) What other suggestions or comments do you have to improve the paper?
    ________________________________________________________________________________

15) Would you like to be involved with the PRT?
    ____I already am  ____Yes (see “Contact Me” section on page 2)  ____No  ____Maybe someday

16) Gender:  _____ Male  _____ Female

17) Age:  ____Less than 19  ____19 to 39  ____40 - 65  ____66+

18) Zip code of your primary residence:  ______________

19) Do you live in Arizona at least 8 months a year?
    _____Yes  _____No

20) Annual household income:  _____ Less than $20,000  _____$20-50,000  _____$50-100,000  _____ > $100,000

Questions for people who don’t read the PRT:

21) Please tell us why you don’t read the paper
    ____I don’t have time  ____The content doesn’t interest me
    ____I think that PRT’s point of view is slanted  ____There are too many ads
    ____The quality of the writing is poor  ____I have trouble finding a copy
    Other:  _____________________________________________________________________________

22) Do you read other regional newspapers such as the Nogales International or Tucson’s Arizona Daily Star?
    _____Yes  _____No

We are grateful to the Patagonia Regional Community Fund for financial assistance in making this survey possible.
Patagonia Celebrates the 4th of July

Photos by Laura Wenzel
EZ Cattle Company Celebrates ‘Day of the Cowboy’

Rex Dalton and Ron Parsons, of the EZ Cattle Company, marked National Day of the Cowboy, July 22, at the Sonoita Fairgrounds by preparing a traditional chuck wagon breakfast for local cowboys and ranchers. “We did this to support the cowboy way of life,” Dalton said. The EZ Cattle Company is a chuckwagon outfit that competes in chuckwagon competitions throughout the southwest. They recently qualified for the national finals held in Fredricksburg, TX by beating almost 400 other competitors on the regional level. At the finals, they finished in second place with their beans and third in desserts.
<table>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>MLS #</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>$329,900</td>
<td>PATAGONIA HILLSIDE SETTING</td>
<td>21705439</td>
<td>4.15 ACRES</td>
<td>Red Rock Acres 2080sf 38d/28a just remodeled Santa Fe. Trees, screen AZ room, fireplace, 2 car garage. CAROL FORD 520 604-0162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$399,000</td>
<td>LUXURY LIVING IN THE MESA</td>
<td>21705791</td>
<td>4.3 ACRES</td>
<td>Great views on this split level custom home. 28d/38a, high ceilings, hickory cabinets, 3 car garage. GATED for privacy &amp; security. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$415,000</td>
<td>SONOITA COUNTRY LIVING</td>
<td>21632142</td>
<td>10.5 DIVIDABLE ACRES</td>
<td>Trees, views, privacy, room for horses &amp; pets, multiple gardens &amp; patios, garage, chicken coop. 28d/28a, studio &amp; inviting sunroom. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$475,000</td>
<td>CUSTOM SANTA FE—LAKE PATAGONIA</td>
<td>21704167</td>
<td>4.14 ACRES</td>
<td>Fabulous views &amp; luxury details in every room! 2599 sf, 38d/3.5 8a, guest quarters, balcony, 2 fireplaces, 5 car garage! Electric gate. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$260,000</td>
<td>CONVENIENT SONOITA LOCATION</td>
<td>21716333</td>
<td>4.5 ACRES</td>
<td>1952 sf, 3 Bd/2Ba, huge open kitchen &amp; fam room. Screened porch, AC. Great for horses. Carport/ workshop/2 stall barn. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$349,900</td>
<td>CUSTOM SANTA FE IN SONOITA HILLS</td>
<td>21708462</td>
<td>4.17 ACRES</td>
<td>2129sf, 38d/28a. Well maintained w/new exterior &amp; interior paint, carpet. Roof newly resealed. Fully fenced with great views. Good well. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271</td>
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<tr>
<td>$299,000</td>
<td>CASAS ARROYO de SONOITA</td>
<td>21615292</td>
<td>4.17 ACRES</td>
<td>2321sf 38d/28a on easy-care .37 acres. Charm &amp; character, HOA w/ pool, mature trees, acres of shared land, quick Hwy 83 access. CAROL FORD 520 604-0162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>BUNGALOW WITH GUEST HOUSE</td>
<td>21706578</td>
<td>4.5 ACRES</td>
<td>242 SANTA RITA Great in town location. Old miner’s shack converted to an open concept small bungalow. New roof, plumbing, electrical. Terraces, studio. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PYEC Bike Helmet Drive Underway

By Anna Coleman

In the spring of 2017, the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center received a generous grant from the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation to fund a bike program at the Youth Center. This Bike Academy program enabled the PYEC to purchase five FreeAgent BMX bicycle kits for the youth. The program coordinator, Steve Coleman, has taught the youth to assemble the bicycles properly and continues to teach proper bike maintenance (changing tires, safety inspections, etc) as well as enforcing the youth center’s helmet rule.

Currently, the Youth Center has eight bikes and helmets. PYEC youth can be spotted riding around Patagonia in the afternoon and evenings.

PYEC is holding a SUMMER HELMET DRIVE. The goal of this helmet drive has been to raise money to purchase well fitted helmets and keep all the youth safe while being outside and enjoying their free time.

The price of the helmets is approximately $25 each. The Youth Center purchases the helmets and get them distributed around town. One of the youth Center’s summer objectives is to help remove the stigma about helmets and encourage all youth under the age of 16 to stay safe and protect their brains while riding their bikes and skateboards.

Thanks to the generous donations of a few individuals and local businesses, PYEC has already been able to purchase and distribute 17 bike helmets.

The Helmet Drive will continue until mid-September. All donations are tax deductible through the Youth Center’s nonprofit 501(c)3 status. Donations can be made at the Gathering Grounds (319 McKeown Ave) in Patagonia, the Patagonia Youth Center (277 McKeown Ave), or by mail: PYEC PO Box 253 Sonoita, AZ 85637.

Donor Honored at Senior Center

By Marion Vendituoli

Senior Center donor Lynne Anderson and Heather Dodge, executive director of the Center, hope to encourage others to donate to the new endowment fund.

A special luncheon was held at the Patagonia Senior Center on July 14 to honor Lynne Anderson, who has donated $10,000 to the Senior Citizens of Patagonia endowment fund. Anderson, who donated the funds in the name of her late husband, Duane and herself, said she decided to do this, “because I love Patagonia...It’s been good to me and I like to give back.”

Anderson has “laid the groundwork” for establishing the endowment, according to Heather Dodge, executive director of the Senior Center. “We need $25,000 to start the endowment. Hopefully, people will come forward. An operation like this can’t survive without being endowed.”

Senior Citizens of Patagonia, which was started in 1982, serves 7500 – 8000 meals a year and provides free transportation throughout Eastern Santa Cruz County. The purpose of the endowment, Dodge said, “is to keep Senior Citizens of Patagonia alive and thriving in perpetuity.”
Local Author to Hold Book Signing
By Marion Vendituoli

Betty Barr reads from her newest book at the Bowman Stradling History Center.

When author Betty Barr set out to write the story of local pioneer Carrie Frazier, she soon discovered that she had a wealth of material to draw from about this pioneer woman who homesteaded in Elgin in the early 1900s. “There was almost too much information,” she said.

Frazier’s interviews with both the Pimeria Alta and Arizona State Historical Societies were taped and available on CD. “I had her own voice,” said Barr, “Which was really wonderful.” She also had access to family scrapbooks, letters, newspaper articles and family journals to help in her research.

The book, “Arizona Cattlewoman, The Remarkable Life of Carrie Swigart Frazier,” which has just been released, tells the story of Frazier, who, with her older sister Rhoda, moved to Elgin from Pennsylvania to take advantage of the homesteading act.

“The challenges facing them; the transition from a big city to the outback, no knowledge of the Hispanic culture or language predominant in the area, no roads, water, electricity, transportation or even easy access to groceries, and all without the aid or companionship of a husband, seemed not to faze them at all,” Barr writes. “In fact, Carrie was quoted as saying, ‘We had the time of our lives doing it.’”

Frazier, who had worked as a secretary in Philadelphia, and her sister, who had trained as a nurse, claimed two adjoining pieces of land, living at first in a tent erected on the property line between their two parcels, with their cots placed so that they were each sleeping on their own land.

She went on to marry a fellow homesteader, raised a son and daughter, developed a successful cattle operation and was a charter member of both the Elgin Club and the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles.

“Her story really is a ‘true grit’ story,” Barr said. “She didn’t think it was tough. She really loved the west and she loved the outdoors and the freedom.”

This is Barr’s sixth book, all of which focus on Arizona history. “This and the [John] Slaughter book are my favorites, because you get to have an in-depth look at one person,” she said. “This was a really fun book to write. I felt like I really knew her…I would dream about these people.”

Barr will be holding a book signing on Sunday, September 10, from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Bowman Stradling History Center at the Sonotia Fairgrounds. Admission is free. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served.

“The Arizona Cattlewoman” is self-published, 130 pages, and includes numerous historic photos, a map showing many of the locations described in the book, an index of names, and is priced at $15. To read excerpts of this and Betty’s other books, please visit her website at www.brockingjbooks.com.

The Importance of Healthy Equine Feet
By Cate Drown

The most remarkable changes I have seen are thanks to a dedicated natural hoof trimmer, David Landreville. He agreed to take on my two girls and I will be forever grateful. He trims to model the feet of a wild horse. I’m not going to get technical about his work because even though I understand all that he is doing when he is in front of me explaining it, right after I leave I cannot begin to explain it to anyone else. I can, however appreciate the look of their feet.

In Pachelbelle, the changes border upon miraculous. It’s been a trial because it has taken many trims to rid her of all that old, damaged flesh and to bring her to a state of health in which she is now creating new, healthy cells throughout her whole body. She is still a work in progress but almost there.

She looks like a different being altogether. She gallops with Sha-Tali, gamboling along as burros do, kicking her heels up in the air and braying in delight. Her fatty pockets are literally melting away. This is the first summer I have not had to put a fly mask on her because her eyes have stopped running! Thus, the flies are no longer attracted to them. In fact, I learned a line years ago from a holistic equine nutritionist. “Flies do not attract garbage. Garbage attracts flies”. There are very few flies at the ten-acre pasture where my girls run. That pretty much says it all.

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides specialized care for all beings large or small. Contact Cate at drown_cate@hotmail.com.
Patagonia Pollinator Project
Finalist for National Grant
By Karen Field Carroll

The Patagonia Pollinator Project team shared Borderlands Restoration’s work with ArtPlace America as one example of its educational program.

Thanks to ArtPlace America, students in Patagonia could have a rare opportunity to learn about their environment from local experts through a creative new media arts format. The Patagonia Pollinator Project, which is a grant finalist in ArtPlace America’s highly competitive National Creative Placemaking Fund, will develop an educational pilot called “Outstanding in the Field,” using local artist Ned Schaper’s fantastical world of Beveldom to help local experts teach students about place-based fields of study.

The project proposal, submitted by Mat Bevel Company, reaches K-12 students by incorporating the achievements of local experts into curricula and hands-on workshops that include theater, found-object kinetic art, and digital storytelling. The goal? To increase school enrollment and provide a model for other rural public schools across the country that face the challenge of declining enrollment. Specifically, the project is designed to draw more young people to the community, bringing the median age far below the current 59.8.

Paula Schaper, Vice President for Mat Bevel Company, says, “If we can develop an educational pilot that makes learning exciting and memorable, we can increase student comprehension, engagement and achievement. In doing this, we will attract more parents, students and teachers to Patagonia Schools because of our education curricula and programs.” The opportunity will become a reality if the project is selected to receive the grant from ArtPlace America’s National Creative Placemaking Fund.

When choosing its grant finalists, ArtPlace America representatives visited each finalist’s community. On June 28, ArtPlace America’s Javier Torres and McKayla Shirley visited Mat Bevel Company’s New Beveldom Studios and three other locations, including Patagonia Public Schools, Patagonia Creative Arts Association and Borderlands Restoration’s Seed Bank at the Old Main Campus.

ArtPlace America will announce its winners in December. The winners will begin their projects in January, 2018. To learn more about the Patagonia Pollinator Project, contact Paula Schaper, at Mat Bevel Company, at 520-604-6273.

SCC Fair Seeking Entries

The 102nd Santa Cruz County Fair, to be held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds Sept. 15 – 17, encourages everyone to enter the fair this year. Produce, crafts, baked or canned goods, photography, art sewing, quilting and much more are displayed in Pioneer Hall, and are eligible for prizes, ribbons and special awards. It is free to enter and blue and red ribbons earn cash prizes. Help support this tradition of displaying the best this county has to offer. Be sure to check the Sonoita Fairgrounds website at www.sonoitafairgrounds.com and click on the SCC Fair link for more information about entering the fair, or call 455-5553 or 455-4700.

There will be a lot to see and do at the fair this year. Special attractions include the award winning mentalist and magician Paul Draper, and Davis’ Muttsley Crew, performing dogs who have appeared on America’s Got Talent, as well as at rodeos and performances across the country.

For those who would like to sell their produce or crafts, please contact Jen at 520-455-5553 to reserve a space in the ‘Bounty From the County’ Tent.
**Events**

Aug 3 - Two Santa Cruz County Meet and Greets for Representative Raul Grijalva. 3:30-5 p.m. at the Patagonia United Methodist Church, 6-8 p.m. at Kief Joshua Winery.

Aug 5 - Dedication of the Bill & Posy Piper Stage at the Fairgrounds, 4-6 p.m. Branding of stage at 4-6 p.m., dedication 6-6:30 p.m. Music by Jim Koweek and Friends.

Aug 12 - The Loft Cinema Rolling Reels presents a free outdoor screening of the film “Wings of Life,” in partnership with Patagonia Library, funded by a grant from Arizona Humanities Council. With guest speakers Gary Nabhan and Steve Buchmann. 7:30 p.m. or sunset, Cady Hall.

Aug 19 - American Red Cross Blood Drive (whole blood and platelets) in Thurber Hall, Patagonia Community UMC, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule your blood donation appointment.

Aug 19 - Pancake Breakfast at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, 7-10 a.m. Proceeds to benefit the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Aug 19 & 20 - Craft Fair at the Sonoita Fairgrounds in Gardner Hall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are an artist, artisan, or crafter interested in a booth, they will be $25 for both days. Info: 520-455-5553.

Aug 19 - Dinner, Dance & Auction at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, $15 steak dinner, $8 hamburger dinner. Dinner at 5 p.m., auction at 6 p.m., dance at 7 p.m. Live and silent auction. Proceeds to benefit fairgrounds and Santa Cruz County 4-H. Info: 520-455-5553.

Aug 25 - Music & Miracles Concert Benefit for St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic Annual Cleft Palate/Cleft Lip Mission. Tickets $50, includes concert, beverages, and hors d’oeuvres. Concert held at First Baptist Church, 1916 N. Frank Reed Rd., Nogales, AZ at 6:30 p.m. For more information or ticket purchase, contact 520-648-3242, 281-2780, or 604-0557.

Sep 2-4 - 102nd Annual Labor Day Rodeo. Gates open daily at 10 a.m. Admission: Adults: $15, kids 6-12: $10, under 5: free. Junior Rodeo starts at noon daily, main performance starts at 2 p.m. daily. Steak fry and free rodeo dance Saturday and Sunday nights.


**Events (cont’d)**

**Special Interests**

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

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

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

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

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

**Community Services**

Storytime in Sonoita - Pioneer Hall, every Thurs. Ages 0-5 but all ages welcome, 10 a.m.


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

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

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

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

Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter - usually twice a week. Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonoitapatagonialocals.com.
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HOUSING RENTALS

CHURCH SERVICES
Patagonia Community
United Methodist Church
387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Youth Group: 5-7 p.m.

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

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

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

Sonoita Bible Church
3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita 455-5779
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed. 6-8 p.m.

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

Canelo Cowboy Church
Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
Sunday Services: 9a.m. sunday School:
10:30 a.m.(except third Sundays)
Ranch Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd
Sunday

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

FULL MOON
AUGUST 7, SEPTEMBER 6

PAGE 23 PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Starting in June the most popular subject of conversation around these parts is rain—when will it start, who got it, and how much. A review of local newspapers published 100 years ago provides evidence that not much has changed. The full text of the Border Vidette articles quoted below can be found in the Library of Congress database, Chronicling America. Images of the Santa Cruz Patagonian are available on The Patagonia Museum website: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org.

Prior to the monsoon season there is always lots of speculation about when the rains will start. According to local tradition it should start on June 24th, the feast day of St. John the Baptist. In 1917 the rains failed to materialize on that date: “Last Sunday was St. John’s Day; just the same no rain fell in Santa Cruz county.” The Border Vidette (June 30, 1917) Fortunately, rain began soon after: “As predicted exclusively. In The Patagonian last week, the long looked for, devoutly wished and prayed for rain came, and with what a multitude of blessings! Charley Chapman, The Patagonian’s especially engaged weather prophet, predicted it would rain sometime between Wednesday, June 27, and Wednesday July 4th, basing his prognostication on the proper signs of the moon - and it rained as predicted almost every day in some part of the County from June 27th up to and including the glorious 4th.” The Patagonian (July 6, 1917).

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief once the rains begin since the moisture is crucially important to local agriculture: “The daily rains gladden the hearts of Santa Cruz county livestock raisers, all of whom are wearing ‘that smile that won’t come off.’” The Border Vidette (August 11, 1917)

“From all directions there come reports of abundant rains, with crops growing finely, plenty of grass and water on the range, and cattle growing fat. In another month there will be fine, fat beef coming from the ranges. And none of the alfalfa or corn fed beef has the flavor and tenderness possessed by range beef when it is fat.” The Border Vidette (August 25, 1917) And when the rains miss an area there is serious concern: “Rain is very badly needed here (Elgin) just now, and unless it comes within a few days there will be very poor crops in the Elgin and Rain Valley country.” The Patagonian (August 31, 1917)

The sometimes intense storms caused damage: “The heaviest rain of the season visited this section last Sunday, and as a result Nogales is a cleaner and better town to live in. The arroyo received its annual thorough cleaning and everything on the Mexican side of the line, not nailed down, including several wagons, etc., was washed beyond the city limits.” The Border Vidette (July 14, 1917) “Considerable damage was caused throughout this section (Sonoita) by Wednesdays’ severe storm. Several houses were unroofed and the wall from at least one adobe building was blown in.” The Patagonian (August 17, 1917). “The Duquesne ore haul has again started coming over the road to Patagonia, after being sent to the little Mexican station on the other side of the line, below the Duquesne camp, for a few weeks. The roads from this place to Duquesne are now just barely passable, owing to the recent heavy rains, which for a few days completely tied up traffic on this important thoroughfare.” The Border Vidette (September 1, 1917)

Be sure to enjoy the verdant beauty that the rains create, just as our predecessors did. “Several automobile parties motored from Patagonia to the pretty ranch of Henry Pyeatt at the foothills of the Huachuca mountains, last Sunday and spent the day fishing, swimming and picnicking. This is one of the most beautiful places in this part of the state, having plenty of shade, water, and fruit. To get the greatest enjoyment out of the day be sure to stop the machine at the Canelo pass, just before descending into the San Rafael Valley. Since the summer rains have started the valley has taken on an emerald hue...” The Patagonian (July 20, 1917).

Fire Dept. Dinner Draws Support

By Denise Bowdon and Marion Vendituoli

Almost 500 steak dinners were served at the 42nd annual Patagonia Fire Department Steak Fry, held June 24 at the gazebo in the park. The volunteer crew was a little shorthanded this year, as many of the town’s firefighters were assisting with the Lizard and the Frye Fires.

$17,000 was raised to support the Department at the event, including $10,250 brought in by the live and silent auctions and the raffle. Donated items included a commemorative knife, camping gear, fishing rods, coolers, a big screen TV and a handmade quilt, made by Edith O’Halloran and Charlotte McEldowney, a hand-crafted metal lizard by Richard Connelly, helicopter and plane rides, and a chauffeured wine tour.

The Spirit Tree Inn was the high bidder for the knife, which was crafted by Tim Gordon, of Tucson, the brother of Assistant Chief Lee Gordon. One side of the blade is engraved with the logo of the Patagonia Fire Department. The other side is engraved with “In Memory of Chief John M. Ashcraft, Last Bell January 26, 2016.” Ashcraft had served as Fire Chief for Patagonia since the 1980’s.

Kayti King was chairman of the event, assisted by Diane Isakson and Denise Bowdon. Music was provided by Nightlife. Members of the San Rafael 4-H Club worked diligently, helping to set up and serve, working at the auction and cleaning up after the barbecue.

The money raised will go towards training, upgrading equipment, and supplies.
PCAA Kicks Off New Endowment Fund

By Cassina Farley

The Patagonia Creative Arts Association has established an Endowment Fund through the Arizona Community Foundation. This move will allow PCAA to remain sustainable for years to come and will give donors even more incentive to support the Art Center.

Nineteen years ago, when the PCAA was founded, no one could have imagined how the arts have changed this community and how this organization would thrive in a town of only 900 people.

This has been made possible by the support of donors and community members year after year. It is the goal of the Association to remain relevant and to continue to fulfill the needs of the community with afterschool programming, workshops, classes, lectures, films and live theater.

With the creation of this endowment fund the PCAA aims to remain this community’s Art Center and plans to provide art education for generations to come.

The seed money ($25,000) for the endowment came from an anonymous donor that felt her greatest impact could be felt by giving a way to grow and creating a future for the Art Center. Please consider PCAA in your estate planning and in your yearly charitable contributions so that the PCAA may continue its mission for years to come.

Students at the PCAA Summer Arts Program put on a western play and art show at the Art Center in June.

LIFE WITH A SMILE

By Posy Piper

It’s hard to smile when your pickup pulling a travel trailer stops dead in the middle of the Navajo Reservation in Northern Arizona. We were coming home from a Society for Range Management meeting on the Navajo Nation on a hot, Saturday afternoon in July, when suddenly the truck stopped and there was nothing we could do. We called our AAA Roadside Service and prepared to wait in the middle of nowhere.

The vistas stretched in all directions, but there was nothing to see except land and space. There was not a sign of a Navajo or any other living thing, not even a rabbit or a horned toad. The paved road seemed to go on forever and during the several hours we spent there, only one lone vehicle came along. The driver of the little truck offered help, but we had AAA on the way. We put our folding chairs in the shade of the travel trailer, and waited.

When the tow truck arrived, we climbed in with the driver, he attached our truck and trailer and we were off to Mexican Hat, Utah. This brought a smile, since my oldest son’s favorite movie, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, was filmed here. We stayed in Blanding, Utah, where we and the trailer were dropped off at an RV park while the truck was taken to a garage to wait until Monday to be repaired.

I’m sure Blanding is a very nice town, but it is not an ideal place to spend a weekend when you are afoot and a distance from town. There was a restaurant within walking distance and a convenience store to buy a newspaper. That and a couple of decks of cards got us through. On Monday, a broken wire that shut down the battery in the truck was fixed and we were on our way.

As we drove home, I smiled about once again discovering the MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. I had previously declared Ely, Nevada to be that place. We had stopped at a small store near Ely one windy March day after travelling for many miles through territory of nothing but a few small plants. I knew that Pat Nixon, the wife of President Richard Nixon, came from Ely where her father was associated with mining. I smile at the idea of her long journey from Ely to the White House and then to her husband’s resignation during the Watergate scandal.

But now Ely had been surpassed, in my mind at least, and the title of the MIDDLE OF NOWHERE had been handed on. We were not exactly generous to the Navajos when we established their reservation. So, I’ll smile for the Navajos and for another adventure into NOWHERE.
REFLECTIONS ON LIFE IN A MINING COMMUNITY

By Bob Brandt

Whether you stand for or against mining in the Patagonia Mountains, you cannot escape acknowledging the central role mining has played in Patagonia’s history. I was privileged to have a recent conversation with Irma Sang, who shared with me her reflections of everyday life in the mid-twentieth century mining camps along Harshaw Road and at the Trench Mine where her father worked as a driller and where she spent the first six years of her life.

Irma’s grandfather, Manuel Majalca hired Irma’s father to work at the Duquesne Mine after her father returned from a stint in the U.S. Army. When Duquesne closed, her father went to work at the Trench Mine. The Trench was just one of several mining camps that operated at that time in the Patagonia Mountains, creating a sense of community and a distinct culture that Irma remembers with fondness.

Irma, along with her father, mother and older brother, lived in one of about eight houses, each with a generous plot of land - Irma guesses about an acre - clustered in the housing area of the camp located off Harshaw Road near Flux Canyon Road. Cindy Matus Morriss, her good friend to this day, lived just a couple houses away and the two of them shared many fun-filled days in the camp.

Most of the mining structures are long gone, but, in her mind’s eye, Irma can still see vivid scenes of life in the mining community.

One scene - a bit scary to a little girl who didn’t know what lay underground - is of miners, her father and brother among them, being lowered into the mine shaft on an open elevator to begin their day’s work.

A happier memory is of the community center in Harshaw, the social hub of the mining camp collective. There the community gathered nearly every Saturday night for live music, dancing and just plain fun. These gatherings often started around dinner time and lasted well into the wee hours of the morning. The venue drew the miners and their families together to celebrate weddings, birthdays and other milestones.

Harshaw also boasted a one-room schoolhouse situated on the Hale Ranch. Irma attended kindergarten there, but her family moved into Patagonia the following year. It was a major transition for Irma; it felt like a big city to her. “I remember I got lost walking home from school one day,” she said. School was at Old Main and she lived on the corner of Sonoita and Fourth Avenues.

It was a hard life for the miners but Irma recalls it as a happy time. “It was a way of life. There was real community spirit there,” she said. “Everybody would come together for special events.”

Irma’s life now is far different from those days in the mining community, and the Patagonia Market, which she and husband Fred own, isn’t exactly the same as the Harshaw community center. But as I interview her in the store amid the steady stream of customers, I realize that this place is one of the social hubs for present-day Patagonia. As I leave Irma and the store, I feel a sense of community akin to that which must have pervaded the mining camps that played such an important role in the history of this town.

Photo by Carmen Rivera Matus

Irma Majalca Sang (2nd from left, front row) and Cynthia Matus Morriss (2nd from left, middle row) at a birthday party in 1958.

Photo by Carmen Rivera Matus
Red Beard Rally Draws Runners to Elgin

By Marion Vendituoli

Local runners take the lead at the start of the 5K race at the Red Beard Rally. From left: Ryan Bronstein, Josh Bronstein, Oskar Bergh and Griffin Bostock.

“We’ve got some wine and some mud for you,” announced Drew Titche to the 199 runners lined up for the 10K and 5K races at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin. The course, laid out along the unpaved Camino Del Corral and through vineyards at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin. The course, laid out along the unpaved Camino Del Corral and through vineyards at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin. The course, laid out along the unpaved Camino Del Corral and through vineyards at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin. The course, laid out along the unpaved Camino Del Corral and through vineyards at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin. The course, laid out along the unpaved Camino Del Corral and through vineyards at the Red Beard Rally, held July 15 in Elgin.

This is the fourth year for the rally, organized to honor the memory of the late Al Buhl and to raise funds for several local organizations. Buhl, who passed away in 2013, had been the track team coach at St. Augustine’s School in Tucson, as well as the founder of Dos Cabezas Winery.

Several local runners participated in the races. In the 5K race, Aiden and Josh Bronstein, Parker Bostock, Kevin and Matt Buhl, Rachell Hochheim, Ken Karrells, Jere Bergh and Joy Bergh all placed or won their divisions.

Approximately $10,000 was raised, which will be donated to the St. Augustine School Al Buhl Memorial Scholarship, the Elgin School athletics program, the Patagonia Union High School cross-country team and the Mustang 4-H Club.

Sponsors of the rally included Elite Waste and Recycle, H.S. Lopez Family Foundation, Megadrew Properties, LLC, the Mt. Empire Running Club, Pizzeria Mimosa, Sonoita and Elgin Wineries, Sonoran Wine Tasting Tours, Tucson Appliances, Tucson Subaru, Vinny’s New York Pizza, and Buhl’s LeMoyne College roommates.

This year’s rally was hosted by the Sonoita-Elgin Merchants Chamber of Commerce. It was organized by Ann Buhl, Kelly Bostock and Megan and Andrew Titche. Santa Cruz County 4-H members manned the water stations and held signs along the route. A new race, the Al Buhl Memorial Half Marathon, is being organized for October in Elgin.

Local Politicos Find Common Ground

By Emmett McLoughlin

Richard Kimball spoke about Project VoteSmart on July 20 at the SEFD station.

At least in our part of the world, the Republican and Democratic party organizations are getting along well. This is apparent after a first successful collaboration between the Southern Arizona Republicans and the Arizona Borderlands Democrats when they co-hosted a March appearance in Sonoita by Ricardo Santana Velasquez, Mexican Consul in Nogales, Arizona (Who, it has been noted, is the most effective politician in Santa Cruz County, even though he is not a U.S. citizen.)

This was followed on June 15 by a presentation by Thomas L. Fink, the Presiding Judge of Santa Cruz County Superior Court. Judge Fink chose as his topic the Ninth Amendment to the Federal Constitution which states, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

The next joint meeting, featuring a talk by Richard Kimball, director of Project VoteSmart, was held July 20. Several notable politicians across the political spectrum have served on the board of Project VoteSmart, including John McCain, Geraldine Ferraro, Newt Gingrich, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. VoteSmart is a non-profit, non-partisan, political research organization that serves to educate voters about candidates, including the voting record, donors, and public speeches.

Kimball is no stranger to politics, having served in the AZ state legislature, and having run as the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate for Arizona in 1986. During his talk, he spoke to the increased trend of candidates relying on emotional attacks and appeals in political campaigns, rather than discussing substantive issues. At present, close to 80% of money spent in political campaigns goes to negative advertising.

In opening the meeting, which was attended by about 40 people, Southern Arizona Republicans Chairman Emmett McLoughlin recognized friends and neighbors of all political persuasions in attendance.

He noted that he and Dr. Morris Farr, of Sonoita, had both served in the Arizona Legislature from 1979-1980, and that they had each gone on to become the chairman of their respective political parties in Pima County during the 1980s, part of a political generation where there was mutual respect of opposing views and that decisions were made and accepted without ad hominem attacks.

In the lively discussion after the meeting, a consensus was reached that having such joint meetings was stimulating and a positive thing for the community.

McLoughlin and Borderlands Democrats leader Juanita Havill are considering sponsoring a debate on Arizona’s new Education Voucher Program, which might be placed by petition on the 2018 election ballot.

Judge Thomas Fink discussed the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution on June 15.
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