The Patagonia Art Center's Fourth of July Float - more on page 12
C.A.V.E. People

In the June addition of the “Letters From Our Readers” portion of the PRT, I was very pleased to read that Chris and Trish Young (www.emf-experts.com) will NOT be settling with us here in Patagonia due to the imminent health threat from EMFs (electromagnetic frequencies). We already have enough people living here that are trying to save us from ourselves—the CAVE people. CAVE is the acronym for “Citizens Against Virtually Everything.” In case you missed reading the Young’s letter, it was written to lament the fact that beautiful, pristine, electrosmog free Patagonia, Sonoita, and Elgin will be ruined because of a new communications tower that is being installed on Red Mountain. For this reason, the Youngs apparently will not be moving to the Patagonia area due to their concerns about EMFs.

—Ray Klein, long term Patagonia resident

No Room For Bigotry

Kudos for publishing the brilliant commentary by Martin Levowitz, (Rip Van Hitler, June issue.) His insight and observance into such a serious topic as bigotry is always a relevant concern in a free society. I have no idea what narrow-minded person or group decided to spread their venom into this peaceful community, however, in view of today’s global society, it seems out of date, like knickers or typewriters. Bigotry always seems to rear its ugly head from time to time, reminding us that evil is always with us in one form or another. Where would one begin? From the many Jewish-American established mercantile stores...to designing the denim "Levis" worn by both miner and rancher? And what about the Chinese, who are responsible for the miles and miles of railroad tracks? The Mexicans whose burros carried the much needed water and wood to the copper mines? The African-American Buffalo soldiers who bravely defended the West at Fort Huachuca? The heroic Navajo "wind talkers" of WWII? We built a great nation on the blood, sweat and tears of all ethnic groups! As American citizens, we should realize that this great nation was the "handiwork" of ethnic group upon ethnic group, forming it into what should be: a people having great acceptance and tolerance of all mankind. We are a nation of many colors, tastes and cultures that create a beautiful mosaic of all its contributors. May I suggest that those who have a problem with any one group of Americans simply sail back to from where you originally came. I, for one, am very proud to be an American who embraces the beauty and diversity of all mankind.

---Catalina Beltran, Sahuarita

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Mustang Tales At Spirit Tree Inn

by Ann Katzenbach

About 50 guests enjoyed a meal of ranch-style beef, beans, squash and fruit cobbler at the Friends of The Patagonia Library’s summer fund raiser, held at Spirit Tree Inn’s Amish barn. Rex Dalton of the EZ Cattle Company, parked his antique chuck wagon by the fire pits where the meat was being prepared, giving an authentic feel to the event.

H. Alan Day, author and cowboy, gave a talk about his experiences herding wild mustangs on his ranch in South Dakota. With him was writer and editor, Lynn Wiese Sneyd, who guided Day through much of the book-writing process. The two talked about how the book came about, but also focused on Day’s story of how he found the land and convinced the Bureau of Land Management to send him the wild mustangs. He shared the many things he learned about wild horses, government bureaucracy and himself. An excellent raconteur and an expert on horses, Day kept everyone in thrall.

The Spirit Tree Inn donated its location for the evening, and Sonoita Winery, Barrino Brewing Company and Nimbus Brewing Company of Tucson all donated refreshments.

Abbie Zeltzer, head librarian, estimates that the library made about $1,300 from the event.
There’s a lot happening at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center this summer. Their after school/summer 4H program has been expanded to include a garden, cooking, and the current construction of an industrial arts area for the youth who are cooking dinners and desserts each week as a learning experience while building community and having fun. A few AmeriCorps young adults are volunteering at the youth center to help with all these projects.

The Patagonia Creative Arts Association (PCAA) Summer Art Camp took a different approach this year. Instead of individual art projects, the entire camp worked on the first ever kid-crafted float for the annual Fourth of July parade entered by the PCAA. For the month of June the kids learned about French painter Henri Rousseau and his colorful jungle themed paintings. In their daily classes, the students painted, crafted and sewed their way to a live interpretation of a Rousseau painting. The children were instructed by local teachers and artists, Martha Kelly, Anita Clovesko-Wharton and Susan Corl.

PCAA wishes to thank all of the donors for making this program possible.

In the June issue of PRT, the article titled "SCFPA Concert Benefits Lochiel Schoolhouse" included a photo of only two of the members of Trio Allegretto who gave the benefit concert. This photo shows all three members: Christina Wilhelm, Ann Weaver and Pat Watrous.

There’s a lot happening at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center this summer. Their after school/summer 4H program has been expanded to include a garden, cooking, and the current construction of an industrial arts area for the youth who are cooking dinners and desserts each week as a learning experience while building community and having fun. A few AmeriCorps young adults are volunteering at the youth center to help with all these projects.

The youth center has begun providing workshops scheduled with Mariposa Adolescent Health and Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation to help educate our local youth on risky behaviors, relationship/dating abuse signs, substance abuse, healthy lifestyle choices, HIV/STD prevention, and to offer in-depth training for peer mentoring with an emphasis on suicide prevention/depression warning signs and local resources where peers can receive support.

PYEC has teamed up with the Arizona Trail Association and has been going on weekly hikes to introduce healthy lifestyles and an appreciation for the outdoors. The hikes also help youth learn to be stewards of the land as they help maintain trails. The hikes offer a creative element as well for those youth who enjoy sketching, poetry/creative writing, and photography.

In addition, these young people are involved with the National Forest Service and Borderlands Restoration in hands-on science with the Doc Mock Park Project. They are working with engineers and other experts to conduct soil testing, water run-off studies, and data collection, and are designing an area of native vegetation. With the assistance of an environmental engineer, they hope to create a "green" skate park that would double as a water collection site and channel water into the vegetation areas and the creek. A few older youth will travel to Phoenix this fall to present their powerpoint on the youth involvement of the project to the National Forest Service convention. This ongoing project, which will take several years to complete, gives youth a voice in their community.

Director Anna Coleman says "It is enriching for the youth to have multiple opportunities. I see the Doc Mock Park Project as a prevention and enhancement program--one that will carry on into their lives as they become young adults".

Coleman has been volunteering her time at the youth center each week (45+ hours/week), on top of teaching full time, for well over a year. She would like to see PYEC acquire sufficient funding to pay for her director position soon. Says Coleman, "Our mission, as a nonprofit (501(c)3), is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for our local youth and I feel we are succeeding. Our goal is for the youth center to be financially stable for the future successes of our children. We need increased help from the community, county and local entities to fulfill this goal."
More than 400 friends and fire fighters from around the area gathered at Saint Therese of Liseieux Catholic Church in Patagonai on July 14 to remember the life of Michael Martin.

Michael died on July 5 in a car accident on Highway 82 in Sonoita. He was traveling back to Patagonia from Sonoita when he lost control of his pickup. It struck a culvert and rolled over on him.

He was a well-known local resident who graduated from Patagonia Union High School in 2012. In 2009, many residents supported a community project to raise funds so that Michael could receive a kidney transplant. His mother, Laura Mattox, who donated her kidney for the procedure, completed training as a nurse in order to better care for her son, who had had health issues since childhood. She recalled that, despite the trauma of the surgery, “He was back on his skateboard a week after the transplant, riding down the halls of the children’s hospital.”

Michael was active in athletics during his years at PUHS. His basketball coach Ross Spencer, recalls that even after his transplant “He was fearless on the court.” He said that during one of the games Michael was hit in the back. “He was hurt pretty good,” said Spencer. “He just sat out for a couple of minutes and then said, ‘Coach I’m ready to go back in.’” Michael was chosen as Athlete of the Year when he was a senior.

One highlight of his short life was being a volunteer firefighter with the Patagonia Fire and Rescue Department. This was his second summer as a seasonal ranger at Patagonia Lake State Park.

The camaraderie of firefighters was clearly visible when crews from many fire districts journeyed to Patagonia to show their support for a fellow fallen brother. Members of many of the attending fire districts formed an honor guard.

Friends of Michael have constructed a memorial on Highway 82 in Sonoita where he lost his life.
Cleo Mock, the wife of Dr. Delmar Mock, who was Patagonia’s only doctor for many years, turned 99 on July 13. The thread of her long life runs through more than 80 years of Patagonia’s history and in a larger sense, the development of the West, for she was born in what is now a Texas ghost town and first arrived in Arizona at Fairbank, which today is another ghost town. Her family moved here during the dust bowl days, piling everything into a cattle truck.

Today she has difficulty hearing and uses a walker, but her mind is sharp, her memory is excellent and her spirit is light.

Marjorie Cleo Mock was born to Al and Delia Turner in the small town of Tokio, Texas in 1916. There were eleven siblings. Cleo was the middle child. Her grandfather Turner was a rancher in Patagonia and when his wife became ill in 1932, he asked if one of the girls could come and help him care for her. Cleo was chosen and at age 16, she got on a train in Pecos, Texas and disembarked in Fairbank, Arizona, a station that serviced most of the region. Cleo was hoping to get a ride with the postman from Nogales but it was Sunday and there was no mail being brought to the train. Luckily, there were passengers from the train coming this way who gave her a ride. When she got to town, she got in touch with the postmaster, Woody Gatlin, and he called Mr. Turner who came into town in his Model T Ford to pick her up.

Back then the Turner Ranch had a big orchard. Cleo was kept busy nursing her grandmother, doing chores and going to Patagonia High School, which was then in a building across from the current fire station. It soon became obvious that the ranch needed more help, so most of the family in Texas packed up everything (including the family cow) and moved lock, stock and barrel to Patagonia.

As a Seventh Day Adventist, Cleo attended Loma Linda University in California. It was there she met Delmar Mock. A noteworthy part of their courtship found Cleo sewing cushions and Delmar making chairs in an adjoining room. They were so busy sneaking glances at one another that Delmar cut off the tip of his middle finger, a lasting souvenir to young love.

Delmar came to Patagonia for a visit. He was in love with Cleo and then he fell in love with Patagonia. After the war, they came here and set up a medical practice—although he was told he was a fool to come to such a remote, rough place.

Their first residence was in a hotel that stood where the Patagonia Market is now. Cleo insisted from the beginning that the office and their own quarters be in the same building. She says she didn’t think she and her children would ever see the doctor if he had to go across town to get home. As the family grew, Cleo stuck to her plan and they moved into a building on Duquesne Ave. that is now apartments. Under one roof was a medical clinic and office, a residence for a growing family, and a Seventh Day Adventist School.

Cleo was right about not seeing much of her husband. He was up before daybreak, setting up for surgeries and making rounds in Nogales. He came back to Patagonia to see patients in his clinic and have lunch with his family. Then it was off to Sierra Vista and Huachuca where he saw patients, sometimes until midnight. In between these trips, he delivered babies. While he was away, Cleo held down the medical fort in Patagonia, giving injections, sewing up wounds, and giving advice. If a baby needed extra care, it came to the Mock’s bedroom to spend the night.

With a growing family, the Mocks decided to build a house and incorporated a swimming pool in the plans. Cleo ran Vacation Bible School at the church across the street for 25 years. Many local children attended, in part, Cleo remembers, because they got to swim in the pool.

Looking around today’s Patagonia, the changes she points to are the difference in rainfall (much less now), the fire station where there was once just a wooden shack, the new high school, recycling, the community garden and the park. She remembers the park as being full of corrals where cattle were kept before being put on the train. “Today the homes are much nicer with stucco and paint. It used to be a junky town,” she admits, “but full of good people.”

These days Cleo Mock spends much of the year in California, but likes to come back for the monsoon season which she loves. She attributes her long life to her genes. Her mother lived to be 101.

Congratulations and many thanks to Cleo Mock who did so much, along with her husband, for the town of Patagonia.
I still own guns, and likely always will, but there’s something to say.

We’ve had another massacre. This time not in a shopping-center (Tucson) movie-theater (Denver) or grammar school (Connecticut) but in what you might imagine to be one of the world’s safest milieux: a church prayer-meeting. Well, maybe not. The church was black, and South Carolina hadn’t yet officially renounced its proud Confederate heritage. These things take time.

Having read the sad news, what I wanted most was to hear about the shooter and, especially, to see his picture. As I suspected, we were dealing once more, not with some macho thug, but a skinny, malnourished loser, petulant and dislocated; someone whose noxious family-life, emotional distortion and drug-use added up to mental-illness.

Jared Loughner, James Holmes, Adam Lanza, Dylann Roof. These are not the burly, bearded, biker-types you meet where guns are sold, with upper-arms the size of thighs, proudly wearing their sleeveless Harley leathers while studying the pump action of their next twelve-gauge, operating its slide repeatedly, savoring the rich, portentous sound -- k-click, k-clack -- with the rapt attention someone else might focus on a harpsichord concerto. These guys are scary, but comforting, too. They’re the folks you expect to encounter where weapons are sold. Both who they are and how they look add up to good advice: Don’t Mess With Me!

Okay, now Google your local loser, Loughner. Central-casting’s gone over the top with the lunatic look. Or look up Adam Lanza, the poor schlemiel who shot those grade-school kids at Sandy Hook. One glance at the skinny frightened face and huge, distracted eyes reveals that this poor soul needs help. Half of these shooting-spree freaks publish crazed manifestos on Facebook, some wearing “military” uniforms straight out of their distorted fantasy-lives. And they’re, all of them, brandishing weapons, of course. I am mad and I’m bad.

We normal (“average loser”) types may love the thought of offing two or three specific jerks who piss us off, but these guys are mad at the whole effing world. Real life has not been kind to them. When you start shooting people you don’t even know, that’s a sign of ill health. It’s the same silly thing every time. Their classmates, teachers, friends and neighbors always say, as soon as these guys snap, “A ticking time-bomb, that’s what this guy was!!” Ahem. So why didn’t someone do something before he ran amok? The mental-health folks need more funds, and the cops almost always respond, “Well, we’re not authorized to act until somebody breaks the law.” (By then, as you know, it’s too late. Pass the body-bags, please.)

It would be nice if our society produced fewer lunatics. Perhaps prospective parents should be made to pass some test before they are allowed to spawn. It’s too bad all these psychopaths can get their hands on guns so easily. The N.R.A. is listening in and won’t agree to anything that limits sale of guns. (And, even if you change the law, America’s so full of guns that it would take millennia to get rid of the guns already here.) The gun-control debate has raged for almost 40 years with lots of passion on both sides. Adversarial thinking promotes impatience, reactivity and outright stupidity. One’s willingness to listen or to compromise goes south. What’s obvious will be ignored, perhaps even denied. In a community where there are no guns lying about, lunatics cannot pick them up and murder senior citizens at prayer meetings or children in classrooms. Is that not obvious?

We’ve all seen the bumper sticker: Guns don’t kill people. People do. Very cute. And, yes, quite honestly, anyone adequately motivated could go about it with a hatchet or a knitting-needle, though, surely, there’d be fewer slain. James ”Batman” Holmes, The Movie-Theater Killer, fired almost 80 shots into a darkened theater. And, Seung-Hui Cho, the maniac who slaughtered thirty at Virginia Tech, got off more than 170 rounds. That’s a lot. You’d have to be a Knitting-Needle Ninja to compete. Or consider that nut-job in Norway who shot eighty kids in an hour or so. Try killing eighty people with a knife. Your arm would ache for days, or even weeks!
Fly? I’d Rather Not  
By Ann Katzenbach

Last fall I flew to the East Coast. My United Airlines plane was scheduled to depart from Tucson early so I spent the night at a motel at the airport. I got a shuttle, made it through security and got to the gate where I and the rest of the passengers were informed that although the plane was ready, the crew was not there and wouldn’t be for at least another hour. For me the upshot of that late flight meant that I spent seven hours in the Phoenix airport and got into Philadelphia at 10 p.m. that night.

This summer my brother and sister in law will celebrate their 50th anniversary on the coast of Massachusetts. There will be a big party. Lee and I wanted to be there. We tried to make a sensible travel plan.

The logistics were daunting: a motel at the Tucson airport and a change in Dallas and getting into Boston at rush hour (a nightmare even on a good day) and renting a car or having someone pick us up and drive an hour and half south, finding friends with a spare bed, and then doing it all in reverse with a stay at a Logan airport motel. Perhaps braver folk than we are would give this a try, but when you factor in weather, security lines, full planes on tight schedules, possible mechanical problems and no-show crews, not to mention getting to and from the airport (Boston’s is at the end of a tunnel). Something was sure to go wrong. We decided to stay home.

As I write this, United Airlines has had another bad day - along with the stock exchange and the Wall Street Journal. For some reason that has yet to be fully analyzed, the computers at those corporations all went haywire. United Airlines grounded 4,900 planes this morning, and it will be several days before they are back on schedule - if, in fact, they ever really have been. You can get a quick visual of the enormity of United’s vast fleet if you drive past Davis Monthan’s Boneyard and look out over the acres of stored airplanes. At last count there were 4,400 of them sitting in the Arizona sunshine which is what I want to be doing when the next commercial airliner is late -- or worse.

Assessing The Big Four O  
By Cassina Farley

While you were all out grilling hot dogs and watching parades, I turned 40. I'll be the first to admit it wasn't that bad. What do I care? Kids have been calling me “ma’am” for years. Was I expecting enlightenment? Sort of. Was I expecting that I’d have everything all tied up in a neat little package of super awesome organized adulthood? YES, mistakenly so. Here’s a list of a few other things I thought for sure I would have accomplished by 40:

• A bikini. I had it my head that I was going to wear a bikini when I was 40. Meaning that after all of the M&M deprivation and Pilates classes, on my fortieth birthday I’d strut out looking fierce. I look fierce all right, fiercely in need of a cover up. I was born into a one piece reality.
• Go to New York City to meet Al Roker. I’ve met his wax dummy. It might just have to be enough. I’ll reset this goal for 50.
• Buy a house. The dream is still alive, only I have to find somewhere where I can comfortably move my chickens and my chicken collection, bottle collection, books and future goats. Don’t forget Zach’s stuff. We will need a mansion. (see #6)
• Talk to Lemmy from Motorhead. As part of my ongoing non-threatening stalking of the rock god, Lemmy, I have come close to meeting him. I have seen him in the flesh but have come up short on multiple occasions when it comes to chatting. He remains my White Whale.
• Kids. Well that didn’t happen. How about cats?
• Great wealth. Hilarious. That was the teenaged version of me. The same teenager that believed the palm reader when she declared the “M” line on my hand meant money and great wealth in my future. I’d like to make a citizen’s arrest. Perhaps this is also a resettable goal since as far as I can see there is still plenty of future.

And now to count my blessings..... A great job, a happy life and the love of a good man -- accomplishments that I didn’t plan. I’ll still keep looking for Lemmy and Al Roker well into middle age. I’ve got time, and maybe by then I’ll have the money to fund my expedition.
The Pope’s Call to Stop Our Self-Destructive Actions

By Raul Grijalva, AZ State Representative

The recent encyclical from Pope Francis drew a lot of attention to climate change, and for good reason. Global warming is accelerating. We don't have time to waste fighting political battles with coal and oil companies — or their apologists in Washington — when we all know what needs to be done. The pope said as much, and I’m hopeful his message will bear fruit.

I'm just as hopeful that we understand his larger theme: If we’re going to keep living on this planet, we have to recognize that our actions are self-destructive and start doing things differently. That’s just as true of our economic, education and health care policies as it is of our environmental laws. The pope appealed to our sense of justice, not just our self-interest, in calling for action on climate change. That same appeal should cause us to reflect on how we approach other social problems.

As the nation with the greatest economic strength and ability to lead, the United States must start acting in the interests of the poor and neglected rather than just the wealthy and well-connected.

The pope says as much throughout his encyclical. Listen carefully to his language: "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. ... The earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production."

Despite what the pope’s critics want us to believe, this is not a narrow environmental message divorced from our larger reality. It embraces our larger reality and calls on us to change it for the benefit of those who have suffered too long. This is not an easy message to embrace. It is not meant to comfort those of us who live comfortably. But it is a message we know to be true.

Poverty and lack of opportunity have defined our lives for too long. When we allow them to spread, even by our inactions, we are responsible for the damage they cause. That's why the encyclical is a rallying cry for all of us to address not just climate change, but the root causes of many of our social problems.

Those root causes are all around us. Neglect of our education system. Disregard for the needs of the hungry and downtrodden. A self-defeating attitude that says everyone is in a fight to the top and collateral damage is the price of success. Above all, a refusal to see our local, national and global communities as true communities.

That dynamic is playing out in too many of our neighborhoods, where families are being torn apart because of a parent's undocumented status. It’s playing out in our schools, where children learn from out-of-date school books and eat unhealthy meals because of a lack of funding.

And yes, it’s playing out in our environment, where wildfires rage out of control on our public lands because ideologues refuse to support the federal agencies that can prevent them.

Our nation’s problems can only be solved when we change our attitudes toward our fellow men and women and the world around us. It is time we realize that the people Pope Francis identified as the least among us aren't abstract dots on a map.

Too often, they're our neighbors. They're the people we pass on the street. They're the people — the real men, women and children, with lives of their own — we read about only when they die in a flood or landslide or hurricane not of their own making.

If we don't make that intuitive leap, we will never live up to the pope's call for justice, and we will be poorer for it.


The Racist Within Us By Lou Anne

Racism. Racial tension. We are gripped by it. Every day another case of police brutality emerges. Though it isn't as apparent, the brutality of teachers may be even more damaging. A teacher in Texas was fired for saying what many of her peers secretly think: "Bring back segregation." Unfortunately, the teachers and the police get their hall pass to inflict the damage they do from a much more insidious source: the unacknowledged racism in virtually all Americans, even many who are themselves Black, Hispanic or Asian. Tests can demonstrate the hidden, unknown and unacknowledged racism in most of us, but tests can't cure the problem, especially since almost all of us—especially the "right-thinking" among us—think we are NOT racist. I know about my racism - not all of it perhaps - but I know it when I hear of another drive-by shooting and the first thing I think (not that I want to think) is "Black." Or a drunk driver makes the news and before I can squelch the thought, I wonder "Native American?" It’s there folks - in me and in almost everyone else.

The first step to a cure is to face the fact that we carry racial stereotypes deep in our dinosaur brains. I do not, however, think we are hard-wired to be racist. I think we are hard-wired to be xenophobes (afraid of strangers). The racist part

To contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, send it in Word format to preditor@gmail.com.
SUBMITTAL DEADLINE IS THE 20TH
PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals
for language, length, and content
Dialogue is more than an exchange of concepts and opinions. It is communication of thought from personal experience. I have found that a meeting of minds, both intuitive and rational, often elicits heightened awareness and feeling, and stimulates creativity.

The experience of dialogue can move us beyond the confines of our self-imposed limits and preoccupations, carrying us out of rational thought into feeling the joy and delight of being alive. It is a stepping out of self, away from our own concerns into an adventure of seeing the world through another person’s perspective. As we get to know each other, we might develop an understanding of how this person came to view life and the world. This affects us and can change, broaden, or deepen our own views.

Di means two, and dialogue does not usually work in the same way with more than two people. A person to person experience of full attention is important and can sometimes lead to a magical feeling of being outside time. Dialogue may often, though not always, develop into friendship. It has been described as a prerequisite of all authentic relationships, with its emphasis on open-mindedness, equality, curiosity, and listening as much as sharing.

It is also possible to fall under a kind of “spell” and become attached to the energy that is generated through dialogue. In a state of exuberance, one can forget to stay awake and aware. For example, my friend’s Uncle Will met a man in a coffee shop with whom he had several stimulating, thought-provoking conversations which he enjoyed so much that he invited this man and a couple of his friends to stay with him for a few weeks. They proved themselves appreciative guests until Will returned home on the day of their departure to discover they had emptied his house of his finest antiques, which the police were never able to recover.

While watching television a few months later, Will recognized his house-guest in a breaking news story and learned that the man he had been enjoying conversations with, and offered his hospitality to, was Charles Manson, leader and mastermind of the Manson Family and the Tate/La Bianca murders in 1969. Will later said that “Charlie” had seemed very rational, amiable, and trustworthy. No longer concerned about his antiques, he was happy to be alive.

Do most people have less time for dialogue in our modern technological world that is so fast paced, with its distractions, interruptions, and responsibilities? In earlier cultures, body language played an important part in communication. Are we able to experience dialogue without face to face, physical presence? Is dialogue becoming a lost art, as some people ask?

The ability for dialogue lies within us, revealing itself in the desire to commune with others, which can release us from feelings of isolation and the illusion of separateness. Dialogue not only expands our minds, but helps us feel our vital connection to the world around us.
School Superintendent Blake Cites Outstanding PUHS Accreditation Review

Taken from Superintendent Blake's Report on the AdvancED Accreditation External Review process

Last spring, Patagonia Union High School went through its five-year AdvancED Accreditation External Review process. This accreditation assures that a high school is providing a high quality educational program and related services to its students. It is especially important for students applying to the university system and procuring academic scholarships. The accreditation process is demanding and thorough. If a high school achieves accreditation by professional reviewers, it demonstrates a level of excellence that universities and scholarship grantors want before accepting students or awarding scholarship funds. It also lets employers know that graduating students are equipped with today's employment skills.

The review team recognized PUHS for its outstanding achievements in: Teaching and Learning Impact, Leadership, and Resource Utilization. Overall, Patagonia Union High School scored 308.55 points. The national average is 282.79 points. In the area of Teaching and Learning Impact, it scored 300.00 points, 25 above the national average. In the area of Leadership Capacity, the school scored 327.27 points, exceeding the national average of 296.08 points. And finally, in the area of Resource Utilization, it scored 304.76 points compared to the national average of 286.32 points.

Superintendent of Schools, Denise Blake, credits Dr. Peter Fagreigen, former principal of Patagonia Union High School, with assisting the school in the preparation for this review, and says that he was instrumental in helping Patagonia Union High School achieve this tremendous award recognition. In summary, Blake says, “We are all very proud of this accomplishment. Community members, governing board members, parents, students, teachers and administrators were all included in the interviews and observations. The review was intense, but rewarding. We have worked hard to get to this point and it was especially gratifying when Dr. Thomas Scarborough, the lead reviewer, told us that one of the most impressive interviews was the one the review committee held with the students. He told me that they are really proud of their school and he doesn’t hear that very often. He felt that was a direct reflection of the leadership and teaching staff.”

KPUP Upgrades For the Future

Patagonia’s community radio station, KPUP (100.5 FM), is undergoing numerous changes and improvements, all facilitated by a recent grant from the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation and the generous support of local listeners who donate and attended their annual fundraising event, the KPUP Luau.

The studio at 275 McKeown Avenue is being completely remodeled with the help of Patagonia Plaza owner, Bob Ollerton and general contractor, Kevin McKay. There’s a new desk/counter, making way for better, more efficient production capabilities. The station has purchased a new, more reliable mixer and transmitter and will be implementing these devices, along with improved computing hardware.

KPUP’s future thrust will be to expand the educational role of the station, making it available to Patagonia High School and Montessori School students to broadcast locally interesting programming. KPUP’s role as a community radio station, providing emergency broadcasting capabilities for weather and fire notifications through the Emergency Alert System will continue in an ever more technically capable manner.

Except for the current down time while the studio project has been underway, KPUP has been streaming online at www.tunein.com.

According to Jeff Latham, KPUP’s directors are aware of the station’s debt to local communities for their support. He says they are working to provide a substantial return on this investment, and urges everyone to stay tuned to 100.5 FM to hear the great selection of music and local programming.

Expansion At PVFD

In the past six months there’s been a lot of construction going on at the Patagonia Fire House. In addition to a new kitchen and bathroom, this summer they have completed a storeroom on Third Avenue. This space will store the grills that are used for the steak fry and the art festival. In there too will be the equipment for setting off the Fourth of July fireworks. Now that the door has been installed, it looks like it’s always been there.

This year’s steak fry in June had a good turn out. Lots of volunteers came to cook, serve, take tickets, pour drinks, display raffle donations and set up and clean up. It’s a big effort. Firefighter and EMT, Ike Isakson, says it’s a good fund raiser, but adds that if everyone enjoys themselves, he counts it a success. Certainly this year’s well-attended event seemed to be just that.

The next fire station project will be a cement pour in between the two buildings. Currently that section is dirt which gets on the truck tires and on the floors.

Patagonia’s Volunteer Fire Department has 15 fire fighters and six Emergency Medical Technicians. Isakson says that fires are rare and usually the fire fighters concentrate on saving the people and pets and protecting any neighboring structures. “There’s not much you can do with a half-burned house,” says Isakson, “so we usually let them go after we know everyone is safe.”
Town of Patagonia Updates

Early in July the big mound of gravel that was dumped at the south end of town was laid down on the cracked and potholed back alleys of Patagonia. This chip sealing process took about a week but the town council had been working towards this goal for some time. According to city manager, Dave Teel, the town and the county worked out a financial agreement to get the job done. The repaving cost about $35,000, and everyone who lives or drives or walks or skateboards down these new pavements is delighted.

The town’s purchase of a wood chipper to grind up mulch from the community’s trees has been very popular, although many complain that they are never there at the right time to grind wood chips. The large chipper on the town property between Sonoita Creek and Route 82 gets put to work when there’s a good collection of wood. “It’s very popular,” said Teel who wouldn’t say how often they ground or how to find out when there might be wood chips for the taking. “It’s first come, first served,” he explained. What’s troubling town authorities and concerned citizens is that the hidden half acre of city land is sometimes used as a dumping place. Teel says that the marshal’s office has stepped up surveillance of the site, adding with a chuckle that a proper punishment would be to throw the illegal dumpers in the chipper.

Teel also reports that winter rains and early monsoon activity have the town well at its highest level since 2011. The low levels of last year had the town council concerned about when to issue a drought alert and start water rationing. At the time, they realized that they didn’t have enough information about the well and its aquifers. As a result, they applied for a grant from Water Infrastructure Authority of Arizona. With a technical assistance grant of $27,000 and a local match of $11,000, the town soon hopes to have much more accurate and detailed information about the size and shape of its well and the channels that feed into it. The hydrological assessment should begin this month and be completed by late fall.

Patagonia Museum Gets Grant, Plans 2nd Bus Tour

The Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation has awarded The Patagonia Museum a $8,322 grant to complete the Lochiel Schoolhouse restoration, continue our oral history program with youth involvement, and to develop and create exhibits for public display.

The Museum will be hosting a second Banamichi Bus Tour, which is scheduled to depart via a chartered bus from Patagonia on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 8a.m. The tour will spend two nights in Banamichi, Sonora, visiting historic sights there and along the way, returning on Tuesday, November 17. The cost is $495 per person (double occupancy) which includes transportation, lodging and meals (including gratuities). For more information, contact Herman Quiroga at (520) 343-5641, or info@thepatagoniamuseum.org.

It’s Raining!

On Wednesday, July 22, a few days of dry weather gave way to a wonderful afternoon thunder storm. The downpour, puddles, and the running stream that was Duquesne Ave. tempted three girls into the afternoon’s rain. They had a wonderful time getting soaked and PRT came by just in time to take their picture. From left: Chloe Yourgules, Amaris Ochoa-Tovar, Damaris Mingura.
“A Norman Rockwell Experience”

By Sonia Maxwell

It was a superb 4th of July this year. We awoke early in town for breakfast at the Wagon Wheel at about 10 o’clock. We thought we might miss the start of the parade, but we finished at about 11:15, greeted by friends and neighbors beginning so we didn’t miss a thing. I’m probably the only person alive who gets misty-eyed over the Patagonia 4th of July parade. Happens every year.

I just keep thinking how fortunate we are to live in this place. The sirens and horns, the enthusiasm of the crowd, the happy children catching the candies tossed in their direction, the enthusiasm of the crowd, the happiness of the children catching the candies tossed in their direction, the water splashing on the course, the water splashing on the course, a favorite participant getting a good dousing, makes for a true Norman Rockwell experience.

After the parade we walked around to the various booths set up in the park. High Spirits was selling their flutes for the unbelievable price of $25 in honor of their 25 years in Patagonia. Roger’s is red cedar and inlaid with turquoise.

Many families were gathered throughout the center for a day of celebration. Even though we’d just eaten a great breakfast, we couldn’t help but wish to be invited to join them. The grills were set up and smoking, chairs and awnings in place and coolers galore.

We were excited about the fireworks to come later in the day. No crabby face to be seen. We were blessed with a bit of cloud cover so our temperature was perfection.

Yes, Norman would have been in heaven here. I am too.
It was a superb 4th of July this year. We headed into town for breakfast at the Wagon Wheel at about 10 o'clock. We thought we might miss the start of the parade, which was at 10:30, walked out and were greeted by friends and neighbors. The parade was just beginning so we didn't miss a thing. I'm probably the only person alive who gets misty-eyed about the Patagonia parade every time.

We were fortunate to live in a place where the parade begins with sirens and horns, lights flashing, the enthusiasm of the crowd and sometimes the water splashing on the crowd and sometimes a favorite participant getting a good dousing, makes for a perfect experience.

After the parade we walked around to the various booths set up in the park. High Spirits was selling their flute of $25 in honor of their products. We found this red cedar and inlaid with mother of pearl for a special price.

Many families were gathered throughout the town center. Even though we'd just eaten a great breakfast, we couldn't help but wish to be invited to one of the grills that were set up and smoking, chairs and awnings in place and coolers galore. Kids played games, excited about the fireworks to come later in the day. Not a crabby face to be seen. We were also blessed with a bit of cloud cover so our temperature was perfection. Yes, Norman would have been in heaven here. I think I was.

Photos by Ann Katzenbach and Donna Reibslager
Patagonia knows Gary Retherford as a hard-working, successful Realtor. But Retherford is also a dedicated and established artist, whose work is in many private and public collections.

Retherford received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in sculpture and photography, and an MA in photography from University of Texas. He began exhibiting in 1983, and has continued to show and sell his work since then. His career has included leading workshops, lecturing, and travel throughout the Tropical Americas to photograph indigenous plant life and cultures.

He says that his current work is “a bit more organic and less conceptual” than it was then, but in most ways remains very similar.

Retherford’s art includes mixed media works on paper or board, often with raised, sculptural elements, and assemblage, constructed from found materials and layers of paint and gel medium. He says that working three dimensionally offers an indefinite source of materials that keep him experimenting and challenged. "My ideas are mostly inspired by native cultures and their icons," he explains.

There is an iconic aspect to his assemblages, which sometimes combine objects from nature (plants, birds, leaves, animals) within a statuary that may include a pedestal or cross. Retherford’s art is informed by reading and researching art and artists from a wide range of periods. Currently, he says, he is “fixated on Catholic relics”, and adds that “I never fully complete a piece. I just decide to stop obsessing over it. But, I often return to old work.”

At present, Retherford says he has no plans to exhibit. If you are interested in seeing more work by this talented and seasoned artist, you can go to www.lafronteraaz.com, and look for the link to G. Retherford’s Artwork.
Food Feast Seeks Community Volunteers

By Susan Shields

The second Santa Cruz County Farmers’ Food Feast will be held this year on September 25 at the Elgin estancia of Ronald and Lydia Lopez in Sonoita. The event begins at 6 p.m. with hors d’ouvres and a local sparkling wine. Guests will then be seated for a five-course feast of various meats, cheeses, vegetable and fruit ensembles, matched with Elgin wines, and accompanied by music as guests enjoy an evening of sunset and stars.

The first local Farmers’ Food Feast paid tribute to the International Slow Food Movement. It was held in 2011 at Mac and Billie Donaldson’s Open Cross Ranch, as a celebration of locally grown produce.

The Slow Food concept was first proposed by Italian agronomist Carlo Petrini, with the mission of defending and promoting food biodiversity, recovering wisdom of traditional methods of food production, and offering counterpoint to the trend of fast food consumption of chemically grown foods responsible for contributing to obesity, cancers, and other illnesses.

Today, the International Slow Food movement has chapters and memberships throughout the world, including Arizona.

Here in Santa Cruz County, there are numerous growers of such foods, including grass-fed beef, lamb, and chicken; as well as a wealth of garden produce taken from the rich soil just hours before serving.

This year’s feast, as with the first one, is being offered to a maximum of 50 guests who are urged to make reservations early enough to assure participation. The requested donation of $50 per guest will provide all that is necessary to create such an event and to insure that it remains a not-for-profit celebration.

As a community-inspired event, the Farmers’ Food Feast becomes effective only through the efforts and contributed talents of community members. It is hoped that volunteers will lend such talents as computer skills to create a colorful event poster; table decorations for the outdoor setting; local musical talent; and assistance with serving the seated guests. In the event of rain, canopies will be provided. For reservations, pre-payment of donations, and mailed directions to the estancia, please contact 455.5670 or susan@ridemexico.com. Volunteers are asked to make contact as soon as possible.

Any and all proceeds from this event will be donated to the World Food Program, targeted to the victims of the recent earthquakes in Nepal.

Preparations Under Way For Fall Festival

By Bonnie Maclean

Preparations are well under way for this year’s Fall Festival, to be held October 9 - 11. The Festival is now under the management of the Patagonia Area Business Association (PABA), with the Town of Patagonia, and is being organized by committee members Bonnie Maclean, Cecilia San Miguel, Christina Wilhelm, Adrienne Halpert, Regina Medley, and Dave Teel. Proceeds from the non-profit event will go to support the Town of Patagonia and PABA’s activities.

This year’s event will include some new features, such as an expanded Beer and Wine Garden, with eight Arizona wineries and an Arizona distillery (whiskey, bourbon, rum, etc.), as well as KPUP’s beer booth.

There will be a Locals Only Homemade or Homegrown area sponsored by Shamrock Foods, to be located near the Community Center and Town Hall. It will offer discounted spaces for artists/gardeners from Patagonia, Sonoita, and Elgin.

Also new this year is a Saturday evening dance starting at 7 p.m., featuring Tesoro, a Latin Fusion band. The beer and wine garden and some of the food vendors will remain open during the first part of the dance. The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA) is sponsoring the entertainment for this year’s Fall Festival, and are contributing the use of their mobile stage for event entertainment.

As always, community groups are invited to participate as volunteers or to have a non-profit booth in the park. A number of participants have already come forward, including the Patagonia Regional Business Coalition (PRBC), to help set up the park for the event. In addition to bringing the PRBC on board, Brent Bowden has generously offered the use of his new RV park for vendors (pending completion) for the weekend.

The Festival Committee is looking for volunteers as follows:

- One or two youth organizations to volunteer at the food courts (in exchange for which the organization will receive a donation, and will be given a booth.)
- Shuttle bus/wagon/vehicle and drivers for Saturday and Sunday.
- Volunteer help with parking, booth sitting, and other during the event.
- Sponsors to help with cost of the event: Businesses on McKeown and Naugle that sponsor the event will have a banner to use during the event to help draw visitors to their business. There will also be restaurant and other business information for PABA members and sponsors in vendor welcome packets and at the information booth. A map inset will be made showing the location of participating main street businesses in Patagonia.

Anyone interested in a booth can download an application at www.patagoniafallfestival.com. Volunteers should contact Bonnie Maclean at the Ovens of Patagonia or call her at (520) 308-0963.
August’s Ant Apex: Murmurings of a Minor Myrmecologist

Whenever our monsoon season is in full swing, my mind often turns to ants. After several decades exploring the wide range of plant communities in our mountains and valleys during the monsoons, I feel it’s safe to say that we have lots of ants! Love them or loathe them, it’s certainly difficult to ignore them. Unless you live underwater, where even our local ants have yet to infiltrate, or in a high elevation spruce fir where their biodiversity is rather low, you will have to make your peace with ants.

Why peace? Well, because most species have little hesitation in biting us, and many can deliver a potent sting. Then there are the proverbial ants to the picnic” species, such as the well-labeled crazy ants and long-legged ants that must read minds when it comes to finding exactly where you would like to sit, relax, or eat. The epitome of this irksome behavior is exhibited by several species of “piss ants.” found mostly in our pine forests. These biters don't sting, but they surely stink. Lean against the wrong pine tree or sit on the wrong patch of ground and woe betide you! If you’re a gardener, leaf-cutter ants may vex you by denuding some of your favorite plants—the point being that ants provide ample reason for irritation. However, the same things that may challenge our patience can often make us marvel.

Take for example our harvester ants. These rather head-heavy veritable tanks of the ant world mainly sup upon seeds of grasses and forbs. This they accomplish via those large cabezas, which house an impressive set of mandibles. It is with these powerful jaws that a harvester ant can also bite your flesh, with a level of pain that is out of all proportions to the size of the ant. Studies have in fact shown that the toxins contained within the stings of some harvester ants to be more detrimental to mammals (i.e. us ) than the venoms of rattlesnakes! The ant attack likely began with you carelessly/unluckily traipsing onto or near one of their nests.

Like most ant species, harvesters normally possess one queen who runs the entire colony. She lays all the eggs. She determines how many workers, kings, or queens to create via the eggs. This top-heavy society is also female dominated. All the ants in a colony are female, save a relative handful of kings - and they are only there for one thing! During the aftermath of a ground-soaking rain both the winged queens and kings emerge from their underground abode, where they have waited for many months. They take to flight, as “winged ants.” While aloft, these reproductives find each other in tornado-shaped airborne formations. In this myrmecine orgy, the females are generally impregnated by one to three males. All the kings then die, while each queen attempts to found a colony. The queen may maintain a colony for perhaps up to 20 years, all the while employing only the original sperm! Thus, the sterile female workers are free to attack you willy nilly, as they are all identical clones of each other and no great loss if they die.

There are many other events to ANTicipate in August. Watch for the emergence of strange trap-jaw ants. Marvel at how several species of army ants ransack other ant species. Ponder the human implications of slave-making ants. It is wise to make your peace with these creatures and enjoy their many ANTi-s! Naturalist and Wildlife Biologist Vincent Pinto & his wife, Claudia, run Ravens Way Wild Journeys—devoted to protecting the biodiversity of the Sky Islands Region. www.ravensnatureschool.com

ADOPTABLE PETS OF THE MONTH

Reba is a dainty one-year and 3-months old grey tabby who was found in an abandoned house. Despite her rough start in life, Reba is a happy and playful gal. She loves attention and enjoys romping and running with other cats.

Just over one-year old, Darcy is a joyful shepherd mix who has a shiny brown coat and a big heart. Darcy’s puppy energy would make her a great hiking buddy, and she’ll shower you with affection and kisses every chance she gets.

Adoption fees include spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, and microchip (dogs only). Other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org.
**For Rent: Unique Historic Ranch Property, Patagonia** - $950/per mo + util.; charming 100-year-old homestead ranch house; 2 BR, 1 BTH, fireplace, new heat pump, dual pane windows, large porch, outbuildings, garden beds with great soil; this unique historic property is on 135 acres of Sonoran grassland, mesquite, oak and juniper, bordering the Coronado National Forest; located 3 miles from Patagonia, it has spectacular views of Red Mountain and the Canelo Hills; convenient to nearby communities of Sonoita and Nogales, and a perfect spot for birders, artists, hikers, mountain bikers, horse owners or anyone who loves the peace and quiet of rural living. Available September 15; 1 year lease (seasonal rates possible). Call 520-247-3214; Email: bjschrag@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH.</strong></th>
<th><strong>ROOMS FOR RENT at a 4 bd. ranch home on 52 acres, 6 m. east of Patagonia. $300. Call Fritz at 480 215 1907</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 BR/1 BTH $750/mo. Utilities included. Call John at 394-0148 or 360 317-4281</td>
<td><strong>SM. COTTAGE - 2 BR, steps frm library. Fenced yd, sm. sep. office. $800 mo. + util. (520) 303-1475</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 BD / 2 BTH HOME IN TOWN. Detached garage/wrkshp, storage sheds. $850/mo. 1-year lease required. Call Ken @ 604-6939.</td>
<td><strong>Certified caregiver or CAN for Patagonia Assisted Care. Call 520-604-8179.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDIO APT. FOR RENT; $410/mo. includes water &amp; laundry, renter pays elec. Quiet area of town. 520.444.1665</strong></td>
<td><strong>ANIMAL CARE – daily, wkly, overnights; livestock, dogs, cats, goats. Home security checks. Local references. 520-780-8412</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOMES FOR RENT: contact Kathy O’Brien @ Sonoita Realty 520 455-5381</strong></td>
<td><strong>STORAGE - need more space for your antiques, car, family treasures? Monthly rental - 5x10,10x10, 10x20; call Ginny at 520-455-9333 or 455-4641. SONOITA SELF STORAGE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KINO BAY Mexico Budget Vacation Home, by the sea, for rent or sale (520) 265-3055</strong></td>
<td><strong>Looking to join/form high school carpool betw. Pat. and east side of Tucson. Contact Maureen at (520)275-0057 or by email: <a href="mailto:maureen1260@q.com">maureen1260@q.com</a></strong></td>
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<td><strong>TO ADVERTISE IN PRT</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHURCH SERVICES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Contact Janie Trafton</strong></td>
<td>Patagonia Community/United Methodist Church 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><a href="mailto:prtads@gmail.com">prtads@gmail.com</a> 520 604-7390</strong></td>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita Justice of the Peace Courtroom 2nd &amp; 4th Saturdays; 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reliable person for weekly yard maintenance. Call Ron at 520 604-7501</strong></td>
<td>Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita 455-5172 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certified caregiver or CAN for Patagonia Assisted Care. Call 520-604-8179.</strong></td>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church 222 Third Ave., Patagonia 394-2954 Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANIMAL CARE – daily, wkly, overnights; livestock, dogs, cats, goats. Home security checks. Local references. 520-780-8412</strong></td>
<td>Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church 12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita 394-2954; Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. (except third Sundays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STORAGE - need more space for your antiques, car, family treasures? Monthly rental - 5x10,10x10, 10x20; call Ginny at 520-455-9333 or 455-4641. SONOITA SELF STORAGE</strong></td>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church Hwy 83, MP 14 455-5000 Sunday Services: 8:45 &amp; 11:00 (except third Sundays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KINO BAY Mexico Budget Vacation Home, by the sea, for rent or sale (520) 265-3055</strong></td>
<td>Harvest Christian Fellowship/Sonoita Foursquare Church 3107 Highway 83, Sonoita 455-5505; Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.</td>
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WHAT'S GOING ON?

meetings

The Patagonia Museum - Regular meetings w/ topics incl. local history; Hwy. cleanups, wkdays. For info, visit www.thepatagoniamuseum.org
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., just off Hwy 83; 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 Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Town Council Hall.
Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua winery, 6 p.m. (520) 907-5829
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

community services

Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Community Center. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Thursday Special!
Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service - Medical transportation available Mon. - Fri. for seniors & disabled to Sierra Vista, Tucson, Gr. Valley & Nogales. By appt. only. 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 Mission Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 455-5262

events

August 1 - 31: Rhonda Brew Art Exhibit at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia. No reception is planned.

Movie Night: at The Patagonia Movie House in the Tin Shed Theater; August 1: The Big Lebowski; doors open at 5, movie at 6pm; August 22: Moonrise Kingdom; doors open at 5, movie at 6pm

August 1: Red Beard 5k & 10K Rally; In Sonoita; for info call 520 661-2301.

Kief-Joshua Summer Concert Series
Aug. 1: Planet Jam; Aug. 8: TBD at 1 p.m.
Aug. 15: Nick Heward at 1 p.m.; Aug. 22: Magdalena Bash Wine Harvest Festival: 11-2 p.m. - Blaine Long; 2-5 p.m. - Top Dead Center-Greatful Dead Tribute; Aug. 29: Decker at 1 p.m.

June 5 - August 30: Open Mic at the Plaza de Patagonia; from 6-8 pm on most Fridays. Make music, tell jokes, recite poetry, perform a monologue, or even give a speech; sign up at the Ovens of Patagonia. This is a family friendly event so keep it clean.

Jim Kowee’s Amazing Front Porch Jam:
Every Thursday at Sonoita Café from 5 to 7 p.m., The Cafe hosts a performing guest in their outdoor courtyard. Call to find out who’s playing, at (520) 455-5044. 3280 Hwy 82 in Sonoita

Jody and Friends: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Steak Out in Sonoita; These four seasoned musicians play a blend of rock, blues, folk, country, and bluegrass. (520) 455-5205. 3243 Hwy. 82 in Sonoita

August 30 - September 1: Annual Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo.

Lunch at The Vineyards - The Happy Cookers serves lunch every Sat. from 12-3 p.m. at Sonoita Vinyards. Call Emily at 394-2429 for menu selections and reservations.

special interests

Yoga for Seniors: Mondays, 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. at Ecobody Acupuncture in the Patagonia Plaza, Patagonia. $10. (520) 559-1731.
Community Acupuncture Clinic: Call Dr. Papin at (520) 559-1731.
Adult Art Classes - at the Patagonia Art Center, Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.; Figure Drawing: first Thursdays of the month. 394-9369.
Art Makers - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays. Call Cassina @ 394-9369 for info.
Adult hand-building ceramics classes Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. $65 Call 604-0300
Bikram Yoga - Patagonia; call 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 Mondays at 9 a.m.; call (520) 732-0453.
Open Tennis - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 5 p.m., Sat. at 8 a.m., Call 394-2973 for info.
Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club - contactclarebonelli@gmail.com.
August 9: Gong Energy Healing - 6 p.m. at East West Holistic Medicine. Pre-registration encouraged $10 if pre-registered; $15 at the door. Call 520-415-4156 for more info and registration. gongenergyhealing.com
August 18: Free Lecture: “Your Colon Matters” at East West Holistic Medicine. 6 p.m. Pre-registration encouraged. Call 520-415-4156.

SEND YOUR EVENT, MEETING OR SPECIAL INTEREST INFO TO US AT prtevents@gmail.com  DEADLINE: AUG. 20
Long Realty Ad
Sonoita-Elgin Fire District has approved plans to move ahead and build new sleeping quarters for their fire crews. For many years the firefighters have been sleeping in inadequate housing consisting of FEMA trailers left over from Hurricane Katrina.

Requests for bids from general contractors have gone out this week to get the process started.

The present building at the Fire District, which is used as a training center and public meeting place, will be converted into four sleeping rooms. Each room will have two twin beds and furniture. Restrooms and cooking areas are already present in the building and will remain there as is. The size of the crew quarters is 44 feet by 24 feet.

A new building, the same exact size of 44 by 24, will be built behind the new crew quarters. This will then be the new training center and public meeting room. It will consist of a large meeting room, small office and food preparation area. Separating the two buildings will be a cemented area for exercising and working-out activities.

Contractor bids have not come in yet so the value of the project is unknown. The Fire District has budgeted $20,000 over the past two years to help finance this new project. The fire crews will have many fund-raising events throughout the year and will be asking for public donations to finance the project. Pastor Mike Wright has been placing pickle jars throughout the Sonoita area to increase public awareness and take donations. The Fire District anticipates starting construction as soon as the contract is awarded.

“Suspicious circumstances” prompted a Border Patrol agent to attempt to pull over a new large pickup truck traveling north on Highway 83 in Sonoita, but the truck sped away. The patrol car picked up speed in pursuit. Sirens started screaming. Lights were flashing. The truck went faster and so did the patrol car. The chase was now going back south on 83, heading towards the border.

For eight miles the game of cat and mouse continued at breakneck speed. More cars from the Sonoita station joined in the chase. A helicopter from Tucson was called in to help in the pursuit. At times the truck got far enough ahead that the officers couldn’t see it.

Eventually, the truck ran off the road, skipped along the grasslands and came to a stop. Two men bailed out and took off running. Officers ran after them, and the helicopter searched from the sky. A vehicle from the Border Patrol arrived with a mobile surveillance camera to scan the terrain.

Later the same day the two drug smugglers were captured. In the truck were bundles of marijuana weighing 2,200 pounds and worth a million dollars. The smugglers are now enjoying the hospitality of the prison in Eloy, awaiting charges. The Border Patrol turned over their report to the Drug Enforcement Agency for prosecution.

The two smugglers are from Mexico. Bundles of drugs are routinely carried across the border, often on foot, by many couriers who hide them in back packs. They all meet at a pre-determined location and load the drugs into a truck for transportation to cities all across the country.
New Senior Pastor At Sonoita Hills Community Church

Sonoita Hills Community Church welcomes their new Senior Pastor Dr. David Daffern. He started his ministry at the church July 1.

With the recent retirement of Pastor Chuck Carlson, the church formed a search committee and after many months called Dr. Daffern to serve the local congregation.

Daffern received his Masters of Divinity and his Doctor of Ministry at Golden Gate Theological Seminary in California. His ministry began in California but starting in 1996 he served congregations in Winslow and Phoenix Arizona. He then pastored the Crossroads Community Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan before once again returning to Arizona.

Daffern and his wife Lynne have twin boys and seven grandchildren.

Pastor David’s credentials and ministry experience have prepared him for this new ministry in a small and rural church. He says about the move to Sonoita “I go where God calls me. There is no such thing as a small assignment for God.” The church welcomes their new leader and invites the community to meet him on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

Fairground News

Fair Board President Jim Cosby reports a busy summer of activities at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds in Sonoita.

Fifty-five pre-teen youngsters from 4-H clubs around the state stayed a weekend in June to learn horsemanship and riding skills.

Eight members of the federally-funded Americorps spent nine days on the property improving the fairgrounds facilities. They painted the interior of the grandstands, painted the restrooms and Pioneer Hall and upgraded the condition of the 4-H gondolas. This group has come on former summers and always provides much needed repairs to the fairgrounds.

The annual Quarter-Horse Show the weekend of June 12-14 was a successful event organized by Jamie Smith and her committee.

July 24 was the date for a special roping event organized by Tom Hardesty.

July 26 was a special day at the fairgrounds. Sixty adult licensed bike racers participated in bicycle time trials against the clock. Every 30 seconds one of the bikes in the competition started down Hiway 82 to the Patagonia High School. Their goal was to join the “30 MPH Club.” To make the cut, you must maintain a speed of 30 miles per hour for the 12 ½ mile course to the school. All competitors were licensed by the USA Cycling organization which is a part of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Next events include the 100th Annual Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo, September 5-7 and the Santa Cruz County Fair, September 18-20.
This column goes to Corky, the very first true love of my life!

I’ll never forget the day our neighbors stopped by with an adorable little collie puppy who had been dumped off in our village. They were trying to find a home for him. We had no family dogs at the time and my two sisters jumped up and down, pleading, “Please, Mommy! Please, Daddy!,” and thus the little dog, who my mom christened Corky, became part of our family.

He was the family dog, but I was only four, so he and I got to spend the most time together, and we were inseparable.

He and I would take our daily bike ride and deliver our older neighbors’ newspapers. We made many friends and if Corky could not be seen at first, they would exclaim, “Where’s your sidekick?” Then he would pop up from behind the bushes and they would say, with great relief, “Oh, there he is!,” and off we’d go to the next stop.

A pure black female kitten came into our lives not long after. We named her Samantha and she and Corky became the best of friends. They would curl up and sleep together on their bed.

Corky and I played outside all day long while my sisters were at school. Then he would join us all in the kitchen during dinner. This was great for me because any time I did not like something on my plate, I would discreetly hold it under the table and Corky would get rid of the evidence, pronto. “Good doggie.”

He was my closest companion, my confidante, my pal through thick and thin.

Losing him was my first real tragedy of life. My family owned a general store. One day a hunting dog jumped out of the car while his owner was inside the store and he and Corky got into a big fight. They rolled into the road and were hit by a car. Corky was killed and I was hysterical. I lay in the road, hugging him and sobbing until a couple of people were able to tear me away. Later that night, my father found me snuggled up beside his body in the garage.

I was totally devastated and did not know how I would ever recover from this loss.

Naturally, we all learn that we do manage to pick up and carry on after the loss of a close companion, but the first time feels impossible. I will never forget that sweet collie dog and all our adventures growing up together.

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Rattlesnake Bites: Do’s & Don’ts

*This article by Sher Brown appeared in the Catron Courier and is being reprinted with her consent.*

One of the hazards of living where we do is the occurrence of rattle snakes. We don’t see them often this far north, but every year someone gets bit. Would you know what to do if you got bit? Most people today know not to “cut and suck” as we were taught years ago, yet you can still buy the same ol’ snake bite kit that promotes just that. When I see them in stores I don’t know whether to laugh or get angry.

So here’s a list of dos and don’ts as taught in the American Heart Association First Aid classes.

Do get away from the snake immediately.

Do call 911 immediately - the sooner you get anti-venom, the better, and this emergency probably means a helicopter ride.

Do keep calm and still. Keep the bite area immobilized.

Do wash the wound thoroughly.

Do remove tight clothing or jewelry in case of swelling.

Do note the time of the bite.

Do mark on the skin the leading edge of the swelling. If swelling progresses, keep marking it, noting the time of each new demarcation.

Do monitor breathing and pulse rate. Note any changes and report these to the EMTs when they arrive.

Don’t cut the wound or try to suck the poison out. This is ineffective and could lead to infection.

Don’t apply ice to the wound. Cold can actually drive the poison deeper into the body.

Don’t apply a tourniquet above the bite. If your trip to the hospital is going to be prolonged, EMTs may decide to apply a compression bandage.

Don’t get up and walk around unless you are alone and you cannot call for help without moving to a different location.

Don’t drink alcohol to calm your nerves or decrease the pain as this will increase your metabolism and cause the poison to spread faster.

Don’t try to capture or kill the snake. Physicians rarely need to know what kind of snake bit the victim. The fangs will release venom for many hours after death and even a decapitated head is very dangerous.

Don’t decide to just drive yourself to the hospital. Anti-venom isn’t available at every hospital. When you call 911, dispatch starts calling to find out which hospital has venom on that particular day, and that’s where you will be taken - usually by helicopter.

Fortunately, most bites are “dry” bites. Adult snakes won’t waste their venom on something that is too big to eat. Young snakes, however, haven’t learned to control their venom and will release a full load with every bite, so be especially cautious of young snakes. Even knowing that many bites are dry bites, don’t take chances - call 911 anyway.

If your dog gets bit by a rattle snake, follow the same directions as above. Also, try giving your dog Benadryl, 1mg per pound, to help reduce swelling and get to the vet as soon as possible.

The pediatric liquid Benadryl is an easy way to dose your dog.
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