EPA Rejects Rosemont’s Plan

By Ann Katzenbach and Donna Reibslager

Rosemont Copper’s plans to establish an open pit mine in the Santa Rita Mountains have hit a stumbling block. In a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) dated November 7, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified “significant flaws” in Rosemont’s proposed water mitigation plan, and declared the plan to be “grossly inadequate.”

In order to proceed with construction, Rosemont must secure a permit through the ACOE. Rosemont’s application sought to explain how it would mitigate the damage to waterways caused by the proposed mine. The EPA, whose job includes upholding The Clean Water Act, rejected Rosemont’s plan, saying that it draws “false conclusions” and provides insufficient supporting evidence for its outcomes. The EPA’s letter makes reference to at least one previously rejected application from Rosemont, in January of 2013, and implies that Rosemont’s new plan doesn’t appear to acknowledge or address the EPA’s previous recommendations.

The EPA has declared Rosemont’s plan to be “grossly inadequate.”

The mine’s operations would be situated within the Las Cienegas Natural Conservation Area and the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, which are protected by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Both areas contain unique wildlife and aquatic habitat that are sustained by the area’s ground and surface waters.

Conveying the enormous effect that the mine would have on those waterways, the EPA’s letter states that the proposed project would directly fill about 40 acres of waters, including 18 linear miles of streams, five springs and their associated wetlands. It predicts that the groundwater draw-down from the mine pit would result in the indirect loss or conversion of (continued on page 2)
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hundreds of acres of riparian vegetation, and that, over time, the mine would cause a significant decline in the area’s groundwater levels.

The letter was apparently released to the press by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR), which is strongly opposed to the Rosemont mine. Morris Farr, SSSR’s Vice President, summarized the importance of the EPA’s letter: “This is the first time a major agency of the federal government has declared its opposition to a key permit required for construction of the Rosemont mine.”

In response, Augusta Resource Corporation, the parent company of Rosemont Copper, quickly issued its own press release accusing SSSR of misrepresenting the contents of the letter and exaggerating its importance. The press release says that SSSR does not understand the permitting process, and that it is “fabricating information and attributing that information to EPA in an effort to scare our shareholders and disrupt markets.” According to Augusta Resource, the recent EPA ruling was based on plans that are now out of date, and they expect a new ruling from the U.S. Forest Service in December.

Despite the confident reply, Augusta Resource has been experiencing a financial squeeze lately. The company reported cash reserves of less than $750,000 in September, and according to the company’s regulatory findings, a total of $331 million pledged by two large metal conglomerates cannot be accessed until Rosemont has obtained a Clean Water Act permit. Augusta recently secured a loan of $26 million from RK Mine Finance, and repayment of loans to that company totaling $109 million will be due by October of next year.

There is speculation as to whether Augusta will have the financial reserves needed to address the EPA’s concerns.

Arizona State Representative Raul Grijalva has been quoted as saying “The EPA has done the most careful, substantive and meaningful scientific analysis to date of the mine’s potential impacts. This should be the standard as this process moves forward. From now on, science is going to trump spin, and substance is going to trump salesmanship. If Augusta wants to move forward on that basis, let’s get started. Otherwise Southern Arizona needs to move on to better

Errors & Omissions

In a November article, PRT referred to Fabian Espinoza as the Valedictorian of PUHS class of 1997. In fact, Megan Yourgules was class Valedictorian that year. We apologize to Megan for our error.

A mobile home burst in to flames shortly after arriving at Patagonia RV Park on November 25. The vehicle’s owners, Sally and Eddie Mineo, were hooking their RV up to the park’s utilities when the fire started. They had driven from Los Angeles for a family reunion and several family members were gathered in the RV when they began to see smoke. The vehicle was quickly consumed by flames and was completely destroyed, but no one was injured in the incident.
The shipment of copper and silver ore in the early twentieth century required a railroad, and in the mountains, a railroad runs through the valleys. Thus Patagonia—which sprang up around the railroad—is situated in a low-lying plain between mountains, making it a flood plain. Here that means, statistically, that each year there is a 1% chance that there will be a major flood.

To say that current flood plain regulations are complicated is an understatement. On November 12, The Patagonia Town Council met with John Hayes, the Santa Cruz County Flood Plain Coordinator, to review and discuss amendments to Chapter 13 of the town code that deal with flood damage prevention. As the meeting progressed, it seemed that the combined federal, state, and manufactured home regulations had even Hayes a bit dismayed. To be fair, he has rarely had to deal with manufactured home regulations, as outside of Patagonia, there are very few places in the county where mobile homes are allowed.

If there is one good piece of news that came from the evening’s tutorial, it is that Patagonia is eligible to apply for the Community Rating System (CRS), a federal program that, while complicated (of course) and requiring endless paperwork (naturally), could help bring down the cost of flood insurance for homeowners. The CRS sets out minimum standards and puts towns and cities in categories based on how compliant they are with federal flood plain requirements. As town manager David Teel explained, a federal inspector looks at the permits the city has issued for new or major construction. If they are judged as following federal and state guidelines, Patagonia will get a rating of from one to ten. A class one rating could mean homeowner’s insurance rates could be reduced as much as 20%. Hayes explained that meeting federal guidelines is easy, but state regulations are stricter. The stricter the requirements, the higher the insurance discount. The council will decide whether or not to join this federal program.

A number of trailer park owners were in the audience. When it comes to flood plain regulations, these property owners stand to lose the most. It seems clear that if a mobile home moves from the flood plain, a new elevated foundation will have to be custom built for the incoming home. A mobile home owner or trailer park owner is looking at adding about $20,000 to the cost of relocating. Ray Klein, a trailer park owner, pointed out that there are now regulations from the State office of Manufactured Housing that make things even more complicated. Klein says this not only adversely affects his business, it also makes the idea of affordable housing in Patagonia a near impossibility.

When Klein began speaking, he noted the one bright spot in Hayes’ presentation is the fact that each community is given some leeway to design its own regulations. These, however, must conform to federal and state standards. City manager David Teel said that trying to sort out what could and could not be done in Patagonia’s flood plain has proven to be an ongoing puzzle. Hayes, for all his knowledge, seemed to agree. He suggested that the town check in with other counties to see what they are doing. Patagonia could adopt what is suitable and save itself time and money.

The council plans to do this and eventually come up with a plan for the town. However, with the myriad regulations now on the books and the cost of mandated flood insurance, it seems that the cost of living in Patagonia is on the rise.

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### PARA Receives Non-Profit Status

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) has recently been granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS, which allows PARA to directly receive tax deductible donations. This is another step in PARA’s on-going mission to protect the natural resources of the Patagonia area.

In 2011, Wildcat Silver hosted meetings in town discussing their long term plans for an open pit silver mine in the Patagonia Mountains. Primarily concerned about the safety of our community’s drinking water, a group of Patagonia area residents formed PARA in the summer of 2011. Save the Scenic Santa Ritas provided initial guidance and became the fiscal sponsor which allowed PARA to receive tax deductible donations.

PARA’s mission to protect and preserve our drinking water is now more important than ever with the emergence of five foreign mining companies with plans to start mineral explorations on public land in the Patagonia Mountains.

We are fortunate to have a group of amazingly committed community members and generous donors supporting our mission. Please visit our booth at the Creative Spirit Artists Gallery for additional information or our website at [www.PatagoniaAlliance.org](http://www.PatagoniaAlliance.org)
After weeks of anticipation, the long-awaited opening of our area’s new restaurant occurred in late October. Located in the space formerly occupied by Viaggio, (originally Karen’s Wine Country Café), Chef Greg LaPrad’s Overland Trout Restaurant has caused quite a buzz among the local foodies.

LaPrad arrived on the scene with a considerable résumé, honed at Quissence, his celebrated farm-to-table restaurant in Scottsdale. And he brought with him a vision tailor-made for the Mountain Empire — to recreate through food the vibrant culture of the boomtown days around the turn of the 20th century, when cowboys were kings, the mines and railways thrived, and food sources ranged from cattle to game, from locally grown produce to seafood brought in by rail from the Sea of Cortez.

Playing on the old cowboy slang term for bacon, the name Overland Trout implies a frequent use of pork on the menu, as well as the literal appearance of the named fish. Indeed, one of LaPrad’s signature items is the house special trout platter appetizer, which features the fish prepared three ways — smoked trout mousse with bits of roe on two thin cucumber slices, the rillette prepared as a rich paté on crostini, and trout added subtly to deviled eggs sprinkled with smoky bacon tidbits. LaPrad also features oysters on the menu, both as appetizers done several ways, and for a lunch entrée called the oyster loaf, a pair of lightly toasted French rolls topped with a mixture of fat oysters combined with creamed spinach. (I’ve had the oyster loaf four times and it has never disappointed!)

The dinner menu changes daily, and are carefully designed to feature a red meat, a poultry dish, perhaps a fish, and a vegetable entrée. On one of two dinner visits we had delicate rounds of stuffed quail with a delicious savory gravy, and medallions of venison, perfectly cooked atop a delicious puree of tepary beans tasting like a gourmet hummus. Another dinner featured Idaho trout grilled beautifully in a delicate butter season. Vegetables are a la carte, varying according to the season and what is locally available. And one of chef LaPrad’s strongest missions is to join his new restaurant intimately to Arizona’s food and wine industries. That means the beef is Arizona grass-fed, and the vegetables chosen from our many local growers. The dessert menu is small but carefully chosen to balance the entrée flavors, and includes a decadent flourless chocolate cake, and various flavors of homemade sorbets and ice creams. Happy hour, from 4-5, features reduced prices on Overland Trout’s signature cocktails, featured local wines and beers, and several appetizers. The bar is pleasant, intimate, and bar service excellent.

The growing wine list features over 35 labels (so far) from Arizona. LaPrad plans to use special events (such as a recent wine pairing dinner with the Callaghan Winery) to promote the region and the wine industry, and to make the restaurant a destination for visitors from Tucson, Phoenix and beyond. The synergy between the restaurant and the local wineries is one of the most exciting aspects of LaPrad’s arrival.

Make no mistake, Overland Trout aspires to be a fine dining establishment, and the prices underline that fact. Dinner entrees range from $18 to $50, and lunch from $9 to $15, depending upon the menu. Chef LaPrad has drilled his staff well in all on four of my visits the service was both friendly and efficient. The servers were able to answer questions about the food knowledgably—except during a lunch just after the restaurant launched, when I inquired about the beef tongue and the response was, “Eew!” (It was delicious, by the way.) White table cloths and beautifully crafted chairs and banquet add both elegance and rusticity to the room. As this is the only restaurant in the area to take advantage of our signature vistas, lunch visits are especially nice.

If I have one complaint about our newest restaurant, it is about consistency. One of my favorite dishes, the seafood garlic soup, ranged from sublime on two occasions, to tasteless on a third. Wine pours have been meager, or generous, depending upon the server.

Portions also have varied widely, from stingy to liberal. If this is to be a destination venue, visitors must be able to count on a dining experience that makes the drive worthwhile. And locals, too, must leave satisfied that their meal was worth the price. We will all benefit from the success of Overland Trout, and its ability to draw in new visitors, jobs, and interest in our area. Let us wish Chef LaPrad and his staff well in the coming year.

Overland Trout, 3266 Highway 82, Sonoita, 520-455-9316. Hours: Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays through Saturdays; Dinner, 5-8:30 p.m. daily; except Wednesday; Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. You can book reservations to Overland Trout at OpenTable.com. Go to w setOpenTable.com/overland-trout.

Photo by Walter Andrew
Waila music, archaeology, albondigas, homesteading stories, migration routes, and a spiritual healer...are all part of a six-week series of coming events portraying the unique influences that shaped the early growth of the area we now know as Santa Cruz County. Hosted by the Patagonia Library and organized by librarian Abbie Zeltzer, the project is part of the Smithsonian Institute’s "Museum on Main Street," a traveling exhibition which seeks to bring "revitalized attention to underserved rural communities" through a re-creation of the stories that are a part of their history.

Beginning on January 4, Cady Hall will house an exhibition put together by the Smithsonian, titled "Journey Stories." The exhibition describes our ancestors’ experiences as they came to America from other cultures seeking a new life in a new land, and the impact of this immigration on the development of transportation technology. In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be a calendar of events that includes dramatic, musical and historical presentations, guided tours of the historic Empire Ranch, and an exhibit titled "A Woven Journey," to be housed in the main entry area of the Patagonia Library.

"A Woven Journey," curated by Elise Misiorowski, is a presentation of narrative and visual displays portraying the history of immigration and transportation in Santa Cruz County. The exhibition is organized around three themes: the interaction of people and cultures, the impact of the railroad, and the importance of our water supply from Sonoita Creek and the Santa Cruz River.

Misiorowski, who has curated many national exhibits, says that in researching this project, she realized that the importance of water is woven into all aspects of this area’s development, beginning with an influx of settlers who arrived here from other parts of the U.S. and Mexico in the late 1800s. She describes the area back then as spring-fed wetlands dotted with small areas of tall grass. To add to the grassland and create home sites, the ranchers drained water from the low lying areas and brought in over a million head of cattle to graze. Overgrazing and lack of water conservation proved to be devastating when the area experienced a period of drought. The display portrays the ways in which cycles of plentiful rainfall and drought have continued to shape the growth of this area since that time.

Saul Leiberman designed and built large panels for the presentation of "A Woven Journey", which also includes artwork by Rhonda Brew. The entire project was conceived by Abbie Zeltzer, who procured the "Museum on Main Street" exhibit with grant monies and has been working on preparations for its presentations and events for nearly a year. Many local residents have contributed their time, talents, and collections to the project, and Zeltzer says she has been amazed to see how many people have come forward to help in putting it together.

Journey Stories will offer a series of 11 events from January 4 through February 16. All are free of charge. Watch for fliers announcing each event, to be posted soon.
It was a very good year

It's been a busy couple of months for Brandon and Audrey Doles. Their first home purchase closed at the end of October, and less than a week later, their first child, Logan, was born. Logan arrived at Holy Cross Hospital, on November 2 at 11:36 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Audrey, who together with Brandon owns and operates the Gathering Grounds, says she will probably take six months away from work to be with her newborn son. As a young couple, the Doles had to overcome a few hurdles to secure a loan and become homeowners. But they managed, and will end the year with a new baby and a new home. Congratulations to you both!

Quiroga files suit against PUHS District

Attorney Eugene M. Goldsmith has filed a Notice of Claim against the Patagonia Union High School District (PUHS), claiming that Gilbert Quiroga was wrongfully terminated as a bus driver after thirty-six years of driving for the school and serving as PUHS Safety Instructor, as well as instructor for other bus drivers. The claim alleges that Quiroga made three separate complaints to PUHS employees regarding what he believed to be a theft of PUHS property by another PUHS employee, and that the PUHS administration sanctioned Quiroga for reporting the incident. Quiroga's suspicions of theft were confirmed when the situation was investigated by the Patagonia Marshal's office. Although the administration ultimately decided not to pursue charges because of the amount involved, the employee, Antonio Velasquez, was subsequently terminated for other reasons.

Arizona statutes permit a suit against an employer when an employee is discharged after exposing a wrongdoing on the part of that employer. The Notice contends that Quiroga did not violate PUHS policy or fail to conform to work performance expectations, but was terminated because he blew the whistle on Velasquez's actions. The Notice states that Quiroga is asking to be compensated $100,000 for economic and emotional damages. In accordance with those statutes, the District has 60 days to respond before the suit goes to court.
When I lived in the West Indies, I discovered the nutmeg.

The island of Grenada lies about 90 miles from Venezuela at 10 degrees north latitude. Its mountains receive about 90 inches of rain annually and when it’s not raining, the tropical sun is shining. Nutmeg trees will only grow in such mountains. The Dutch first found nutmeg trees growing in Indonesia in the 17th century and for several decades this spice was one of the most valuable commodities in the world. The English, masters at moving plants around the globe, discovered that nutmeg trees would thrive in the mountains of Grenada, which they claimed as a crown colony.

Profits did not come quickly, for geography and altitude are not the only restraints on growing nutmeg. It takes a nutmeg orchard a long time to produce a steady crop. The farmer must wait seven years until the trees flower and reveal their gender. Then most of the male trees are hacked down because the female trees are the prolific bearers. A few males are kept for fertilization. About eight years later, the females begin producing fruit. This 15-year wait is balanced by the fact that nutmeg trees keep bearing prolifically for more years than most people live.

The trees are tall evergreens with small leaves. The fruit is an astonishing work of nature. A nutmeg is about the size of a plum and has a thin skin. This usually cracks open on the tree to reveal a red net-like casing that surrounds the nut. This is dried and ground up to become the sister spice of nutmeg, mace. Beneath the mace is a harder shell, and under that, the nutmeg. Grenada exports other spices and tons of bananas, but when I lived there, nutmeg was the major export, accounting for about 25% of the island’s economy.

In 1986, when I went to live on the island of Carriacou a small satellite island of Grenada, nutmeg was a labor-intensive business. The nuts were harvested by hand and often taken to the nutmeg factories on the backs of donkeys. There the mace was removed, largely by hand, and the nuts were first sorted for quality by immersing them in vats of water. The heaviest and best nuts sank to the bottom. The floaters were sorted by hand and the rest sold to be used in pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. The sinkers were again sorted to insure quality. Wooden shovels were used to fill baskets and the baskets were taken to the pounded dirt floor of the vast open space in the center of the factory where women, wearing cotton dresses and headscarves, sitting on mats, would expertly sort through the baskets, flicking the nuts onto wooden trays. Light came through a clerestory above the factory floor. The few times I visited the old nutmeg factory in the town of Grenville, the aura of nutmeg was intense: the smell, the sounds, the dusty light, the worn wooden tools, the red stacks of mace and the women’s black skin and faded cotton colors never failed to transport me into another dimension—a previous century.

Most of the hurricanes in the Caribbean tend to hit the northern islands, but in September of 2004 and July 2005, big storms hit Grenada and decimated the nutmeg industry. The island has developed a long-range plan with help from the World Bank and other organizations, to restore and replant. No doubt this will mean that the industry is being modernized. What is left of the old factories will be torn down. Donkeys and strong young men won’t do the heavy lifting, and the agricultural experts may well find a way to speed up the natural process of nutmeg growth. Time marches on.

The industry will evolve, but the nutmeg will likely stay the same. In just case, I always keep a jar on hand. Nutmeg goes with so many foods that I use it a lot, and each time that exotic aroma wafts through my kitchen, I get to revisit Grenada.
A new hitching rail was installed in front of the Patagonia Town Council office on November 13. The project was a joint effort by several of Patagonia’s horse riders, who got approval from the town in June, and combined resources to come up with the materials and equipment needed. Cindy and Kim Holt, and Kim’s husband Tony Purifie, dug the postholes and put together the railing logs—which were donated by the town.

The Procrastinator’s Journal
By Laura Wenzel

Sometime, in early October, Walter Andrew strutted into the library with purpose, looked around a bit, shuffled some papers about, and asked me if I would like to contribute to the paper. I immediately said, “Yes.” The thought of seeing my words in print, however small the publication, thrilled me to my core. Of course, I neglected to mention that I have had a crippling case of writer’s block for the last four years. Sure, I can fire off a quick anecdote for my journal or recount the various trials and tribulations of my daily goings-on in an email, but sitting down and writing an article that at least a couple hundred people will read, well that’s a whole other story.

I was supposed to be writing a brilliant and intellectual commentary on “young folk these days” and why Baby Boomers and Gen Xers seem to view my generation as intellectually, socially incapable and somehow socially obsessed, technology-addicted zombies.

Instead, I procrastinated and put off the inevitable. For a month I thought long and hard about what I could possibly write, yet pen was never put to paper, fingers never rapped the keyboard. The anxiety mounted over writing something for which I am not getting paid and no one would really miss if I didn’t deliver. Walter couldn’t have said it better: “You know, this is supposed to be fun.”

I spent a lot of time thinking about myself and how I relate to my generation, and how to fit that all in to being a twenty-something living in a town of 900 people just north of the Mexico border. Alas, thinking and doing are completely different things. You could say I thought a lot, but none of that equated to writing an article. I told myself, “Hey girl, when you’re done binge watching The Walking Dead and Homeland, you should sit down and write that article you promised Walter.” Umm, no. Then there was the day that I was so close to writing but discovered just how horribly crooked my eyebrows are. Eyebrows trump newspaper.

In the words of Hunter S. Thompson: “When you bring an act into this town, you want to bring it heavy. Don’t waste any time with cheap shucks and misdemeanors. Go straight for the jugular. Get right into felonies.” Eh, that can be next month.

Where to Park Your Horse

Lama

Doesn’t tell me he’s enlightened,
Smiles as he clips a hair
From the crown of my head
For use in some beyond-shamanic blessing.

Doesn’t give me thousand-year-old abstractions,
Hopeful or fearful generalities, concepts.

Shows me that something greater
Can not be reduced to something smaller;
Shows me that it can't even be pointed out;
However, he does point me to it.

For, like all of us,
He is an ocean of capabilities,
A full spectrum of intuition,
An immense depth of tenderness
That can not be fathomed.

But he could not fight the Communist Chinese.
And like his own Lama long ago,
He left Tibet, to save something precious.
And he suffered
In the snows,
From the starvations, the tortures
To come to America;
To sing with us,
To dance with us--
To witness us, as we slowly allow
Our freedoms and our sweet Earth
To be made into a myth.

And still he gives only a kind hint;
A kind understatement;
He tells me
That the Liberty Bell
Is more than antique.....

— Michael Chrisemer
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: (And I damn well think it should concern someone.)

Crawling around on my hands and knees outdoors at night in dangerous neighborhoods is not part of my normal routine, but that’s how the paramedics found me in your parking lot at 12th and Valencia in Tucson on the night of October 28th. I could not breathe. My heart was pounding and I heard myself making short, involuntary grunting noises, trying to get air.

After eating a restaurant dinner downtown, I was driving to the airport. My wife’s flight was due in at 10:35. I had almost an hour to kill. An allergic reaction set in as I drove. Was it something I ate? Was it fear of my wife? I don’t know. I sneezed and sneezed and felt my breathing start to tighten up. I’ve had low-level asthma all my life—though not severe—and did not think much about it right at first. But, as the minutes passed it got much worse. As I approached the airport, it was clear I needed help. I had to find a Walgreens pharmacy, since Walgreens is the drugstore I had used for 40 years, and all your stores, from coast to coast, share the same database. Or so we’re told.

I found a Walgreens right away, Thank God, and was pleased to find nobody waiting in line. I’m pretty good at staying calm in an emergency, but with almost no air in my lungs I was starting to freak. I told the pharmacist I was having an acute asthma attack, and needed my prescription right away—Albuterol. The guy seemed oddly lifeless and detached, like a man who’d been carved out of wax. He took my name and date of birth, propped up on the counter to expand my prescription right away -- Albuterol. The pharmacist who’d been carved out of wax. He took my name and date of birth, propped up on the counter to expand my prescription right away -- Albuterol.

I turned and started walking out. A sales-clerk noticed me and said, “I’m sorry Sir, the store is closed.” “Forgive me,” I said, “I am on my way out.” (Ironic choice of words, as it turned out, because the walk and talk had used up all my oxygen.) Before I reached the door I was down crawling on the floor, while the sales-clerk just gaped in dismay. I told her what my problem was. She asked if she should dial 9-1-1. I said, “Yes, Please!” and rolled onto my back, to get more air. I stood up when I could again and went outside. Then, back down on the ground again, to breathe. I knelt there like a wounded beast and started hearing sirens coming, way off down the street. Man, they sounded like cavalry trumpets to me. Like angels braying.

Two fire trucks with flashing lights and half a dozen EMT’s arrived; friendly, competent guys. In less than half an hour they had stabilized my health: albuterol (and oxygen, of course.) To them I gave my utmost thanks. To Walgreens, just contempt.

I picked my wife up seven minutes late.

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

Your Friendly Hometown Pharmacy
(A Letter to Walgreens)
by Martin Levowitz

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: (And I damn well think it should concern someone.)

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Joint Effort Saves Paton’s Property

Paton’s landmark birding property gates will remain open for birders. American Bird Conservancy, Tucson Audubon and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours joined forces in an effort to purchase the Paton property and together contributed about a third of the purchase amount. The remainder of the purchase price was the goal of a fund-raising effort that was successfully concluded on October 15. Much of that was provided by many hundreds of generous birders. Fundraising included the auction of an original painting of a Violet-crowned hummingbird [shown at right] by noted author and artist, David Sibley. The painting sold for $1,660.

The sale of the property is scheduled to close in February of 2014. Once the sale is complete, Tucson Audubon will assume ownership and management responsibilities of the Paton property and will maintain an office there. The organization is currently raising funds for some necessary maintenance to the property—to include plumbing and work on the roof. To find out more go to www.tucsonaudubon.org.
PFA Syndrome

By Walter Andrew

One of our Patagonia residents recently returned with an interesting tale after spending the summer in his home in a small town in northern Maine. At the Fourth of July parade, the first float featured a number of hunters in camouflage with their guns pointed at a flag displaying the initials PFA. PFA, in northern Maine jargon, stands for “People from Away”, or those who do not live in the community year round. I was told that, besides being the object of disdain in the parade, PFAs are seated separately and cannot speak at the town meetings.

The PFA syndrome: is a mindset that seems to exist in Patagonia as well. Here PFAs are often referred to as “newbys”, a term that refers to practically anyone who wasn’t born and raised here. At the heart of the PFA syndrome is fear that the newer residents will change the nature of the community, and that fear is often driven by socioeconomic realities and differing cultural backgrounds.

Housing costs have risen due to an influx of newcomers who arrive from areas where real estate is much pricier and are willing to pay above average prices for housing here. This has served to increase housing costs beyond the means of some of Patagonia’s older families. From their point of view, that rise in cost threatens to destroy the town as they have known it, marginalizing their offspring’s ability to remain here. Added to that is their perception that newcomers often fail to appreciate the ways in which the culture and norms of the older residents have contributed to the unique character of Patagonia that new residents find so appealing.

No town is immune to change. The ore wagons and mules left Naugle Avenue a long time ago, and the town has seen constant change since that time. Furthermore, older residents should acknowledge and appreciate the economic and cultural vitality that newcomers bring with them.

On the other hand, it would be helpful if the new arrivals would limit their efforts to "change things" immediately upon arrival. They should recognize that the oldest Hispanic families are the primary reason that the town exists. When the mines closed and all the rich people left, the miner’s families remained to keep the town alive. As a result, those families have a sense of ownership that many newer residents fail to understand.

If residents, old and new, could both be a little more open-minded and respectful of each other’s feelings and views we’d probably be headed in the right direction. If we strive to become more inclusive in our social functions, keep exchanging our differing viewpoints and continue our dialog, perhaps we can keep the PFA Syndrome from reaching the point that it has in that small Maine town, and in so doing, preserve that special character of Patagonia that we all revere.

Thanks for the Laughs

By Cassina Farley

With Thanksgiving over and Christmas fast approaching, I sit here in awe that yet another year has sped on by. It has been a trying year for me personally, but I am quickly humbled by people who have had much greater challenges, and I continue to move forward. The bottom line is, we are all lucky to have one another.

I want to thank all the readers who loyally read my column month after month and who, through no fault of their own, have gotten to know me and Zach for the last two years. I’ve met some interesting people who live in our community, folks that I otherwise might not have come across.

At first it was weird having people recognize me from my little picture in the paper, but it was always nice to hear how much they related to Zach falling down the ice covered ramp at our back door. My readers have helped me through some of life’s moments—as when I cut off all my hair and chaos followed. I have confessed to taking dog pills, climbing all over mountains of gravel and having a distaste for girl clothes. I’ve even showed my soft underbelly a time or two. It did wonders for my heart when my “Crazy Coupon” friend told me that she cuts out my columns and mails them to friends.

The constant feedback is nice and it encourages me to move forward. So thank you Patagonia and Sonoita for reading and responding. I like that people look for my column each month and laugh at the same things that I do, even if it ends up being mainly about Zach. So from me, Zach, the dogs, cats, chickens and our late turkeys we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thanks for reading.
On arriving in Patagonia I noticed that everyone had a dog. Not for me. They are too much trouble. They need to be walked, and even worse, you have to “pick up” after your pet. As a gagger I find this particularly distasteful. You can’t travel ‘cause who’s going to watch the dog? You need to be prepared for vet bills that always occur when you can least afford them. I wasn’t going to put up with that hassle.

In my case I am now owned by a yellow lab named Sammi.

I saw a sign in Adrienne’s that said that dogs have masters and cats have servants. I beg to disagree. I feed my master several times a day which may account for her rather Reubenesque appearance, I walk her several times a day, I provide a nice place to live, I chauffeur her everywhere, I brush her, etc., etc. Who is the servant in this deal?

On Facebook someone posted a photo of a billboard advertising the movie “Marley and Me”. It’s the story of a family and their yellow lab.

For anyone who saw that movie you will know why some graffiti artist spray painted three foot high letters across the sign saying “The f**king dog dies.” It occurs to me that Marley and Me is bad grammar—you can’t say Sammi and me went for a walk. I be writing a letter to the author sometime.

Sammi has not done the naughty things that Marley did, with the possible exception of destroying the cushions on the wicker porch furniture, destroying the couches in the living room and digging a few holes in the yard as large as lap pools. And let’s not forget—she has an affinity for skunks.

Perhaps the worst-enforced town regulation concerns barking dogs. Occasionally Sammi will bark, but only if she sees someone on a bicycle, or walking a dog, or sees a truck, car, pedestrian, or someone pushing a stroller, walking past my office towards the Gathering Grounds. And there is something about the metal animal sculptures in front of Adrienne’s that she finds alarming. I will admit that she loses it when she sees the UPS truck. I can’t figure out why this is, perhaps the color, but I am pretty sure it has cost me a lot of really nice things that never made it to my door.

Sammi generates a completely new fur coat every nine days, leaving the old coat everywhere, and I mean everywhere. I have so much dog hair in my car it looks like I have camel hair upholstery. Can you make clothes out of dog fur?

Now, Sammi is a Labrador “Retriever,” which would imply that she would like to fetch. However, she does not. She will get the object, then immediately sit down and chew on it with no thought of bringing it back to me. Like all Labs she does like water—so much so that she is happy to share the water with the interior of my car and on the bedspread. I also have noticed that wet dogs have a distinct odor.

Losing Sammi is not my worry, since she and I have put pen and paw to paper wherein she agrees that I go first. Losing her is something I could not be a part of. If I’ve given the impression that I don’t love my Sammi. I do. A lot, a whole lot.
After you’ve made your list and checked it twice, shop locally for:

- Embroidered pillow from Mesquite Grove Gallery, Patagonia
- Large Patagonia turquoise and gold pendant on chain from Creative Spirit Artists Gallery, Patagonia
- Small carved wood crow from Desert Legacy, Sonoita
- Handcrafted hobby horse from Cowgirl Flair, Sonoita
- A gift basket of gourmet cocoa, gelato, cheese, nuts, chocolate, chips and fruit from Red Mountain Foods, Patagonia
- Hand-stitched, tooled leather boots from Cowgirl Flair, Sonoita
- Creamy lemon tarts, chocolate croissants, or cappuccino fudge brownies from Monika’s Bakery, Sonoita
- Dinner for two at Overland Trout Restaurant, Sonoita
- A wine-tasting horseback ride with Sonoita’s AZ Horseback Experience
Handcrafted metal cactus candle holder from Desert Legacy, Sonoita

Handmade necklace of jade and silver with carved bone pendant from Mesquite Grove Gallery, Patagonia

Spiked Leather pet collar from Creative Spirit Artists Gallery, Patagonia

Ceramic folk art from Global Arts Gallery, Patagonia

Silver and turquoise leather belt from Many Horses Trading Company, Patagonia

Foot care set from Global Arts Gallery, Patagonia

Patterned socks from Global Arts Gallery, Patagonia

Spiked Leather pet collar from Creative Spirit Artists Gallery, Patagonia

~ Tickets to a Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts Benderly Salon Concert

~ Sunday brunch at Kief-Joshua Winery in Sonoita

Mounting gourd mask from Desert Legacy, Sonoita

Patterned socks from Global Arts Gallery, Patagonia

Photos by Donna Reibslager
“Riding Barranca: 
Finding Freedom and Forgiveness 
On the Midlife Trail”
by Laura Chester
Trafalgar Square Books, 2013, 236 pages

Our community is blessed with many fine authors who write all kinds of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and other genres. Among the best is Laura Chester. Cast as a one-year journal, her most recent book, “Riding Barranca,” chronicles her trips on horseback into the far landscapes of Arizona’s borderlands, the Massachusetts Berkshires, and even forays into Australia, India, and Mexico. Some segments are brief, barely a single page long, containing a single thought or observation; others approach chapter length as Chester explores into the emotional turmoil of her upbringing set against the joy found on the back of her equine soulmate, Barranca, make this a compelling read. The various sections are generously accompanied by black and white photos from Chester’s past and present, portraits of her horses and her relatives, giving the prose even more immediate life.

Chester’s life contains so many of the elements that make for great storytelling—a daughter’s adoration of her handsome, enigmatic, larger-than-life father, a stormy relationship with a difficult and often cruel mother, parental behavior often bordering on abuse and yet a privileged childhood full of adventure, travel, eccentric relatives, and always horses. Indeed, this is an adult coming-of-age story, a frank and honest portrayal of a woman in midlife taking stock of her past with all its flaws and sadness, set against her unfolding understanding of both her parents. As she unlocks the strange dynamics that shaped her relationship with her mother and father, she gains a capacity for forgiveness that accompanies her mother’s decline into Alzheimer’s and death, setting her free to embrace the next chapters of her life unencumbered by regret.

Of course, the true core of this memoir is Chester’s love for her horses, especially Barranca, whom she credits with giving her emotional as well as physical safety. As she describes their countless rides, she speaks of the trust and affection that flows between them, and of her debt to him for keeping her safe and taking her into places that few have ever seen. Chester’s style intimately draws the reader into her own experience and we feel ourselves carefully picking over rocks, stepping through streams, standing on high bluffs looking out across the San Rafael Valley, shivering in rainstorms, galloping over green hills, giving our horses their heads to find their way home when we are lost, and finally rubbing them down and closing the gates after a long day in the saddle. As Chester writes, “Few people know the land around here as well as we do, having ridden over so much of this landscape.” And though there are colorful episodes set in Australia, Mexico, and India, the most heartfelt passages come from Chester’s observations riding in her two familiar home territories, southern Arizona and the Massachusetts Berkshires.

Laura Chester’s honesty shines through “Riding Barranca,” and in the end we admire her courage and are grateful for her sharing of her emotional journeys with her family and her beloved horses. This is a book to savor, one to stay on the shelf for years—not to donate to the Patagonia Library sale! If it has a flaw, it is that there is so much in it to think about, so much experience to absorb. The only remedy, then, is to turn back to page one, and begin all over again! Highly recommended for readers young adult and older.

A Book Review by Elizabeth Zinn

Laura Chester and Barranca

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A Multitude of Monarchs
By Joe Billings / Southwest Monarch Study

The summit of Saddle Mountain loomed, barely visible above the dense fog, as the truck slowly motored along the rain-soaked track. I was headed into Bog Hole, an area southeast of Patagonia. Today would be five years to the day since I first ventured into this site in excited anticipation of finding large numbers of beautiful monarch butterflies to catch and tag as part of the Southwest Monarch Study’s database.

Not only had my hunch proven to be correct, I would go on to personally discover and extensively explore what would turn out to be one of southern Arizona’s richest and most diverse monarch breeding habitats.

On that day, August 30, 2008, descending through thickets of mimosa towards a pond surrounded by robust riparian trees, my eyes were greeted by a diverse mix of plant life unlike any I had become familiar with at other sites. Magnificent, tall, yellow sunflower stands marched down-slope and across grassy meadow terraces, merging with green mounds of purple-spiked foxtail prairie clover. Everywhere were scattered patches of white Mexican star-thistle, lush grama grasses, blue commelina, and showy clumps of goldenrod. Monarchs were seemingly everywhere, feeding and cavorting on the numerous terrace patches of milkweed, or taking nectar from the extensive carpets of yellow bidens flowers covering the damp swale bottom. Further on I descended into drainages with blooming seep-willow stands. In this feeding ground, it was a simple matter to sweep up monarchs to tag and release.

Now, five years since that magical day, it’s become painfully apparent how rainfall-dependent this paradise is, and the rain gods have not been especially kind of late. The main swale hasn’t sustained the soggy bottom moisture that allowed the vast stands of yellow bidens to thrive, nor the sprawling prairie clover mounds along the banks. Above, much of the vegetation is reduced in spread, and goldenrod has completely disappeared. Below is a drying, mostly empty pond bottom. Yet the milkweed is there and the monarchs still thrive. By sunset I’d covered a lot of ground and tagged 80 monarchs, more than the 66 of August 30, 2008.

Joe Billings (JB), a largely self-taught naturalist, has explored extensively on foot, through remote and rugged terrain, while tagging well over 5,000 wild monarchs for the Southwest Monarch Study.

How to Tag a Butterfly

Reach down into the net, gently but firmly clap the monarch’s forewings together along the upper edge. Then, carefully, without yanking too hard, remove the butterfly. Monarchs have an ability to really fasten on to the net with their forefoot claws, so you need to gently work to release their hold. Once free, holding the monarch horizontally with the wings flat, locate the cell, bordered by wing veins, in the middle of the hind wing. This is called the discal cell, and has a rounded upper edge to it. Tags come in waxed sheets of 25 and need to be protected from the elements. With a tag peeled off the sheet, and care taken not to touch the backing adhesive, center it on the discal cell, press down, and smooth it out evenly using a fingernail. A naturalist makes note of the location, gender and condition of the butterfly, then releases it.

This butterfly was tagged in Hereford, AZ, and recovered at Morro Bay, CA.

As Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia get ready to celebrate the end of an amazing 2013, there are still a few exciting events taking place at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in December.

On Saturday, December 7, please join the membership of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association (SCCFRA) for its annual meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Members will enjoy a light dinner and no-host bar while the board of directors wraps up a year of successful events and a new look to the grounds. Non-members are welcome to join the SCCFRA at the meeting.

Cost for membership is $20 for individual, $35 for a couple and $50 for a family, including up to two adults and all minor children. The benefit of membership is a gift that lasts all year. Members have free entry to all major events including; Annual Horse Races, Quarter Horse Show, Rodeo and County Fair. Members who attend the annual meeting can also vote for new board members. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Dragoon Mountain Boys Band will provide entertainment and music for dancing.

The Sonoita/Elgin Chamber of Commerce will host its annual holiday party on Friday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. Hang on to your hats because Santa will be making a special appearance at 6:30 with presents for all the wonderful children in attendance.

Ring in the New Year at the Fairgrounds with the Chris Minker Band. On Tuesday, December 31 at 6 p.m. the doors will open for a fun and festive New Year’s event. Cost is $10 for an individual and $15 per couple. Enjoy snacks, no-host bar, the Chris Minker Band and an East Coast Toast at 10 p.m. It is sure to be a great way to enjoy New Year’s Eve with friends and neighbors.

The SCCFRA would like to thank Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia and the surrounding areas for their unwavering support. From the heart and soul of Santa Cruz County, we wish all our members and supporters a happy and healthy 2014.
Gisela M. Halley of Sierra Vista, Arizona won this beautiful quilt in a drawing held at Cady Hall in Patagonia on November 7. The raffle was sponsored by The Patagonia Woman’s Club, who sincerely thank everyone who bought tickets and helped make this fund raiser so very successful.

The Patagonia Regional Community Foundation will begin accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations beginning January 2. The proposals for project funding of up to $5,000 must be submitted by January 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Grants will be awarded through a competitive process with input from the PRCF Advisory Board, comprised of community leaders with a wide range of expertise. To be considered for grant funding, nonprofit organizations must have an active organizational profile on www.azfoundation.org. Information about the application process and assistance with creating an organizational profile will be presented during a free Nonprofit Grant Workshop to be held on Tuesday, January 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Patagonia Senior Center, 100 Quiroga Lane, Patagonia.

To access the compete set of grant guidelines and eligibility requirements and to submit a funding proposal, visit www.azfoundation.org. Grants & Operations Coordinator, Rebecca Pickett is available at 520-505-3678 or by e-mail at rpickett@azfoundation.org to answer grant-related questions and provide additional information.

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Sincerest wishes for hope, happiness and peace during this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year.

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This year Mountain Empire Rotary Club has started a new school program to encourage students to read and achieve. First Books, an organization that promotes reading, awarded our local Rotary Club a grant to purchase books as gifts and awards for students in grades K-8. Accordingly, each student will receive a book on his or her birthday as well as a gift book for Christmas. At the beginning of the school year, Rotary, with a grant from First Books, gave every third grader in the region a dictionary.

Superintendent of Schools Denise Blake is very appreciative of Rotary’s willingness to obtain these grants that help support the schools. "We are also grateful to President Fred Sang for his leadership with Rotary and for all of the service initiatives they are providing for the children in our county," she added.

In addition to free books, each month Rotary is recognizing the efforts of an outstanding student in one subject. November’s subject was art; Johana Lee, the school’s art teacher, gave the award, a certificate and check for $100, to Nicole Manriquez. Lee says that Nicole is not afraid to get her hands dirty, that she collaborates with others, and has strong design skills, especially in fashion.

Rotary lends a hand to the area schools in other ways throughout the year. It sponsored the PUHS Homecoming football game, gives three college scholarships, and an end-of-year middle school certificate, and sponsors two students for the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA). In Elgin, Mountain Empire Rotary Club will give end-of-school awards of $100 to three top students.

Rotarian Sue Archibald explains that education and literacy are core principles of Rotary Clubs around the world. "We believe in young people and know that they are our future."

The new seventh through ninth grade PUHS English teacher, Ms. Augusta Lucas, first attended a small junior college in Arkansas. She then attended the University of Tulsa, later transferring to a university in Oklahoma. After college she joined the Army National Guard. Although she began college as a math and science major, she switched to English when she read an original poem in her freshman college class. As a drama teacher here, she directed “Romanian Uranium” and “Operation Redneck,” recently performed at the Tin Shed [see story on next page.].

Lucas came to Patagonia from a troubled urban setting, so the differences are numerous. “A major one is that families here are more involved in helping their sons or daughters succeed,” Lucas says. Hoping to meet students who are serious about their futures and teachers who really care, she says she has not been disappointed.

Her own daughter and son have taught her that individual preferences in the classroom are important. Lucas says some of her former students who are soldiers, scientists, attorneys, athletes, and medical specialists have contacted her through Facebook and stressed how valuable a teacher can be, and how the ripple effect reaches many corners of the world.
On November 15 and 16, Patagonia High School Drama Club put on two productions directed by Ms. Augusta Lucas, [see “New Teachers” on p. 18] with an intermission performance by the Lobo Band. “The Romanian Uranium Mystery”, starring Sarita Crockett, Florence Delara, Jose Gomez, Alyssa Graham, Savannah Foster, Faith Hendricks, Alyssa Graham, Savannah Foster, Faith Hendricks, Anastasia Lucero, Duke Norton and Calvin Whitcoe, is a fun, 40 minute comedy/murder mystery about a Romanian count who sends in a detective as his decoy in order to find out who might want to kill the real count. After many murder attempts involving strawberry pie filling, arsenic, and some spicy green pepper, the detective finally sorts out the whole fiasco and fills an empty spot in the local Arizona prison.

“Operation Redneck” is a funny story involving love, loss, beer cans, and broken TV cameras, starring Savannah Foster, Andrew Goodnough, Faith Hendricks, Cokelly Herrera, Anastasia Lucero, and Michael Ramirez. The play is set in a small town occupied by a bunch of rednecks. When two redneck friends try to turn a city slicker boyfriend into a country hick, they succeed. But the city boy turned redneck ends up getting dumped by his girlfriend and has to make it up to her. After he and his friend take over a TV station, recite Rodeo and Juliet, and climb a water tower, they are finally able to win their gals back.

Special thanks to Haley Hill, Lisa Lopez, and Duke Norton and Cosette Whitcoe for helping with the stage managing, props, sound, and lighting.
Photographs by Sidney Spencer

were on display at the Gathering Grounds during November. The work included close ups of flowers, European scenes, and landscapes of the San Raphael Valley. Mounted on board, they were reproduced in full color on matte photo paper, giving them a beautiful finish.

Spencer describes her photographic work as recordings of her experiences. It is unconstrained and employs no special effects. The viewer is offered a straightforward look at what Spencer refers to as a “mental collection of life’s images.”

Some of the photos of flowers and European architecture were blown up to a large size, revealing intricate details of their design. Although they are eye-catching, I would like to have seen her photos of the Valley printed on a larger scale. Her panoramic views of grasslands, with a backdrop of rolling hills and billowing clouds, would be well-suited to a large format, giving the viewer a more intimate sense of the immense space and quiet beauty they portray. They are also the most personal images she has shared in this exhibit, as they portray the views she sees each day from her home. Sidney Spencer lives on a ranch in San Raphael Valley, where she raises cattle and operates a business marketing and selling natural range-fed beef.

Patagonia’s Annual Holiday Art Walk

is always held on the two days following Thanksgiving. This year that’s November 29 and 30. Now in its ninth year, the two-day event draws people from as far away as Phoenix.

The tradition began with a venture by Linda Chase, owner of Painted House Studio. Just before the holidays one year, she rounded up some of the town’s artists and hosted a three-day art sale in her studio. It was so successful that it became an annual event. Regina Medley, owner of Mesquite Grove Gallery, took on the job of organizing it for most of the years that followed, and it became known as “Mostly Mainstreet”. Local businesses got involved, hosting artists in their storefronts, and several artists held open studios.

This year, Artwalk is being put on by Creative Spirit Artists Gallery. Twenty-one local businesses are participating, and six artists will be set up in the large yard to the side of Mesquite Grove Gallery. Some of the locations will offer complimentary beverages or snacks.

You’ll see a lot of local residents enjoying along with the visitors, walking off Thanksgiving dinner, and doing some holiday gift shopping.

Artwalk serves as a reminder of how many talented artists and craftsmen and women make their home in this small, high-mountain town. It will be open both days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We moved here some time ago and here, we know we’ll stay, with friendly friends and neighbors we would be fools to stray.

We came from the big city with macrocosm strain to this microcosm village with far less “fast lane” pain.

We hardly lock our doors now and hope we’ll never have to though “no man is an island”, this new found peace will do.

Make no mistake about it this is not paradise but even with its problems Patagonia’s more than nice.

Perhaps that’s why old friends from states so far away come awhile to visit and always want to stay!

-- Lynne Anderson
Looking for a light, uplifting well-acted movie you may have never heard of? Try “Lars and the Real Girl.”

The short description goes something like this: in need of companionship, Lars discovers Bianca, a clear-skinned beauty, a dazzling brunette with a knockout figure made of life-like material. She is quiet, an apparent good listener, but reluctant to speak.

Do not jump to the conclusion that this signals a plot of delusional man buys a life-size sex doll and falls in love. This is a tender movie about family members and the community coming together to support a young man who has chosen a unique way to break through his isolation.

Ryan Gosling plays Lars, a wounded and vulnerable young man who finds human touch physically painful. The cast includes the wonderful Emily Mortimer (you’ll recognize her) as his loving sister-in-law who is determined to bring him into the family.

The equally wonderful Patricia Clarkson (“The Station Agent,” “Pieces of April,” “Good Night and Good Luck”) plays a doctor who sets the family and community straight on how to support Lars and Bianca. Clarkson is brilliant, her understated performance mesmerizing.

The community’s role in helping Lars heal is humorous and heartfelt. Could this have happened in Patagonia? ‘Lars and the Real Girl,’ quirky and wonderful.
Grayce’s Comes Alive on Day of the Dead

By Heather Dodge

The First Annual Day of the Dead Celebration at Grayce’s Gift and Candle Shop came alive Saturday, November 2, All Souls’ Day, with lots of fascinated children, Velvet Elvis pizza, popcorn, cotton candy, Wanda’s cookies, train rides, Chameleon face painting, museum tours, movies, a jumping castle, music, sugar skull decorating and mask making.

Families, as well as a Tucson Bajas Frontier Tours group and curious passers-by celebrated the blue-sky day and life on All Souls’ Day, creatively represented in La Galeria de los Muertos. The one-room museum behind Grayce’s is recognized by the Smithsonian Institute as the first of its kind in North America.

Acquired over the years by Grayce’s son, John Arnold, the Day of the Dead collection perpetuates the thousands-year-old tradition throughout Latin America of gathering to remember passed loved ones with altars, favorite food and drink, sugar skulls, flowers, gifts and parades.

Grayce Arnold, who occupied the old miner’s house for 37 years and passed away eight years ago, was also celebrated on this festive day, along with her recently deceased daughter, Elaine.

“They both would have loved this day,” John said from behind his skull face. “Growing up in Mexico, we learned that this is a healthy way of balancing life with death, mourning their loss but also celebrating what they brought to our lives, together once a year, creatively and joyfully, to keep them alive in our hearts and minds.”

Tours of La Galeria de los Muertos may be arranged by calling 520-732-0598. Grayce’s is open weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for some holidays and special local events. For more infor-
Building Interconnections
By: Molly McCormick

As 2013 comes to a close, Borderlands Restoration sees an ever-expanding future for our goal of building a restoration economy. We have received several grants this year to support our research and restoration efforts and have just sent off a renewal application to the Walton Foundation to continue our river restoration work.

In our first official year of operations, we have hired some 20 people, including a 12-person work crew from Patagonia and Sonoita, who built erosion control structures on the Babocomari Ranch. In 2014, we hope to have a full-time crew and to further develop our training program.

You may have read in Edible: Baja Arizona magazine about our summer intern program with Patagonia Union High School students. Next summer, we plan to increase this program to include more students. We also plan to hire a number of community members for our developing adult intern program. Our first adult intern, Cooper Selbert, was recently hired by a greenhouse in Phoenix, who eagerly offered him a job after hearing about his experience with Borderlands.

The focus of the adult intern program is to train more people for work in the world of ecological restoration, either as employees of organizations like Borderlands or as small business owners. There is no shortage of work in this field, and the need for a network of restoration economy organizations and businesses is expanding. By this process, we hope to enable people to make a living by following their passion. Patagonia resident Ivan Mingura, reflecting on his experience working for Borderlands Restoration, says “At the end of the day I feel good about the work I do. I get to choose activities that I enjoy, and the work feels more significant because it is a team effort. I feel appreciated. I am happy to have this work that allows me to stay in my community, and has given me a choice as to the type of work I want to do in order to stay here.”

Borderlands Restoration wants to stay in Patagonia too. To accomplish this, we are supporting the growth of our local economy. Along with training interns, we can support growing businesses and ranches by connecting them with funding sources. We also patronize local businesses whenever possible. If we have overnight field excursions, we buy our food from Red Mountain Foods and the Patagonia Market. This money gets circulated within the community, and over-time will lower costs on local goods and provide even more jobs. The network of interconnected local businesses is what defines a restoration economy.

If you are interested in learning more about Borderlands Restoration, or are looking for another reason to feel good at the end of the day, please connect with us on our Facebook page or our website: BorderlandsRestoration.org. You can also volunteer with us; there is no better way to connect than by helping to restore the watershed.

Ivan Mingura views young plants during a field trip to the Sonoran Desert Museum’s greenhouse facilities.

Alan Woods Dies

Former Patagonia resident Alan Woods died on November 3 at age 44. He was found in his home in Vail, and the Medical Examiner’s Office in Tucson has stated that his death was due to hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Woods lived in Patagonia for nearly ten years before moving to Vail earlier this year. In 2010, he was arrested and sentenced following an incident in Patagonia, but was released after nine months in jail, when the judge ruled that the Patagonia Marshal's office had concealed information about the credentials of one of the arresting officers. Woods later sued the town, and the former Town Marshal, Ed Dobbertin. He was awarded an undisclosed sum.
As late Autumn seamlessly melds with early Winter here in our Sky Islands, we find ourselves devoid of many of our characteristic warm-weather bird species. Gone are the vast majority of the gaudy neotropical migrants that lent color and flare to our all-too-brief monsoon season. Summer Tanagers no longer sing here, living up to their moniker. Varied Bunting have, invariably, flown south. Yellow-billed Cuckoos may have fled as early as August and early September. It's enough to give a hard-core birder the blues!

Lo and behold, however, we suddenly are assaulted with an influx of secretive sparrows. True, many of our sparrows do breed here - Botterii's, Cassin's, Rufous-crowned, and Black-throated, to name a few. Many others migrate from further north, adding numbers to our otherwise depleted avifauna. Chipping Sparrows, many quite tame, roam in flocks amidst our mesquite bosque, searching for seeds, water, and perhaps the occasional insect meal. White-crowned Sparrows, including the more striking adults as well as the duller juveniles, often join them while whistling out their distinctive song.

Unless you are a hardcore birder, sparrows may well fall within the infamous realm of "Little Brown Jobs. " (LBJs). In other words, a sparrow, is a sparrow, is a sparrow. Only problem is that to the uninitiated, semi-initiated, and yes, even seasoned birder, the damned things often look remarkably alike across species!

Looking at some of the most vexing birding challenges in North America, one may well ponder frustrating flycatchers, infuriating immature gulls, "what-the-hell-was-that warblers, and surely-your-kidding-me shorebirds. Each group poses great challenges and skulking sparrows surely belong in this list. Still, I encourage you to begin studying sparrows now, as sorting them out to species can hold many rewards.

Search in areas likely to have the greatest variety of sparrow species. Often where woods or forest meet field—a so-called "ecotone"—is a good start.
‘Tis the season to be jolly, because it is Christmas Bird Count time. In 1900, 113 years ago, the Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Eskimo Curlew and other species were either extinct or in serious peril of becoming so. It was a fad back then to have a Christmas day “side hunt,” and the team with the biggest pile of dead birds won! Scientists and observers were becoming increasingly aware of declining bird populations, so that year, Frank Chapman organized the first census of birds with 25 bird counts across the US and Canada. In this way the objective changed from killing birds to counting their species and estimating their numbers. Ninety species were tallied from all 25 count circles combined, and so the tradition began. Today there are approximately 2,000 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC’s) annually.

A “count circle” is a 15-mile diameter circle usually divided into eight or ten areas with a team leader in each area. The final tally is done by the count leader, or compiler. A 15-mile diameter circle is 176 square miles, so it is a lot of area to cover with eight to ten teams. Quite competitive, the count with the highest number of total species wins.

Santa Barbara, California is always high on the list as is Cape May, New Jersey, but the 1970’s and 1980’s winner year after year was the Freeport, Texas CBC, usually tallying over 200 species. In the early 1990’s there was a new kid on the block, Mad Island Marsh, Texas. Their CBC blew all other U.S. counts away with 236 total species, and has held the lead ever since. There are over 40 CBCs conducted south of the border. With greater species diversity in the tropics, most of these counts show greater total species, yet fewer total birds.

I usually participate in two CBCs: Nogales and Patagonia. These two counts happen before Christmas Day and both counts usually tally in the 150’s for number of species. It’s always fun. Michael Bissontz is the Nogales count compiler and I am a leader whose area is Lake Patagonia and the neighborhood surrounding the lake. We usually count about 100 to 110 species just in my area. Abbie Zeltzer is compiler for the Patagonia count. I am just a participant in this count and have more fun than an area leader or compiler because I have no additional responsibilities.

One does not have to be an ornithologist or an expert birder to take part in a CBC. Amateur birders with all skill levels contribute their sightings to assist in showing changes in range and population trends, the real science of ornithology. So I welcome anyone who would like to join my area in the Nogales CBC. Initially, we freeze while canvassing the lake at first light. Then we cover the upstream drainage of Sonoita Creek on foot. I promise good birding and a lot of fun. For more information, I can be reached at 520-988-0155.
**meetings**

**AA Meeting** - The Patagonia Com. Ctr., Sun. at 8 p.m.; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues. at 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - Wednesdays 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 of the month at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers. Info: Tod Bowden 394-9051

**Overeaters Anonymous Meetings** - Patagonia United Methodist Church, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 404-3490

**Patagonia Town Council Meetings** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

**Rotary Club** Meeting, Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Keif Joshua Winery in Sonoita.

**San Rafael 4-H Community Club** Meeting, second Monday of every month at the Patagonia Community Church, Thurber Hall at 5:30 p.m. Contact Tami 455-5561.

**community services**

**Lunch for Seniors** Mon - Fri at the Community Ctr. 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, Green Valley & Nogales. By appointment only. 394-2494

**Patagonia Food Bank**, 3rd & Smelter; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

**Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop** Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. & Fridays 10a.m.-2p.m., Sat. 10a.m.-noon.

**Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop** Our Lady of the Angels Mission Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Open Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Donations accepted during business hours. Info: 455-5262

**events**

**Zonta Club Annual Fundraiser** - Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; holiday auction & lunch at Mr. C’s restaurant in Nogales. Supports projects in Santa Cruz County, scholarships and activities around the world. Tickets are $30 & include lunch & champagne. Contact zontaclubofnogales@gmail.com for info and reservations.

**Sonora by Starlight** - December 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Holiday shopping, Christmas tree lighting, Santa Claus, prizes & drawings, live music, star gazing, shop giveaways and discounts, big campfire, refreshments, wine tasting, hay ride. For info call 520 881-7787 or 455-4776

**Christmas in Elgin / Christmas in the Barn** December 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Elgin Community Club, 275 Elgin Rd., & the Barn at Square Top Ranch Alpacas, 30 Harvest Dr., Sonoita; Over 30 artisans. Music, food and friendship!

**Skyline Flutes Quartet** Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m., Santa Fe Ranch House, North River Rd. Nogales, AZ.; A SCFPA Benderly Salon Series event. $25.00 for SCFPA members and $30.00 dollars for non members. For reservations call 520-394-9495, or email SCFPA at scfpa@scfpapresents.org

**Christmas Bazaar** - December 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Patagonia Community Methodist Church Thrift Shop and Thurber Hall.

**Christmas Cantata** - December 15 at 3 p.m. A musical performance in the sanctuary at Patagonia Community Methodist Church; free admission.

**special interests**

**ArtMakers** - After-school art at Patagonia Creative Arts Assn.; Tues. 3:30 - 5 p.m. Ages 5-12. Suggested donation. Call Faye at 394-9369 for more info.

**Yoga** with Chip & Laura; Tuesdays- 5:30-7 p.m.; $15/drop-in, $50/5 classes; No class on Dec. 24 & 31. Classes begin again Jan. 7. or go to www.chipandlaura.com or call 604-0830 for more info.

**Play Bridge** - Patagonia Comm. Center, Mondays & Thursdays at 1 p.m.

**BINGO** - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6PM; 455-5681

**Crossroads Quilters** - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9 a.m.; Call Donna Lee at 455-9340

**Open Tennis** - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4:30 p.m., Sat. at 8:30 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973

**Bikram Yoga** - Patagonia; for information call 520-604-7283

**Sonora Tergar Meditation Practice Group** - Sessions held 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at a private home. Free. Information: Jonelle 455-9222, jonelle@tergar.org

**Sonora Plant Parenthood Gardening Club** - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For meeting info or newsletter contact clarenbonelli@gmail.com.

**Used Books** - Patagonia Library; good selection at great prices. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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**Send your event information to prtevents@gmail.com. Include time, date location, and contact info. Next deadline: Dec. 20**
LARGE ARTIST’S APARTMENT in town; walk to everyt-thing. $800 /MO + utils, private patio, courtyard. Must See. David 520.303.1475, 520.604.2829

SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH. All appli-ances, washer & dryer, garage & frt. & bk yards. Walk to Sonoita crssroads. $900/mo. 520-400-2949.

STORAGE - need more space for your antiques, car, family treasures? Mnthly rental - 5x10,10x10, 10x20; call Jack 520-455-9333; SONOITA SELF STORAGE

Jeffrey G Latham, architect, CSI PO Box 2257 Nogales, Arizona 85628 520 287 5547 jglatham@mchsi.com

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

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

St. Andrews Episcopal Church Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita Justice of the Peace Courtroom Second & Fourth Saturdays - 10AM

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.

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

Global Arts Gallery wishes you & yours a warm holiday season & a festive New Year! Come visit us & allow us to thank you in person for your continued support & inspiration! Open Daily ~10a-5p

Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita 455-5172 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
www.LaFronteraAZ.com
Homes & Land, Ranches & Commercial Properties in Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Lake Patagonia, Tubac & the extended environs of Santa Cruz County

10 FRAZIER DRIVE, SONOITA 85637
1,361SF 2Br/2Ba contemporary cottage w/stunning, unobstructible views of Mt. Wrightson & the Santa Ritas- on 1.62ac in wooded & very popular Papago Springs. C.1998, an easy-care, bright & airy split-plan w/vaulted ceilings & charming details. Ideal for full or part-time, Tucson is 50min north; wineries, restaurants, the Fairgrounds, Patagonia & Elgin are nearby!
TAR/MLS #21122918 $194,500

91 WAGON WHEEL LANE, SONOITA 85637
Beautifully situated hilltop cottage w/360 mountain views, nearby vineyards & horse property potential. A 1,969sf open-plan w/2Br & 2Ba + lg AzRm; skylights & ceiling fans t/o; Hickory Kitchen cabinets, custom built-in’s & lg center island. Excellent private Well; separate out-building/workshop w/carport; dog kennels; irrigated orchard w/30 trees; RV/boat parking; privacy!
TAR/MLS #21310650 $274,500

227 W 3rd AVENUE, PATAGONIA 85624
Cozy, artful, even whimsical vintage cottage c.1916 in the heart of the village ...you’ll walk to everything, 1,210sf w/2Br/2Ba/Study & an excellent flow, even for overnight rentals, if desired. Beadboard walls & high ceilings w/ clerestory windows; a fully fenced, wooded corner lot w/wood back patio & separate studio/wkshp. Authentic charm in a fabulous setting!
TAR/MLS #21311062

10 RATTLESNAKE COURT, SONOITA 85637
Wow! Spacious ranch-style home w/walk-out basement; 4,946sf; 2,167sf ground-level Main living area w/3Br/2Ba+++ 1,783sf below w/Br/Rm –ideal as a 2nd living space, a business, or enormous manigal-cave... Overlooking historic San Ignacio del Babacomari & handsome neighboring homes, this property is move-in-ready & certainly THE BEST VALUE on the market!
TAR/MLS #21301212 $355,000

GARY RETHERFORD, 520-604-0897
Designated Broker, Owner, REALTOR®
KATHLEEN JAMES, 520-604-6762
Owner, REALTOR®

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