Sometimes numbers speak louder than words. Pete Dronkers and the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) have recently published a report about the potential impact of an open pit mine in the Patagonia Mountains, and some of the numbers used in reference to the mine’s proposed activities are staggering.

Dronkers is a member of Earthworks, a nonprofit organization that works with communities that are dealing with mineral and energy development. He was in Patagonia on November 9 at a PARA event to talk about his research, which included hydrologic and geologic studies, a careful reading of Wildcat Silver documents, a study of local groundwater and wells, historic data on mining in the area and its resulting effects on the environment, and comparisons with similar mines in the west. He has done modeling to determine how much water and energy (diesel and electric) would be required (continued on page 2).

Photo of red-tailed hawk in flight by Jim Johnson (more on page 2)
to dig the proposed mine and how long its effects would be felt in the region.

Two hydrologists and a research geologist reviewed Dronkers' research and have verified his information and conclusions insofar as possible. Hydrology is not a perfect science, and some of Dronker's conclusions are based on strong suppositions about drainage in the area, but if you read the entire report, his conclusions are very hard to refute.

Following are the results of some of the numbers Dronkers put together for this report. All the sources for these conclusions are carefully noted in the report.

The Hermosa Mine would move 1,679 times more rock than the largest of the historic mines in the area.

The Hermosa open pit mine would consume between 670 million and 1.2 billion gallons of water. That figure is 53 times more water than the town of Patagonia consumes annually and is equal to the amount of water consumed annually by 4,600 Arizonans.

When the mine is closed, the abandoned pit will become a lake containing billions of gallons of water. The pit will draw water from the surrounding aquifers. The resulting lake will evaporate rapidly and will be replaced by groundwater at a rate comparable to when the mine was operating. This will go on and on until there is not groundwater to fill the lake.

Hermosa proposes to use a method of watering its tailings dump that would use 25 percent more water than a dry stack operation because it will save the company money.

Wildcat Silver's Prefeasibility Study contains only one sentence on the topic of water supply. The projected financial return on investment is given nearly 100 pages.

Water treatment costs to mitigate the effects of a mine continue indefinitely. At the Red Dog Mine in Alaska, that cost is roughly $10 million per year.

In the past year alone, three large tailings impoundments in North America have failed and dumped millions of tons of contaminated sediment into watersheds.

Mitigation costs for acid mine drainage contamination from large, modern mines can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and are often paid for by taxpayers rather than mining companies.

Mining industry experts suggest that electricity consumption for mines like Hermosa average between 30 and 50 kilowatt-hours per ton. To put this in perspective, the mine could consume as much electricity as 16,640 single-family homes or one-fifth of the energy currently generated by Sulphur Springs Valley Electric.

Transportation of ore from the mine would consume approximately 9.3 million gallons of fuel a year.

Sulphur Springs uses coal to make electricity. Every megawatt-hour of coal-generated electricity consumes 510 gallons of water.

Putting all these energy numbers together, the Hermosa operation would generate as much as (continued on page 3)
Jim Johnson took this amazing photograph of a red-tailed hawk at his property in Sonoita. He calls it a lucky shot, but it takes skill to capture such a sharp image of a big bird in flight. Avian experts identified it as an immature bird because of its light eye color and faint red markings.

591 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year. That’s about the equivalent of 71,000 automobiles.

Dronkers’ report is not just about numbers, but I cite them to give a sense of the range and complexity of the whole project as it has taken shape over time. People who favor mining here point to more modern methods of mitigation, and Wildcat Silver insists that its open pit mine is not part of Patagonia’s watershed. For those who were comforted by these assertions, this report makes it clear that there is no way to prevent most of the environmental harm that mines cause—here or anywhere. It is also quite clear from this report that Patagonia’s water comes from rain, groundwater, and aquifers in the same mountains that would be the site of Wildcat’s operations.

And finally—two more numbers that might interest Wildcat investors. At his presentation in Patagonia, Dronkers pointed out that it takes one ton of ore to produce one ounce of silver. Considering the tremendous costs associated mining that ore, it is hard to understand the value of the outcome, when one ounce of silver is currently selling for about $16.

A Question of Space

This fall the town of Patagonia received an unexpected request. A couple went to the town hall and asked if they could bury their mother in the town cemetery. They said they had explored all the cemeteries in the region and thought Patagonia’s was the perfect place. Apparently, the woman had been a bird lover, and they also loved the view from the hilltop. The couple was told there was no room and was sent off to find another resting place. Then questions arose as to just how much room there is and how many reservations there are and who is buried where. Figuring all this out will cost some money, which is not in the budget at this point. The town council plans to take up the matter in the near future. Meanwhile, if you’ve been hoping to be buried in the Patagonia cemetery, you might need a contingency plan.
New Ownership and New Role For Three Canyons

By Lynn Davison

Patagonians have watched the adventures and misadventures of Three Canyons since 2005. The original development went under in 2008 and the property is currently held by the National Bank of Arizona. The late breaking news is that a newly formed company, Wildlife Corridors LLC, purchased the property in a deal that is due to close in early December. The new owners will have 1250 acres of land, including a critical corridor for wildlife movement among the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Patagonia Mountains.

So who is Wildlife Corridors and why are they so committed to this property? I recently spent an hour in Ron Pulliam’s study, listening to the story. Like any card carrying former professor, he began by describing his concern about the trends in the landscape in southeastern Arizona over the past 40 years and his vision for preserving and restoring one of the most biodiverse regions in the US. Pulliam is one of the founders of Borderlands Restoration, one of the two organizations that formed Wildlife Corridors to own and manage Three Canyons. The other parent organization is Bio R, a non-profit focused on habitat reconstruction to support wildlife and based in California and Australia. According to Pulliam, Borderlands is committed to protect and restore a “working landscape” that supports people and wildlife to successfully coexist. One part of the Borderlands strategy is to directly protect the few very special places that are key to conserving the biodiversity of our region...places like Three Canyons.

The Three Canyons property sits smack in the middle of two sections of the Coronado National Forest. This strip of private land has been identified by Northern Arizona University professor of Biology, Paul Beier, as one of the most critical corridors (shown as area highlighted in white map) in Arizona for wildlife movement between hotspots of biodiversity. As you can see from the map, the northern portion of the Three Canyons property is the only land left within the critical corridor free of development and capable of promoting movement of wildlife between the Santa Rita and Huachuca mountain ranges. Protection of that wildlife passage in perpetuity is the primary reason for the purchase.

The 1250 acres purchased by Wildlife Corridors, part of a larger tract of land originally designed to have 189 homes, will be split into three sections with different uses. The majority, 916 northernmost acres, will be set aside as a wildlife corridor. A residential area, most of which is not owned by Wildlife Corridors, is already divided into 40 home sites, 16 of which were already purchased prior to the sale. A buffer zone of approximately 100 acres, between the wildlife corridor and the residential area, will be used for a combination of recreational and agricultural uses. For example, Borderlands will place several greenhouses in the buffer zone to support native plant propagation for restoration projects.

The new owners plan to establish a community advisory group to help determine specific uses within the property. Pulliam says they intend to be interested in making Three Canyons a community asset that promotes the local economy, provides recreational opportunities for local residents, and is a potential source of water. The property is the home of a fully installed water system that was designed to serve 200 home sites. Given the maximum of 40 home sites now planned, there will be considerable excess capacity for future on or off site uses.

Wildlife Corridors has six major investors who have raised approximately 50% of the purchase price. The balance will be held in the form of a third party loan to be paid off primarily by the sale of home sites and/or development rights. The company is looking for other investors who share their vision and support their business model. That model includes a commitment to reinvesting 80% of any profit generated by Three Canyons to a corridor protection fund that will assure the wildlife corridor is well managed in perpetuity.

The new owners will hold a public meeting later this month to present their vision for Three Canyons to the community. Stay tuned for more details.
When Yasmin Quiroga was eight years old she told Cornelia O'Connor, chair of the Tree and Park Committee, "I want to plant an oak tree." Now, at the age of 13, she helped Cliff Hirsch plant a Mexican Blue Oak in the town park. Yasmin said, "I'm going to show this tree to my children. I've always been interested in oaks."

This tree was the last of the 13 new trees that are now planted in the park. Funds for this project were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program administered in cooperation between the Arizona State Forestry Division – Urban & Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forest Service.
The expanded basketball court at the Patagonia playground will start construction in December if all goes according to plan. Patrick Hatfield, who has spearheaded the idea, is pleased that individuals and organizations have chipped in enough to make this happen. The main contributors to this effort are the Patagonia Regional Business Association, which is covering the cost of most of the cement for the expanded court; Jim Rowley of Elgin Electric, who donated new lights and will install them; and High Spirits Flutes, which is picking up the balance of the costs, including a new backboard.

Odel Borg of High Spirits says, “We feel that it is important to provide alternative activities for the youth in Patagonia. The Youth Center is a good start in that direction and having a sports alternative, such as a good basketball court that can be used day and night, will add to the choices the young will have. The time to pay attention to the young people in this town is way overdue. Making these efforts will help to provide positive choices when it is time for play.”

Ann Caston celebrated her birthday at a gathering with friends on November 20.
Lawsuit Questions Forest Service Decision

By Ann Katzenbach

The Sunnyside mineral exploration drilling project in the Alum Gulch area of the Patagonia Mountains was given the go-ahead by the U.S. Forest Service back in September. In response to this decision, the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and Defenders of Wildlife have asked a federal court to hold the USFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accountable for their approval, saying that it violates environmental laws and poses a potential threat to endangered species and the safety of drinking water for local residents.

Regal Resources, the Canadian-based company that oversees the Sunnyside project, proposes to drill multiple exploratory holes up to 6,500 feet deep in the Patagonia Mountains—considered by naturalists to be one of the most biologically diverse areas in Arizona. The extensive drilling and construction would run all day and night for months on end and could go on for three years.

Since major mining halted in these mountains more than a half century ago, many species of wildlife have thrived there. Some—such as the jaguar, ocelot, lesser long-nosed bat, Mexican spotted owl, and western yellow-billed cuckoo—are imperiled. Of particular concern is the Mexican spotted owl. A federally designated Protected Activity Center has been set aside for these owls in the Alum Gulch area. One of Sunnyside’s drilling project sites is just one-tenth of a mile from their nesting sites.

In addition, Patagonia’s municipal watershed probably will be compromised by this drilling, which will require 12,500 gallons of water per day.

Despite these concerns, the Sunnyside Project was approved. The lawsuit is seeking to require the USFS and FWS to adhere to their own regulations, by acknowledging the environmental impacts of the Sunnyside proposal.
A Tasty Idea
By Donna Reibslager

There’s a new pie in town—you may have seen it at the Gathering Grounds, or at the County Fair last August. Jessica and Geoffrey Cobb are making and selling “hand pies”—filled with meat, vegetables, or fruit—and their venture is catching on.

Jessica explains that she and Geoffrey “have a little bit of food addiction” and that, while traveling in Australia, they fell in love with that country’s pie shops. Unlike British pasties, which are made from a single piece of dough folded over to create a pocket for the filling, Aussie pies are mini versions of traditional pies, with savory fillings. “It was love at first sight,” Jessica says.

Their Patagonia Pies are 4½ inches in diameter and weigh about half a pound. They make a hearty meal for one or can be shared by two. Jessica says, “We have tried to take the idea of the traditional meat pie and give it an American—and in some cases a distinctly southwestern—twist. Chile verde was our first creation, then we added chile colorado. But, wanting more variety, we have also started to make chicken and vegetarian versions of Thai curry.”

Realizing that they needed more vegetarian options, the Cobbs created a mushroom bourguignon with wild rice and goat cheese. Jessica notes that “This one instantly became a hit with our small but growing fan base. Classic chicken pot pie has also been a big hit. Another of our occasional specials is Carolina pulled pork BBQ.” All the pies are made from scratch, with minimal ingredients, and can be frozen and easily reheated for a quick supper.

Currently, Jessica and Geoffrey are selling their pies at area farmers markets. The pies are also on the menu at the Gathering Grounds, where they are served with a side salad. They now have a Facebook page and hope to reach out to small stores in the area soon. If you would like to place an order, you can contact them at 520 841-1166 or Patagoniapies@live.com. They deliver weekly.
The American Santa Claus came to New York with Dutch settlers about 500 years ago. Saint Nicolas, or Sinterklaas in Dutch, was a saintly bishop of Spain, known for gift giving. In the Netherlands this saint's day is celebrated on December 5, and it's a big holiday for small children as well as a great party for adults.

In the Netherlands preparations for St. Nicolas Day begin in November. The mythical bishop arrives by boat, supposedly from Spain. He is dressed in full regalia and rides a white horse. He is accompanied by a black servant, Peter (Zwarte Piet). Traditionally, this character is a Dutch adolescent wearing black paint. The pair comes early because they need to ride all the rooftops of the houses where children live. They leave something for every child who has sung a song and left a carrot for the horse. It is a fun time because Zwarte Piet also visits houses, leaving whole rooms strewn with candy.

On December 5, when he has collected all the children's wishes, Sinterklaas makes his last visit before returning to Spain. There are presents and sweets for children, and the grownups have fun exchanging funny gifts accompanied by poems. Very little work gets done because everyone is thinking up poems. Even the weatherman has to give his report in rhyme.

This year, the traditional event has been disrupted by a group of troublemakers who say that Zwarte Piet is a racist concept. All the ones I have known were male or female teenagers painted black. So this year when Saint Nicolas arrived in the city of Gouda, 60 people were arrested for protesting racism and spoiling the lovely party for a lot of children. The prime minister declared, rightfully, that Sinterklaas is a centuries-old tradition and that it should stay as it has always been.

And why not? In the national anthem of the Netherlands we swear that we will always honor the king of Spain, regardless of the fact that it took 80 years of war before the Spaniards were driven out in 1680. Judging ancient tradition by today's standards of political correctness borders on the ridiculous.
I am a bit of a Grinch when it comes to Christmas. I'm sure part of that is because I haven't had children and now, at my age, that means no grandchildren. Really, isn't it children that make Christmas special? Especially early on, when Santa is the great provider. Throughout my childhood, I loved Christmas. I can remember counting the weeks and days. There were the rituals of finding just the right tree and the trip to Wanamakers Department Store in Philadelphia, where the Christmas decorations created an amazing world of snow and costumes, music and pageantry. Santa Claus was there on the second floor, with his red, fur-trimmed suit and white beard, taking note of hundreds of children's wishes. I asked for a pair of dungarees, and then, there they were there on Christmas morning. Wouldn't it be nice if all our wishes were so pleasantly and directly fulfilled? I guess growing up is realizing that that's not always going to happen.

I suppose we can all remember the Christmas when the Santa myth dissolved. For me it involved a red wagon that I spied through the keyhole in the locked door of the room that held my mother's Christmas preparations. When it appeared on Christmas morning as a gift from Santa, my suspicions regarding the guy with the reindeer and the workshop at the North Pole were confirmed. As I grew up and moved to Boston, I almost always went home for Christmas. My father had a succession of wives, each thinking that it was her duty to decorate the house, provide appropriate gifts, and entertain. I felt obliged to go along with the program but would always escape to help my sister, who had two kids. She and her husband both worked full time, so Christmas, as it so often is for working families, was a scramble to buy and wrap gifts, find a Christmas tree, maybe take the kids to see Santa. Christmas Eve was an event, and Christmas dinner was an event. Which family came when? There always seemed to be some tension. I recall one Christmas morning seeing two boys rip through their presents like two little cyclones. They hadn't taken time to even look at their new possessions, and they sat on the littered floor in the living room and asked, "Is that all there is?"

Finally, I realized that I didn't have to spend Christmas with my family and started going skiing instead. Of course, a sense of obligation took me back from time to time, but my best memories of December 25 are of being in Vermont with friends, forgetting everything but the pleasure of skiing down a snowy mountainside.

So I wonder about this holiday—which seems to be more about stuff and stress than spirit. The buildup is long and relentless, the aftermath often a case of "is that all there is?" or "thank God that's over." And, God does get into this somewhere—lest we forget, it's Jesus's birthday, but what would Jesus make of this celebration? Would he sanction all the hype? Would he like listening to singing chipmunks or seeing lavish displays of lights or feeling the angst that comes along with needing to measure up to some standard of celebration?

This year I'm giving the next generation of children in my family the information that their gifts are going to children in the third world in the form of mosquito nets and bicycles. I hope they're old enough to appreciate this kind of sharing, but if not, it comforts me to think that gift giving can reach beyond family and friends.

And, yes, here at home, I will hang some lights to brighten the dark nights, and I will prepare Christmas dinner. I will even give a few tangible gifts. "Tis the season," after all.

Merry Christmas.
Years ago, I worked on a remote cattle ranch near Sasabe, Arizona. One Sunday afternoon, after a couple of drinks, my boss/friend, Jake; his girlfriend, Gayle; and I walked out to the corral. One of their mares was in heat and was due to be bred. A young stud from another ranch had been brought in. We walked to the paddock and sat on the fence.

The mare has been bred once before, but this is the stallion's first time. The paddock is an oval, maybe 40 feet across. An ample space, it suits the mare just fine. She is placidly snuffling around in the dust hoping for an overlooked shred of alfalfa or oat. The young male is jumpy, provoked by the pheromone scent his consort sends forth. While she seems to have zero interest in him, the stallion is clearly obsessed with the mare and keeps pestering her. The first few times he walks toward her she merely moves away. But as his unwanted attentions increase, the mare's irritation does, too. He tries his best to nuzzle her, to test her scent, to lick her haunch. She whirls to face him and bites a chunk out of his face; lots of bright blood streams down. He backs away, surprised and hurt. And yet, mere moments later, he is stalking her again. Once again he is bitten and kicked. She isn't merely being coy; the kicks are deadly serious, designed to break a leg or rib. The sound produced when her shod hooves connect at full force with his gut makes us three humans wince.

This courtship drama—if we can call it that—goes on for another half hour or so, till the sun has gone down and the full moon is up. It's getting cold. For the three of us perched on the fence, slightly drunk, the whole scene has a primal poignancy. You have to empathize with both the unwitting siren who, like Garbo, simply yearns for privacy, and the handsome young schmo in the grip of his lust. Jake, who grew up on a ranch and had seen this game played many times in his life, said, “The mare's almost ready, and soon her behavior will change. When the chemistry's right, she'll abruptly stop fending him off. She'll raise her tail and stand for it.” Those were the words he used. My buddy knew whereof he spoke. A couple of minutes more and she did just as he'd foretold, no longer insulting her suitor or driving him off. The stallion by now was confused, rattled, bleeding, and bruised. At first he was quite tentative, expecting to be hurt again. It took him a while to realize that something had changed—that he might actually have his way with her. Although, till then, he didn't really know what "his way" was, he did his job with ardent energy.

They were both pawns in a deep, ancient game—something older and larger than they—without which they—or we—would not exist. Is anyone a victim here? And if so, aren't there two? Are we all not perps, victims, and products of the mating game?

At last, having finished his time-honored task, the stallion dismounted and strolled to the side of the ring, just below where we sat. Then he rolled on his back with his legs in the air. (His version of an end-zone celebration, I suppose, though quite undignified.) He drew a deep breath, sighed, and lit himself a cigarette. The mare, quite stolid now, just looked on disapprovingly, reminding him that he really ought to quit, for the kids' sake, if not for his own. He looked at her indifferently, then stood up, shook the fine dust from his coat, and walked away.

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS
Well Bred
By Martin Levowitz
Within Normal Range
By Cassina Farley

My ongoing self-proclaimed struggle with weight loss has come to an end. I am once and for all off the bandwagon of diets, weight control, and self-loathing. I didn't actually loathe myself all that much, but you get the point. By chance, at a routine doctor's visit, I stepped on the body fat calculator, and it set me free. As I held onto the handles, expecting the worst, the little machine calculated, and the terror in my heart grew. I made a promise that from that day forward I would do better. Thanksgiving be damned. Christmas keep your candy away. I was going to be good. I was going to take control. The machine beeped and spit out what looked like a receipt, and the nurse whisked it away. Having stripped off every nonessential piece of clothing I owned (remember it weighs at least 5 pounds), I got dressed again and waited for the bad news. And there were the words I longed to read: Within Normal Range. What? I questioned the nurse about this all the way to the exam room, and then I questioned the doctor. I have never been normal about anything. How could I be Within Normal Range? We talked percentages and what a BMI (body mass index) was and how mine was—I'll say it again: Within Normal Range. I asked for a copy of this important document, and I stuffed it into my purse. In my opinion, this was better than a diploma. Could everything that I had been doing actually be working? There are so many people to thank. I smiled all the way to the car and celebrated with a whole box of Fig Newtons. Bring on Thanksgiving; Christmas and New Year I'll take your cookie plates and leftovers. I will, for once in my life, enjoy the holidays without being worried about my “bottom line.” Who knew that this year my resolution would be to give myself more credit? Let's hope the credit lasts until the next doctor's visit.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year Patagonia.

Thanks for reading.

Gringo Guinea
By Geraldine Boling

One morning some time ago the whole neighborhood awakened to the most horrifying din of the singing (if you could call it that) and squawking of 11 guinea hens who were marauding around our neighborhood. They commenced to eat every insect they could find. The guineas belonged to neighbors who had mistakenly thought that they could let the hens out and that they would return as chickens do. No way! The hens were now forever free! Free to roam and pillage all manner of insects. Free to die at the paws of coyotes, bobcats, and house cats. Not to mention dogs and guns.

It took about six months for them to disappear. Except for “Miss Gringo Guinea.” She sleeps in our woodshed or in a tall, fat juniper. Of course, she is lonely—she spends a good deal of time with quail under and around a big twig pile. We throw out seed for her, and she begs everywhere, to everyone, for more. People ask, “Whose weird bird is that? She poops all over my porch.” She poops on mine, too. Why does she poop on peoples’ porches? I thought about this for several weeks. Was she looking at the people inside the glass doors or at our dogs as she paraded back and forth? I finally realized that she was looking at her own reflection, probably thinking it was another guinea.

She has lasted about two years, all alone except for her quail friends. I watched a hawk chase her into a thicket; she survived, minus some feathers. Now it is fall; many ravens have returned to pass the winter. They chase her and take her food, but they will move up the road soon.

She is funny looking, going all around the neighborhood with her beautiful, checked, black and white feathers. She takes dust baths—fluffing, expanding, and shaking her feathers as if saying “See how lovely I am.” In the evening she comes to sit on a tree bough or on a fence to sing and squawk, hoping for food. I call back to her and she comes running for her seed.

If you walk up Gringo Road or on the hills or down the dry creek bed you might just see Gringo Guinea.
Warming Up The Cold Season by Jiling Lin

Here are two of my favorite cold season drinks to help warm you from the inside out: fire cider from the northeastern Appalachians and chai tea from India. Each drink has a basic set of ingredients, but, as with any good recipe, they gain character as you experiment with and personalize them.

Fire cider was given its name because of its spicy contents, usually infused in apple cider vinegar. Simply fill a glass jar with equal parts of chopped garlic, ginger, onions, horseradish, and cayenne or hot peppers. You can then add whatever herbs you may wish to infuse, such as bitters (e.g., burdock or dandelion root) or berries (e.g., jujube dates or manzanita berries). Just make sure that it's mostly the base ingredients, so that it's still spicy hot. Then, pack it all down with a fork and cover with raw apple cider vinegar, with an extra inch of vinegar above the herbs. You can also add raw honey for an antimicrobial, nutritive, and sweet boost. Let the mixture sit for two weeks, strain, then rebottle. Drink a shot glass full every day as a general circulatory stimulant, digestive stimulant, and cold-season immune tonic. You can also integrate fire cider into foods, such as salad dressing.

Taking the train all over India, I became accustomed to the sound of the chai vendor screaming, “Chai-ya, Chai-ya, Chai-ya!” in most towns I passed through. The basic ingredients of chai include cinnamon, cardamom, ginger, clove, and black pepper. All of these plants are energetically warming or circulatory stimulants, and digestive stimulants, too. I like to mix other herbs into my chai blends, depending on my desired herbal actions. Here’s one of my favorite recipes, developed by my friend and fellow herbalist Lauren Stauber. This blend includes relaxing and uplifting rose, decadent and sensual cacao, and anti-inflammatory turmeric, for an antioxidant, circulatory stimulating, digestive, and delicious chai blend. Ingredient amounts are given proportionally.

**Cacao Turmeric Rose Chai**
- rose petals 1 part
- cacao nibs 1 part
- cinnamon 1 part
- ginger 1/2–1 part to taste
- licorice 1/2–1 part to taste
- cardamom pod, crushed 1/8 part
- clove 1/8 part
- black pepper 1/8 part
- nutmeg (optional)
- turmeric powder, add 1/4–1/2 tsp. per tbsp. of herbs

Simmer 1 tablespoon of herbs plus the turmeric in 1 cup of liquid. I like 1/2 water, 1/2 fatty milk. Dairy or nondairy milk works fine, but this tea needs some fat to be most effective. With less fatty milks, such as rice or almond, add a dollop of coconut oil or ghee. Simmer on a low flame for 10–20 minutes, covered. Strain and sweeten with honey if desired. For stronger preparations, feel free to add more herbs per cup. The whole blend can also be ground up and used as a concentrated powdered chai. Enjoy staying warm through the cold season!

(You can purchase herbs directly from the Tucson Herb Shop or online from Mountain Rose Herbs (www.mountainroseherbs.com). I have some freshly gathered and dried rose petals for sale, as well.)

Email Jiling at LinJiling@gmail.com.

On The Difference Between A Pigeon And A Dove:

Pigeons
- Face down
- Peck the ground
Doves who forgot we could fly.

Chains of fear...
- Blankets of chains
We pull them close
- And close our eyes…
- Afraid of the dark
Still clutching
- We reach…
- Fingers blind and visions numbed
- We fall across velvet ropes
- Price of salvation: cost of admission
- And who do I make the check out to??

And from the plush, stain-resistant, Dupont red carpet, we follow (I was so grateful Jesus wrote in red—It *did* make him easier to follow.)

We wave
- We rant and rave
- We philosophize
- And proselytize
On what it is “to be”

Wagers placed
- In offering plates
Read between the lines
- And fill the space with conviction.

Pigeons
- Face down
- Peck the ground
Doves who forgot we could fly.

— Sarah Hines
Registration Opens For The Nogales Bike Classic

The Nogales Bicycle Classic, planned for March 1, is now open for registration. The event offers participants various self-paced rides designed for leisurely fun, as well as rides that offer the physical challenge demanded by serious cyclists.

All proceeds from this event will support Circles of Peace, a 501C3 non-profit agency. Circles of Peace serves Santa Cruz County residents by providing restorative justice programs to combat domestic violence, prevent teen substance abuse, and support those released pretrial through the Therapeutic Pretrial Justice Program. Circles of Peace is committed to advancing a holistic and culturally sensitive community-based approach to mending families in Santa Cruz County.

There will be a 114-mile ride, a 53-mile ride, and a 33-mile ride. A “Fund Ride” for children ages 12 years and younger will be held on the track field at Nogales High School from 8-10 a.m.

Road and mountain bikes are welcome to participate. Awards will be given to first, second and third place for the 33, 53 and 114-mile rides, male and female.

“Early Bird Registration” is now in progress at www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org until March 1, 2015. Registration fees are $65 for all rides. After March 1, all rides are $75 through March 27. All riders must pre-register online prior to the event. There is no “day of event” registration.

The Holiday Inn Express located at 850 West Shell Road is the official sponsoring hotel and is located next door to the event. The host hotel offers special discounted rates to guests riding in the Nogales Bicycle Classic. Call 520 281-2005 or email lacantara@cimahotels.com.

If your organization would like to sponsor this event, please contact: http://www.circlesofpeace.us.

Ed Schaefer is the owner of Better Bytes, a computer consulting service. www.better-bytes.com. He can be contacted at (520) 455-9269.

Are You In A Fog About The Cloud?

There have been numerous recent references to the “Cloud,” including its prominent role in one of this summer's movies, but does anyone really know what the Cloud is and what it does?

Fear not, as we attempt to give you a layman's crash course in all things cloud.

For years, most computer users have backed up their data to physical CDs, DVDs, flash drives, or external hard drives. All of these methods keep your data in your possession and, hopefully, in a secure location, on or off site.

Now, backing up to the internet, aka the Cloud, is a whole different world. Instead of your backed-up data staying on your computer, or in your possession, the data is sent to a backup service on the internet. These web services are touted to be secure and are a convenient way for many end users to back up their data. Convenience, unfortunately, comes at a price.

Once your data is loaded onto the Cloud, it is no longer in your personal possession. Instead, your data is actually residing on a stranger’s computer, and there is no iron-clad guarantee that it will remain protected from probing entities. This is an especially risky practice for professionals dealing with confidential customer data, such as accountants, doctors, or lawyers.

Just look at recent stories regarding nude photos of celebrities, sent from their iPhones to be stored on Apple’s iCloud. Some of these photos had been deleted by the victims, thinking the images would be forever gone; however, the photos were still accessible because they had never been deleted from the iCloud. Apple claims their security is adequate, but the reality provides a much different story.

Computer users access the internet through the “front door,” and what many may not understand is that there are “back doors” on every website that are accessible to hackers, government entities, and others. There are very few totally secure websites, so the danger of your data being hacked is a real possibility.

Bottom line is, if you have data that is sensitive in nature and that you believe should remain private, do not store it in the Cloud.

Ed Schaefer is the owner of Better Bytes, a computer consulting service. www.better-bytes.com. He can be contacted at (520) 455-9269.
Dear Reader,

This year, the Patagonia Regional Times celebrated five years of publication. After much debate we decided to move into the world of color printing, and we are pleased with the results. Many readers have agreed. We hope you are one of them.

In the past year, PRT has reported on mining issues, recycling, taxes, education, art, new businesses, water use, Community Pride Day, SCFPA’s new Concert Haul, the new Youth Center, speeding tickets, and roaming dogs. We now have a section dedicated to Sonoita/Elgin news, thanks to reporter John Fielding, and we have established a project with PUHS journalism students, giving them a section written by themselves. Our content continues to grow—putting us now at 32 pages (as compared with our early 12-page issues). Feedback from our readers suggests that PRT has become an important community resource.

As this year concludes, we must also face the loss of Walter Andrew, our publisher and founder, who recently resigned because of serious health problems. His absence leaves a big hole in our ranks. Walter’s enthusiasm, considerable skills, vision, and tenacity have kept us buoyed up through thick and thin. We miss him.

As we contemplate the changes that this year has brought, our board of directors remains very positive about the future of PRT. The generous donations we have received have allowed us to grow and improve. As many of you know, those donations, together with advertising revenue, are what allows us to cover our costs. Your financial support is critical to our continued success, and once a year we ask you to show your support for our efforts. Please take a few minutes to assess for yourself how much this community gains from a free monthly publication that gives its readers local news and features, a forum for opinion and commentary, and a showcase for local art—without pages of ad inserts. Your contributions let us know that we are making a difference to this community.

The PRT board of directors offers our sincere thanks to all who have donated to PRT.

With Our Sincere Thanks,

PRT Board of Directors
Katie Ballard
Susan Belt
Lynn Davison
Cassina Farley
Ann Katzenbach
Donna Reibslager

Enclosed is my contribution of $__________ in support of the Patagonia Regional Times

Please mail your check, payable to The Patagonia Regional Times, to:
P.O, Box 1073, Patagonia, AZ 85624

All donations are tax-deductible
Where to find the

**ANGEL TREE**
St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church has an Angel Tree, with children’s gift wishes. You can sign up to buy a gift or register to sponsor a child. Contact Estella Padilla at (520) 604-2247

**HOLIDAY BREAKFAST**
Sonoita Fire Station, on Hwy. 83 at the crossroads in Sonoita, will host a breakfast on Saturday, December 13, from 8 to 10 a.m. Tickets are $8.

**HOLIDAY CONCERT**
“The Promise of a King” at 3 p.m. on Dec. 21 in the church sanctuary. An organ prelude by Yvette Rehurek will begin at 2:45. Light refreshments will be served in Thurber Hall following the cantata.

**PCUMC CHOIR PRESENTATION**

**SONOITA BY STARLIGHT**
Sonoita vendors will be open late (8 p.m. or later) on Friday, December 5 for holiday shopping, with a campfire, prize drawings, and a visit from Santa, who will light the Sonoita Christmas tree in a ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

**MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS**
The Patagonia Woman Club’s annual bazaar and Christmas tree sale, at Cady Hall, November 28 - 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa stops to visit children, Nov. 30, noon to 2 p.m.

**COAT DRIVE**
The Sonoita Merchants Association is collecting new and used coats for families in need, through December 5. Coats should be brought to a participating shop: Cowgirl Flair, Skye Island Olives & Grapes, Sweet Ride, Desert Legacy, Sage Clinic, Buffalo Gals, High Noon Feed, Angel Wings Thrift & Gift, Stagecoach Bags, The Bulletin. Call Susan at 455-4762 for more info.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**
A community Christmas celebration combining choirs from 8 local churches will perform on December 14 at 3 p.m. at the Elgin School Gym. The choirs will be preceded by a Carol Sing and live nativity at 2:15, and will be followed by children’s luminaria and refreshments. For more info, call 455-5172.

**Patagonia Holiday Art Walk**
Local artists will exhibit at shops and other businesses throughout town. November 28 & 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. complimentary refreshments and strolling musicians.
HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE
Youth at the Patagonia Youth Center are offering holiday gift wrapping at the Center during ArtWalk (November 28 & 29), and on the following dates: Wednesday, 12/10, from 5 - 8 p.m., Saturday, 12/13 from 3 - 6 p.m., and Thursday, 12/18 from 5 - 7 p.m., at the Center, 277 McKeown Avenue, behind Ovens of Patagonia.

DONATIONS of wrapping paper, tissue, tape and ribbon would be much appreciated and can be dropped off at the Youth Center before November 28.

CHRISTMAS IN ELGIN
Fine Arts and Crafts Holiday Saturday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic Elgin Community Club, 475 Elgin Road. Over 30 vendors, bake sale, raffle drawings, music, and a roaring fire in our fireplace. Chili and corn bread will be available for lunch. Call Ginny at (520) 455-4641 for more information.

A PROCESSION OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE
Will be held from December 4 - December 11, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Richardson Park.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
"Aladdin", by Elgin School students, presented by Missoula Montana Children’s Theater Touring Group. December 13 at 6 p.m. at Elgin School Gym. Donations to Elgin School Canned Food drive are appreciated.

DUST OFF YOUR DANCING SHOES!
The Senior Citizens of Patagonia is having a 25th Anniversary Party to thank the community for their support. There will be music (live DJ), anniversary cake, and fun for all! Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Center.

DECK THE HALLS
Hops and Vines will host a holiday market on Saturday, November 29; Christmas music, cookie paintings, and local vendors. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 3450 Hwy. 82 in Sonoita. $20 entrance or $15 if you bring a toy for Casa de los Niños.

MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING
With the Santa Cruz Singers at Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church on Country Club Drive in Nogales on Sunday, December 12 at 4 p.m. The Singers will also sing Christmas Carols from different periods in history.

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Honoring Our Vets

Some 450 people gathered at the Elgin School on November 7 to celebrate Veterans Day. School Superintendent Christopher Bonn served as host for the program, which the Fort Huachuca 62nd Army Band opened with a selection of patriotic music, followed by the Posting of Colors by a Select Honor Guard, also from the Fort. The entire student body of Elgin Elementary School attended the celebration and sang patriotic songs under the direction of Director Gerald Brown.

American Legion Post 113 presented its annual awards to local children who won competitions in patriotic posters and essays. Elgin School students Addie Tomlinson, McKenzie Beyer, Cienna Beyer, and Kaydee Zerbel all received awards for their posters, and Brianna Young, Kaelyn Kueneman, Hannah Alexander, Wyatt Patterson, and Ryan Anderson won awards for patriotic essays.

Local veteran Wess Chambers introduced the featured speaker, retired Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Moisio. General Moisio spent 35 years in the Air Force and National Guard. His career included service in the Pentagon and at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. General Moisio praised the work of the 22 million vets now living in the U.S. He noted that the day we celebrate as Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day—established in 1918 after World War I—and was renamed in 1954. No matter what we call it, said the General, veterans deserve to be honored, wherever they are.

The Veterans Day Committee thanked the Arizona Borderland Democrats, Southern Arizona Republicans, and Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative for their generous support of Sonoita’s 18th annual celebration to honor our veterans.

Sonoita’s New Eatery

The new Vineyard Café of Sonoita features unpretentious breakfasts, such as build-it-yourself omelettes, and lunches made with salad produce provided by local growers and the restaurant’s own greenhouse. A canopy of old olive trees provides shade and intimacy to the outside dining patio.

The Café’s lunch menu includes burgers, burritos, salads, and sandwiches—with a “grab and go” deli case near the door for patrons who need to eat and run. Border Patrol, military, and police will be given a discount. Local beer and wines are offered.

The new dining establishment is owned and operated by local residents Jon Bollin and Jennifer Azevado. Azevado brings 25 years of fine dining experience to the job. Both partners are graduates of Buena High School in Sierra Vista.

The Vineyard Café is open Thursday to Monday, serving breakfast from 6 to 11 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located at 3252 Hwy. 82, at the Sonoita crossroads.
This Dentist Makes House Calls

Does your dentist make house calls? Gary Biggerstaff does, and he comes here from South Carolina every year to do so. Gary is a certified dental practitioner who visits Sonoita to clean and examine the teeth of horses belonging to local ranchers and riders.

Many years ago Gary realized that most animal vets did not know enough about the health of horses’ teeth. They were too rough on the animals and were too anxious to tranquilize them first. Gary went to horse dental school in Nebraska and learned that there was an easier way. He points out that horses can have the same dental problems as their owners. There is a possibility of TMJ pain when a horse’s upper and lower jaw overlap so that the animal cannot chew its feed properly. Like humans, horses can develop an abscessed tooth that might have to be removed. Cavities are another problem for horses that can be prevented by good dental hygiene. This dentist says owners must not neglect the teeth of young horses or they will see more dental problems when the animals grow older.

Gary first examines a horse’s teeth (see photo). After that he inserts a long-handled metal file and begins grinding and scrubbing the teeth to file down the sharp points that develop on the top of the teeth over time. When a horse chews with sharp teeth it can suffer deep cuts in its lips and mouth, resulting in poor diet and infected gums.

After treating more than 55 local horses, Gary moves on to do the same in some other state. But he leaves behind him a better understanding of good horse dental care that all his clients appreciate.

Charlie “Crash” Porter Tells His Story

I recently had the opportunity to talk with Sonoita resident Charlie “Crash” Porter and asked him how he got his nickname. This is what he told me.

Charlie grew up wanting to fly. At 17, during World War II, he signed up for the Navy Air Corps. After completing naval flight training, as a qualified dive bomber pilot, he was sent to the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point in Rhode Island and assigned to the carrier USS Philippine Sea, which was patrolling in the Mediterranean Sea. One day Charlie was on patrol in his Corsair, a single-seat fighter plane used as a bomber. There were 80 planes in the air from the carrier. When it was time for them to return to the carrier they all lined up and awaited their turn—the fighters were instructed to land first, then the torpedo bombers, and finally Charlie and his fellow pilots.

Standing on the deck was the Landing Signal Officer. He told the airborne pilots, “Anyone with less than 30 minutes of gas left please report in.” The light on Charlie’s gas gauge was flashing red, so he was told to cut in line and land. Charlie bailed his plane, looking out his canopy on a blue sky and a calm sea. With a 30 mph wind blowing down the deck to help him land, everything looked perfect.

But as he started to descend, he realized that he was too high and coming in too fast. There were 11 steel cables stretched across the deck for the plane’s tail hook to grab onto to stop him. If they didn’t work, behind them was a steel fence. Called the barrier, it was the last thing on deck to stop the plane before it crashed into a group of parked planes at the end of the carrier.

Charlie missed all the cables. Nothing left but the barrier. The runway was 880 feet long. He was going 100 miles an hour. Charlie hit the barrier fence, and it flew up over the nose of the Corsair. The propeller tangled in the barrier, and the plane was thrown on its back. The cockpit crashed against the deck, and Charlie was trapped inside and upside down.

A hundred sailors rushed out and actually picked up the Corsair, while others in the group pulled Charlie from the wreck. He says, “Somebody pulled my arms, and someone else pulled my legs, and out I came in one piece instead of two.” Charlie walked away from the landing with injuries to his shins and a split helmet. (Pilots in those days wore leather hats, not hard flight helmets.)

Charlie recounts that Navy pilots called the Corsair airplane “an Ensign Eliminator.”

For every 1000th landing on this carrier the flight crew prepared a special dinner and had the chef bake a cake. Charlie’s was a 1000th landing. Having a sense of humor, the chef brought out a pineapple upside down cake. And that is how Charlie Porter got the nickname “Crash.”
One palpable joy of being a naturalist in southeastern Arizona is that our winters are so eclectic. The variability in December invertebrate activity generally trumps that of many other places in North America. The presence of any number of ectothermic species in what often can be a rather frigid month owes much to our nearly subtropical latitudes, as well as warmer nooks in the landscape. Add enough moisture and rather balmy temperatures, and our December diversity is decidedly decent!

During December, the lower elevations of the Sky Islands can play host to a number of lepidopterans—butterflies and moths. Generally speaking, moth diversity may be around 15 times that of butterflies in any one area. So, since about 334 butterflies have been recorded in Arizona, a rough estimate of our moth fauna is about 5,010 species! Noel McFarland in the Huachucas has documented 950 species of moths on his place alone—more than all of the butterfly species in North America! Unless you spend a lot of time outside after sunset, however, moths may elude you.

Not so a handful of butterfly species that may be active in December. Pipevine swallowtails will show up at any time of year, as their larval food plant—Aristolochia watsonii (Southwestern pipevine)—can possess leaves year-round. The bright orange-red caterpillars hide in plain sight, advertising their distastefulness to lurking predators such as birds. Touch one and you may be dabbed with a foul-smelling chemical from two tentacle-like organs behind the larva’s head—the osmeterium. As with the better-known coevolution of monarch butterflies and toxic milkweeds, the chemicals of the pipevine are sequestered within the flesh of the caterpillar and later the butterfly itself. If that were not enough to deter a predator, the pipevine swallowtail also flies erratically enough to minimize attacks. If a predator does attack, then it may aim at the butterfly’s fake posterior heads or tails. Look at enough adults of this species and you’ll certainly see individuals that survived bird predation attempts by losing their tails instead of their true heads.

Joining the pipevine swallowtails are dainty sulphurs, among our smallest butterflies. Most adults are approximately the size of my thumbnail. Given that the caterpillars of this species consume plants in the aster family, it is no great surprise to see them in December when this group of plants thrives in cooler temperatures. Interestingly, the summer and winter forms of the dainty sulphur can vary considerably in appearance. Summer butterflies show a pale yellow hindwing, whereas in winter it’s a dusky green. Perhaps darker winter forms absorb more heat. They also fly closer to the ground in winter.

The town of Nogales is a good place for December butterflies. Apparently, the combination of warm hills and flowering rosemary plants form a bit of a refugium for such species as southern dogface, pipevine swallowtail, cloudless sulphur, and eufala skipper. A short trip to Tucson and its warmer climes may well net you additional species.

Don’t overlook Patagonia itself, as warmer days may host a few butterflies. While you’re afoot seeking lepidopterans, keep an eye peeled for gray bird grasshoppers, tip-up beetles, spine-waisted ants, desert encrusting termites, and others that defy our normal impressions of winter.

Happy hunting! Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run Raven’s Way Wild Journeys. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.
While travelling through Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico on a ten-day motorcycle trip three summers ago, taking in some of our indigenous American history, we checked into a motel just south of Moab in the late afternoon.

As we got settled in to our room, my friend called me over to the window overlooking a field at the back of the building. There we saw a magical prairie dog colony. I was delighted as a little kid, watching the babies run and frolic, turning somersaults and racing off to one hole then popping up out of another! This was far better than anything one could find on TV.

Naturally, this experience inspired me to research these playful little fellows.

Prairie dogs are robust little rodents, the most social of the squirrel family. They have developed these social skills to enable them to live in large communities since there is some safety in numbers.

Their habitat covers the whole southwest of the U.S. plus parts of northern Mexico which is also home to many of their predators. These include: hawks, eagles, owls, ravens, badgers, bobcats, weasels, ferrets, snakes and humans, some of which hunt them right inside their own burrows, which are called “towns.” In the past, one colony is known to have been home to over a million dogs. Today their population has been diminished by 98% due to predators and disease. There are a few protected colonies now, thank goodness.

These many perils have caused the prairie dog to develop a very complex language. This allows them to not only warn the others of danger, but to specify which predator and even its exact features.

Their little towns include long tunnels with many exits and different rooms, including bathrooms, nurseries and food stores which are always being tended to and cleaned.

A typical family group usually consists of one male, four to five females and their offspring. The females often nurse each others’ babies. As the young ones mature, they move on and set up their own town, not far from their original town, to allow room for the newest youngsters to grow up.

I grew up in the northeast, where we had groundhogs, which are larger than the prairie dog and more solitary. They also live in burrows, but have single family burrows as opposed to towns and colonies. Seeing this group in the wild firsthand was a unique and treasured experience for me. I am happy that some are being protected so the species does not become extinct.

Cate Drown, certified Sumerel Therapy technician, specializing in equines, can be contacted at drown_cate@hotmail.com
Growing Native Plants for Ecosystem Health

By Molly McCormick

Native plants play important ecological roles in the health of our Sonoita Creek watershed. Native grasses provide food for species such as the rare Baird’s sparrow, as it overwinters in the grasslands. Milkweeds are essential for monarch and queen butterfly caterpillars; these butterflies won’t lay eggs on any other plants. The seeds of our oak trees provide food for many creatures, including the black bear.

The orange trumpet flowers of the desert honesuckle are an important food source for the 12 or so species of hummingbirds that spend time in our watershed. Sacaton, vine mesquite, and other grasses hold soils together when storm water threatens to wash everything downstream. All of these roles have been strengthened by thousands of years of interaction with critters and natural processes. This evolutionary mutualism helps make the ecosystem of our home resilient, better able to resist fire, flood, disease, climate change, human impact, and other environmental disturbances.

Plant diversity is an important factor in ecosystem health. Borderlands Restoration (BR) has a native plant propagation center, dedicated to producing more native plants for our watershed. The center is currently funded through a grant with the Bureau of Land Management, restoration projects, and plant sales.

Caleb Weaver heads a team of volunteers who collect and clean the seeds of native plants for use in the nursery. Kate Tirion produces native plant seed at her Deep Dirt Farm Institute. Greenhouse manager Francesca Claverie; staff members Anita Clovesco-Wharton and Andrea Stanley; and various volunteers grow plants by mixing soil, sowing seeds, preparing cuttings, transplanting seedlings to larger pots, managing pests, and daily watering.

The BR greenhouse has been growing! Last year we propagated 10,000 plants for use in restoration projects and plant sales. We are looking to double our production in 2015. Over the past year, we added weekly volunteer days, a shade structure to house “adolescent” plants, a new employee, and a contract with the National Park Service, and we collected more than 300 accessions of seeds.

Last winter, the BR greenhouse grew thousands of milkweeds for monarchs. The project with Southwest Monarch Study included 11 different species of milkweeds. We will continue to grow milkweed and currently have five species growing for next year. The nursery is propagating approximately 75 total species of native plants; that’s a lot of diversity!

Come help create a resilient watershed! Greenhouse volunteer Tuesdays are from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Contact Francesca at aclaver@gmail.com or phone her at (760) 996-0893. Seed cleaning at the seed lab is from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays. Be a part of a science project studying forage for Baird’s sparrows at the seed lab. Learn to identify seeds from 1 to 5 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: December 2, December 16, December 30, and January 13. Contact Caleb to RSVP: weaver.caleb@gmail.com or (860) 237-0381.

Stop by the Borderlands Trading Post on Third & McKeown for locally produced native plants, crafts, and herbal products. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-1; Friday and Saturday 10-3. Thanks for supporting local business!

Molly McCormick is the Restoration Project Manager/Outreach Specialist for Borderlands Restoration.

Patagonia Museum Plans Bus Tour to Mexico

By Herman Quiroga

The Patagonia Museum is currently planning a fundraising bus tour to Banamichi, Sonora. The tour will begin on Friday, February 27, and will return on Sunday, March 1. More details will be available as soon as all the terms are finalized.

On Friday, December 5, at 4 p.m., volunteers will gather for a Highway Cleanup. The Museum volunteers do cleanups every 90 days.

A monthly Lochiel Schoolhouse workday is planned, to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 6. The Museum will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 17, at 10:30 am.

For information about these events, or the regularly scheduled meetings please visit www.thepatagoniamuseum.org.
Patagonia Library now has a Seed Lending Library, to promote a local food supply and sustainable agriculture.

From the Friends of the Library:

This year, the Friends of the Library used your donations to help sponsor events during The Smithsonian’s Journey Stories, including a presentation by author Phil Caputo, who entertained us with stories from his latest book “The Longest Road”, about traveling and camping from Key West to the northern edge of Alaska. Most recently, local author Richard Collins spoke about what he experienced as he retraced the travels of Father Kino, from his book, “Riding Behind the Padre”.

Our latest project is Little Free Libraries, a world wide effort to put books in the hands of readers. The little libraries will be scattered around the area to encourage folks to “take a book and leave a book.” Funds raised by this project will be used to expand and revamp the library’s book sale space and to help pay for the library’s operating expenses.

Friends provides funds to purchase books, periodicals and other material as well and pays for the cost of keeping computers, copiers and other technology running and up to date.

Did you know that the library offers an Early Childhood Literacy Program? Or that you can download Ebooks or take practice exams through the Library website online?

What programs, presentations or services would YOU like to see the Friends provide? Your input—and your support—help make Patagonia Library a unique and vital service in our community.

Use the form included here, or visit our website at www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org to make a contribution. You can also email us at patagonialibraryfriends@gmail.com

We can not thank our supporters enough for their time, effort and financial contributions. We appreciate all you do.

Volunteers are the mainstay of the library

Caroline McIntosh, our longest active volunteer, has been with the Patagonia Library for 15 years. She has served on both the Library and Friends of the Library Boards.

Anastasia Lucero was one of several students who helped out at the book sale during Fall Festival.

Voices for Young Authors program allows children to write and illustrate their own books.
AN EYE FOR DETAIL

An exhibit of photographs by Michael Schwartz, a Patagonia resident for 15 years, was on display at the Gathering Grounds in November. Many of the 50-some images were taken during his travels to other parts of the world, including France, Vietnam, Thailand, Israel, and Africa. Schwartz says he is grateful to have had the opportunity to do a lot of traveling.

Whatever the location, the photos on display focused more on interesting details than on traditional “travel poster” scenes. Each was labeled with a short comment about the subject or how the photo came about. The photo shown below left is notable not only for its artful composition but also for the gestures and facial expressions revealed in the figures of the men as they converse. In the photo at right, the overhead view guides our eye to the lush display of produce being transported. And in the photo at top left, the view from above puts the viewer more intimately into the scene.

Schwartz says that he has always been drawn to photography, which, he adds, “helps me see.” Perhaps his comment relates to the fact that when we look through a viewfinder, our eye searches for what is visually meaningful and isolates it from the overwhelming amount of visual stimulus that surrounds it, allowing us to see it more clearly. Schwartz undoubtedly employs the same skill for culling meaningful detail from a mass image in his day job at Tenagra Observatory, where he works as an astronomer.
By Lynn Davison

Sometimes you just have to take a flyer. This summer, Judy and I signed on for an REI trip from Fairbanks to Deadhorse, 500 miles on the Dalton Highway in the Alaskan Arctic. We violated a long-held belief—don’t take a tour; that’s what other, less adventurous people do. Our risk was rewarded; it was a great adventure from beginning to end.

Picture a group of nine 60-somethings jammed into a van with two guides, a basil plant named Hazel, and supplies for a 10-day camping adventure. We nine adventurers had our cameras, sleeping bags, bug nets, rain coats, and Scotch. (One person also brought a case of Diet Pepsi!) The two guides had our tents, food, bear spray, and knowledge of where we were going and what we might find along the way.

Following a 150-mile drive, interrupted by a beautiful hike through mushroom-dotted tundra, we arrived at Manley Hot springs. The place was muddy and buggy. We set up camp for the first time, explored the local terrain, and with some trepidation awaited dinner. Bonanza!!!

We had the first of nine absolutely incredible dinners cooked in a Dutch oven over an open fire by Steve, our chef de cuisine for the trip. He was, in addition to being a wilderness guide and a concert cellist, a professional chef, certified by the American Culinary Institute. This night’s repast featured a fabulous fresh halibut stew. After an equally excellent breakfast we traveled to the home of a famous mushing family, the Redingtons, who are well known for breeding sled dogs, organizing the first Iditarod race, and successfully summiting Mt. McKinley with a sled dog team. All these accomplishments were nothing compared with raising a family where the temperatures in the winter average 40 below zero, the dark surrounds you 20 hours a day, and you have only three neighbors within a 100-mile radius. After the inspirational Redingtons, it was an afternoon canoe paddle down a lovely slough, another great meal, and a visit to the best hot springs I have ever encountered.

After the first couple of days, the trip settled into a familiar pattern. We drove the Dalton Highway north, hiked on the tundra, told tall tales over a nightly campfire, all primed by fine food, drink, and company. We camped at Marion Creek near Coldfoot and at Galbraith Lakes just beyond Atigun Pass, did the limbo in celebration of crossing the Arctic Circle, spent one night in a man camp in Deadhorse, toured the drilling rigs at Prudhoe Bay, and put our fingers and toes in the Arctic Ocean.

Along the way we visited Jack Reakoff, a third-generation Alaskan who fished, trapped, and grew wonderful vegetables in Wiseman, Alaska, the northernmost garden in the U.S. As if subsistence living were not enough, Jack is also an advisor to the University of Alaska on plants and animals of the tundra. Another detour off the Dalton Highway was a flight from Coldfoot through the Brooks Range to the Native Alaskan village of Anuktuvuk Pass. The flight was stunning and the destination equally remarkable. We spent an evening with two community members who shared stories of their life in the Arctic village that had become the permanent home of their formerly nomadic Eskimo tribe. Our return flight was after midnight, and the sun had not yet set.

Our last night in the mountains was graced with a spectacular moonrise and a saxophone concert by guide Jeff. The beauty of that night had an even greater impact when compared with our final night stay in Deadhorse, the home of the Prudhoe Bay workforce. Imagine several thousand people living in converted cargo containers parked in the dark and frozen Arctic landscape. The oilfields and the pipeline, which we had traveled for 500 miles, are the lifeblood of the Alaskan economy. The Dalton Highway, built to allow construction of the pipeline, changed everything for those Alaskans who live north of Fairbanks. It’s the only north-south road for 800 miles. It brought better access to supplies, but also a lot more people. The road now brings trophy hunters from the lower 48. Jack Reakoff told us the story of sport hunters killing the female caribou who lead the herds during migration. These matriarchs are the only ones who know the migration routes and are always spared by Alaskans who depend on their annual return for food and clothing.

And that story demonstrates the best of our trip. It was not the food, or the scenery, or the beautiful colors of the tundra, or the amazing sightings of bear, moose, caribou, musk ox, Dall sheep, and snowy owls, or the camaraderie of our group, or the skill and humor of our guides, although these were all great. It was gaining an understanding of what it means to live in one of the harshest, most unforgiving, and most beautiful places on the planet.
The weekend before Halloween, a select few seniors and juniors across Santa Cruz County attended the AGUILA Youth Leadership Tour. Amongst the many students that attended the tour, were two of our local Patagonia students. Savannah Foster, the school’s student council president and yours truly. The tour allowed the students, numbering around 40 in total, to visit and explore eight different colleges from Arizona to Texas.

AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute was first formed in Arizona in 2004 and since then has assisted 800 students in enrolling in 78 different colleges across the nation. The ultimate goal for AGUILA, and for those who both work and volunteer for the program is to see success, academic excellence, and overall achievement in each participant.

The AGUILA tour was a wonderful experience that made everyone who went aware of what to expect when applying for college and what it was like to attend one. The program also informed the students about scholarships. Savannah said of the tour, “It was a great opportunity for students. I know that it will widen my views on colleges in general.”

Speaking for myself, I found the tour was a delightful experience. Being able to tour and see college life that students go through every day and all of the classes that the different universities offer was an experience that I won’t soon forget. It widened my outlook about colleges in general and motivated me to pursue my dream career. I now plan on taking the ACT and SAT and applying for scholarships over the course of the year.

Juniors, Seniors, and returning alumni bust a move at the Halloween Carnival
The PUHS Theater Department presented *The Nutcracker Suite* on November 14 in the high school multipurpose room. A beautiful mix of dances that the students created themselves, with the help of director Augusta Lucas, wove together the tale of a young girl named Clara and her journey into a magical kingdom filled with sweets! The cast included Alia Gutierrez, as Clara; Daniel Schrimpf as the Nutcracker Prince and Savannah Foster, who played both Clara’s mother and the Snow Queen. Mrs. Elvia Gallaher and her kindergarten class performed as Mother Ginger and her six tiny Polichinelles.

**A Ghoulish Good Time**

*By Chris Ortega*

This year the junior and senior class held a Halloween Carnival on October 31 in the school’s multipurpose room. The carnival included a haunted house, multiple games like bean bag toss, toilet toss, basketball shot, ring toss and more. There was a haunted house on the stage and was said to be one of the “scariest haunted houses ever!” by several young guests. There was also space for face painting, a guessing box, a cupcake walk, and a hula-hoop competition. The seniors/juniors also sold concessions.

There were about 50 kids all dressed in costumes. The juniors and seniors held a costume contest with winners in three age groups. About 50 kids were there. They played all the different games, and from what I saw, the bag toss and Nerf shoot were the most popular. The haunted house turned out to be a big success. It featured most of the helping a juniors and seniors popping out and scaring kids.

The guessing box was popular. Kids had to put their hands in and guess what they were touching, You could see that “yuck” look on their faces. The choices were guts, monster blood, skin, fingers, and eyes.

Amaya Somoza won the best costume for age 0 to 5, David Cabrerra and Natalie Cooper won for age 6-11 and Jose Perez and Dawn Novack won the teen division.

**Basketball Preview**

*By Guadalupe Bueras*

The PUHS girls and boys basketball has just tipped off with their first practice on Monday. The boy's basketball teams have a wide range of 17 players and the girls have ten. The boy's team is looking certain to have a JV and varsity team. The girl's team might not have a junior varsity, but is filling up a varsity team for sure.

This year's coach for the boys will be Kenny Hayes who has coached basketball for eight years. Luke Bentley will be his assistant. Coach Ralph Padilla who has coached for more than 19 years will work with the girls' team assisted by Coach Stephanie Padilla. When asked how the season will be, Coach Hayes said, “I never go into the season with expectations, but I do want us to work hard and have better defense.” The girl's basketball team made it to the second round in the state tournament last year, but this season Coach Padilla says, “I'm expecting to go to state again this year and winning it.”

The first game will be on Tuesday, December 2 at home against the St. David Tigers. So come and support these two teams.

**Chess Practice Continues**

*By Chris Whitcoes*

Gilbert Melanson, coach of the PUHS Chess Team, tells his players, “Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece.” This year’s chess team: Illiana Castro, Garrett Fish, Danny Schrimpf, Kelsey Norton, and Calvin Whitcoe took this advise to heart and just barely missed making the state chess finals.

At the start of the season, the team traveled all across southern Arizona, finally playing at home on October 4. Now, even with the season behind them, many players are working on improving their games. Chess practice is open to anyone during lunch. This might be team members or beginners. The players can eat lunch and call "checkmate" at the same time. Chess is not only fun, it is a good thing to do during lunch, and some of these beginners will end up on next year's team.
### meetings

**The Patagonia Museum** - Regular meetings w/topics including local history; highway cleanups every 90 days, & monthly workdays at Lochiel Schoolhouse. For more info, visit [www.thepatagoniamuseum.org](http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org)

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

**Al-Anon** - 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.

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

**Patagonia Town Council** - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

**Rotary Club** - 1st Thursdays, 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua winery, 6 p.m. For info: (520) 907-5829

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

**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 Polly Lightner at (520) 732-0453.

**Open Tennis** - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 5 p.m., Sat. at 8 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973


**Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club** - contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.

### events

**December 4: Exhibit by Lee Katzenbach**
Opens at the Gathering Grounds with a reception from 5 - 7 p.m.

**December 6: Dance at The Senior Center**
The Sr. Ctr. Will celebrate 25 years with music by a DJ, beginning at 6 p.m.; No fee for admission
(see holiday events on page 16 and 17)

**community services**

**Lunch for Seniors** - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Community Center. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Thursday Special!

**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.

**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, 3:30-5 p.m. $3- 5 suggested donation. Call Cassina @ 394-9369 for info.

**Adult hand-building ceramics classes** - Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. $65 for 4 classes. Call Martha Kelly @ 604-0300

**Bikram Yoga** - Patagonia; call 520-604-7283.

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

**Patagonia Lake State Park**
Bird Walks Mondays and Fridays at 9: a.m. Free after admission to Park. Meet at east end of Campground.

Avian Boat Tours of Patagonia Lake on Saturdays and Sundays at 9 and 10:15 a.m.

Lake Discovery Tours at 11:30 AM.

Twilight Tours on Saturday evenings. Reservations Required. Call Visitor Center 520-287-2791 to reserve and to find out time of departure for Twilight Tour. Cost: $5 per person per tour.

The Visitor Center hours are 8:30 – 4 p.m. Thursdays-Monday; the Visitor Center is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Junior Ranger Activities on Saturdays at 2 p.m. at the Visitor Center.

First Day Hike: Join our volunteers & staff .for a Petroglyph Site Hike across the lake (some rock-scrambling required). Wear sturdy shoes; bring water, and perhaps a walking stick. Call to register at 520.287.2791. Thursday, January 1 at 9:00 am meet at Visitor Center.

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**Herbal Medicine Classes** - at the Borderlands Retail Space. 1st Saturday of each month, 1-3 PM. Opening celebration Nov. 1. Call Jiling (626) 344-9140.

**Bikram Yoga** - Patagonia; call 520-604-7283.

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

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McCARTHY LANE ~ NEARBY WINERIES
$349,000, 20 acre Elgin homestead w/1,809sf 2Be/2Ba/2G family home + a very substantial 2,800sf Utility building suitable for innumerable uses. Gorgeous grassland setting w/exceptional 360 views; 10 minutes from Sonoita. Private Well; good roads; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21426399

CENTRAL SONOITA HOME ON 3.16 ACRES
$269,500, dramatic views + easy access to Sonoita's crossroads & Elgin's wineries. 2,409sf custom home w/3Be/2Ba/2G; vaulted ceilings & pigmented concrete floors t/o. Energy-efficient construction w/wrap-around porches; strong private Well; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21409806

ELGIN FAMILY HOME ON 12.69 ACRES
$449,000, Shady Lane (off Lower Elgin Rd) w/surrounding wineries & sweeping 360 views. 2,784sf custom quality Insulated Concrete Form construction w/3Be/2Ba + attached 1Be/1Ba Guest Qtrs, 2carG. High ceilings t/o; shared Well & Pond; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21424660

PATAGONIA ADOBE RANCH HOUSE
$379,900, vintage 1920's adobe on 2.27ac w/regional charm & details. Beautifully updated 2,100sf w/2Be/Study/2Ba + 2 Studio Apts. Walled garden & lush grounds. Adjacent to the Audubon Society & Nature Conservancy ~ B&B/ or birder's retreat potential. TAR/MLS#21406410

ADOBE & RASTRA CONTEMPORARY
$274,000, Architect-designed w/exceptional attention to detail & quality. Soaring ceilings; custom cabinets; beautiful o/s windows/sliders for in & outdoor living. Fully walled for privacy; auto & pedestrian gates; lovely garden areas & desirable in-Patagonia setting. TAR/MLS#21414334

PAPAGO SPRINGS COTTAGE
$194,500, 1,361sf 2Be/1.75Ba contemporary w/high ceilings, in the lushly wooded Sonoita foothills. Enjoy unobstructed Mt. Wrightson views & dazzling sunsets from the covered porch + surrounding Oak grassland & nearby Natl Forest ~ ideal for adventuring. TAR/MLS#21122918

LAKE PATAGONIA HILLTOP HOME
$275,500, Near the Lake + extraordinary 360 views. 2,056sf custom quality home on 4.13ac w/2Be/3Ba/2 Living. 30x10' screened AZ Rm is a huge bonus. Detached RV & boat storage; walled garden, fenced grounds w/elec gate. A fabulous value! TAR/MLS#21406410

VINTAGE PATAGONIA TERRITORIAL
$320,000, beautifully reconceived & restored 1,100sf 2Be/1.5Ba w/dazzling details, charm & quality t/o. Separate (new) 533sf Studio/WkShop + a small bonus bldg & 2-car carport, on 1/4ac in the heart of town; city water/sewer + 2 Wells. A must-see, turn-key opportunity. TAR/MLS#21426811

HORSE PROPERTY W/FABULOUS RIDEOUT
$199,500, North of Sonoita, surrounded by Las Cienegas Natl Conservation Area & Historic Empire Ranch. Gorgeous views! Beautifully maintained 1,456sf home w/3Be/2Ba split-plan; GrtRm w/Living-Dining-Kitchen; high ceilings t/o. Excellent horse facilities. TAR/MLS#21404767

PRISTINE PAPAGO SPRINGS REGIONAL
$269,500, 1,731sf split-plan Santa Fe w/3Be/2Ba/2G whi/h ceilings, Viga beams & corner Kiva FP. Ceiling fans & skylights; tile floors in living areas. New appliances & ADT system; convenient circular drive; fully fenced + outdoor storage & new plantings. TAR/MLS#21332942

PRAIRIE SPRINGS RANCH
$379,900, 11.25ac w/dramatic views + easy access to historic Patagonia & Sonoita. 2,100sf custom quality 11.25ac w/3Be/2Ba/2G; vaulted ceilings & pigmented concrete floors t/o. Energy-efficient construction w/wrap-around porches; strong private Well; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21406410

RAMMED EARTH TERRITORIAL
$539,000, 2 handsome homes in a 3 acre, richly wooded Papago Springs setting. 2,247sf Main House w/3Be/3Ba/Office + 1.51sf Guest House w/1+Be/2Ba/Living & Family Rooms & 2-car Garage. Soaring ceilings; wonderful quality t/o; excellent family home. TAR/MLS#21429361

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So. AZ Paddlers Club Gathers For The Sake of The Lake

Every fall for 16 years—and again in the spring—The Southern Arizona Paddlers Club working in partnership with the park service circumnavigates Lake Patagonia’s shoreline in its “For the Sake of the Lake” shore clean up.

This activity has proven a boon to the park service over the years because the kayaks can maneuver about in small spaces and get to shoreline that larger boats can’t access. Also, this group of boaters serves as an extension to the park’s staff, already carrying a full work load.

Royce Davenport, long time member of the group, and organizer of the event, stated that of the club’s many activities, the Patagonia cleanup which takes place twice a year is the most popular among its members. Davenport has seen a real change for the good as the trash load lightens each year.

The group welcomes new members. If you would like to know more about this group and their activities go to their via their Face Book site: Southern Arizona Paddlers Club  https://www.facebook.com/SoAzPaddlersClub
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SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH. All appliances, W & D, front & back yards. Walk to Sonoita crossroads. $900/mo. 520-400-2949.

SUNNY PRIVATE 1 BD/1 BTH VACATION RENTAL right in town. Kitchenette, priv. entrance. Seasonal Spcs. Claire:520.303.1475, or CasitaEncanta.com

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Are you a certified caregiver or CNA? Patagonia Assisted Care is now accepting applications for employment. Please call 520-604-8179.

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STORAGE - need more space for your antiques, car, family treasures? Monthly4re rental - 5x10,10x10, 10x20; call Ginny 520-455-9333 or 455-4641.
SONOITA SELF STORAGE

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

From The PRT Board 2014
31 Cross Creek

Just reduced! This 2 BR 2 BA, custom 2200 sq ft. Santa Fe home is within walking distance of Patagonia. Spacious and open. Luxurious master BR & BA. Chef's dream kitchen. Barn, plenty of turnout room, a seasonal creek on 28 acres! MLS# 21429546 $514,500

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San Rafael Valley Hideaway

IMAGINE OWNING YOUR OWN CREEK!! Custom home off the grid on 17.62 ac, surrounded by Nat. Forest. On a tributary of Parker Creek w/ year around water. Wood stove, Mexican tile, 2BD/1.5 Ba, 2 car garage, AZ room. Custom built in 2000 . MLS# 21422976 $425,000

JEAN MILLER
520 508-3335

275 S. 4th Avenue

PATAGONIA GEM! Amazing remodel of this old adobe home with everything done to the highest standards. Enclosed porch, living rm. Den, super kitchen, laundry room, covered ceilings, tiled patio, great location extra space for RV or even a Casita. MLS # 21417693. $269,900.

JEFF EVANS
520 841-4611

Custom Home in The Mesa

PRICE REDUCED ON THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME! 1930 SQ FT of luxury w/ commanding views. Liv rm w/ beehive fireplace, family rm, gorgeous kitchen/dining area w/15' beamed ceilings. Wooden doors, Mexican tile, Anderson windows, & hand painted wall finishes. MLS # 21416335 $475,000.

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