"We Will Not Patronize Your Store"

Demonstrators on site of the proposed Dollar General store at Sonoita Crossroads, Saturday, Nov. 19.
In our November issue, PRT incorrectly stated the eligible age for participation in the Federal Lunch Program to be 65 (“Meet the Senior Center’s New Director.”) The correct age is 60. Our apologies to Heather Dodge and the Senior Lunch Program.

Montoy Thanks his Supporters

I would like to thank everyone who supported and helped me on my campaign trail. I would especially like to thank my mother for everything she does for me, running the gas station while I was out campaigning. Our county and town were very supportive of me. I am so grateful to live in such a wonderful place. Thank you again to my committee, to our town and to the people of Santa Cruz County. Thank you to everyone who helped out financially.

Your Friend, Charlie Montoy
Sonoita Residents Rally Against Dollar General
by Robert Dorney

A donkey draped with the slogan, “I Only Shop at Mom & Pops” was at the Sonoita crossroads on Saturday morning, Nov. 19, along with nearly a hundred other demonstrators on foot and on horseback. They chanted, “No Dollar General!” and “Buy Local!” as they marched outside the chain link fence surrounding the construction site of the chain store’s proposed 9,100 square foot building on the northeast corner of the intersection.

Protests and a petition drive had begun in earnest on a windy election day, Nov. 8. The demolition of the old Long Realty building blew clouds of dust and shreds of pink insulation to the west and north, a cold slap in the face to petitioners at a table located outside the fire station. “It’s really horrifying isn’t it,” said Judy Schofield, looking at the corner location as she began collecting signatures at 10 a.m. A voter walking into the polling station at the firehouse, Scott McDaniel, had already signed a petition at one of the local stores, but wondered, “Is that really going to work since they tore that building down?”

Over at the Elgin Community Club, Ann Buhl began her stint of collecting petition signatures outside the polling station at 10 a.m. Buhl was at the first meeting of angry residents on Nov. 5, after construction equipment appeared on the site. She described the organizing meeting as passionate. “I think it is fabulous we have a very strong community trying to keep our town (Sonoita-Elgin) quaint.”

On Thursday afternoon, Nov. 10, members of the Dollar Store opposition gathered at The Steak Out Restaurant. They approved a letter to the CEO of Dollar General written by James G. Small, to be attached to petitions with more than 700 signatures (the number of signers exceeded one thousand later in the month). The letter essentially said that the community would not patronize the store. “It will not be commercially viable. It will fail.” Small had spoken out earlier about the store’s proposed location being on State Route 83, a designated scenic highway. “This would be like putting a chain store on the Blue Ridge Parkway,” he said at the first meeting. “It will outrage many people.”

Jesse Drake, Santa Cruz County’s director of community development, attended the Nov. 10 meeting and said Dollar General has agreed to reduced signage and all signage lights will be turned off after closing at 10 p.m. Drake also encouraged the local residents to create a committee to review future building plans. She said it was possible for an unincorporated area to create design guidelines for commercial areas. While the present construction may be grandfathered in, Drake said it is possible for the community to prohibit other national chain stores if it has proper regulations in place.

The largest community meeting took place Nov. 16 in Pioneer Hall at the Santa Cruz Coun-

AMI Withdraws Request to Drill On Forest Service Land
PRT Staff

According to the US Forest Service (USFS) website, Arizona Mining Inc. has withdrawn their request to expand exploratory drilling onto Forest Service land. That request was the subject of public comments sent in to the USFS by many local residents a few months ago. The PRT learned of this development just before going to press, and we expect to know more about the reason for AMI’s withdrawal, and to report on it, in our next issue.

Photo by Teagan Kaley
A gathering of concerned citizens meet at the Steak Out on Nov. 5.

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An idea hatched in Fayetteville, Arkansas has made its way to Patagonia, Arizona. On Nov. 16, Patagonia's first Little Free Pantry (LFP) was stocked and opened. Its purpose is to give a hand to households in the community that really have to stretch their food budget, and could benefit from readily accessible canned goods or other nonperishables.

The lady in Fayetteville who recognized this need borrowed the idea of the Little Free Library and installed the first Little Free Pantry in May of 2016, stocking it with food and household items rather than books.

Patagonia’s Food Bank is also a good source of food items for needy households, but it is only open one day per month for a few hours. The Food Bank and the Seventh Day Adventist Church that houses it agreed that a LFP would be a great addition to existing services. Darlene Hilgeman, together with Steve and Nancy Coyote, oversaw the project. Steve built the pantry and installed it on the church building next to the door to the Food Bank.

Patagonia’s LFP is dedicated to Gage Best, who volunteered at the Food Bank for 16 years and passed away last July, and to Darlene Hilgeman, who continues to contribute her time there.

Anyone who needs food or household items such as paper towels, sponges, storage containers and the like, is welcome to take what they need from the LFP. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone who has extra non-perishable food or non-toxic household items is welcome to donate directly into the Pantry.

In addition to the LFP, there will soon be an accessibility ramp installed from the sidewalk to the edge of the church’s porch. For more information about the Little Free Pantry movement see www.littlefreepantry.org

Striking T-shirt Supports Protest at Standing Rock
by Ann Katzenbach

Julius Badoni is a Navajo environmentalist, social activist and artist who has been working at Native Seeds/SEARCH in Patagonia for the past six months. On his blogspot, he writes, “I believe in educating and unifying people through my art. My ancestors were critical thinkers, eclectics, and always had an ‘Interdisciplinary’ approach. They inspire me every day to take my ‘art’ to the next level.”

He has designed a T-shirt to help support the protest at Standing Rock, North Dakota. The turquoise ink on a black background depicts the sky, crops, a native farmer, animals, and, just below the clouds, the Navajo sign for rain. It’s a striking shirt, available at Global Arts for a $25 donation. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go to support the protest. The other 25% will be invested in printing more shirts.

The Lending Shed
provides wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, crutches, shower benches, toilet lifts, mobile commodes, incontinence supplies and much more
Free of charge to Patagonia, Elgin & Sonoita residents

A nonprofit community project sponsored by Family Healthcare Amigos
(520) 256-7213  (520) 297-7065
Patagonia residents hearing a scream of sirens just after sundown on Nov. 11 may have wondered what all the fuss was about. Problem was, I drove off the side of a mountain when forced off the road by a pack of javelina huddled in the middle of Highway 82. What happened next was my sunshine yellow VW Beetle spun around and flew off the highway.

It was an eerie sensation—careening downwards into a dark, rocky, wooded oblivion. Trees and branches flying past. Rocks and dirt hitting the windows. Broken glass and thick dust filling the space around me.

When the car finally plunged to a stop, my seat was flipped backwards. Dirt covered my eyelids, face and hands. Glass littered the seats. Lifting my head and peering into the headlights, I could see that my earlier perception of heading front-first down the mountain had changed—now the front of my VW faced uphill.

Relieved that help was on the way, I had a strong sense of needing to get out of the car and up to the road. Surrounded by trees and boulders, I knew no one would be able to spot my vehicle because I could not even see the top of the hill. So I channeled a surge of strength, kicked the car door open and crawled out. Activating my phone flashlight, I began crawling up the steep hill on my hands and knees—wearing high-heeled ankle boots and a tie-dyed dress.

Elated to reach the top, I spotted the highway. There in the distance, our “Welcome to Patagonia” road sign beamed in the headlights of a passing truck. Almost immediately, there was Adrienne, inching along the highway, calling my name. We didn’t have to wait long in her car before the darkness was illuminated by the light bars of responding vehicles from the Highway Patrol Division of Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Patagonia Marshal’s Office, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, and the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District.

As a tow truck was summoned and paramedics checked my pulse, State Trooper Mark Enciso advised me that rather than trying to avoid hitting wild animals in the road, it’s safer to just run them over. Deputy Ron Davis of the Patagonia Marshal’s Office remarked that it was miraculous I walked (actually, climbed) away unharmed. He said the typical scenario is that when a car flies off the road, it rolls over several times and the driver is trapped inside. Somehow, when my VW went over the edge, it spun around, rolled backwards and landed straight up atop a large rock. Curious, too, that the tow truck driver said it appeared my VW suffered only minor damage.

So, as it turns out, I was happily saved by a rock. Apropos, considering the personal blog I began writing in 2014 is entitled “Happiness on the Rocks.” My personalized license plate is “HAPPYME” and the license plate holder reads, “Yep, I’m happy!”

Victoria Colette Reynolds can be followed on her hashtag #HappinessOnTheRocks.
Recreating the Scene:
Roundup at Empire Ranch

by Ali Morse

Weekend festivities for the 16th Annual Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House started with a bang on Friday evening, Nov. 4, with a well-attended steak fry and barn dance in the Ranch’s Adobe Haybarn. After dinner, the Lopez Band played Tohono O’odham “Waila” music—the O’odham word for dance and a hybrid music style combining polka, cumbia, and two-step, with a Native American twist.

Visitors began arriving before 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, some taking the horse-drawn wagon shuttle from the parking lot. While over 2,000 people meandered through plentiful exhibits and activities, military, horsemanship, and mounted shooting demonstrations took place in the main and field arenas.

There were ongoing demonstrations of classic ranching skills such as blacksmithing, leatherworking, chuck wagon cooking, Dutch oven cooking, bits and spurs, branding, reata braiding, and wood carving. Live music added to the festivities and the Old Pueblo Gunfighters kept busy teaching quick draw skills. Local organizations were on hand with a variety of ranch animals for up-close visits.

Attentive audiences filled the Cowboy Conversation venues to hear from a variety of speakers, from movie stuntmen to descendants of the Empire Ranch families. Bidding was brisk in the Adobe Haybarn for this year’s silent auction.

Western authors and the non-profit partners of the Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF) greeted visitors and shared information with everyone. The girls and parents of Sierra Vista Girl Scout Troops 104, 419, and 1224 lent a welcome hand throughout the day.

The Roundup and Open House would not be possible without contributions of the ERF’s presenters and volunteers, the BLM, and for the financial support of the Roundup sponsors and silent auction donors. Thanks to all who participated!
The year 2016 marks the 140th anniversary of the establishment of the Empire Ranch. This historic property began with the purchase of a 160-acre homestead north of present-day Sonoita by Walter Lennox Vail and Herbert R. Hislop. Letters written by both partners during the formative years of the Empire Ranch provide a fascinating view of the adventures and challenges they faced.

Walter Vail left his family home in Plainfield, New Jersey in mid-1875 to make his fortune in the American West. His first stop was Virginia City, Nevada where he worked as a timekeeper for a mine, but he wanted to become a rancher. He visited Tucson in late 1875 with Mr. McCartney (who was interested in partnering with Vail) to explore the possibilities: “I just returned yesterday from a trip in the country. I went out with Mr. Fish (a Tucson merchant and businessman) to look at a ranch that belongs to Mr. F that is about 50 miles south of Tucson, which brings it in the middle of a splendid grazing country that is covered with grass the whole season. Mr. Fish’s title only covers 160 acres but as he has all that water in his section of the country there is very little danger of anyone settling near there...” McCartney did not like Arizona, so Walter returned to Virginia City, “where I can make a living...”

Herbert Hislop hailed from England. He had met Walter’s uncle, Nathan Vail, in London and Nathan persuaded him to partner with Walter in a ranching venture in Arizona. Hislop arrived in New York on May 23, 1876. After seeing the sights, he and Nathan Vail “...journeyed on together to San Francisco which took us exactly 5 days and 5 nights constant travelling, sleeping all the time on the Pullman sleeping cars. You cannot form any idea what size America is until you begin to run on the railway which takes 7 days and 7 nights from New York to San Francisco.” On June 23, 1876 Vail and Hislop met and the partnership was formed. “Hislop seems like a very pleasant fellow, he is decidedly English... it won’t take long to naturalize him I think.” “I met Walter Vail my partner who is a very nice fellow and seems to be very sharp and quick, knowing what he is about...”

Back in Arizona, William Wakefield transferred the title for his 160-acre homestead claim (NE part of Section 18 of Township 19S, Range 17E) on June 20, 1876 to his brother-in-law, E. N. Fish for a fee of $500. This was the same property Vail visited in 1875 that Fish claimed to own. Fish’s granddaughter, Virginia Flaccus, provides an explanation in her oral history: “Grandfather, Edward Nye Fish, sent his brother-in-law, William Wakefield, out to homestead the Empire Ranch. Far be it from Grandpa to bother about that! Evidently Uncle Will did a lot of his footwork for him. Grandpa would put up the money, and then Uncle Will would go out and do it. And then after he had proven up on it, then Grandpa paid him off and he assumed ownership of the property.” The stage is set and the actors are in the wings. Read all about Walter and Herbert’s trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles and the first leg of their trip to Tucson next month.

Alison Bunting is a volunteer archivist/historian with the Empire Ranch Foundation and a new columnist for the PRT. Watch for upcoming installments covering the establishment of the ranch and other topics related to this iconic property.
Two Communities Honor Their Vets

Elgin Carries Forward a 20-Year Tradition
by Robert Dorney

The 20th Annual Elgin School Veterans Day Celebration, held Nov. 10, featured photos of more than 200 veterans and active duty members of all branches of service on a 49-foot-wide banner.

This year’s guest speaker, Major Daniel L. Kline of the U.S. Air Force, was introduced by Angela Brown, his older sister and a Navy veteran who is a fourth-grade teacher at the Elgin School. Major Kline grew up in southern Arizona, attending elementary and middle school at Fort Huachuca while both parents were serving in the army. Prior to his current position at Luke Air Force Base near Glendale, Arizona, Kline was commander of the 440th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron in Afghanistan. He gave a nod to his mother, who was in the audience, and to the memory of his father whose framed flag from Vietnam rested at the base of the speaker’s podium. “I am from a military family. I’ve never known life without the military,” he shared.

This time a year ago, Kline was just getting back from Afghanistan where he worked directly with the Afghan military and got to know their families. “I met a lot of great little kids,” said Kline. The Afghan children, if they got to go to school at all, would be taught in a home with a dirt floor. Kline’s squadron organized a drive to collect school supplies. He recalled a little boy who received only a #2 pencil after all the backpacks had been handed out. “He was stunned. I had just spun his whole world with a #2 pencil.” Kline said he would never forget what happened next. The little boy broke the pencil in half and, clutching a broken stub firmly in one hand, gave the other half to a child next to him. “He taught us something—he showed us what this flag is all about. It’s something you hold onto with everything you got but you also share,” said Kline. “That’s what veterans are all about. That’s why they raise their right hand and pledge their life. They understand how valuable it is and they share it with all of us.” Kline said ceremonies pass the democratic torch to children and future generations. “You’ve got to carry this forward,” he told the assembly in the gymnasium.

The subject of this year’s essay contest was “The America I Believe In.” The winners were: Aidan Bronstein (8th grade student), first place; Sophia Bergh (8th grade student), second place; Kyson Arnett (4th grade student), third place; and Rudy Granado (7th grade student), Honorable Mention. The essay contest was sponsored by American Legion Post 113.

This was the first year a digital component was required with the essay. Aidan Bronstein’s winning essay included a video of him reading the essay. In part, his essay read, “When I walk into my school every day and see that flag waving so majestically in the breeze, almost identically to the wavy, golden fields amongst it, all that I think about is the suffering of uniformed men and women alike... This is what America means to me.”

All the attending Veterans were asked to come up to the front, and received a hearty round of applause from the audience.
A crowd of over 100 packed the PUHS multipurpose room on Thursday, Nov. 10 to show their respect and gratitude for the service of nearly 50 local veterans. Photos of each were thoughtfully framed and hung on the walls with messages of love: “Welcome Veterans” and “Thank you for your service.” Interim Superintendent Robert Tollefson hosted the hour-long program that included several patriotic readings by elementary and secondary students. Music teacher Jason Schreiber recited the name, branch of the military, and years of service for each veteran as his or her photo was displayed during a slide show. The oldest veteran in attendance was 96-year-old Carlos Rivera who served in the Army during World War II.

Guest speaker Lt. Colonel Crawford came from Fort Huachuca to describe her unique story of how she unexpectedly joined the army. Following a moment of silence, Mr. Schreiber played the beautiful but solemn bugle call “Taps” on his trumpet. Alfredo Velasquez, Santa Cruz County Superintendent, invited the 35 veterans in attendance to come to the front of the room while the audience gave a standing ovation. After Velasquez offered his closing remarks, he shook every hand of the honored men at the front of the room.

A New Tradition Begins in Patagonia

by Ali Morse

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In some ways, Thump is right, of course: the system is screwed up and needs big change. Smooth-talking politicians run the game. The middle and the lower class are largely left to rot. And, like his darling Tea Party, Trunt draws in angry troglodytes whose chief credential is that they are pissed, with little notion of how what is wrong can be repaired, unless it’s with a bullet or a rope. Our every ill is blamed on liberals and immigrants, or those whose skin does not reflect the right amount of light. Oh, yeah. Yeah, right.

Trump’s genius, as a demagogue, has been to list the 80 flavors of our discontent. The ever-larger gulf between the workers and the rich is looming large. The playing field’s not level and we college grads, in general, can coast along more easily than those who earn a living with their hands. The American Dream, which is said to have died, consisted mostly of a chance to rise. In grandpa’s day, you could improve your lot by working hard. Less so today. Many Americans earn less—in “real dollars”—than they did 10 years ago. That gets their goat, as well it should. And, too, our hackles rise when we’re reminded of the filthy millions “earned” by Wall Street CEO’s and others of their parasitic ilk.

My Facebook “friends” (all liberals) display great dread since Donald won, foreseeing loss of everything they cherish and hold dear: the environment, the right to choose, respect for Charles Darwin’s theory—playing out amidst the melting ice and dirty air. Because Trunt sought support from those now dubbed “Deplorables”—misogynists, xenophobes and homophobes, the racists, white supremacists, and others who solicit fear and hate, my friends envision outright fascism, with burning crosses, swastikas, Jim Crow, pogroms, et cetera, as government-encouraged ways of life. To me, my Facebook friends seem slightly frantic and deranged. They weird me out. (The nightmare they foresee seems vaguely possible to me. We know these things have happened in the past, and may again.) I seem to have less patience with hysteria these days. So, when the caca hits the fan, I value those who face reality; who look the dragon in the eye, and reef the sails and bail the boat and do what can be done to keep our vessel off the rocks. The qualities of calm and strength are what we look for in the helmsmen on a stormy sea. Let’s all calm down, then wait and see, shall we?
Without getting into too much detail, I’m sure this past month has left you feeling one of two ways: terrified or vindicated. It’s been no great secret that these past 18 plus months have been the worst, and with nerves still on edge it’s down right impossible to have a differing opinion without it turning into a screaming match. It will be a difficult four years avoiding all of the conversation pitfalls and the potential minefields of adult communication, so I’ve come up with this handy little guide. Here’s a sample:

How to avoid talking about politics—a guide to cleverly changing the subject.

#1 Potential minefield, the random policy comment: “Man, am I glad they abolished The Affordable Care Act.”

Instead of focusing on the obvious, talk about how lucky you are to be comfortably monitoring your own skin growths and how you just bought a new full-length mirror to watch the changing color of the large growth on your back. Don’t forget to mention how the colors remind you of an Arizona sunset and then gracefully change the subject to Art.

#2 Terrifying Headlines: “Trade Deals erupt in He-Say-She-Say, China moves to invade USA.”

Instead of talking about bad trade policies and possible invasions at the breakfast table, try remembering the last time you had a really good egg roll. Describe its flavor and your favorite dipping sauces.

#3 Family Dinner bombshells; What your Uncle Bill really thinks: “Well I, for one, am really glad they finally put women in their place.”

Instead of destroying a perfectly good turkey dinner, describe what place that would be. Is it warm? Does it have margaritas? Will it be a place where people like Uncle Bill can get the help they need? Can Aunt Betty come along?

It will be a long four years and with any luck we will persevere and we can hope what the “Orange One” wants for America will only be half realized. We will make America great again by coming back to compassion and empathy for one another. We can start by laughing at the funny stuff and speaking out against the not-so-funny stuff. Let’s turn off the television news and spend the next four years talking about what makes us all happy. Let’s talk about our joy and the universal need for love. Can we talk about kids and chickens and about the cost of organic tomatoes? It sure does beat a fistfight in the parking lot over policy.

From this liberal to you, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may all of your Hanukkah dreams come true, and oh, God bless us everyone.
Words
by Patra Kelly

Words stretch us out
sweep us up
to see in all directions
and beyond

Words confuse
drop us to tumble
into a crevasse
that holds us captive

Words in some tongues
are so precise
they cut through
Everything
carve pieces that scatter
hold secrets to explore

Words in other tongues
lead us in circles
to dance and whirl
around a thought
and sometimes pause
in wonder

Words are waves of air
vibrating
playing us like instruments
that stir memory
reveal secrets of Mind
throw light on movements
within Soul

Words can build walls
and create doorways

New Supervisor
for District 3
by Valerie Hing

After 16 years with John Maynard serving as the representative for Santa Cruz County District 3, a new supervisor was elected on Nov. 8. Bruce Bracker, a Tubac resident for 22 years, is taking over the helm next year.

The Board of Supervisors reported 16,769 ballots cast of the 26,276 registered voters—a nearly 64% voter turnout.

Democrat Bracker’s win was the only change of county officials. With 3,624 votes, more than 55%, he easily beat out the Republican Jose “Mucho” Martinez, 1,361 votes; and Independents Charlie Montoy, 985 votes, and Dean Davis, 574 votes.

Bracker is a partner and executive in Bracker’s Department Store, a family-owned Nogales business. According to his Facebook biography, Bruce was born and raised in Nogales, AZ. He studied culinary arts and worked in that industry for seven years, in the United States and in Europe. He returned to southern Arizona in 1988 and entered the family’s retail business.

Other county races were won by the Democratic incumbents, who ran unopposed. Those offices are County Attorney George Silva; Sheriff Tony Estrada; Treasurer Liz Gardner Gutfahr; School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez; Recorder Suzanne “Suzie” Sainz; and Assessor Felipe A. Fuentes Jr.

The Impact of PRCF Grants in Our Community
by Nancy McCoy

Established in 1998 as part of the statewide Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), the Patagonia Regional Community Fund strives to improve the quality of life in the communities of Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin, and Canelo through its grant and scholarship programs. Our goal is to gather donations from residents, grow these donations through endowment funds managed by financial professionals at ACF, and then use part of our yearly investment returns to award grants to eastern Santa Cruz County organizations, programs, and students. Since 1998, PRCF has made a significant impact on our community and residents with awards of over $500,000 in grants and scholarships.

Last year, over $24,000 in grants was awarded to local organizations, along with college scholarships to two Patagonia Union High School students. Who was impacted by these grants? Maybe you! Do you have lunch at the Senior Center? Do you know a student who participated in the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) computer program, or was employed to help manage the research and monitoring data for the Hummingbird Monitoring Network? Or a child who was part of the summer lunch program at the Patagonia Library? Did you see one of the films presented by the Creative Arts Center during the summer? Did you borrow medical equipment from the Family Healthcare Amigos’ Lending Shed or receive a food box from the East Santa Cruz County Food Bank? Are you interested in the Patagonia Animal Lovers’ new kennels for stray and quarantined animals? Each of these organizations received a 2016 PRCF grant.

The PRCF 2017 grant cycle opens Monday, Jan. 5, and all grant applications are due by 5 p.m., Monday, January 30. The grant application is brief, straightforward, and available online. A grant writing workshop will be presented in Patagonia the week before the grant cycle opens. If your organization is interested in applying for a PRCF grant for the first time, the person to contact for information is Rebecca Pickett, at RPickett@azfoundation.org. You can also contact any one of the PRCF steering committee members: Jim Schatz, Susan Scott, German Quiroga, or Nancy McCoy.
A Shoebox Built for Music

A performance center in Patagonia has been the dream of Christina and Fred Wilhelm since 2005, when the late Gini Benderly left an endowment to the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA). Raising enough money was a barrier until 2016, when the community, along with John Kendall (the second principal benefactor), made it possible to begin construction.

The shoebox design is a double cube with a length that is twice its width and height. By the early 18th century, this design had become a status symbol. Simply being in such a room was believed to elevate the spirits and enlarge the mind. To this day, many music halls, such as Boston’s Symphony Hall, incorporate the double cube design.

The Wilhelms decided on a modified shoebox design because of its excellent acoustical qualities, and chose Nogales architect, Jeffrey Latham, and Patagonia contractor, Ted Piper, to make the building a reality. Latham drew up the plans, made certain that the building met all county, town and federal regulations, and was ADA compliant. The Wilhelms, working closely together with Piper from day one, insured that what was proposed was feasible and within budget.

The dream of having this venue in Patagonia is nearing completion. The public dedication of the Benderly-Kendall Opera House is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 at 2 p.m.—all are welcome to attend. The official 2017 concert season will begin in February. The shoebox design, combined with Rastra block construction and a hardwood floor, should make for outstanding acoustics.
As diners watched an exchange between characters at the Deadwood Saloon, suddenly the lights went out and a gunshot was heard. When the lights came back on, someone had been shot. But by whom? Bribery, blackmailing and mayhem ensued, as the characters and dining audience tried to figure out “whodunit.”

“Murder at the Deadwood Saloon,” a fundraising event hosted by the Friends of the Library on Nov. 5, was a highly improvised, loosely choreographed spoof set in the old west. Actors in costume played their roles in the drama as they wandered between the tables that filled Cady Hall, while guests at the sold-out event enjoyed a chuckwagon-style meal catered by Harris Heritage Farms.

Director Laura Wenzel assigned the roles to 15 local volunteers and gave them a brief summary of the character they were to play. They were responsible for providing their costumes. There was no script and no rehearsal. At the beginning of the performance, the actors received envelopes with a little more information but didn’t know until they read the second envelope, halfway through the play, who the killer was. (It was Montgomery Money, of course, played by Lars Marshal).

Seventy-four guests attended. Local vintners and brewers donated libations and a number of Patagonia businesses were financial supporters. Sponsors included Gathering Grounds, Jean Miller at Long Realty, La Frontera Realty, The Stage Stop Inn & Wild Horse Restaurant, Patagonia Market & Cinnamon Hills Construction, Montanez Kids, Spirit Tree Inn Bed & Breakfast, Adrienne at Global Arts & Lillian’s Closet, Wagon Wheel Saloon & Restaurant, High Spirit Flutes, Sue Archibald and Inge Meyer.

This funny, entertaining, and a little chaotic event raised approximately $5,000 for the Friends of the Library, who will use it to purchase books. Thanks to Jan Herron, Abbie Zeltzer, and Laura Wenzel for putting it all together!
“Juxtaposition,” an exhibit which ran through November at Gathering Grounds, featured the contrasting styles of three artists who enjoy plein air painting. Leslie Ware’s work was done in acrylic, and seemed to explore several approaches—sculpted mountains, sycamore branches in a flat, graphic style, and a few that had the feel of watercolor. Helen Chester’s landscapes were nearly all in watercolor, and combined strong color with light washes. A thin line of color wound across some of them, creating a sense of fluid energy. Cornelia O’Connor exhibited oils on canvas. Her landscapes were spare compositions reduced to their essential elements, in a palette that was sometimes dark and somber. The exhibit offered viewers an opportunity to see three artists apply their unique vision to the subject of our local terrain.
Tim Penniston, RN, FNP-C, and GNG
(Genuine Nice Guy)
by Lynn Davison

If you walk into the clinic in Patagonia, you might not immediately realize that Tim Penniston is a care provider, as he is not wearing typical medical garb. That’s because Tim does not want to trigger an all too common problem, “white coat-itis” or rising blood pressure due to seeing a white-coated person in a medical clinic. Make no mistake though, Tim has been providing much of the primary care in the Patagonia area for over seven years. There are hundreds of happy patients who can attest to his medical skills and his calm and professional manner.

So, who is this guy Tim, really? Tim was born in Tennessee, grew up in Oklahoma, and joined the U.S. Navy at 17. He spent much of the next four years underwater, as a salvage diver! Next stop was Darton State College in Georgia, where they were recruiting men to train as registered nurses (RNs). Tim signed on, got his degree, worked as a nurse for a few years, and then decided he wanted to do more. A logical next step was becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner in order to independently provide a full range of primary care services to his patients. In 2001, Tim graduated from Albany State University with double master’s degrees and certification as Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

Tim and his wife and three children moved to Wyoming where Tim provided primary care to patients in the greater Gillette area. When the winters began to feel too cold, the family decided to move south. Lucky for us, Mariposa was recruiting for an FNP for the Caroline Montoya Clinic in Patagonia and Tim fit the bill. He has been sharing the practice with Molly Anderson, MD since 2009 and likes his job at the Mariposa Community Health Center’s Caroline Montoya Clinic.

Tim and his wife live in Rio Rico. Their kids are grown and on their own now. He spends a lot of his non-working time outdoors, hiking, collecting rocks, and cutting wood. He is a country boy at heart and living and working in a rural community suits him well. The diversity of the medical practice is another plus. Tim sees himself as a provider who collaborates with his patients to improve their health. It’s a partnership with both parties having important roles. The Family Health Center is a welcoming place, open to everyone, and staffed by a competent and friendly team...just like Tim.

If he was not working in Patagonia as a FNP, Tim says his dream job would be an underwater archeologist. Who knew...a diver in the desert!

How to Prepare for Emergency Transport
by Marc Meredith

No one looks forward to the prospect of a trip to the hospital via ambulance or private vehicle but if the occasion does arise, here are a few things that you’ll want to bring (and a few others to leave at home) that will help make the experience smoother.

Bring with you or have brought right away by a family member:
• A photo ID.
• A list of phone numbers for family members or others to be called on your behalf.
• Copies of your insurance card or cards. If you have more than one plan, be sure to note which is primary and which is supplementary insurance.
• List of medications (name, dose, how often taken). List of any significant medical history, including past hospitalizations, surgeries, and chronic conditions.
• Copy of any Advanced Directives (your medical wishes should you not be able to make them yourself, typically appointing another person to make those decisions for you).
• Copy of any DNR (Do Not Resuscitate—specific instructions signed by you and a physician with instructions on what resuscitative efforts, if any, should be carried out should you go into cardiac arrest outside of the hospital).

All of these things can be copied ahead of time and placed in a folder to be kept in a safe place at your residence. Let at least one family member know where you keep it! If you need to stay overnight or longer, have these brought to you later:
• A change or two of clothing.
• Books, magazines or other comfort items.
• A small photo of loved ones to put by your bed.
• Leave at home:
• Actual medications, especially narcotic medications. If needed and not available at the hospital, they can be brought to you later.
• Jewelry, cash and other “high value” personal items.
• Most electronic devices.

If your trip is under emergency conditions, do the best you can, but if you have advance notice that you will be going in, take the time to call the hospital and clarify exactly what you will need to ensure you do not miss anything important.

Marc Meredith is Patagonia Fire Department’s EMS Captain.

Scientific American Highlights
Borderlands Restoration

The current issue of Scientific American includes an informative story about Borderlands Restoration’s work in and around Patagonia. You can find a copy of the magazine in the library or look online at https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ldquo-restore-economy-olinker-strives-to-protect-pollinators-protect-jobs/.

It is impressive to see a positive story about the borderlands region in a respected national journal. The article, entitled “Restoration Economy Strives to Protect Pollinators, Create Jobs,” should make Patagonians feel proud. Congratulations to Borderlands Restoration for the recognition of their fine work!
Patagonia’s Watershed—
What the Research Tells Us
by Rita Bradley

Friends of Sonoita Creek will host Dr. Laura Norman, a Research Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey on Dec. 17, 10 a.m. at Cady Hall, Patagonia Library. Norman has spent 18 years modeling watersheds in the U.S.-Mexico border region and wrote a master’s thesis on the flow of water and erosion processes associated with acid mine drainage in the Patagonia Mountains. She returns to Patagonia by popular request and will be speaking specifically about our watershed. She will discuss impacts of population and climate change, monitoring human impacts, and how to alter them. Admission is free. For more information check out our website: http://sonoitacreek.org/
As I walk into the lobby of the Stage Stop Inn to talk with owner Gerry Isaacs about the history of this place, I notice the pattern of cattle brands neatly and uniformly imprinted on the tile floor and I realize that this detail is a fitting start to the writing journey I am about to begin. It’s a journey I hope will elicit fond memories for some Patagonians while for others will introduce one Anne C. Stradling whose presence in and around this town was, for some thirty years, a huge part of the town’s identity.

The Stage Stop Inn, known to many as “the hotel,” is perhaps the most obvious of Stradling’s remaining legacy contributions to Patagonia’s present-day cityscape. Gerry tells me she built the 43-room hotel in the late 1960s, in part at least at the suggestion of actor John Wayne who came often to the area to shoot western films. She apparently didn’t require much persuasion, reasoning that the hotel would not only house the crew of movie makers but serve to support her beloved lifelong dream—come-true, the Museum of the Horse, which she had launched in 1960.

That Anne Caroline Schley, born in 1913 into New York wealth and privilege, found her way at all to out-of-the-way Patagonia is a highly improbable tale that I’ll not tell at length, but some milestones marking her younger years are central to understanding this fascinating woman’s character.

Eschewing the lifestyle of the rich and famous (the very lifestyle that facilitated her love of all things horse-related), as a young woman Anne refused to adhere to the mold of high society girl. Reflecting later in life on what might have lain in store for her, she is quoted as saying, “Those days … A woman’s life was boring and stupid unless you could do something to get yourself out of it.” And get herself out of it, she did. While enamored with horses and demonstrating exceptional riding talent, as a teenager she also took a shine to flying, lied about her age to take flying lessons and earned her pilot’s license at the tender age of 18. Though she enjoyed this new pursuit for a few years, even barnstorming the country in her very own biplane, the cowgirl life tugged tenaciously and relentlessly at her heartstrings.

Having tasted the rough and tumble ways of the west as she enjoyed numerous childhood summer vacations on family ranches in Wyoming and Colorado, young Anne bought so wholeheartedly into that culture that at age twenty she married a Texas rodeo cowboy and trick-roper, Jack Webb whom she had met five years earlier when she attended a world-renowned 101 Ranch Wild West Show in which he starred. Eleven years his junior, attractive and wealthy, Anne was quite a catch for Webb, but he was no mere cowboy either. A professional singer/songwriter, he also mastered the guitar and piano and was a published writer, to boot. Consequently, Webb was readily embraced by the Schley family.

Anne married Webb, willingly moved with him to the 101 Ranch headquarters in Oklahoma and herself became an accomplished trick-rider and show performer. Twelve years later her marriage to Webb ended in divorce at which point she moved with daughter, Jean, first to Tucson then back east when she married a second cowboy, albeit one who had grown up rich in New Jersey. That marriage quickly ended in divorce, whereupon she moved back to Tucson where in 1956 she met her third husband, Floyd Stradling, a rancher, well-driller and all-around “Westerner.”

The Stradling couple wasted little time in searching for a ranch they could settle into and raise quarter horses. They found their equine prize just outside Patagonia, moved into the Sorrel Ranch in 1957 and soon brought perhaps the most dramatic change in this town’s character since the mining industry imploded in the decades immediately preceding the Stradling’s arrival.
Sky Islands Winter Survival Adaptations

As we enter December here in Santa Cruz County, the flora and fauna are forced into the yearly gauntlet of a Sky Islands winter. Given that both our December temperatures and precipitation tend to be all over the place, various species have evolved a wide range of physiological and behavioral adaptations that help them survive.

The most straightforward adaptation to winter is “business as usual.” Many local species live more or less the same year-round. Some of our resident bird species fit the bill here. The common canyon towhee, for example, is a resident species that appears to move only locally as temperatures plummet. Mostly they inhabit the same territory year-round with male-female pairs mutually defending their turf. Surely their diet changes as various food sources wax and wane, but all within their familiar confines.

Other local bird species migrate away during December. Some of our bat species, such as Mexican long-tongued and lesser long-nosed bats are both nectar-feeding species who run out of food sources as things turn frigid. These bats migrate from Mexico in spring, following the progression of flowering columnar cacti and agaves into Arizona. As these species cease blooming, the bats are forced back into Mexico to repeat the cycle. A pertinent question therefore, is whether or not local hummingbird feeders, which these bats also use, negatively alter their migration patterns.

Meanwhile, many bird species have migrated into the Sky Islands to spend the majority of winter. For example, green-tailed towhees breed in the Great Basin Desert to the north, where cold season conditions can be harsh and food scarce. After migration, they come here to forage for seeds, while enjoying temperatures more amenable to their survival.

Still other Sky Islands species stay but also cease and desist. A handful of mammals either hibernate or are inactive during the coldest stretches of winter. Up in the wooded mountains our only species of chipmunk, the cliff chipmunk, waits out most of winter in a state of hibernation. Other species that exhibit this particular life strategy include black bear, some bats, and several other rodents.

Another strategy to avoid the dangers of winter involves an adjustment of daily activity patterns. Some species that stay put have evolved a flexible behavior where they can alter activity periods. By shifting from mostly crepuscular and nocturnal during the warmer months to predominantly crepuscular and diurnal in the cooler months, javelina are able to minimize loss of calories due to extreme hot or cold temperatures. Our four skunk species also bend and flow with the various temperatures of winter, sometimes completely waiting out cold stretches in a den.

The plant world is no less fascinating in December. The majority of non-woody species are either hidden completely underground or only sport dead tissue above ground. These herbaceous plants are often frost sensitive, making this a viable evolutionary strategy. A whole host of plants may poke up in December if we get sufficient precipitation. Snakewood, a member of the buckthorn family, often ripens fruit in winter. Dakota verbena can manage to flower in some Decembers, depending upon available moisture. The list goes on.

The bottom line, as winter solstice approaches, is precisely what the temperatures will be and with how much, if any, precipitation. The extreme eclectic nature of each year in this regard tests our flora and fauna to adjust accordingly. Watch the wilds in December and you’ll bear witness to this annual struggle for survival.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. Visit: ravensnatureschool.org
A Long Tradition of Community Service
by Ali Morse

The Elgin Community Club, now 84 years old, is still going strong. With the number of memberships nearing 100, the group still gathers regularly for themed dinners and ladies’ luncheons. Originally formed by pioneer families as a women’s club, it wasn’t until 17 years after the founding women adopted their constitution that men were allowed to join. That was 1949, the year Patagonia was incorporated and a year after the western film “Red River” (starring John Wayne and Montgomery Clift) was filmed in the area. The first dial telephones were just being installed in Tucson.

As a membership-based social and service organization, the Elgin Community Club asks its members to volunteer their time to participate in social, service, and fundraising activities of the club. These may include helping with club dinners or lunches, providing assistance with events at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, or selling food at Patagonia’s Fall Festival. To become a member, an application for membership needs to be sponsored by two current club members and submitted to the club’s board of directors for approval. Annual membership dues for the Elgin Community Club are an affordable $20/year for individuals and $40/year for couples. Family memberships (3 or more people) are $60/year.

In addition to its social gatherings, the club’s annual “Christmas in Elgin” holiday festival helps to raise college scholarship money for local high school students. The public is encouraged to attend this very special event at the historic clubhouse on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and purchase items to help deserving students with college costs. There will be raffle drawings, a bake sale, and many vendors selling items that make ideal Christmas gifts. Chili and cornbread will satisfy your hunger, a roaring fire will warm you, and holiday music will put you in the Christmas spirit.

Last year the club awarded scholarships to three seniors at Patagonia Union High School. The clubhouse (475 Elgin Road, Elgin), with massive stone fireplace, full-sized stage, and beautiful hardwood floors can also be rented for local events with the permission of the board of directors. For general information, call President Jim Rowley at 520-216-0050 or email him at jfrowleylll@msn.com.
Groundbreaking for Park at the Fairgrounds

by Valerie Hing

Phase one of the Mountain Empire Rotary Club’s park in Sonoita is underway. The Rotarians held a groundbreaking Nov. 10 for the one-plus acre site located at the northeast corner of the county fairgrounds.

Officiating the ceremony were past Rotary president, Susan Archibald, and current president, Kief Manning. Archibald thanked current and past members of Rotary for their efforts in the park. “We look forward to working with the fairgrounds to make it more welcoming,” she said. Manning added, “We have been working on this project for seven to eight years. It will be great to have a place for families in our community to come together.”

Another speaker was Justice of the Peace, Keith Barth (also a former Rotary president) who initiated the campaign for a local park. “This park is near and dear to the Barth family heart with all five kids helping with car washes,” he said. “This park is long overdue and I cannot wait to see it open.”

Rotarian Fred Sang of Patagonia is the project manager for the park. His construction company, Cinnamon Hills, starts preliminary work in the next few weeks. This includes grading the 1.5-acre site, pouring footings, and laying a block wall on the parks perimeter. Sang said that roses will be planted along the wall bordering the racetrack and the wall along Highway 83 will be short with steel-tube fencing. There will also be decorative rocks in front of the existing chain link fence at the park entrance.

This work will be completed before the May horse races and further work will resume after the county fair in September.

SEFD and SESD Elect New Board Members

by Robert Dorney

The Sonoita-Elgin Fire District reviewed and adopted the Nov. 8 general election canvass for board member-elects at its Nov. 21 meeting. Votes cast in Pima County remained to be added to the official tally but do not change the results, according to John Flynn, who presided over his last regular board meeting as the interim administrator.

The five new board members are Kurt Bahti (637 votes in Santa Cruz County), Susan Archibald (533 votes), Kevin Venos (449 votes), Suzanne Jenkins (440 votes), and Reba Webber (438 votes). The new board members will be sworn in at a special ceremony Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. All five board members are also scheduled to attend the Arizona Fire District Association’s winter conference in Laughlin, Nevada Jan. 12-14, 2017.

The Nov. 8, general election also resulted in the reelection of two Sonoita Elementary School District (Elgin School) board members. Ian Tomlinson received 587 votes and Kelly Bostock received 573 votes. Ginny Cosbey received 502 votes to become the sole new board member, replacing Joncie Patterson. They join sitting members Mike Sweedo and Sharon McCully.

Lest They Forget That They Are Loved

by Ali Morse

It all started with a trip to the VA hospital in Tucson. It was there that Char Stockton of Elgin met a man whose wife knit slippers for Veterans in assisted living residences. He told Char that his wife had recently started making “twiddle muffs,” handmade knitted bands with small items attached that Alzheimer’s patients can twiddle in their hands. The muffs help keep the patients’ hands busy while calming them.

As a creative and caring way to acknowledge that November is Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, Char, along with Jody Brosseit and Ginny Cosbey (both of Sonoita), organized a community charity event held Nov. 16, that included members of the Crossroad Quilters, the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles, and the Elgin Community Club (ECC).

The laughter and chatter of 38 women, along with mounds of colorful fabrics, yarns, buttons, brooches, zippers, beads, and trinkets filled the hall of the ECC clubhouse from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The coordinators had organized tasty homemade meals for all who came: sweet rolls and breads for breakfast and three different soups with savory breads and countless desserts for lunch.

The nimble fingers of these women produced a total of 25 finished mats that had been sewn, quilted, knitted or crocheted and many more left with the women to be finished at home. These works of love will be distributed to friends and family members with Alzheimer’s patients and the rest will be donated to the Holy Cross Hospital in Nogales. Another community mat-making event is being planned for March.
At its regular meeting Nov. 1, the governing board of the Elgin School approved a standardized “Grow Your Own” program for hard-to-fill teacher positions. Such programs encourage local paraprofessionals to continue their education and obtain teaching degrees. Superintendent Christopher Bonn said he was surprised when he was hired in 2014 that no such teacher development program was in place. He said almost all school districts, urban or rural, use such a program because of a teacher shortage nationwide.

“It is more complicated in rural settings. We don’t have lines of people looking to work here,” said Bonn, who added that half the faculty and staff commute at least one hour each way to work at the school. Bonn said he has been at hiring fairs where people didn’t even stop at his table because of the sizeable incentives offered by other school districts. He recalled that the school advertised for a year and a half for a music/performance arts instructor before the position was filled.

There are currently four people in the “Grow Your Own” program, which Bonn said will help staff teaching positions with much-needed reading specialists. He said funding under Title I would actually repay the investment. “We have very good parapro-ros in this community,” he said, and the program encourages professional development of people who already have a close bond with the school and community. The Elgin school offers up to $7,000 in tuition reimbursement which is only paid out in allotments over three years of teaching at the school. “We’re a great school. Once we get them here, they stay,” Bonn said

The $7,000 limit is what the school can afford. According to the superintendent, “It needs to be greater.” He said some school districts in Arizona offer up to $17,000 to $24,000 in similar “Grow Your Own” agreements.

Annual Sonoita by Starlight
by Valerie Hing

On Friday, Dec. 2, Sonoita will once again welcome the holiday shopping season with its annual “Sonoita by Starlight.” Several stores will stay open late for shopping and offer many special treats.

Kicking off the night will be the annual tree lighting in front of Sonoita Hardware at 5 p.m., followed by a visit from Santa and s’mores by the campfire. Many of the stores are participating in a gift basket drawing for one lucky shopper and will also offer in-store specials. Participating stores include Buffalo Gals, Cowgirl Flair, Sweet Ride, Many Horses Trading Co., Heart of Gold Antiques and Desert Legacy Gallery.

The Sonoita-Elgin Fire Station will host an open house with holiday train and emergency equipment displays; Santa will be on hand for the kids. The second annual LEGO building contest is also planned.

With our grasslands turning from green to gold, it is time to begin thinking of attending the Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo’s Annual Membership dinner. The date will be Saturday, Dec. 3. The Bowman & Stradling History Center will serve hors d’oeuvres and drinks at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and our membership meeting at 6 p.m. We encourage all members to join us for this glorious repast. If you would like to attend, please contact the office as reservations are required. We need you, as we will be electing a few new members to our board of directors.

Our board is one of the hardest working boards around! If you have time and talents, please consider running. (Forms can be e-mailed; call the office at 520-455-5553). We will also be filling you in on the success of our signature events this year. We will be taking donations for our Annual Christmas Party on Friday Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m. Please consider donating a gift. Gifts should be unwrapped, generic in nature, and should be for the following age groups: 2-4 years, 5-8 years, and 9-12 years. Please bring your gifts to the fairgrounds office by Dec. 12. Santa will be attending.

For you horse enthusiasts, Nov. 5 saw our first trail class. We had 20 riders, some from as far away as Duncan, AZ. Carol Belmore instructed them in the finer points of ranch and arena trail. This is one of the many open equestrian events that will be held at our fairgrounds in the coming months. Our Sonoita All Breed Circuit will begin in February and will end in September. This local circuit show is a great way to have fun with your horse close to home. Please see our website for more details:

http://www.sonoitafairgrounds.com/ and ride our newly renovated arenas. The perfect place to meet the neighbors!
JUST LISTED! EL CIN GRASSLANDS 12.74 ac next to public lands for great horseback riding. 3583 sf 4Bd/3Ba plus Bonus Rm. & office. High knotty pine ceilings, panoramic views. $445,000  Call Jean 520 508-3335

SPECTACULAR CONTEMPORARY SOUTHWESTERN ESTATE Priced far below cost. Breathtaking views, Huge Great Room, media rm, amazing Master suite, 2 guest rooms, office, pool. In gated Rail X Ranch estates. 40+ acres w/ more available. MLS# 2140813 $1,350,000. Call Jean 520 508-3335

SECRET GARDEN in the heart of Patagonia. 2Bd/2.5Ba w/large enclosed room perfect for guests, sunroom, garage/ workshop, high beamed ceilings & beautiful courtyard. Total privacy yet close to everything! MLS# 21617125 $319,500  Call Jean 520 508-3335

GORGEOUS VIEWS LAKE PATAGONIA 4Bd/4Ba 2599 sf Man Cave or guest quarters, 2 fireplaces, 3 car garage. Lovely patio, solar gate, 4.14 ac. MLS# 21628372 $399,600  Call Jean 520 508-3335

“GREEN” PATAGONIA HOME on .9 ac ready for your organic garden. Rastra construction, guest house, office, lovely views. Built in 2013, energy efficient. Huge workshop/studio MLS# 21623486 $375,600  Call Jean 520 508-3335

CROWN C RETREAT, PATAGONIA 55 Acres fenced. 3Bd/2Ba, 1269 sf bungalow. Corrals, separate bldg site facing Mt. Wrightson. Deeded access to Nat'l Forest. MLS# 21527570 $640,000  Call Carol 520 604-0162

GREAT VACATION OR SECOND HOME IN PATAGONIA Mostly remodeled w/new studio or office, 1Bd/1Ba, bamboo floors, carport. No FEMA flood ins. required. MLS# 21610194 $105,000  Call Jean 520 508-3335

HUMMINGBIRD HAVEN near Audubon Center & loaded with Patagonia charm & artistic touches. 1223 sf, 2Bd/2Ba, Great Room, the floors, studio/office. Beautiful trees & plantings MLS# 21625562 $194,500  Call Jean 520 508-3335

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN VIEWS within Patagonia town limits. 2Bd/1.75 Ba with 3 flagstone patios. High ceilings, fireplace, terrific Master Suite w/ office area. MLS# 21638931 $209,800  Call Barbara 602 626-4626

Patagonia: 325 McKeown Ave, next to the Gathering Grounds 520 394-2120
Sonoita: Corner of Highway 82 & B3
Next to the Post Office 520 455-5235

Jean Miller, Co-Owner, General Manager Direct 520 508-3335 jeanmarller@longrealty.com

Carol Ford, Co-Owner, Designated Broker Direct 520 604-0162 cford@longrealty.com
Images of America / Circle Z Guest Ranch  
Author: Gail Waechter Corkill

Gail Waechter Corkill has put together a comprehensive history of the Circle Z, the well-known guest ranch that has been a part of Patagonia’s history for ninety years. Her research goes back to the 1600s, when Father Kino was here and Indian tribes lived in this area. Historians believe that the Sobaipuri people were settled on land that is now part of the Circle Z. Petroglyphs and pottery shards remain as proof of Native American presence in the area.

In 1873, Denton Stanford was the first American to own the Circle Z land, but there were legal complications with Mexican treaties that went on for 30 years before finally being settled in the Supreme Court. As a result of that decision, Stanford lost most of his property. In 1924, two wealthy easterners, Lee and Carl Zinmeister, bought the land. They envisioned a working cattle ranch and “semi-resort guest ranch.”

The Circle Z officially opened for business in 1926. Lee bought out his brother and took over running the ranch with his new wife, Helen.

Corkill writes, “The couple made extensive improvements and additions to ranch headquarters. They were marvelous hosts who welcomed guests to their family-style ranch with its beautiful scenery. The ideal climate was perfect for horseback riding in the high country and relaxing in the sun. On average, guests stayed for one month, and some families stayed for the entire season. Guests who traveled by train stored their private railway cars on a siding by the Patagonia train station. Circle Z horses and experienced wranglers were the outstanding pleasure for their guests.”

The ranch has changed hands several times over the years. Fred Fendig, a Chicago banker and bachelor, bought the ranch in 1949 and lived there almost full-time during his 25-year stewardship. Patagonia Lake was created in 1968 and the following year The Nature Conservancy purchased 312 acres by Sonoita Creek, creating the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. Patagonia Lake became a state park in 1974, the same year that Fred Fendig retired.

“Images of America Circle Z Guest Ranch” is a rich history. Hundreds of photographs combine with lengthy descriptive captions. For instance, not many people are still alive who remember that from 1929-1932 the Circle Z held an annual Fourth of July Rodeo and Barbecue. Up to 2,000 people from around the county would turn out. Admission was a dollar for adults and 50 cents for kids. The depression and a three-year drought put an end to this popular event.

The four-legged hero of the book is the magnificent Spanish Carthusian stallion, El Sultan, who came to the Circle Z by way of Cuba. A natural performer and jumper, he died in 1953, having passed his agility and gentle nature along to many offspring. The photographs of him are impressive.

Since it began, Patagonia has been part of the Circle Z mystique. The staff at the ranch came from nearby. The Whelan, Acevedo, and Quiroga families all worked there at various times. Jim and Ginny Cosbey were resident general managers as George and Jenny Lorta are now. And then there’s the Wagon Wheel. Several photos show Circle Z guests lined up outside and inside the iconic bar, a favorite watering hole, then and now.

Lucia, Nash, an heiress from Ohio, spent many vacations at the ranch starting at age 11. In 1974, she and her husband Preston purchased the ranch because there were rumors that the place was to be sold to developers. Over the years, Lucia Nash has purchased adjacent land as it came up for sale. “By 2015, the Nash property included 6,500 acres of deeded land, protecting over two miles of Sonoita Creek.”

Ninety years later, the ambience of the Circle Z hasn’t changed since the Zinmeisters began the guest ranch—the facilities have been modernized; there’s more land to explore; people arrive in SUVs instead of railroad cars; and the Wagon Wheel offers Karaoke on Saturday night—but the Circle Z still looks and feels like the photographs in this fascinating book.

All these books are available at Creative Spirits Gallery.

Tomahawk Trail  
Author: Barbara Neville

If your interests lean towards western fiction, local author Barbara Neville has a new book out just in time for the holidays. “Tomahawk Trail” is a fantasy adventure that takes place in Arizona territory in 1885.

LEFT: Barbara Neville
Journey Home / How a Simple Act of Kindness Led to the Creation of a Living Legacy

Author: Bonnie Paton Moon

People all over the world know about the bird sanctuary in the backyard at 477 Pennsylvania Ave., but few know anything about the special people who lived in the house and fed the birds every day for decades. Now we can get to know Marion and Wally Paton, their ancestors and their family. Their daughter, Bonnie Paton Moon, gives us a rich, detailed history of her family and their legacy in a new book, “Journey Home—How a Simple Act of Kindness Led to the Creation of a Living Legacy.” Everything that one might have imagined about the Patons turns out to be true. They were generous, humble, environmentally conscious, and good parents and citizens. We also learn that Wally Paton was a hero; he piloted a B-17 bomber on 31 missions in Europe during World War II.

The Patons both had strong New England roots. Wally and Marion raised their children in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, starting with a dairy farm. As Wally’s engineering abilities were recognized, he went to work in the microwave development laboratories of the Fabraze Corporation. In 1974, the Patons were happily settled in Londonderry, New Hampshire when the head of Fabraze asked Wally to set up a plant in Nogales, Sonora. “It must have been a difficult decision, moving across the country at their age, leaving their ‘dream house’ and their cottage in Maine for what at the time seemed like the road less traveled. But that decision did indeed make a difference not only in their lives, but in the lives of thousands,” writes Bonnie Moon.

The second half of “Journey Home” is all about the Paton’s house on Pennsylvania Ave. and how its backyard became a birding mecca. Moon writes an excellent abbreviated history of the town, tracing its roots in ranching and mining, acknowledging artists and writers along the way.

The Paton’s youngest daughter, Jackie, moved here with her parents. She joined 4H, grew up, had two daughters and now works at the post office. The Patons were quickly engrained in the community. They retired and worked to entice birds to their backyard. There are photos of the gardens and orchard that Wally and Marion planted. The first hummingbird feeders are memorialized in an early photo.

Then, one day in 1990, Arthur Morris from “Bird Watchers Digest,” knocked on the door. He told them that a rare hummingbird had been spotted in their yard. The couple had noticed birdwatchers lined up by their fence and after some conferring, decided to open their gate.

“For decades my parents’ yard has been filled with people we didn’t know, who wore funny looking hats, with binoculars tied around their necks scanning the sky, often pointing excitedly at something they had just witnessed. When others were erecting fences and hedges to afford their space a little privacy, my parents were opening their gate and letting anyone in to sit in their back yard for as long as they wanted.”

Wally died in 1999, Marion in 2009. Bonnie Moon found a caretaker for the property and when he left, she found Larry Morgan, who stayed to care for the birds and visitors until a consortium of birding organizations raised enough money to buy the property.

“Journey Home” is a wonderful tribute to Wally and Marion Paton. They were hardworking, unpretentious, and generous Americans. It’s a delight to get to know the Patons through this book, with photos and quotes and the obvious love that Bonnie Paton brings to it.

Did you know?
• Arabian foals with even one white eyelash, despite what color they are born, will eventually become all grey.
• A cat will almost never meow at another cat. Cats use this sound for humans.
• Horses can sense feelings and will walk away from you if you are not being authentic.
• According to a recent survey, the most popular names for dogs are Max, Sam, Zach and Maggie.
• A cat can be right-pawed, left-pawed or ambidextrous.
• Horses cannot vomit. That is why they are so susceptible to colic.
• A cat can jump as much as seven times its height.
• Dogs can donate blood to other dogs.
• Ferrets love the texture of plastic and they will steal and hide away things like pacifiers and credit cards in their secret places.
• A cat’s brain is more similar to a human brain than a dogs is.
• A dog’s sense of smell is up to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human’s.
• Horses like sweet flavors and will usually reject anything bitter or sour tasting.
• A cat sees about six times better than a human at night.
• Horses teeth never stop growing.
• Cats lack a true collarbone and can generally squeeze their bodies through any opening that they can fit their head into.
• You can tell if a horse is cold by feeling behind its ears. If that area is cold, the horse is cold.
• It takes 18 muscles to move a dog’s ear, which helps them pinpoint the origins of sounds much faster than a human can.
• The proper name for a group of cats is a clowder. A group of kittens is called a kindle.
• Human painkillers such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) are toxic to cats.
• Ibuprofen, such as Motrin, as well as chocolate, raisins and grapes are toxic to dogs.
• In Asia and England, black cats are considered good luck.
• Cats are capable of about 100 distinct vocalizations.
• Dogs are capable of about 10 distinct vocalizations.
• Arabians have one less vertebrae and one less rib than other horse breeds.
• Dogs only sweat glands are between the pads of their feet.
• Cat’s and dog’s noses are unique like a human’s fingerprints.
• Horses will mourn the passing of a companion.

Cate Drown provides “specialized animal care for all beings large or small.” You can contact Cate at drown_cate@hotmail.com
The Patagonia Youth Center Board and Kids are Throwing a Party!
by Judy Clegg

You know you’re dying to go to a white elephant event this holiday season and the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center board and kids have one for you! It’s Dec. 9 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Cady Hall with a $5 admission charge. The party will include a white elephant gift exchange—bring an exotic, bizarre, useless, funny gift to unload on your friends and neighbors. Astute bargaining will help you take home a highly valuable gift yourself. It’s a fundraiser, so bring some cash: fives, tens, and twenties!! If you want a gift that someone has chosen, you can buy it by putting $5, $10, or more into the kitty; others can bid you up. We’ll provide desserts, a cash bar, and Lars Marshall as your master of ceremonies. All the proceeds from the kitty go to the youth center.

The youth center provides a safe after-school environment for lots of middle and high school boys and girls. The center offers food, homework support, hiking trips, bike repair, and many other great activities for local youth. They receive their financial support from individual gifts and small grants. This is a great opportunity to have some holiday fun and support a great cause.

A cadre of volunteers installed a new 3000-gallon cistern at Deep Dirt Farm on Oct. 29. Here the crew is shown about halfway through its arduous task of pulling the 500-lb tank up a steep hill to its new home. The well water that the new tank will hold, pumped up by means of a solar-powered pump, nearly triples the farm’s holding capacity and will supply gravity-fed water for the drip irrigation system that supports the farm’s food production and wildlife habitat.

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THANKS TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2016 SITA Photo Contest Winner

The Sky Islands Tourism Association is proud to announce that Jeff Gallemore was the winner of the first Annual Sky Islands Photo Contest! Jeff won $100, had his picture featured at the SITA booth during the Fall Festival, and will also have his winning photo used on SITA postcards. His photo, “Rainbow on Road,” can be seen at the Regional Visitors Center in Patagonia. Congratulations Jeff!
### MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AA</strong> - Patagonia Comm. Ctr., Sun., 8 a.m.; Sonora Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al-Anon - Wed. at 6 p.m., Sonora Hills Comm. Church, 52 Elgin Rd., Info: 520-237-8091</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board Meeting 3rd Monday at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
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<td>Patagonia Town Council - 2nd and 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.</td>
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<td>Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Patagonia High School; All others at Kief Joshua Winery, 6 p.m. Call 520-907-5829 for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon. at the Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall, 5:30 p.m. Tami, 455-5561.</td>
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<td>Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. &amp; Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520-404-3490</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Woman's Club - Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. Talk by German Quiroga at 2 p.m. Cady Hall</td>
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### EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1 - 31 - <strong>Gisa Krueger</strong> will exhibit paintings at Gathering Grounds. Reception Dec. 1, 5—7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dec. 2 - <strong>Sonoita By Starlight</strong>, See p. 22 for details.</td>
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<td>Dec. 2 &amp; 3 - <strong>Christmas Bazaar &amp; Bake Sale</strong>, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. - hosted by Patagonia Community Church in Thurber Hall.</td>
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<td>Dec. 2 - <strong>Open House</strong> hosted by Santa Cruz Family Dentistry and Sonora Cowboy Museum of Art, 5 - 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2, 3 &amp; 4 - <strong>Patagonia Players</strong> presents 3 one-act plays at the Tin Shed Theater. Fri &amp; Sat: 7 p.m. Sun: 2 p.m. <a href="http://www.patagoniaaz.com/creative-arts-association">www.patagoniaaz.com/creative-arts-association</a></td>
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<td>Dec. 3 - <strong>Chili Cook-off at Copper Hop Ranch &amp; Micro-brewery</strong>, 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Dec. 3 - &quot;<strong>Christmas in Elgin</strong>&quot; Fine arts &amp; crafts festival at the Elgin Community Clubhouse, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 475 Elgin Road. Call 455-4731 for more info.</td>
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<td>Dec. 7 &amp; 21 - <strong>No Chicken Wire Bluegrass Band</strong> at the Steak Out in Sonora, - 8-9pm</td>
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<td>Dec. 9 - <strong>The Winter INformal</strong>: Fundraiser for The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center. 7—10:30 p.m. More details TBA. See p. 26</td>
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<td>Dec. 9 - <strong>Author Karen Brennan</strong> will read from her book, <em>Monsters</em>, 4:00 pm at the Patagonia Library.</td>
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<td>Dec. 10 - <strong>Sonoita Fire Station Holiday Breakfast</strong>, 8 - 10 a.m. at the Fire Station.</td>
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<td>Dec. 10 - <strong>Gail Corkill</strong>, author of <strong>Images of America: Circle Z Guest Ranch</strong>, will speak at The Patagonia Museum’s meeting in the Patagonia Library at 10:30 a.m. German Quiroga, <a href="mailto:tortugawerx@gmail.com">tortugawerx@gmail.com</a>. See p. 24</td>
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<td>Dec. 13 &amp; 27 - <strong>Music Jam &amp; coloring.</strong> 6:30—8:30</td>
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<td>Dec. 14 - <strong>Voice for Young Authors Open House</strong>, 5—6:30 p.m., at the Patagonia Library.</td>
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<td>Dec. 17 - **Patagonia Watershed</td>
<td>What the Research Tells Us**, a lecture by Rita Hall. See p. 17 for details.</td>
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<td>Dec. 18 - <strong>Christmas Cantata</strong> - Patagonia Community Church (PCUMC) will present “Ceremony of Candles,” a cantata by Joseph M. Martin at 3 p.m. in the PCUMC sanctuary, 387 McKown Avenue. Contact Anne Quirin, at 394-2982, for more info.</td>
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<td>Dec. 26 - <strong>Relax, Color and Wine event at Rancho Rossa Vineyards</strong> $20 - <a href="http://www.ranchorossa.com/">www.ranchorossa.com/</a> events Directions: 1.6 miles past Elgin School</td>
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<td>Dec. 31 - <strong>New Year’s Eve benefit party</strong>. Free: 7:30 p.m. at Cadby Hall, see p. 17 for details</td>
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### SPECIAL INTERESTS

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<th>Special Interest</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid help with Amaury Gama, 3—5 p.m., Dec. 2 &amp; 22 at the Patagonia Gama Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean-up at the Old Lochiel Schoolhouse site, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.—2 p.m. German Quiroga, <a href="mailto:tortugawerx@gmail.com">tortugawerx@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Stretch and Strengthen Class, Weds., 9:15—10:15 a.m. at Sonoita Bible Church $7.</td>
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<td><strong>Drum Circle</strong>, Mons., 4—6 p.m. at Sonoita Crossroads building courtyard by Chuckwagon Grill, Free. No exp. Req’d. (520)490-4991</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Santa Cruz Singers</strong> rehearsals for January concert, Thursdays at 5 p.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle, Patagonia. New members welcome!</td>
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<td><strong>Adult hand-building ceramics classes</strong> Wednesdays, 4—6 p.m. $65 Call 520-604-0300</td>
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<td><strong>Bingo</strong> - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st &amp; 3rd Mondays at 6 p.m. 455-5681</td>
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<td><strong>Crossroads Quilters</strong> - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd &amp; 4th Mon. at 9 a.m.; 520-732-0453.</td>
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<td><strong>Open Tennis</strong> - PUHS, Sat. at 9 a.m., Call 394-2973 for info.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Youth Group</strong> meets at Patagonia Community Church, 387 McKown, every Sunday, 5:30—7:30 p.m. Please call Pastor Tom Jelinek at 394-2274 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Youth Bible Hang Out</strong>, ages 12-18, Sonoita Bible Church, 2nd &amp; 4th Wed, 6—8 p.m. Dinner, music, Bible lesson, &amp; fun activities. April Anderson <a href="mailto:aneap@msn.com">aneap@msn.com</a> 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey via email, call or text: <a href="mailto:canelolinsey@hotmail.com">canelolinsey@hotmail.com</a> / 520-559-9155</td>
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### COMMUNITY SERVICES

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<th>Community Services</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch for Seniors</strong> - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. thru Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center. Noon - 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service</strong> - Medical transportation Mon. - Fri. for seniors &amp; disabled by appointment only. Call 394-2494</td>
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<td><strong>Patagonia Food Bank</strong>, Community Center; 2nd Wed. of the month, 9-11 a.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop</strong>, Fri. 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon.</td>
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<td><strong>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop</strong> Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonora. Thurs - Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
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Send event info to: prtevents@gmail.com

Full moon

December 13
393 CURLY HORSE ROAD, SONOITA 85637 ~ SURROUNDED BY LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Las Cienegas Ntl Conservation Area’s 42,000ac of protected habitat encompass this gracious 158ac property. The 3,217sf Main Casa w/3Be/3Ba/GrtRm/Chef’s Kitch/ Stdy/Exer-ProjectRm/AzRm/3G is a split-pln w/impeccable details. Nearby Guest Casita w/2Be/2Ba/GrtRm-Kitch/Lndry-MudRm + Barn++ TAR/MLS #21625201

231 CIRCULO MONTANA at LAKE PATAGONIA 85624
Santa Fe Contemporary on 18 lush acres. 2,701sf w/2Be/2Ba/Stdy/Chef’s Kitch & 2 GstQtrs (686sf) w/Kitch/Bths. 2G w/AC/heat + 5C Carport. TAR/MLS #21628084

ADOBE CASITA ~ 366 SONOITA AVENUE, PATAGONIA 85624
1,515sf Vintage Adobe w/2Be/1Ba/GrtRm in walking distance of village amenities. Regional charm & premier upgrades t/o. An amazing value! TAR/MLS #21622826

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