Youth Center

By Walter Andrew

Those who attended the Patagonia Town Council meeting on January 10 were surprised to find it packed with students. The reason? Tucked away in Bob Ollerton’s Use Permit application for a multiple use complex at the plaza on McKeown Avenue were the words “youth center.” There had been no advance publicity, so many people didn’t know about the idea until Anna Coleman of Sonoita addressed the council with a detailed proposal for a Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center.

While the proposed center would serve as a safe and supportive place for teens to hang out, explained Coleman, it would also offer them classes in leadership, job readiness, conflict resolution, drug awareness, and many other life skills. Available to youths ages 8 through 20, it plans to be open Monday through Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday as needed.

Coleman, who would serve as director at the center, is an elementary school teacher in Elgin. She has a Masters in Education, holds K-12 certificates in Career Technology Education, and is certified as an Adolescent Life Coach. Her husband, Steve Coleman, is a popular shop teacher at Patagonia Union High School (PUHS). Their older daughter, Caitlyn, is a recent graduate of PUHS, and their younger daughter, Annika, is currently a student there.

Coleman expressed her gratitude to the plaza’s landlord, Bob Ollerton, who has been supportive of the plan since it was first proposed. Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Patagonia Town (continued on page 2)

Town Manager Advises
Water Alert

By Donna Reibslager

Patagonia’s well water levels are at an all-time low and have been so for the past three months.

Town Manager David Teel has recommended that the town declare a water alert and will begin discussion with the town council during the next few weeks as to when and how to begin implementing water use restrictions.

Pumping data for Patagonia’s wells over the past six years indicates that the depth to which the pumps must go to access water has gone from an average of 21.7 feet in 2008 to an average of 39.4 feet in 2013. Teel says that, although water consumption can affect well pumping levels, the town’s water use last year was only about 10% above the average for the past six years, and the sustained drought that is occurring statewide is considered to be the primary cause for the lower water (continued on page 3)
Council gave their unqualified support to the project, provided that an adult is present to supervise the center at all times.

The Youth Center will occupy the rear unit of the plaza, with its entry on Smelter Avenue. That unit contains a large community room with a full kitchen and a second room, envisioned as the “quiet room,” that will function as a place for study, school projects and meetings. The space is uninhabitable at present, and the plan is that the students, guided by shop teacher Steve Coleman, will restore it, learning repair skills in the process. They plan to begin working on it as soon as there are sufficient funds to cover initial costs, and are hoping to hold a formal opening for the center by early summer.

Mrs. Coleman stated that one of her aims is to get kids from Elgin, Patagonia and Little Red to work together as a team and build a sense of community. She voiced her belief that “Today’s youth need to have a sense of purpose and a feeling of hope for their future.”

Financing for the project is expected to come from grants and donations. The county attorney’s office has indicated that it will assist with financial support for the project, which will also apply for grant funds from the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation and other sources.

Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, or PYEC, is already set up as a nonprofit corporation. Its board members will be Anna Coleman, Lars Marshall, Cassalyn David, Cindy Morriss, Norma Etchart and Becca Schrimpf.

Over the years, numerous other attempts to operate a youth center in Patagonia—including an unsuccessful effort to house both seniors and youth activities at the Patagonia Community Center—have failed for one reason or another. Although a youth center was attempted for a number of years with a space called “The Den”—which was located at the middle school—students have always sought their own off-campus space. The new plan, which provides both a qualified and motivated director and an off-campus site owned by a community-minded landlord, seems to have the elements needed to make the long-held dream a reality.

“I am elated that the center is opening because we’ve been wanting a place like this for as long as I can remember. It’s going to be great!” — Jon King, PUHS senior

“I’m looking forward to being able to go to the center with my friends and having a place to hang out.” — Javier Mingura, PUHS sophomore

Town Replaces Aging Garbage Truck

Patagonia’s aging garbage truck is in need of replacement, and, for awhile, the town was using a small trailer bed pulled by a pickup truck to collect the garbage. [see photo at right.]

Town Manager David Teel says that the town has purchased a 2013 truck, for $120,000, which was paid for through loans from the general fund and the Solid Waste Fund.

Gilbert Quiroga is training the drivers so they can upgrade their licenses, as a commercial license will be required to operate the new vehicle.

The new truck will allow Patagonia to use other transfer stations so that they no longer need to use Patagonia’s landfill.
Acupuncture Clinic Opens in Plaza
By Ann Katzenbach

After looking high and low for an acupuncture clinic location in Patagonia, Dr. Liliane Papin has found a space that delights her. In the blink of an eye, Bob Ollerton refurbished one of the spaces at the McKeown Avenue Plaza for the Ecobody Acupuncture Community Clinic, putting down chemical-free flooring and painting the walls with nontoxic paint. At the opening on Monday, January 20, a steady stream of patients with a variety of ailments came through the door.

Papin’s new assistant is Leticia Novais, a young woman from Brazil who is working at the Tree of Life. In Sao Paulo, a close family friend is an acupuncturist, and Leticia has worked with her for years. She has each patient fill out a brief medical form and seats him or her in one of the six comfortable reclining chairs.

Papin takes time to talk to each one, applies the needles she prescribes for a particular situation, and leaves the patient to lie quietly for a period of time—usually a half hour to 45 minutes—and then returns to remove the needles. Meanwhile, there is relaxing music to listen to. If you want a blanket or an eye mask, just ask.

The space is furnished sparsely but elegantly. It doesn’t feel like what most of us think of as a doctor’s office. There’s no private room. Everyone lies down together (as it were), but there is a sense of space and privacy despite the open room. Consultations are done quietly and professionally.

Diane Tucker, a local woman who suffers from chemical allergies, was there on opening day. She thinks that in such a small town, a clinic of this quality is a blessing.

Payment is on a sliding scale starting at $25. Patients can simply leave their payment in a box in the waiting room. It’s a trusting, caring, and beautiful space that Papin says was well worth waiting for.

Clinic hours are Monday and Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.

Water Alert, cont. from page 1

level. Arizona has been experiencing drought conditions for nearly 15 years, which, according to The National Drought Mitigation Center, is the longest recorded period of drought in 110 years.

In accordance with the town’s drought emergency plan, residents will be asked to reduce their water use by as much as 50% and to limit outside watering to only that which is essential. A watering schedule may be enacted, limiting outside water use to certain days. Teel says that he anticipates a mandated reduction in irrigation by the town and the school district to begin within the month.

The town manager pointed out that taking voluntary action now should help assure the town’s compliance before the major watering months of March through June arrive. But in view of the long-term forecast for continuing drought, he also proposed that the town begin thinking about alternative sources and has suggested that they consider purchase of a property for sale north of Sonoita Creek that seems to have some excellent wells. He urged that this be explored "before it becomes a mitigation source for one of the proposed mines."

Although restrictions have not yet been mandated, residents are urged to begin the practice of monitoring and curbing their water use now. The sooner this is begun, the less drastic the restrictions may need to be and the better prepared we will all be for the water demands of the warm weather months ahead.

Popular Teacher Arrested For Attempted Murder

Until Friday, January 24, Bert Ford was employed by Patagonia to teach alternative education and social studies at the high school. He has been fired.

On January 18, under the influence of alcohol, he allegedly fired a handgun at his wife and just missed shooting her in the head. Santa Cruz County deputies responded to a call and arrested Ford for attempted first degree murder. Deputies booked him into the county jail. Their son took Mrs. Ford to his home in Cochise County.

The governing board voted unanimously to fire Ford. His teaching duties will be taken over by retired Patagonia teacher, Jim Schrimpf.

Meanwhile Santa Cruz County Attorney, George Silva, after weighing the initial facts, found insufficient evidence to support the initial murder charge. Ford has now been charged with aggravated assault, a class 3 felony and disorderly conduct, a class 6 felony. Silva said there may be other charges once the investigation is complete.

Ford is still in the county jail. He was a popular teacher, and news of his arrest disrupted the daily routine at the high school. Denise Blake, PUSD Supervisor and Superintendant, says "We are very grateful to all our families and community members for their thoughtful supportive words and acts of kindness as we deal with these circumstances."
Long-term residents of Patagonia probably will remember Jac Heiss, who began teaching fifth grade here in 1974. In 1982 he became principal, a post he held until 1995, making his total commitment to education in Patagonia just over 20 years. He then spent two years as a middle school administrator in Nogales, before leaving Santa Cruz County in 1998 to become superintendent of schools in Williams, Arizona. Heiss, who built and still owns a lovely adobe house in Patagonia, says his family moved north for the snow.

Underlying Heiss’s years of teaching and administrative work is a profound interest in and curiosity about education. This has led him to his current position as superintendent of the Joint Technical Education District (JTED) in Coconino County.

**JTED’s**

JTEDs are based on a concept that is at the forefront of American education. Heiss’s program takes students from Flagstaff, Fredonia, Grand Canyon, Page, and Williams. It is one of 13, voter-approved, JTEDs in the state. These schools have physical plants but aren’t housed in just one place. They are achieving what the old-fashioned technical high schools once attempted: turning out skilled, motivated workers whose basic understanding of math, language arts, and science seem to be naturally enhanced by learning something that interests them.

Students can take a one-hour technical course or more in a day. Some courses are on site, some are online, and others offer on-the-job training. Many are linked to Coconino Community College in Flagstaff. The course offerings are enticing. Among them are Alternative Energy Technology; Business; Computer Software Technology; Cosmetology; Early Childhood Education; Hospitality Management; Industrial Maintenance; Firefighter, Police, and EMT programs; Massage Therapy; Nursing Assistant; Robotics; Heavy Equipment Operation; and Graphic Design. In addition to hands-on training, adolescents are taught interview skills. They shake hands, look you in the eye, speak clearly. A student with enough credits can get an industry certification. There are examples, Heiss says, of certified mechanics from his district stepping right into jobs that pay top wages.

Heiss points out that these courses are not an alternative for unmotivated students. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors take JTED courses and attend regular high school classes. There is no stigma attached to JTED. Many college-bound students are part of the program, learning skills that mesh with their planned college majors or that will help them get a part-time job while they attend college.

**Success Figures**

The success figures for JTEDs are impressive. Drop-out rates have gone way down in the 13 districts where they are being implemented. This has positive repercussions throughout Arizona’s economy, including a skilled work force, fewer incarcerations, and stronger families. What’s most impressive is that Arizona is leading the country in developing this educational model.

A *Time* magazine article from May 2012 tells the story of John Huppenthal, Arizona’s Superintendent of Public Instruction, who came to office believing in vocational education, a path he had followed in high school. He is quoted as saying, “Most students respond better to a three-dimensional learning process. It’s easier to learn engineering by actually building a house—which my family did when I was a kid, by the way—than by sitting in a classroom figuring out the process in the abstract. Some students can respond to two-dimensional learning, but most respond better when it’s hands on. Every surgeon needs to know how to sew, saw and drill.”

Following up on this philosophy, Huppenthal has challenged Arizona’s legislators to develop and pay for the current system of JTEDs. It costs a lot more to teach a student robotics than it does calculus, but the idea of this kind of career and technical education has developed to the point where the success is easily measured.

**Help From Private Businesses**

As superintendent of Coconino County’s JTED program, Heiss has worked with teachers, administrators, and industry to create learning experiences for students of all skill levels and backgrounds. His budget is tight, but he has found ways to get private businesses to pick up some of the financial slack because they benefit from the work force being produced.

Back in the 1970s, before Heiss began teaching, he spent time traveling, seeking out places in the world that were doing unusual and successful things. One model that stood out for him was work situations that provided day care. He thought this was such an obvious bonus to everyone involved that he came back to the United States and tried to implement the concept in several settings, but he had no success. Change, especially institutional change, isn’t easy, but Arizona’s educational system is evolving and succeeding in unexpected and positive ways. How gratifying to know that there still are visionaries among us.

Heiss plans to retire at the end of this year. His wife, Denise, a high school counselor in Williams, isn’t sure if she is ready to end her career, but, according to Jac, she is tired of cold weather and snow, so there’s a chance they will both return to Patagonia. In any case, he plans to be here a lot and hopes to grow something profitable and tasty in the greenhouse he’s put up on his property—an appropriate hands-on effort for a well-earned retirement.

**JTED in Santa Cruz County?**

In 2009, Rio Rico voters approved a tax levy for a Joint Technical Education District (JTED). This allowed them to expand their career and technical education classes, which are offered through Pima County’s JTED program. According to the county superintendent’s office, the city of Nogales will have an initiative on the ballot in November asking for a small tax increase to pay for setting up a JTED. If the city raises $60,000, the state will put in $300,000. If this passes, Nogales will follow the lead of Rio Rico and piggyback with Pima County, and students from Patagonia will be eligible to take JTED courses in Nogales. Rio Rico’s program currently offers classes in Culinary Arts, Business, Agriculture, Nursing, Sports Medicine, Junior Reserve (Army) Officer Training Corps, and Law Enforcement.
Gene (Gino) Griego’s restaurant is a calm, comfortable, cozy eatery for a special occasion. The prix fixe dinner includes soup, salad, antipasti, and the main course, all of which are prepared to order by Gino himself, so you have your own personal chef who cares not only about the quality and preparation of the food but how the meal is presented as well. The pace is leisurely. We arrived at 6 and left at 8:30. We weren’t in a hurry and neither was Gino. Things took the time they took, and the relaxed tempo was refreshing.

The small space in the main dining area—seating for 18, tops—is welcoming with its pleasant color scheme, white tablecloths, fresh flowers on the table and mellow background music.

The greeting by Gino and the young hostess is warm and heartfelt. Gino brings a bocadito—olive and sundried tomato tapenade on toast tips with delicate slices of aged cheese and the smallest spiced green olives ever seen—as we discuss the wine list, which includes many Italian selections. Several additional wines, not on the menu, are also available. The prices are totally in line with the quality of the wines.

A small loaf of focaccio bread, cut into bite-sized pieces—made on site?—was very tasty with olive oil for dipping. (It should be sold at Ovens of Patagonia)

Next came a generous bowl of butternut squash soup sprinkled with grated cheese. Gino brought the forgotten croutons to the table with many apologies for the oversight. The pureed soup was delicately flavored and smoothly delicious, with the croutons adding texture and crunch.

The small Caesar salad that followed lacked the anchovy taste that we like and seemed somewhat underdressed. It was a bit of a let down after the great start with the soup.

For the third course, Elise had the antipasti mixta; gently cooked spinach, a prosciutto roll stuffed with spinach and ricotta cheese, eggplant Parmigiana, and a thin slice of perfectly cooked fennel, were consumed by the birthday girl and must have been good, as she offered me only a small taste of each.

I had the pasta with a cheese sauce, sprinkled with crispy pig’s cheek. Delicious. The pasta was cooked perfectly. And tell me, honestly, have you EVER had pig’s cheek—crispy or otherwise? I haven’t, but I enjoyed the delicate bacon-like flavor and felt quite adventurous.

There were three choices for the entrée—pork picatta, halibut with potatoes cooked in a shrimp/scallop reduction, or rib eye steak. The halibut was cooked to perfection, as was the rib eye, although we felt that both portions were slightly less than generous. The young green beans sprinkled lightly with garlic that accompanied the rib eye, however, were excellent, and Elise stole all but a few and ate them with pleasure. The meal was so satisfying that we skipped dessert.

Although we have heard stories about long waits for food to arrive when the restaurant is crowded, this is the third time we’ve eaten at Gino’s, and each time has been a pleasure. Perhaps it would be wise to inquire about the number of bookings when one makes a reservation in order to avoid delays in service.

You’d have to be in the one percent club to make Gino’s restaurant a regular hang out—the four course prix fixe dinner is $38 a person, plus beverage, dessert, tip and taxes for the state and the town. That is not an inexpensive dinner, but, all in all, for the variety of and care for what is served Cose Buone offers a very good value for the money. It is a place to go for special occasions—although I do wish the exercise bicycle in the entryway could find a better home. I always walk in knowing I’m going to be full on the way out. I just don’t want that bike reminding me that I’ll have to work off the meal in the morning.

One hopes that Gino intends to remain in Patagonia this time (he originally opened in 1997 and closed in 2002, spending years in France and Spain before reopening in 2011), but those ‘For Sale’ signs on the outside of the building create the fear that Cose Buone may not be around for much longer—and that would be a loss for anyone who enjoys fine dining.

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Reservations required
A committee has been formed to address the need for a new Patagonia dog pound. The committee, which first met on January 14, hopes to raise $10,000 for a new block structure, with a tin roof, dog runs and perimeter fencing. The committee has already received $800 in donations, and three anonymous donors have promised materials for eight dog runs with roofing and gates, worth approximately $6,000; perimeter fencing and a $500 matching challenge grant. The matching grant stipulates that an additional $500 be raised in order to receive it.

The committee has planned a Burger Burn and Auction Fundraiser for April 26, subject to council approval. They hope to have a 50-50 raffle, the winner gets half of the money taken in, and the other half goes in as a donation and are considering a “brick bake sale,” in which donors can purchase bricks that will carry their names and be installed at the new facility.

The Committee officers are Charlie Montoy, President; Diane Isakson, Vice President; Toni Hansen, Secretary; and Sandy Young, Treasurer. Also part of the committee are Susie Bergier, Tami Young and 10-year-old twins Brianna and Hanna Young, whose participation in the project will fulfill their 4-H community service requirement.

The location of the new facility has not been determined and is, again, subject to the approval of the council. The committee meets again on February 11, at which time they plan to finalize details of their fundraising event.

Contributions should be made in the form of a check and should be payable to the Town of Patagonia. A notation of “Animal Control Enclosures” should be included on the check, which can be delivered to Patagonia Town Hall. All checks are tax deductible. For further information or in-kind gifts, please call Charlie Montoy at 394-2363 or Sandy Young at 394-2226.
Hunting the Elusive Mearns Quail

By Donna Reibslager

Joe Panter has been coming here from Phoenix to hunt Mearns quail for 13 years. A native of Texas who has always enjoyed hunting, he says that when he moved to Phoenix he soon learned that the epicenter of bird hunting in Arizona was down in the southeast corner of the state.

Each year, hunters who have drawn tags come to this area for large game like deer, mountain lion, and javelina. But there is one small bird that draws hunters from all over the western United States, and occasionally from much further away. Mearns (previously Montezuma) quail are found almost exclusively in southeastern Arizona, where they make their home in the rocky hills and canyons of the Canelo Hills and the Huachuca and Patagonia Mountains. Because their habitat is limited to this area, and because of the challenges they present to hunters, local guide Dave Brown says he has clients who have traveled here from as far away as Alaska and the Canary Islands to hunt them.

Many hunters consider Mearns quail to be Arizona's prize game bird, and the most challenging. To find them requires hiking for miles up and down hills and draws and through the tall grasses where they make their nests, under the cover of live oak, mesquite and manzanita. Usually gathered in coveys of five or more, they often hold fast to their hiding spot in the grass, unseen by the approaching hunter until he is nearly upon them, at which point they burst forth, flying high and fast in all directions. The hunter must react in a split second and may well have to sight his shot through an overhead maze of branches. Although the limit is eight birds a day, most hunters are happy to get half that number.

Mearns quail are dependent on adequate summer monsoon rainfall for the lush grass cover and plentiful insects they need to thrive. As a result of optimal conditions in 2007, coveys were plentiful in the season that followed. Patagonia resident Penny Shellenbarger, an experienced Mearns quail hunter who uses her taxidermy skills to create quail mounts, remembers working long days to complete all the orders she received that year. But insufficient rainfall, over-shooting, and cold winter storms combined to severely diminish the Mearns population over the several years that followed. Most hunters agree that this year they are seeing more birds—although it is too early to know whether they have made a stable recovery.

Dave Brown is one of several experienced quail hunting guides in this area. Brown says that during quail season—a period of little more than two months beginning in late November or early December—he puts in a full day as a guide for an average of six days a week. When he told me his fee was $1,000 per day and heard me gasp, he explained that the expense of veterinary bills and routine care for his 14 hunting dogs is substantial—especially during the season. The success of any game bird hunter depends on the skill of his or her dogs, who may cover 20 miles or more in a day seeking out coveys. Keenly focused as they are on their search for scent, they may be oblivious to the sharp, rocky soil they run through, full of cat's claw, the occasional rattlesnake, and burs that work their way into paws and ears. Trips to the vet during hunting season may be frequent.

The hunter must have good shooting skills, but it is the dogs that find the birds, go on point to alert the hunter of their location, and hold them in place until the hunter can flush them and take his shot. Local author Phil Caputo is likely to spend five days out of seven hunting Mearns quail with his English setter during the season. He says that he loves watching his dog work and the timeless partnership that he experiences—like that of the earliest hunters—as man and dog pursue their quarry, closely attuned to each other's cues.

During the winter months, the presence of visiting hunters contributes significantly to our local economy. Jerry Isaac, proprietor of the Stage Stop Hotel, estimates that from December through February, 40 percent of his occupants are hunters, who also spend their money at other local businesses.

This is also a group that strongly supports the need to conserve and protect our wildlife and natural resources, as is reflected in their contributions to and membership in a great many organizations dedicated to that purpose. All the hunters I spoke with seem to have a great appreciation for the unique beauty of our high mountain desert and said that part of the attraction of hunting is simply being able to spend the day hiking in this setting. As one hunter told me, "I like to hunt quail because I like to be where they are."
The Lessons of Saint Valentinus

By Ann Katzenbach

It's February. Valentine's Day is just around the corner. What is this tucked away special day in the middle of winter actually about? I thought I would research beyond the hearts, flowers, candy, and cupids to find out why we celebrate this day. The legend of Saint Valentine goes back to Roman times. It is an interesting example of how the more things change the more they stay the same.

Here's the story. Roman Emperor Claudius II forbade his soldiers to marry. He thought married men made poor soldiers. Valentinus, a Christian priest, began marrying young Romans who wanted to sanctify their relationship in the eyes of God. This was done secretly, partly because it was breaking the law and also because Christians were persecuted in the Roman Empire at the time. Too bad for Valentinus. He was caught and arrested. However, Emperor Claudius gave this Christian prisoner the chance to repent. Instead, Valentinus tried to convert the emperor. Claudius stood by his pagan gods and tried to convert Valentinus. Neither man could be convinced. Claudius, being emperor, had the last word and sent the unrepentant Christian to the dungeons. There Valentinus is said to have miraculously cured the blind daughter of his jailer. The man was so grateful and amazed, he became a Christian.

The Romans sentenced Valentinus to beating, stoning, and finally decapitation. Just before his execution he sent the jailer’s daughter a letter of farewell, signing it, “Your Valentinus.”

More than 17 centuries have passed since Valentinus was put to death. Today the desire to marry seems as strong as it was then, and it is still prohibited, not for soldiers (there are plenty of war widows who are proof of that) but now for people of the same sex who want to marry and, still in many places, cannot do so.

Poor Valentinus, put in prison and executed for his religious beliefs. How barbaric this seems in our enlightened age—at least until one picks up a newspaper. Centuries have not altered humankind's lack of tolerance for other religions. Every day people are put in prison, stoned, tortured, excluded, and denigrated because their beliefs and manner of worship don’t match those of the prevailing culture. There are more wars now than the Romans ever dreamed of, and many of them have their roots in religious intolerance.

Despite the dark side of this story, it is really a tale of love. The tradition of sending sweet sentiments signed “Your Valentine”—whose origins may be the hand-written note left for the jailer's daughter—is testimony to the lessons of love and compassion by which Valentinus sought to guide us centuries ago. Happy Valentine’s Day.
On New Year's Day, Kathryn and I were rushing home, abruptly, from Taos, New Mexico. A friend had called to say Mookie, our sweet, even-tempered pit bull, was dying. We'd had him for almost 12 years. Both our family and friends really loved the old guy. And so, we hoped to save his life or, at the very least, to be there with him when he died. It's a nine-and-a-half hour drive. Add a pit stop or two and it takes a long time. It was very nearly midnight when we made it to the house. Our dog was lying in the grass. His nose was cold, a good sign in itself, but so was the rest of his body. Not good. His eyes, though open, had that blank, leathery look we've all seen once or twice. The windows of the soul grow dim when there's nobody home. We knelt there in the dark beside our dog and both just wept. The friend had kindly covered him with a large bathroom towel, atop which we added a small braided rug and an overturned wheelbarrow. We didn't want Mookster to become some varmint's midnight-snack.

Next Day:

To dig the grave of someone dear, by hand, is always soothing in its way. We tidied up the hole, then took our friend (and, nearly, son), now in the wheelbarrow, from where he died to his new, final "home" beneath our courtyard's big mesquite—his favorite spot. We laid him in his grave atop a brightly colored quilt, surrounded by the things he loved the most: his rubber king-sized Kong—(his life’s True Love)—and a pig-ear, a Milk-Bone, and other such stuff, thus making him some sort of Pit Bull Pharaoh, I suppose. Kathryn declined to be buried with him because she's got appointments until 2016. To me it didn't seem right to wait that long to bury Mook.

Wrapping him in the quilt, we proceeded to shovel soft earth over him, making sure to avoid lumps and rocks. Discomfort is probably low on the list of a typical corpse’s concerns. The scientific mind must guess cadavers have no such lists or complaints. Yet, nothing more distinctly shows the tangle of our souls with those we love than really wanting them to rest in peace. The rituals, the funerals, the viewings, vigils, wakes, and all the rest, which seem to honor and appease the dead, are clearly more to comfort those left standing on the shore. This time, that's us.

We humans try and try to grok the boundary between us and them, where those we've loved or hated are concerned. The body, now an empty husk, so shockingly inert and void of life, is perhaps most bizarre in its lack. The being we once loved has ceased to be and won't be back. And yet, as the shock of bereavement subsides, it's very clear, to me, at least, that Richard or Elizabeth or Sandra Soll and Lil are still "living" within me, and largely unchanged by their deaths, evoking pangs, from time to time, of missing or regret—this latter requires almost all my New Age skills to have it be real sadness, not just guilt.

With Mookie put to bed this one last time, we banked up some soil around the new grave to form a shallow bowl, and then, in deference to the tree whose roots we'd cut and bruised, put the garden hose in it to trickle all night. Once more it creeps me out to know my pal reclines in freezing mud. Again I must remind myself that his compact and muscular, tuxedo-clad physique feels nothing now. Our precious friend stays with us in the middle of the yard. Our precious friend lives with me in the middle of my heart, where he'll evoke more love and pain and thanks; and then, I guess, as time goes by, will fade a bit, and then a little more, until he is a gentle presence, steady and serene, like a candle no longer perturbed by the wind or a rock that’s been tumbled and smoothed in a boisterous sea.

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**LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS**

**A Little Like A Locket Worn Within**

by Martin Levowitz

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**Photo by Martin Levowitz**
It's hard to believe, but I had a bully. It started around the eighth grade after a hotly contested student council election that I won. I, being only mildly popular in school, had the audacity to run against the super popular girl. No one thought I could win, but I did, and man was she livid!

So, Miss Popular proceeded to socially destroy me. No invites to parties, rumors and snickering. You name it I got the full mean-girl treatment, and when you are in the eighth grade you might as well die. I ducked and weaved trying to stay out of her line of sight.

Luckily, high school came around, and her focus became popular boys and not me. But I never forgot. The two of us grew up and went about our separate lives; until recently I didn't know what had happened to my bully, and then the universe repaid me for my suffering.

I ran into her at a funeral. Sort of. I stood up to share my remembrances of the deceased, when I heard her voice and froze. I didn't see her at first since she was sitting behind me, but I would know that voice anywhere. After everything wrapped up I whipped around so that I could catch a glimpse of her and give her a great big "hello," but she was gone. I grabbed my sister and my sweater and practically ran out of the funeral home trying to catch up with her. (Not very dignified, I know.) Why? I wanted her to see me. To see that I grew up to be a pretty good person despite her torture.

Then the best thing EVER happened. I saw her waddling as fast as her body would allow to her beat-up car. Her black stretch pants were barely containing what she used to flaunt in my face all those years ago in eighth grade. Time has not been on her side, and it gave me great joy to know that she was hiding from me. Vindication. At that moment I wished that every young girl who had ever suffered at the hand of a mean girl was there with me in that parking lot to feel the joy that I felt.

I want to say to all of the young girls out there—the bullies and the bullied—I have seen the future and it doesn't look good for the mean girls. They get fat, drive bad cars, and have to wear ill-fitting stretch pants. They have to duck and weave so that the people they tortured don't see what they have become. If you are currently a bully or considering starting up, be warned. That girl you are being mean to might just grow up and write a column about you and how badly you filled out those stretch pants, and she just might enjoy every minute of it.
I despise the term "Millennial." Maybe it’s because I am one, maybe it’s because most people seem to like me personally but when they start talking or thinking about my generation, I suddenly get lumped into a category of people who are seen as whiny, entitled babies, full of ambition and idealism, yet completely lazy and unwilling to work for anything other than their booze, drugs, and maybe the occasional trip around the world by bus.

The whole idea of the Millennial Generation reminds me of the year 1999, when the new millennium was upon us and when many well-meaning but gullible people were hyped up about Y2K, thinking that all of the computers in the world would go insane and rise up against humans, thus bringing upon us a complete holocaust. Seems like a lot of people are just as hyped up about Millennials as they were about Y2K. I’ve read articles and when many well-meaning but gullible people are hyped up about the zombie apocalypse is coming your way, and we’re all between the ages of 18 and 34.

Like most of my peers, I was raised to believe that I could do, be, and subsequently have anything I wanted. Well, for a time I wanted to be a princess. Unfortunately, my geographic location and God’s will didn’t work out in my favor. I contemplated being a nurse, but sick people and hospitals freak me out. At one point in time, I was so lazy about learning to play the guitar that I tried to sell my soul to the Devil, a la Robert Johnson, in exchange for preternatural guitar abilities. I guess I disproved the existence of Satan, because I can’t play guitar to save my life, but that’s another story for another time.

Okay, I get it. Maybe I am a little lazy, but I’ve managed to carve out a niche for myself in this town by NOT being pinned into the same jobs that my parents had, though that’s mostly because I’ve never been a big fan of “Internal Auditing.” Being a librarian/baker/singer/housecleaner/babysitter/dogwalker/housesitter is fine by me.
Learning a second language is a frequent topic of conversation among people who have moved to Patagonia. I have listened to many who express an interest in learning Spanish admit that challenges stop them from pursuing this, such as difficulties with pronunciation, verb conjugations, and memorization. But perhaps the most important motivation for learning a language is lack—A preschool teacher reminded me that adults, like children, learn best when they are having fun. Working on my laptop in the Gathering Grounds, aware of the music in the background that helped keep me going, I was reminded of the years I taught English to Spanish-speaking adults in an American language center in Bogota, Colombia. The students were learning a new language—and both students and teachers were enjoying the experience.

Teachers entered the lounge of the language center greeted by stimulating music and were offered coffee or tea. The center’s director was a vibrant, competent woman who liked to play music from the sixties and seventies, especially songs by Aretha Franklin, which reverberated through the halls and into the classrooms. After a cup of coffee with the other teachers, I went to my class of about 20 people. Often there were groups, such as student pilots from commercial airlines, who had been sent to the center to learn English as quickly as possible. The teacher would say a word while pointing at an image on a chart—and at each student who repeated that word. Then we said the word in phrases and sentences.

Like the other teachers, I didn’t just stand in front of the class and point. The beat of the music kept me moving around the room. Everyone was energized by a growing enthusiasm as each person repeated the words without hesitation. We were saying the words and sentences to the cadence of the background music and all of us became caught up in the experience. Self-consciousness and fear of speaking in front of others were forgotten. The students’ eyes were bright with interest, and their quick responses allowed no time to judge themselves or others. Laughter was frequent and spontaneous.

This method worked well with the continual exchange between students and teacher, and students with each other. Many students continued on to higher level classes. It was obvious that the teachers were fully engaged also. Gesturing, interacting and moving around the room to the music felt like a kind of pantomime dance—a dance that lasted for an hour. Often we forgot the time.

I never saw teachers or students leave tired or bored, though after teaching two or three of these intense classes, it was time to go home. But we were glad to come back the next day because, even though it was our work, it was also our play. There probably are a number of methods that can make learning a language enjoyable. For me, using music is a great way to make learning fun.

Letter to the Editor

I just want to say it is great that there is a local paper. I grew up in Patagonia and graduated from Patagonia High School in 1965. I returned to Patagonia in the early 90’s for about 10 years, served on the High School Board for most of those 10 years, and watched Patagonia grow and deal with change. I now live in Gilbert, close to our children and grandchildren. Patagonia is one of the most beautiful places I have had the fortune to live and grow up in. I caution that Patagonia be very selective in implementing the new changes that many towns have gone through and think about them from a long-term perspective, not just a short-term perspective. A number of changes that may help in the short term may be detrimental in the long term. Keep the small town perspective and focus on education and the arts. Congratulations on the paper and much continued success.

—Geoff Millar
New Year’s Eve at Cady Hall

Everyone enjoyed this year’s festivities as Hog Canyon Band danced them into the New Year at Cady Hall on December 31. A big thanks to this year’s hosts, Bob and Elise Misiorowski, Jerry Isaac and Lynn Weatherby of the Stage Stop Hotel, and High Spirit Flutes. AT LEFT: From the top: Bob and Elise Misiorowski, Heather Wood and Laura Wenzel, Liz Bernays and Linda Hitchcock, Gooch Goodwin and Wendy Russell.
 Appeal Process for FS Decision On Regal Resources Begins Soon

By this month, the Forest Service (FS) is expected to issue a Categorical Exclusion (CE) decision for Regal’s exploratory mineral drilling proposal in Humboldt Canyon in the Patagonia Mountains. This would indicate that the FS considers their proposal to be “without significant environmental impacts.”

In the past, a CE decision would allow a company to proceed with their proposed project immediately. However, the FS now offers an administrative appeal process for projects given a CE Decision. Anyone who commented on Regal’s Sunnyside proposal during the initial scoping comment period is entitled to participate in the appeal process. Once the decision is issued, the FS will publish a notice in the paper, which starts a 45-day window within which to file an appeal to the FS.

Release of Wildcat’s Draft EA Anticipated

In another ongoing NEPA process in the Patagonia Mountains, the release of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Wildcat Silver’s Hermosa exploration proposal is also anticipated. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires a “detailed statement” on the impacts of any proposed action that may “significantly affect the quality of the human environment.” Projects with anticipated environmental impacts get classified by NEPA as either requiring an “Environmental Assessment” or an “Environmental Impact Statement.” An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a brief analysis used to determine the significance of impacts resulting from a proposal. The EA is first released in draft form for public review and comment.

Coronado National Forest Sierra Vista District Ranger Mark Ruggiero issued a letter on December 18, 2013, announcing the anticipated Draft Environmental Assessment for the Wildcat Silver/Arizona Minerals Hermosa Plan. Its release will trigger a 30-day public comment period before a final decision is issued. The letter also reported that in response to numerous comments received during the first scoping period, revision was made to the Hermosa Plan of Operation (Plan) “in order to reduce identified conflicts as to cultural resources.” The revised Plan is available on the Hermosa Drilling Project page on the Forest Service website: www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41158. The changes are summarized in Appendix G.

If you have further questions about the Hermosa Plan, contact Margie B. DeRose, Geologist/Hermosa Project Manager, Coronado National Forest at (520) 388-8341 or mbderose@fs.fed.us.

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) is mobilizing community members to respond to the two upcoming comment periods described above. For more information, go to: www.patagoniaalliance.org.

Objection Period for Rosemont FEIS Ends February 14

The Forest Service has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine Plan. In a new procedure for the Forest Service, an objection period is now available on the FEIS only for those parties who previously submitted scoping comments on Rosemont. The objection period started January 1 and is scheduled to end February 14.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). Send to: Reviewing Officer, Southwest Region, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87102; by FAX to (520) 842-3173 or email to objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. For more information, contact Mindy Sue Vogel, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress, Tucson, AZ, 520.388.8327, msvogel@fs.fed.us.

New Forest Management Plan in the Works

The Coronado National Forest (CNF) has prepared a Draft Land and Resource Management Plan, to update the current management plan, which was written in 1986. The public review period has already started, with deadline to comment on February 20, 2014.

The Draft Forest Plan can be found on the Forest Service website: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7_018673. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the CNF office at 520-388-8300. Tell the receptionist you want to speak to someone about Plan Revision. You will be connected with one of the Plan Revision Core Team members.

Comments can be submitted via: Coronado Forest Plan Revision P.O. Box 1919 Sacramento, CA 95812, by fax (916) 456-6724 (Subject: Coronado National Forest, Plan Revision); or by email to CoronadoNF@fscomments.org (Subject: Coronado National Forest, Plan Revision).

Rosemont Now Proposing a High Volume of Traffic Through Patagonia

Rosemont’s FEIS now has added delivery routes for copper concentrate to Guaymas, Mexico. Highway 82 from Sonoita to Nogales is slated to be one of the delivery routes of copper concentrates from the proposed Rosemont mine. Trucks could be expected to make up to 56 round trips per day through Patagonia.
Walking Tour Conjures Up Images of the Past
by Leslie Ware

Pentimento (noun): visible trace of earlier painting beneath a layer or layers of paint on a canvas.

Anyone following German Quiroga on a walking tour of Patagonia on January 18 would have seen the town as it is today, but the fun was in imagining it as it used to be.

The Railroad Depot. The land where we met to begin our walk was once home to the Hohokam, followed by the Tohono O’odham; Spanish missionaries; Apaches; and finally homesteaders like Rollin Rice Richardson, who named the town “Rollin” after himself, though it was “Patagonia” that stuck. The depot building looks much like it did in 1900. But picture it in its original site, 45 feet closer to Naugle Ave. In the mid-1960s, after the railroad was abandoned (cattle were now trucked, not sent by train, and the area’s silver and lead mines were closing), the highway department straightened a kink in Highway 82. That meant moving the depot to its current location.

The gas station. Imagine the earlier occupant of this space—The Wagon Wheel Saloon. To move the bar to its current location, workers put it on a dolly and rolled it down the highway.

Pilates Patagonia. It’s easy to see the pentimento here, on the wooden sign: “Patagonia Lumber Co.” A spur from the main rails led to the building, easing transport of lumber.

Patagonia Arts building. It once was Anne Stradling’s Museum of the Horse (now in Ruidoso, NM), with a blacksmith shop in back.

La Mision de San Miguel. This structure, built in 1915, was recently a bar and music venue, but before that it was the raucous Big Steer bar. And before that? A laundromat.

Red Mountain Foods. It was once the site of Judge Alexander Henderson’s mercantile store.

Two doors away from Red Mountain Foods. Imagine a wood-frame opera house. Thought to be a fire hazard, it was razed in the mid-1960s.

Tree at the corner of Smelter and Fourth. Picture a miscreant chained to this tree, which served as the town jail until 1938, when the Works Progress Administration built a more conventional jail. Perhaps the chained man was inebriated, German Quiroga said: “His buddies could still come visit and bring him liquor, but he couldn’t move away.” Now picture another jail tree on McKeown, next to the Long Realty office (the stump was stored at the Lopez Pool Hall) and a jail cave in School Canyon not far from the Pony Tail Hair Salon.

Cady Hall. Before it began life as the Patagonia Library in 1957 (courtesy of the Patagonia Women’s Club, which earned a cheer from Quiroga’s tour group), it served as a hotel, restaurant, and roller skating rink.

309 Duquesne Ave. This building has had at least two prior lives, as the Patagonia Union High School, from 1926 to 1948, and until 1983, as Dr. Delmar Mock’s clinic. Doc Mock had lots of business delivering babies, including tour guide Quiroga, who notes that the doctor drove to his destinations in a station wagon on which he’d earned permission to put red lights.

Razors. Yes, razors. Our last pentimento involves imagining those long-ago railroad tracks that led to town. The rails were sold to the Gillette Company to use in making blades for shaving.

German Quiroga begins the tour at the historic Railroad Depot

The Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo Association (SCCFRA) held its annual meeting on Saturday, December 7, 2013. Three persons were elected to serve on the board of directors, effective January 1, 2014.

Jim Cosbey: For the past two years, Jim has chaired the Sonoita Horse Race Committee. He has been the past Treasurer of the SCCFRA and is a founding trustee of the SCCFA Foundation.

Roland Cowan: He has been a board member of the SCCFRA since January of 2009. He is active in the Canelo Cowboy Church and has helped make its monthly family fun days at the Fairgrounds a success. Roland has served on the entertainment committee and the Rodeo committee for two years.

Jamie Smith: She is relatively new to Santa Cruz County and is a horse enthusiast. A career accounting professional, Jamie will contribute to the financial structure of the Fair and Rodeo Association. She successfully served on the Quarter Horse Show committee in May 2013.

The following officers were elected to serve for the year 2014 at the January 14 SCCFRA meeting:

President-Jim Cosbey, Vice President-Dave Daiss, Treasurer-Jamie Smith, Secretary-Nan Sonderer.

The next board of directors meeting will be held in Pioneer Hall at the Fairgrounds on Tuesday, February 11, at 6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE of March 1 for the Fair & Rodeo Association’s 2nd Annual Mardi Gras party to raise funds for the Eastern Santa Cruz Community Food Bank. For more information about this fun event, call (520) 455-4700.

SAVE THE DATES of May 3-4 for the 99th Annual Sonoita Horse Races, held on Kentucky Derby weekend. For more information, donate opportunities, race sponsorships, or program advertising, please contact Jim Cosbey at 455-4641 or call the fairgrounds office at 455-5553.
Idiopathic Vestibular Disorder

Just a few weeks ago, my 12-year-old Saluki, Kiddo, awakened me in the wee hours of the morning, whining and talking in a very desperate tone of voice. I ran to where she was lying on one of the dog beds in the living room and found her in quite a state. Her eyes were rapidly blinking left to right and she could not seem to get up. She seemed distressed and disoriented. Given her age, I was in fear of a stroke.

Then I recalled two dogs of friends of mine who went through something similar. They were diagnosed with a condition called Idiopathic Vestibular Disease or "old dog vestibular disorder." Idiopathic means arising from an unknown cause. The very good news is that this is almost always a temporary condition that corrects itself in anywhere from a day to several weeks without medication. Kiddo was very fortunate in that she was completely restored in just one day. The other dogs I know were debilitated for a few weeks, and one gal has a permanent head tilt but no life-threatening residual effects, and she functions normally.

Symptoms can include a head tilt, difficulty walking, eyes moving strangely, circling, nausea, refusal to eat, and vomiting. Since these symptoms can be indicative of many other illnesses, it is recommended that the dog be taken to the vet for an examination to rule out the other possibilities.

The vestibular system is composed of portions of the brain and ear responsible for maintaining our sense of balance, and when it is not working properly we feel like the world is spinning. My vet suggested a human antinausea pill to relieve this feeling for kiddo. It seemed to help.

It is a difficult thing to watch, and, depending on each individual case, your canine may need assistance to get in and out to relieve itself, need help walking so as not to fall down, and even require hand feeding and watering, but boy, is it all worth it when you see your dog back to normal again, happy and healthy and ready to rock!

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides "specialized animal care for all beings large or small." You can contact Cate at beyondreasonranch@wildblue.net.
The day of the Rain Harvesting Workshop did not include any rain. In fact, the warm sunny January day was one of many such lovely gifts this winter. As a result of all this fine weather, we are experiencing drought conditions in southern Arizona. It hasn’t rained since before Thanksgiving. Learning to maximize the rain that we do get is critical.

The workshop, funded by a grant from Arizona State Forestry Division, and attended by 47 people, began at 9:30 with a talk at the Community Center by Kate Tirion of Deep Dirt Farm. Using slides and charts, she described the complexities of water and how to make best use of it in this climate.

At 11 a.m. a team of volunteers went outside and got to work. The main goal of the workshop was to create a French drain along the side of the building where water runs off the roof when it rains. Essentially a trench filled with stones, the drain absorbs the runoff, allowing it to slowly soak into the ground, thus providing more water for the trees in the area.

Natural mulch is another way to retain water in the soil to benefit the park trees. Another objective of the day’s workshop was spreading wood chips from the old cottonwood tree that had been cut down a few days earlier. A team also began the task of reshaping the drainage pattern in the park to conserve rain water for the walnut trees. On the east side of the Community Center, volunteers put in beds where native plants will benefit from more runoff from the roof.

Brent Bowdon donated and delivered rocks, gravel and boulders for the French drain construction. Twenty-five volunteers, including several children and a few folks from Tucson, moved dirt, rocks, boulders, wood chips and gravel. They scurried about with wheelbarrows, shovels, picks and rakes. Around noon, David Briggler arrived with a small backhoe, and after that work sped up considerably.

At 1 p.m. Dave and Barbara Ellis laid out a potluck lunch of salads, cookies and hotdogs cooked on the grill. It didn’t take long for this fare to disappear.

Work continued through the afternoon, and, although there were still things to do at the end of the day, the projects were well under way.

Funds for this undertaking were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program administered through Arizona State Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the USDA Forest Service.
The Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association will hold its second annual Mardi Gras party and fundraiser on March 1. Last year’s event raised money for the Nogales woman’s shelter, Nuestra Casa. In addition, local churches collected paper goods, personal supplies, baby items, soaps and detergents for the shelter.

This year, the fundraiser will benefit the Eastern Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank, a nonprofit that currently gives out food to 75 families in our area. Over the last three years, this organization has seen nearly a 100% increase in clients, resulting from the high unemployment rate in the county, the struggling economy, and cutbacks in the federal food stamp program.

Eastern Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank is an independent organization, not directly affiliated with the Nogales and Tucson Food Banks. It depends solely on grants, donations and volunteers and receives no federal funding. The group distributes food boxes once a month and also responds to emergency calls for food at any time. “If they are hungry, we feed them,” said Food Bank president Michael O’Halloran.

In addition, volunteers deliver food bags that have been filled at the Nogales Food Bank to qualified residents in eastern Santa Cruz County. “A lot of people can’t drive to Nogales, so we provide a convenience,” explained O’Halloran. Volunteers also travel to Tucson once a month to collect bread and canned goods from the Tucson Food Bank and, every Monday, pay for and pick up produce in Nogales that is then distributed free of charge in Patagonia.

Funds raised by the Mardi Gras party will help to purchase food and pay for rent, supplies and operating expenses. There are no paid employees of the food bank, as this is an all-volunteer organization.

At this year’s party, several local organizations and businesses will be competing in the “Snack Down” competition. Each group is given a 6 foot table to decorate and to fill with “snacks” which can be appetizers, soups, chili, desserts—almost anything. Themes from last year ranged from Prairie Fairies, to a wedding couple, to Renaissance musicians, to Carmen Miranda. Prizes were given out for the best food and presentation, as well as a people’s choice award.

More than 100 people came in costume to the party last year to enter the hotly contested costume contest and parade. This second year the contest promises to be even more popular.

This year’s entertainment will feature performances by Elvis and Liza impersonators. Johnny Jones performed as Elvis in his own theater in Branson, Missouri for many years. Suzanne Klasen will perform as Liza.
The Nogales Bicycle Classic

Bicycle riders of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in the Nogales Bicycle Classic taking place on Saturday March 29. The event offers participants various self-paced rides designed for leisurely fun or the physical challenge demanded by serious cyclists. The common factor is that all participants will enjoy the fresh air and majestic beauty of Santa Cruz County while riding the 8, 28, 58 or 84-mile routes.

All rides start at Nogales City Hall, 777 North Grand Avenue. The 84-mile route starts at 6:30 a.m. and heads northeast on Highway 82 to Patagonia then back to South River Rd. to Pendleton, Palo Parado to Chavez Siding in Tubac and back through Rio Rico to Nogales.

The 58-mile ride starts at 6:45 a.m. heading northeast on Highway 82 to South River Road, where it winds through Pendleton, Palo Parado, Chavez Siding and back through Rio Rico to Nogales.

The 28-miler starts at 7 a.m. and follows Highway 82 to South River Road to Pendleton and Palo Parado in Rio Rico, then back to Nogales.

The 8-mile “fun ride” starts at 7:15 a.m. and wheels down Grand Avenue and back to city hall.

The 28 and 58-mile courses are for road and mountain bikes. The 84-mile course is for road bikes only, and the 8-mile “fun ride” is for any kind of bike and riders of all ages.

The event will conclude at 1:30 p.m. Officials will have a vehicle available at the event’s conclusion to pick up any riders still on the course.

Early Bird Registration is now in progress at http://www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org/registration.html until February 28. Fees are $65 for adult riders and $35 for riders ages 12-18 in the 28, 58 and 84-mile rides. The 8-mile fun ride for ages 12 and over is $25, and riders age 12 and under are free. After February 28, adult registration for the 28, 58 and 84-mile rides is $75.

You can also register now to win a three-month training plan with three scheduled course preview rides for the 84-mile event. Go to http://www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org/ for details.

All registration proceeds benefit Circles of Peace, one of the first domestic violence treatment and prevention programs that use a restorative justice circle approach to quell violent behavior in families. Circles of Peace is committed to advancing a holistic and culturally sensitive community-based approach to mending families in Santa Cruz County.

The Esplendor Resort at Rio Rico is the official sponsoring hotel. Located at 1069 Camino Caralampi, Rio Rico, AZ 85648, the Esplendor is offering special discounted room rates to guests riding in the Nogales Bicycle Classic. Phone 520-281-1901 or email reservations@esplendor-resort.com.

If your organization would like to sponsor this event, please go to http://www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org/sponsors.html

What’s New At the Library?

By Cynthia Berk

Lately, writing has become fashionable in Patagonia. People are using the library to take advantage of the computers and practice this skill, occasionally to write submissions to the PRT. Recently, the library has developed a section featuring books written by people from the community. This collection is aptly classified as “LOCAL,” and the most recent addition is Rhonda Brew’s autobiography, Laundry Day.

Humans yearn to create things; it is in our nature. So when people set out to rediscover or improve writing skills, often dormant since high school or college, it can be a wondrous thing. As in the movie The Wizard of OZ, when Dorothy steps out of her monochromatic tornado-borne house into the Land of Oz in full living Technicolor, life starts anew. (By the way, this movie is also at the library.)

Words and punctuation are powerful. They are the mortar and brick for the writer: one word instead of another, a semicolon in place of a period and the shading and meaning are refined. A developed vocabulary in particular can enrich and build the ability of the writer to communicate. Once the “writer in you” surfaces, reading can take on new meaning too. It is no longer that fast food meal of content: one bite after another while hurrying to a scheduled appointment. Every book can become a gourmet meal full of flavors and textures that create richness of experience, one sentence at a time.

If you are one of these people who strive to put thoughts to paper, the library has many books in the Language Arts section ranging from composition and creative writing, through grammar and into publishing. We also have two periodicals worth exploring: Poets & Writers and Writer’s Digest.

On the same topic of communication, have any of you discovered Mango Languages at the library? This is a service you can access via the Patagonia Public Library website. At the top of the website you’ll find the Mango icon. Click on that and follow the directions; you can create your own foreign language account! Mango offers more than 60 languages to study. There is also the option of translation, if you only need to communicate a short message or idea. I quote Mango, “You’ll learn more than grammar, vocabulary and conjugation; you’ll learn how to communicate.”
Of Death and Freedom
Of Sleep and Dreams

Where am I that I am not seen by anyone?
Where is my conviction and confidence
That life is meaningful?

We’re born into these places, worlds without end
Where good and evil, happiness and suffering alternate.

Where is our primal Freedom, inseparable
From our true nature—that it is hardly seen by anyone?

Some of us must’ve brought it with us
From that place of Presence;
And somehow we built this nation.

But here, where misery and happiness alternate
And twist, and stutter,
Freedom is becoming less and less
The certain clue, pointing back
To some basic ground
On which our pursuit of meaningfulness is based.

Has our innate freedom strayed
Into a fiction of our own making?

How else could such free souls
Come to such a widespread disregard?

To allow the freedoms
That we’ve enacted here
To lapse in this way, unrecognized,
Bit by bit, bit by bit
While tyranny grows;
This is no place for us,
We will awaken.
This is no place for the children,
We will awaken.
This is no place for any one of us, we will awaken;
How soon?
How late?

— Michael Paul Chrisemer
from Waking To Tyranny, Heart Poems

Improv Has New Name, New Show

The Patagonia Players’ improv group, who have named themselves The Pick Up Schticks, have begun meeting to plan their next performances, which are scheduled for March 22 and 23 at the Tin Shed Theater. Some of the original cast will be continuing, joined by new members that include Bernice Pomeroy, Martin Levowitz, and Laura Wenzel.

This year’s show will include both improv and scripted comedy skits plus dance numbers. New skit ideas being considered include a takeoff on Johnny Carson’s Carnac, a slightly skewed synchronized swimming demonstration, chicken impressionists, and a Mad Tea Party.

The troupe is holding practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. If you are interested in being a part of the show, call Janice Pulliam at (706) 614-6959. Details about the upcoming performance schedule will be noted in PRT’s March issue.

SCFPA’s Traveling Concert Haul Debuts

By PRT Staff

The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA) will host a free concert on February 8 at 2 p.m. in front of Global Arts Gallery in Patagonia. The concert will offer a preview of SCFPA’s new Concert Haul™—a custom-designed trailer outfitted with theater lights, a sound system, a digital piano, an 8’x16’ stage, and storage for 50 chairs.

The performance is part of Global Arts Gallery’s annual Valentine’s Day Celebration and will feature a program of romantic music from Europe, Mexico, and Latin America. The concert will showcase two local ensembles, the Trio Allegretto (flute, viola, piano) and the Martin Marquez troubadours.

“This performance is an exclusive preview of our new Community Concert Haul™ Series, which will deliver classical music to people of all ages and generations,” explains Christina Wilhelm, Founder & Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Foundation of the Performing Arts (SCFPA), which designed and funded the Concert Haul™. “The series will take high-quality, classical music into the community and anywhere people gather.”

The Concert Haul™ will be parked near the front of the Patagonia Town Hall, across from Global Arts Gallery, located at 315 McKeown Avenue. For more information: go to www.scfpapresents.org/concert-haul.pdf or call: (520) 394-9495.
An exhibit of photographs by Martin Levowitz (at left) opened at the Gathering Grounds on January 9 with a well-attended reception.

Artwork by Lee Katzenbach
Waiting for a Moon Dog
By Vince Pinto

Here in sunny southern Arizona we generally enjoy winter weather that would easily qualify as summer in some cooler temperate regions of the globe. We proffer sun to legions of cold-weary souls seeking succor from snow, icy winds, and leaden skies. Yet, the increasingly warm, dry, and sunny weather that draws snowbirds and vacationers alike may well portend a drastic paradigm shift in the natural history of our region.

It used to be that the Sky Islands of southeastern Arizona received approximately 30% of their annual precipitation in winter. Most of the rest, of course, is delivered during our monsoon season, which generally falls between early July and mid-September. Of late, however, our winter precipitation—usually in the form of gentle rains or snow at higher elevations—seems itself to have “gone south.” If the recorded climate data of the past 100 years or so is any guide, then February should be a month of intermittent rain under overcast skies.

Remember peeking at the full moon in February and gazing at a perfect, glowing halo surrounding it? This is a moon dog, created by the light of la luna refracting through water in the atmosphere. Moon dogs frequently manifest themselves two to four days before a Pacific weather system enters our area. Winds that aspire to knock you down and chill you to the bone make you pine for the still, warm weather that abruptly just vanished.

Yet the wind is simply the price of admission for some winter moisture. A mere trickle of wispy clouds starts to infiltrate our area from the west, sometimes painting a flaming sunset. Typically, on the third or fourth day following a moon dog, a wall of clouds steamrolls in and magically transforms sunny Arizona into a completely different realm. Temperatures may not top 50 degrees, and the daytime windchill can easily dip into the 30s! This is the weather that many snowbirds and other sun revelers revile. They (you?) came here for sun, not this!

Here’s the rub, however. Most of our spring wildflowers rely a lot on winter precipitation. Yes, sun draws tourists and tourist dollars, but so, too, do colorful carpets of wildflowers. Fall rain sets the stage, but winter rains allow the emerged plants to flourish and to bloom even longer. Instead, this January we’ve been witness to some alarmingly warm and thoroughly dry weather that promises mostly dust and, ultimately, wildfires.

Still, not all is a loss. Here and there February will bear witness to a modicum of spring ephemeral wildflowers. A discerning eye will take in the beauty of papago lilies, their light purple flowers belying the simplicity of the grass-like leaves. Impossibly yellow California poppies are even more obvious. Filling the gaps on otherwise bare soil are tansy mustards with their tiny, yellow blooms. There is a native species, though a nonnative, invasive one occurs in our region as well. Popcorn flowers live up to their billing, as they seem nothing more than a minute version of that food.

Yes, February will deliver a much smaller start to what we perpetually hope will be our annual wildflower extravaganza. This year’s wildflowers need to be appreciated on foot, given the likelihood of their sparsity. Enjoy it, revel in it, but also cross your fingers, do a dance, and conjure up your best voodoo to evoke a much-needed el Nino for next winter!

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.

Santa Cruz Humane Society
Pets of the Month

Bring some love into your life for Valentine’s Day...

Jocie (JoJo) is an energetic and affectionate, 2-year old shepherd mix who loves to play with other dogs. She would make a great hiking buddy and all-around canine companion.

Jaye is a 6 yr old cuddle bug who likes being brushed and adored. A volunteer favorite, she has big, blue eyes and enjoys giving endless head rubs.

Santa Cruz Humane Society
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org.
What is my next computer going to look like? Will it be a desktop, laptop, tablet or phone?

The world of computers is evolving at an ever-increasing rate, and in many ways our old ideas of what constitutes a computer are changing. Recently, a client showed me her new phone and asked if she really needed her computer any more. Good question. In this always connected culture, the phone is taking the place of the computer as the must have device.

When asked what someone should buy for a new computer, I always ask what you want to do with it. If all you want to do is browse the Internet and deal with email, an inexpensive Chromebook might be all you need. If you are editing video or photos you probably need a fast desktop or laptop with lots of processing power.

It’s a hard decision to make. If you know someone who uses the same type of computer you are interested in buying, see if you can get some hands-on time with theirs.

Another question is: Windows or Apple? Microsoft Windows computers are usually much cheaper but more likely to get infected with malware. Apple computers are well made and are not as susceptible to malware infections, but they are expensive. Both operating systems have a wide selection of compatible software available; Windows has more, but Apple has software for most home users’ needs.

No matter what you decide for your next computer purchase, be ready for more change. That’s one thing we can count on in this industry, change. Cloud computing is going to transform the way in which we use our computers. The cloud is a term used to refer to using the Internet to store both programs and data. An example is Apple’s iCloud where you can store the contacts for your iPhone. When you store your contacts in Apple’s iCloud they will automatically sync over the Internet with your other devices, i.e. iPad or computer.

As more of our data and programs are moved to the Internet cloud, the devices we use to access the cloud will also change.

Enjoy the ride!

Ed Schaefer is the owner of Better Bytes, a computer consulting service. He can be contacted at (520) 455-9269, and also has a website at www.better-bytes.com.
31 Cross Creek, Patagonia

DREAM KITCHEN 2 BR / 2 BA, 2200 sq ft. Santa Fe home on 28 acres! Within walking distance of Patagonia. Spacious and open. Barn, plenty of turnout room and a seasonal creek.

MLS# 21316953 $567,500

CAROL FORD 520-604-0162 or Cheryl Volk 520-975-7271

Sonoita Wine Country

STRAW BALE CASITA on 13+ Acres! Built as a guest house prior to the construction of the main house. Perfect weekend getaway, wine tasting room and much more. Excellent soil to plant your own vineyard! 40 Omega Ln, Elgin

MLS# 21400036 $199,000

BETH BARTH 520-907-4409

Papago Springs, Sonoita

OAK STUDDED PROPERTY 2208 sq ft, 2 BR / 2 BA, 2 master suites, great room, open floor plan is light and airy. Beautifully landscaped with courtyards and gazebo. 2.21 acres, barn, ride out to forest.

36 Colee Drive

MLS# 21310291 $339,000

CAROL FORD 520-604-0162 or Cheryl Volk 520-975-7271

Beautiful Lake Patagonia

HILL TOP HOME with 2 master suites! 2 BD / 3 BA, 2056 sq ft, 4+ acres, quality construction, formal dining, large Arizona room, incredible views, beautiful custom ironwork gates and fencing.

70 Circulo Montana

MLS #21400440 $349,000

JEAN MILLER 520-508-3335

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Sonoita.LongRealty.Com
Socorro Jurahui of Patagonia passed away on December 31, 2013. She was born in Elgin on October 14, 1917, and was raised in Sonoita, where she graduated from the eighth grade. Her family moved to Patagonia in 1938. She is survived by her son, Oscar G. Jurahui (Elsa), and her daughter, Irene Smith; one grandchild; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. As one of her friends said, “She made everyone feel special.”

In Memory of
Socorro M. Jurahui
October 14, 1917 - December 31, 2013

J. Rukin “Rukie” Jelks, 86, passed away January 12 in Tucson, where he was born on October 21, 1927. He grew up on the family’s X-9 Ranch in the Rincon Mountains of his beloved Arizona. He graduated with degrees in anthropology and sociology from the University of Montana. While in college he met the love of his life, Carolyn “Keri” Gillett. When the couple came to Arizona, Rukin became a dynamite salesman for Hercules Powder Company in Phoenix. His territory included all of Arizona, Imperial County in California, Clark County in Nevada, and even far off Hidalgo in central Mexico.

Eventually he and his wife bought a ranch and 80 acres of land in Lyle Canyon near Elgin. The ranch, which he operated with his sons and their loyal ranch foreman, Joe Quiroga, was named the Diamond C.

In the 1940s, he built a house that would become the cornerstone of Rillito Downs racetrack. The Sonoran Revival hacienda was one of Arizona’s first burnt adobe homes. The home eventually became a stud farm, and Rukin built Rillito Downs in his backyard. It was the first quarter horse track in the United States and as of 2013 was listed for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Rukin is survived by Keri, his beloved wife of 62 years; three sons and their wives; and 10 precious grandchildren.

A memorial service, “Remembering Rukin,” will be held at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on Saturday, February 15 at 1 p.m.

Rukin Jelks
October 21, 1927 - January 12, 2014

Can you identify this track of one of the wild neighbors you may see in the Patagonia, Santa Rita, or other local mountain ranges? This carnivore may also be found in deserts, grasslands, and even towns.

This type of track is commonly about 2 inches in diameter, which is about twice the size of house-cat tracks. Note the lack of claw marks, which are visible in tracks left by members of the dog family. For the answer, go to top of page 27.

In Memory of
Socorro Muñoz Jurahui
October 14, 1917 - December 31, 2013

Red Mountain Cottage
Located one mile from Patagonia
Fully equipped kitchen Pet friendly
redmtncottage.com 520.394.2514
25
meetings

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

Al-Anon Meeting - Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Sonoita Hills Comm. Church, 52 Elgin Rd., just off Hwy 83; Info: 237-8091

CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) Board Meeting 3rd Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.

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

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

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

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

events

A Living History Presentation - Thursday, February 6 at 1 p.m. in the Patagonia Community Center; Ms. Elena Diaz Bjorkquist portrays the renowned spiritual healer Teresa Urrea. Refreshments.

Cowboy Life Family Fun Day - Saturday, February 8 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Historic Empire Ranch– exhibit, kids’ games and activities, music, cowboy demonstrations, and ranch house tours. For directions go to: www.empireranchfoundation.org

Potluck Dinner - Sunday, February 9, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Patagonia Community Center. Bring a prepared dish that represents a food memory from your heritage.

Free Open Air Concert - February 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. across from Global Arts Gallery, a preview performance of classical music from SCFPA’s Concert Hall.

Annual Valentine’s Love-A-Thon, February 8, noon to 5 p.m. at Global Arts Gallery; see ad on page 15.

“Borderland Trails” - Saturday, February 15 at 7 p.m. in the Patagonia Library; Diana Hadley of the Arizona State Museum presents an overview of historic borderland travel routes.

Made, Trade and Played in the Mountain Empire - February 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Pioneer Hall, at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Sonoita; a local business and community opportunity fair; call 455-5085 for info.

Nogales Heritage Home Tour - Sunday, February 23, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m; starts at the Pimeria Alta Historical Museum, 136 N. Grand Ave., Nogales; Refreshments, silent auction and boutique. Tickets $30. For information, call 520-287-4621

Mardi Gras Fundraiser - March 1 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds to benefit the Eastern Santa Cruz Community Food Bank. See page 18 for details.

special interests

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

Yoga with Chip & Laura; Tuesdays- 5:30-7 p.m.; $15/drop-in, $50/5 classes; go to www.chipandlaura.com or call 604-0830 for more info.

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

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 4:30 p.m., Sat. at 8:30 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973

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

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

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

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

Send your event information to prtevents@gmail.com. Include time, date, location, and contact info.
SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH. All appliances, washer & dryer, garage & frt. & back yards. Walk to Sonoita crssroads. $900/mo. 520-400-2949.

PATAGONIA
2 BD/1 BA; nw kitchen, laundry hookup, carport, enclosed yard, in town, $800/mo Call 520-394-0148 / 360-317-4281

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

LARGE (1000 PLUS SQ. FT.), attractive apartment, split bath. 1/2 block from Patagonia Library. $800/month. Residence/home office. 520.604.2829

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT position – Excellent office, computer & people skills necessary. Call La Frontera Realty at 520-394-0110 or 604-6762.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITION, 12 - 16 hrs./week, possibly more. $15/hr. Call La Frontera Realty at 520-394-0110 or 604-6762.

MISC.

Attention to whoever temporarily adopted my sheep. One has returned home. However, he is lonely for his “twin”. Please return my other sheep. No questions asked. Thank you. Deborah Fain (Deborah's Place) in Patagonia.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS FOR HOUSING RENTAL & HELP WANTED TO A MAX OF 3 LINES / 25 WORDS ARE FREE
Submit to prtads@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

Sonoita Hills Community Church
52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita
455-5172
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
156 THREE R AVENUE, PATAGONIA 85624

Pristine (thoughtfully designed & built) custom cottage on a .16 acre wooded hillside lot @ Patagonia’s edge, rich w/mature mesquite & birdsong. 1,525sf w/4B/3Ba +Loft/Den & handsome entertaining porch overlooking Red Mtn. Wood floors & ceiling detail; chic IKEA kitchen; wood stove + many other inspired details t/o; a very tranquil setting w/lovely neighboring homes.

TAR/MLS #21333198  $299,500

64 HARVEST DRIVE, SONOITA 85637

Contemporary lines, elegant finishes & walls of windows framing 180 views of the surrounding mtn ranges, vineyards & rolling grasslands. Sitting atop 10+ac, it’s a spacious 1,375sf (c.2006) w/2B/2B w/Gr/Rm & FamRm-Study-Office. Colored concrete floors; stainless appliances; Hickory cabinets; Corian counters; strong private well. Very private, yet convenient to all area features, all at a great price!

TAR/MLS #21326956  $254,900

STEVENS CANYON ROAD, PATAGONIA 85624

Many, many wonderful land parcels, large & small, throughout the extended Patagonia-Sonoita-Elgin-Lk Patagonia region, at amazing prices. This is THE time to consider a land purchase! Specifically, Lot D on Stevens Canyon Road is 18.25 richly wooded, grassy acres w/two private valleys & beautiful hilly backdrop. The views, privacy & setting are exceptional. Call us to see this great property & many other possibilities.

TAR/MLS #21330334  $120,000