CHOP Purchases Land For Affordable Housing

By Lynn Davison

Community Homes of Patagonia (CHOP) has purchased .6 acres of land on the corner of Third and Pennsylvania in Patagonia.

The property, known as Gopher Field, is next to the Catholic Church and the senior housing apartments. This is a giant step forward for CHOP, which has been working toward this goal since it was formed in 2007.

CHOP plans to develop from four to eight homes (depending on demand and site configuration) at Gopher Field and sell them to low and moderate income buyers. The homes will be designed to attract people who have grown up in Patagonia and want to stay here, as well as our local teachers, policemen, and others who now cannot afford to live (continued on page 2)
CHOP Acquires Land For Affordable Housing, continued from Front Page

where they work. Tod Bowden, a founder and current board member of CHOP, is excited that the nonprofit organization has finally acquired its first property for affordable housing using the Community Land Trust model. The land itself will be held in trust by CHOP. The new buyers will own their own homes and will hold a long-term lease for the land under them. CHOP will also seek other public and private funds to further reduce the sale price of the homes for qualified buyers. Those buyers will hold a mortgage with participating lenders.

Gopher Field was purchased from the Lenon family for $27,500. It was a bargain, as the land recently was appraised at $115,000. The Lenons’ generosity allowed CHOP to buy the land outright, using $12,500 from their capital reserves and raising an additional $15,000 through a brief capital campaign during the last quarter of 2014. Because of CHOP’s 501c3 nonprofit status, the family is able to realize the tax-deductible benefit of the sale.

Bob Lenon, representing the family, wanted to support the creation of more affordable housing in Patagonia. The lot is the former home of the Patagonia Yankees, a Little League team coached by St. Theresa’s beloved Father Titzler in the 1950s and 1960s, and the only condition on the sale is placement of a small memorial to Father Titzler for his contributions to the Patagonia community.

The land purchase is a critical and exciting step. However, the CHOP board recognizes that the major work is yet to come. There are many questions still to be answered, and the board has already begun to tackle them. They sponsored a meeting on January 21 to introduce the Affordable Homeowner Program being developed by CHOP at Gopher Field. Fourteen people attended this meeting, and at least three families expressed interest in possibly becoming homeowners through the new program. Bowden answered questions about the cost of the ground lease—$25 a month; the size of the homes—modest; the type of construction—open to all options; the price of the homes—dependent on size and amount of down payment assistance that CHOP is able to secure for qualified homebuyers (ballpark cost of a stick-built home at Gopher Field is $100 per square foot); the type of loan for homebuyers—conventional bank mortgage for a leasehold property; and the timeline for construction of the homes—CHOP hopes to break ground in 2016. There will be additional times for community members to learn about the homeownership opportunity. To assist them, CHOP is also convening a development advisory group, made up of professionals with affordable housing design, development, financing, and construction experience.

There is a homebuyer education course scheduled for this month. The free classes, which will be held in both Spanish and English, will offer eight hours of instruction for prospective homeowners. They are applicable for purchasing homes anywhere. People interested in the Gopher Field homes are strongly encouraged to attend the homebuyer education classes. Contact Tod Bowden at 520-394-9051 for more information.

Patagonia police and emergency service totals for 2014

12
helicopter evacuations

99
medical calls

5
number of
dog bites
reported

2264
number of civil
taxi & criminal
citations issued

10
snake calls
Two years ago, Helen Chester bought the property at 56 Harshaw Road with the hope of establishing an assisted living facility. The difficulties of licensing such a facility on privately owned property were tremendous, and for awhile it looked like nothing would come of her plan. Recently, however, she concluded an agreement whereby the property has been transferred to housing and health care professional Donald Borham. Borham has modified Chester’s vision by establishing the residence as affordable housing for seniors.

Because of complex licensing requirements and the need for full-time staffing, the process of establishing an assisted living facility at the site may take some time. Although Borham plans to continue to work toward that goal, he has created a way to make good use of the space in the meantime and to begin meeting the need for affordable senior housing.

Sited on a hilltop, the home, built by Carolyn Shafer in 2003, offers a large floor plan with three bedrooms—two singles with a shared bath and a large master suite with a private bath that is well suited for a couple. There is ample parking. Seniors can rent living space in the house for $450 a month, figured on four-person occupancy. Residents will share a large kitchen, a lounge, and recreational space, and Borham, as manager, will be available 24/7 to deal with any issues that might arise. Residents may do their own cooking, and there is hope that transportation can be provided for them to eat lunch at the community center during the week. Other transportation needs can be met by the community center’s van, which already takes seniors to various locations.

Residents will contract for their own health-related services. Patagonia Assisted Care (PAC) and other independent health services will come whenever they are required, and residents will be billed accordingly. With PAC, residents will be able to share the services of a caregiver, a system that will provide them with significant savings.

Borham says that this housing model is for seniors who no longer wish to maintain their own property but are not ready for nursing home care. Residents will have the benefit of privacy, as well as the security of housemates, in case of a fall or other emergency.

The agreement will compensate Chester for the substantial cost of improvements she made, but the property itself has been transferred as a donation. Borham credits her generous donation as the reason the rentals can be offered at such reasonable cost.

At an open house on January 11, more than 60 interested people stopped by to see what the facility offers, and all seemed impressed with the quality of the home.

Anyone interested can find out more by calling Borham at 520-297-7065 or 520-394-0268 or by email at debarb@msn.com.

Ann Mihalik, Helen Chester, Donald Borman, Carolyn Shafer and Pastor Claire Sullivan

Photos by Ann Katzenbach

NOTICE TO PATAGONIA RESIDENTS

The last phase of work to update the Town of Patagonia water system is expected to cause some inconvenience, as it requires replacement of old valves in the existing system. Although we will attempt to notify all affected residences and businesses, we strongly urge you to stock up on a small reserve of water in the event that we are unable to restore your service in a timely manner due to circumstances beyond our control. This work will continue for approximately one more month. If you experience an unexpected outage, feel free to contact us at 394-2435.

Thank you,
Brent Bowden, DM Engineering and Excavating
Promoting Community Conservation and Partnership

By Lynn Davison

In February 1966 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased its first property in the state of Arizona - our own Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. The deal included 312 acres of the former San Jose del Sonoita land grant along Sonoita Creek. Year round water on the property still supports an increasingly rare riparian cottonwood-willow forest and numerous fish, plant, and bird species. Since the initial purchase, TNC has purchased other properties locally and today has protected over 800 acres around Patagonia (see map).

Holly Richter, Director of Conservation for the Arizona Chapter of TNC, says plans are beginning now for the 50th birthday party in February 2016. The statewide celebration will look back at past successes/lessons learned and project forward to future opportunities. Richter confirmed that, fifty years later, the Chapter's most challenging priority continues to be protecting and restoring Arizona's precious flowing waters. Historically, there have been some rough patches in the relationship between TNC and Patagonia residents. The original land purchase removed public access to a popular swimming hole and picnic area along Sonoita Creek. In 2002, there was a contentious public vote that attempted to block a water use agreement between the Town and TNC. In 2006, TNC substantially reduced paid staff at the Preserve, which reduced both maintenance activities and programming efforts. However, there is a fresh breeze blowing now.

In June of 2014, Luke Reese was hired by TNC as a full time Manager of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. You may have noticed the impact of Reese's initial focus on deferred maintenance and signage on the Preserve. However, he has a much bigger vision. Reese believes the preserves owned by TNC serve three important functions. First, they are a laboratory to demonstrate and evaluate science-based conservation practices. Second, they provide a venue to show both visitors and local residents the value of TNC's stewardship. And third, he believes preserves serve as a platform to promote a conservation ethic within their local communities. There are opportunities to do much more in each of these functional areas at the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve.

On the science side, TNC has been collecting data on stream flows and...
local wells, with only a few short interruptions, since the early 1980’s. Reese hopes to begin work soon in both Sonoita and Harshaw Creeks to restore more natural water movement and retain additional surface water below ground. He is also discussing a partnership with Borderlands to create a restoration and monitoring plan for the riparian area on the TNC land contiguous with the Native Seed Search farm. The Preserve often provides a field site for graduate studies, university research, and local research.

An example of TNC stewardship that Reese hopes to develop is a partnership between TNC, the Patagonia Firewise Community, and the Patagonia Fire Department to reduce fire fuel on TNC and other local properties that pose risk to the local community. Job one is reducing the tree density and ladder fuels on the Cemetery Trail property.

Reese is particularly interested in activities that promote a conservation ethic. A great example is the building of a new trail to link Audubon’s Paton property with TNC’s Geoffrey Platt Trail. A new entrance into the Preserve will be created directly across Blue Haven Road from the Platt Trail so that local residents and visitors can walk on trail from Patons to the Preserve. Chris Strohm, an experienced trail designer, is leading the volunteer effort to build the new trail. It will be completed before the February 2016 50th birthday celebration.

The Preserve has brought back guided bird walks every week. They are being led by several of our community’s most experienced birders. Reese is also looking for opportunities to partner with schools and other nonprofits to expand conservation education programs for children and adults.

The 50th anniversary provides an impetus to fuel these and other ideas. TNC is looking to actively involve local residents in setting priorities for all their Patagonia properties as well as helping plan a birthday bash worthy of a 50 year old! Call Luke Reese at (520) 394-2400 to offer suggestions and/or sign on to help.

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Forest Service Withdraws Approval Of Sunnyside’s Drilling Project

The Sunnyside Drilling Project, proposed by Regal Resources, a Canadian company, was given the go ahead by two federal agencies back in September. This astonished local environmentalists as the area is rich in wildlife and there are several endangered species who live or pass through the area.

Because of their concern, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) and Defenders of Wildlife filed a lawsuit claiming the federal agencies’ approvals violated environmental laws and posed a threat to endangered species and the safety of drinking water for local residents.

Then came the unexpected news from District Ranger, Mark Ruggiero, that he was withdrawing his Decision Memorandum and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was withdrawing its letter of agreement. Ruggiero’s official letter, addressed to “Interested Parties” did not indicate what had caused this change, but it did indicate that there would be consultation among the departments and that a new decision would be forthcoming.

According to Steve Spangle of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a federal agency has to complete a review for each species. In this case, he said, “a new species came in.” This meant that a review was required. Spangle seemed to think the matter would be cleared up quickly. He said the suit by PARA and Defenders of Wildlife did not bear on the decision to withdraw the approval.

PARA’s Wendy Russell said she is pretty sure that the Sunnyside Project will be given the green light again in which case the lawsuit will go forward.

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Forest Service Withdraws Approval Of Sunnyside’s Drilling Project

PRT Staff
Patagonia LOVES the Arizona Trail. And the Arizona Trail LOVES Patagonia. What’s not to love? Having a national scenic trail that runs right through the town provides great recreational opportunities and brings in revenue from travelers from all over the world. Patagonia provides the trail and its users a safe and convenient location for shuttling vehicles and horse trailers, storing bikes, and getting supplies. People who hike one or more of the 43 segments of the trail at a time, sometimes covering the whole 817-mile trail across the state in this manner, are called “segment hikers.” “Through hikers” are folks that hike the whole trail (or very large chunks) in one shot. For these long haulers, Patagonia is an outstanding resource—a quaint and friendly town so small that all the services they require are within a couple blocks of each other. Our post office, library (with computers and WiFi), and businesses, including two markets, restaurants, B&B’s, and a hotel cover pretty much all their needs. The only thing missing is an REI store!

But, like all great relationships, there’s room for improvement. Patagonia’s trailhead is three miles out of town along Harshaw Road. Coming off a path less than two feet wide onto a busy road like Harshaw is not just unpleasant, it’s also dangerous. The next segment that can be called a “trail” is 17 miles out Temporal Canyon Road, which has less traffic but plenty of dust. In fact, as much as trail users rave about town, they do complain about the roads. Many would rather bypass Patagonia than deal with these 17 miles of roads. It’s been a long-term goal of the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) to get the trail off these roads, but bridging the gap between trailheads presents difficult obstacles.

Luckily, fate has now provided some options. Borderlands Restoration’s plans for the Three Canyons property include providing recreational uses for the town and its visitors. The ATA is involved in these nascent plans. The hope is for ATA to purchase land for a trailhead and then design, build and maintain a trail across the property. There is a strong likelihood that a mile of deeded land across Highway 82 will become part of the trail. There remains the question of how to link the town to the new trail.

The solution comes from a link with our past. The Mountain Empire Trail Association (META) was formed in 2007 to convert the railbed between Patagonia and Sonoita into a trail. Phase One was completed in 2010, and everyone loves the loop trail from the bridge behind the post office north to the town limit. People use it to get to and from homes and jobs off San Antonio Road, as well as for recreation, and the high school uses it for cross-country practices and meets, as well as for biology studies as a living classroom. META’s partners (the town, the county, the Nature Conservancy, and Native Seeds Search) give the trail and association high marks, as well. Now META is seeking to extend the Train Track Trail five miles further up Highway 82 to Wood Canyon Road. This would link to the new route of the Arizona Trail. The ATA plans to maintain the existing trailheads and trails linking to the new route, creating two 15-mile loop trails from town to the national forest.

All this rerouting of the trail ties in with the ATA’s desire to bypass the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness because mountain bikes are not permitted there. The existing segment of the Arizona Trail will remain as a Forest Service trail, creating another 15-mile loop starting at the Temporal Trailhead.

Many organizations and individuals are involved in planning to improve the Patagonia section of the Arizona Trail. It’s a major undertaking, and there are many ways for people to help make it happen. Interested people or groups should contact Zay Hartigan (META Project Manager and AZT Segment Steward) at 394-2420 or e-mail zay@zaycom.com for more details.
The town of Patagonia has been busy over the past few years. During the economic downturn, with significant cuts in state funds, it has been challenging for a small town to make ends meet. However, with careful planning and management, the town of Patagonia has not only weathered the downturn but has made some significant improvements in infrastructure and services.

The town secured over a million dollars of grant and loan funding to upgrade our water system. Also, with a $50,000 grant, the town was able to make energy-saving improvements to the waste water treatment plant. Other improvements include a new, more efficient garbage truck; a brush chipper that reduces landfill volume and provides mulch for town parks and residents; and a donation of kitchen upgrades for Cady Hall.

To make ends meet, the town reduced administration staff by one part-time employee; eliminated the part-time consultant for budget and accounting; reduced public works staff by one employee; revised waste disposal procedures to reduce costs; reduced the vehicle fleet by 11 vehicles, saving insurance and maintenance costs; substantially improved collection of business taxes; changed the town attorney and substantially reduced related costs; and refurbished the marshal’s office with in-house labor.

The town council, town manager, and town attorney have systematically reviewed and updated the town code over the past two years. Nearly complete, this process is resulting in a code that better reflects the needs of Patagonia residents.

The council negotiated and received approval of a new 20-year franchise agreement for electricity from Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative. The agreement has provisions that are more favorable for the town.

The town secured official watershed designation from the US Forest Service. This gives the town another tool to protect its water supply.

The marshal’s office has increased traffic enforcement from near zero to about 200 citations per month; secured training so the town now has commercial motor vehicle inspectors and a certified phlebotomist; and received $105,000 in grants for communications, medical and electronic equipment in collaboration with Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

The Patagonia Public Library hosted the Smithsonian’s traveling “Journey Stories” exhibit and created Patagonia’s own “Woven Journey” permanent history exhibit. The library also collaborated on a “Voice for Young Authors,” an early literacy and the arts program, with the Patagonia Community Arts Association, Patagonia Elementary School, and Patagonia Montessori School. Other new library programs include a summer school lunch program and a seed-lending library. A new integrated library system was installed to track items owned and borrowed.

The town has seen significant volunteer efforts with minimal financial outlay from the town. The Kennel Committee is constructing new dog kennels. The Tree and Park Committee has been planting trees, mulching, improving the watering system, installing benches, creating water harvesting structures, and planning improvements in Doc Mock Park. These park activities received funding from four separate grants. A group of interested citizens is expanding the basketball court in Richardson Park.

Going forward, the town’s goals are to straighten out the cemetery issues, finish working on policy, work more on our drought plan, and continue to work for the best interest of the citizens of the town of Patagonia.

In closing, it is the efforts of our strong and devoted team of town employees who, working with the council and the volunteers, make all of this possible.
On February 7, Adrienne Halpert will host her annual Valentine’s Day Love-A-Thon at Global Arts Gallery. Visitors and locals will wander in, sample the tasty dishes laid out for the occasion, and enjoy some wine or horchata. First-time visitors will find themselves gazing at the wealth of beautiful displays that surround them. Some will drift outside, where comfortable chairs have been placed, to enjoy conversation in the afternoon sun. Others will reserve their turn for a reading with Tucson psychic, Vee Phillips. The mood will be relaxed. And the message is love.

Although the event is held around Valentine’s Day, Adrienne says that it is not so much about cupids and valentines but rather about the power of spiritual love. She sees it as a way to thank the community and patrons that have supported her for so many years. This year marks Adrienne’s 20th year of operation at 315 McKeown Avenue, and her sustained success can be credited to her keen eye for unique decorative and wearable art and crafts and her ability to create a setting that is both relaxing and beguiling.

Adrienne Halpert, a native of New York, came to Patagonia in 1994, after nearly 20 years of living and working in Tucson. A true entrepreneur, she describes herself as a “grassroots art activist” whose greatest strength is her ability to be “challenged by rather than fearful of the pursuit of things I know nothing about.” During her years in Tucson she made and sold jewelry, operated a vintage clothing store, managed the Hotel Congress, and served as an arts administrator for many institutions and events.

In Patagonia, Adrienne became part of a group of small businesses that set up shop in the large building where Global Arts is now located. Called the Horse of a Different Color, its shops included Ann Caston’s bookstore; an ice cream and coffee shop—the forerunner of today’s Gathering Grounds—and Adrienne, who set up her jeweler’s bench with a plan to make her living as a jewelry artist. But shortly thereafter, she heard through a friend about a businessman who was closing shop and was selling his entire inventory of Indonesian imports. She traveled to California, bought up his wares, and stuffed her car with everything she could find room for. Adrienne brought her new treasures back to Patagonia—and thus began Global Arts.

Adrienne’s love of treasure hunting is matched by her love of travel, and in the years since, she has brought back treasures from all over the globe. However, she now builds her inventory by working directly with a wide variety of Fair Trade importers, which allows her to ethically sustain the global artisans while having access to a wide mix of merchandise. This leaves her free to immerse herself in the pleasures of traveling to parts unknown, where she continues to enjoy learning about other cultures and their art and traditions.

Adrienne says that she likes to think of herself as a “conduit” or intermediary—hunting out uniquely interesting items and making them accessible to a wider audience. She also enjoys the sense that she is contributing to the greater sustainability of other cultures by buying the work of their artisans, thus supporting their community and thereby strengthening their local economy.

A member of the board of the Patagonia Area Business Association, Adrienne has served several times as its president. When it comes to our own local economy, this astute businesswoman sees a trend she hopes will continue—in which business owners are realizing the advantage of pooling their efforts and working together to attract a greater number of visitors. She believes our greatest bus-

(continued on next page)
Nogales 1914 Time Capsule Opened at Centennial

The Pimeria Alta Historical Society is celebrating the centennial of the Nogales City Hall and Fire Department on Sunday, February 15, beginning at 2 p.m. Members of the society, the City of Nogales, and the Nogales Fire Department have planned an afternoon of entertainment, new exhibits, and refreshments in honor of the building, which is home to the historical society and its museum.

The Fort Huachucha Thunder Mountain Brass Band will perform, as will the Nogales, Sonora, Drum and Bugle Corp and the Tucson Fire Pipes and Drums. The second floor of the building, home to the Nogales Volunteer Fire Department, and the quarters where volunteer firemen once slept, will be open for public tours.

The city has restored the rare 1915 Seth Thomas tower clock, a prominent feature of the building. The clock's chimes will be heard for the first time in many years as the ceremonies begin.

On January 9 a time capsule that had been placed in the museum wall when it was constructed in 1914 was removed, and on January 21 its contents were displayed at a reception in Nogales. A new time capsule will be placed in the museum wall later this year. People who join the historical society at a $100 “Centennial Sponsor” level will receive a membership that includes free admission to all events and a subscription to the society's quarterly newsletter. In addition, the donor's name will be engraved on a bronze plaque, to be displayed at the museum for the next 100 years, and the donor will have an opportunity to contribute a message to be included in the 2015 time capsule.

The centennial celebration is free and open to the public. It will take place at the museum, located at 136 N. Grand Ave., in Nogales. For more information call 520-287-2646.

New Native Seed/SEARCH Director Speaks At Woman's Club Meeting

By Ann Katzenbach

The monthly meeting of the Patagonia Woman's Club on January 8 featured two members of Native Seeds/SEARCH's staff: Larrie Warren, newly named executive director, and Lynda Prim, manager of the farm here in Patagonia. Both spoke to the importance of strengthening the world's collection of ancient seed strains as climate change brings extreme conditions in which these heirloom seeds are more likely to thrive than the hybrids that are now commonly in use. Native Seeds/SEARCH began by finding seeds and growing plants traditionally used by southwestern Native American tribes—plants that thrive in our desert environment. They have been saving the seeds from each generation of plants grown on the farm, which are stored in their seed bank in Tucson. Today, they have broadened their mission to include several educational programs.

Warren has been with the nonprofit organization for about two months and says his favorite part of the job is visiting the seed farm because he likes Patagonia and believes the work at the farm is the heart of the organization. According to a press release, the new director grew up in Mesa, Arizona, and has a degree in American history from Arizona State University. He taught history of the southwest for the Maricopa County Community College System and then went into the Peace Corps, working in the Philippines. He later became country director for Western Samoa, and he has worked recently with relief organizations.

Warren told the audience that he really wanted to get this position with NSS. He feels that going backward to propagate ancient seeds is helping insure the future, which, he says, is “filled with new and momentous challenges.”

Tucson Psychic, Vee Phillips, is a popular guest who is featured at Global Arts' Love-A-Thon.
The advances in scientific technology have had a myriad of unforeseen consequences. Among them is a case I am familiar with that raises lots of questions. The daughter of a good friend is married to Sam, who has always known that his mother was artificially inseminated with sperm from a bank associated with a university that claimed its donors were medical students. His mother bore two boys with sperm from the same bank. So the story begins.

Both Sam and his brother, George, were blond, blue-eyed, and extremely athletic. Last year George decided that he wanted to know more about his genetic origin, so he had a DNA test. He asked Sam to do this, too; although at first reluctant, Sam did have his DNA analyzed, and the two men discovered that they were, in fact, blood brothers. They had the same unknown father. Since they had always been close, this revelation was a confirmation of their brotherhood and seemed a wonderful outcome of their research.

They then decided to take it further and registered their DNA in a wider search, which first turned up a woman named Emily. Emily’s mother had been artificially inseminated at the same sperm bank, and apparently she had the same paternal donor. Then came Carl, a younger brother who also seemed to have the same unknown father.

How does one respond to this information? Sam and George never got along with the man who was married to their mother, who in turn did not feel any bond with the two boys. They were not part of a comfortable family. With the discovery of Emily and Carl, there was suddenly a new perspective on their family, and the four decided to meet. According to family sources, the coming together of these four people was fascinating, emotional, and uplifting. Among other things, they realized that, because there was a 10-year span in their ages, it seemed unlikely that the paternal donor was a medical student.

This little story raises lots of questions, not the least of which is, who fathered these brothers and sisters? The sperm bank is no longer in business, so it won’t be easy to find out, but having gone this far, the newly formed family is planning to continue their search to discover who worked there. Imagining these four people, now adults, coming face to face with a stranger whose Y chromosome they share would make a great dramatic scene—comic or tragic, who knows?

The next question has to do with the risk posed by using an unknown sperm donor, for who’s to say that two of these children couldn’t have met, fallen in love, and themselves had children? The chances probably are one in a million, but there are good reasons why very closely related people should not have children.

Another question. How many more offspring did the mystery man father? I’m guessing there are quite a few of them roaming the world.

And then there is the matter of family—just what is a family? My favorite part of this story is what my friend told me about this past Christmas dinner. Emily and her husband traveled from New York to have Christmas dinner at Sam’s house in New Jersey. Sam has two sons. Emily has never had kids, and she was delighted to suddenly have the possibility of children in her life. According to my friend, Sam’s mother-in-law, the family gathering included the following:

- Sam’s mother and a friend she brought along to lend support in this bizarre situation.
- Sam and his wife, Laura, and their two blond sons.
- Emily and her husband.
- Laura’s brother, Simon; his wife, Tanya; and Tanya’s parents—her father is African American and her mother is Korean.
- Last but not least, Simon and Tanya’s son, Homer, who is a genetic mix of African American, Asian, and Caucasian (are you still with me?).

Laura is a chef and cooked a wonderful meal; according to Laura’s mom, it was a joyful occasion. Even Sam’s mother managed to relax.

DNA technology has changed the way we think about things and has offered undreamed of possibilities. We have set prisoners free, discovered family members; solved crimes; and, in some cases that might not be so positive, uncovered infidelities. We can even find out if we’re descended from Ghengis Khan, who, like the guy at the sperm bank, spread his seed far and wide.

And here’s the answer to the last question: Are we all related? Indeed, it would seem so.
About Face

By Martin Levowitz

My first wife, Judy Wolf, a.k.a. Fang, grew up in a wooded section of Bethany, Connecticut, the oldest of three kids. Her mother, Alice, had been at Smith College, one of the so-called Seven Sisters (prestigious eastern girls’ schools), and had withdrawn, pregnant, under suspicious circumstances. Fang’s father, Ted, was the youngest of five sons in a prosperous family from upstate New York. His mother had yearned for a daughter and didn’t shrink from expressing them. Her response: “There’s something in Nixon that gives me the creeps. I do not like his face. The cold, scheming eyes have a life of their own, quite apart from the rest of his face. His resolute brow and the cute ski-jump nose, and that hideous mouth with its unfeeling lips seem both vicious and dishonest, too!”

Ted’s prayer had been answered. “JESUS, Betty,” he fumed, “that’s the most irrational thing I’ve ever heard. You don’t choose political candidates by their looks!” You examine their voting records and listen to their campaign speeches. Then you decide.” “Well,” said Betty, undaunted, “some people are trustworthy and others aren’t. Believing their promises is just dumb! My intuition tells me that Dick Nixon is a monster and a crook. I wouldn’t trust him as far as I could throw him.” Ted rejoiced in her talk of intuition, a word he mimicked mockingly, as if it were some particularly unsavory form of mucus. But Betty wouldn’t back down. They’d been around this track 500 times, and both seemed to enjoy the fray.

Why am I telling you this, Reader Dear? Because Betty was right! Richard Nixon was scum. Your face proclaims your character. So, don’t ignore your instincts or be led astray by words. In looking at politicos today, some of the faces are worthy of note: John Boehner is a wolf; he’s not a man. McConnell is a toxic turtle, surely not a man. And Ted Cruz—well, there is no name for it. Ted is an intelligent, malignant, extraterrestrial—some sort of virus, I’d surmise. Joe Biden, with his big grin and his calculating eyes, is an insincere man with decent values, while Hillary Clinton could, by her very nature, counteract Global Warming, like an ice cube in a cup of scalding tea.
Single Payer System Long Overdue

By Bob Brandt

Ann Katzenbach’s article in the January PRT about Marshal Patterson’s laudable support of the injured Canadian motorcycle was just the vehicle I needed to prompt me to write about a topic that has become almost an obsession with me of late: the badly broken US health care system.

Marshal Patterson is to be commended for his actions in support of our Canadian visitor, and I have little doubt that the medical care the patient received was of high quality. The focus of my concern is the cost of the services delivered and how those costs are paid. Had this biker been fortunate enough to have had his accident in his home country, the cost of his care probably would have been fully covered by the Canadian health care system. Since his initial care was rendered in the US, I suspect he may be presented with bills in the tens of thousands of dollars, which he will have to pay out of his own pocket unless he has some type of supplemental policy that covers costs outside Canada. I have no knowledge of this patient’s resources for payment, and I truly hope his physical injuries are not compounded by crushing medical bills, but his situation serves to dramatize how much more sensible the Canadian system is in comparison to ours.

The electronic, print, and broadcast media have, in recent years, made it abundantly clear that the cost of health care in the US is, on a per capita basis, the most expensive in the world by far, and also that the costs for similar services vary wildly from provider to provider and patient to patient. Yet our health and wellness outcomes are unimpressive relative to virtually every other developed nation. Furthermore, in spite of Obamacare’s advances in providing coverage for millions of formerly uninsured Americans, some 30 million of our citizens are still without coverage of any kind, and millions more have such poor coverage that their out-of-pocket expenses cause them to avoid getting services they need or, even worse, to declare bankruptcy. According to the New York Times, 35 percent of Americans reported having trouble paying medical bills last year. This appalling situation simply does not arise in most developed nations.

While American health care workers provide some of the highest quality services in the world, access to those services, their cost, and the manner in which we pay for them are factors that convince me that a single-payer system, such as those employed in nearly every other developed country, is our only reasonable alternative.

A national, tax-supported single-payer system makes sense on so many levels. It would provide universal coverage—everybody in, nobody out. Properly designed, it would include virtually every provider in its network and would allow individuals to choose their providers. It would greatly reduce the administrative costs of providing care because providers would not have to deal with dozens of insurers, each with their own rules, forms, and networks. It would eliminate our present, multi-payer-based system, in which you go on Medicaid if you’re poor and you get private insurance if you’re middle class or wealthy.

A major reason that our present system is so expensive is that the private insurance companies’ administrative costs are extremely high. They not only pay very high salaries and bonuses to their executives, but they also spend billions of dollars annually on advertising and lobbying Congress while famously denying coverage. We subscribers, of course, support this craziness with our premiums, deductibles, and copays.

Quite a few Americans object to a national health care system on the basis that it’s socialized medicine. To me, this is a red herring. Isn’t insurance of any kind a form of socialized benefit? We buy insurance for all kinds of purposes—auto, home, life—to protect ourselves from financial ruin. In the case of health care (which I believe is a human right), it makes economic sense to include everyone in the pool; to have everyone pay premiums (i.e., taxes); to have all providers participate; and to eliminate the costs of advertising, lobbying, and high executive pay, which substantially burden the current system. Medicare has been shown to achieve all these objectives for our citizens aged 65 and over. The time to extend these benefits to all Americans is long overdue.

Each year, for many years now, national health insurance bills in the form of Medicare for All have been introduced in both houses of Congress. To date, they have all failed to pass, largely because the private insurance lobby is so powerful. Seeking to bring some thoughtful resolution to the health care crisis, citizen activists in many states have been organizing to devise single-payer systems as demonstration programs that may be permissible under Obamacare starting in 2017. I have been active in such an effort in Pennsylvania and hope to help get such a group organized here in Arizona. I know there are many other Arizonans sympathetic to this cause. If you are one, I’d be pleased to hear of your interest. Who knows, maybe we could start a revolution. Call me at (520)394-0173. Buena salud!
Jobs You Won’t See On My Resume  By Cassina Farley

My first job was at a fast food restaurant. After lying about my age to the manager at the local McDonalds, I secured a cushy $4.10 an hour job, with no benefits and, unfortunately, no French fries. I worked the drive-through with my best friend, Kim. At 15 you don't really appreciate the seriousness of a job; thus, my first writeup and near firing was for using foreign accents over the intercom while the customers tried to order cheeseburgers. It seemed harmless until the regional manager drove through on a quality control mission.

Since my time at McDonalds I have held many interesting jobs. I had a short stint selling hotdogs at Colorado Rockies games until I tripped, dropped some hotdogs, and got embarrassed—so much so that I could never go back. I even let them keep my last paycheck. It's okay because I kept the uniform, a sweet Rockies jersey.

My next job was at a silk flower shop. I went to work day after day making floral arrangements and running the cash register. The only problem was that we never had any customers. Never. I didn’t think anything of it at the time (I was 17 and didn't really care about much), but they always seemed to have lots of deliveries to other places. Must be lots of orders—I didn’t question it. My arrangements began to pile up and gather dust until that fateful day while, when watching the news, I discovered that the shop was merely a front for a drug-smuggling operation; it had been raided and shut down. I didn’t tell my parents.

What was I going to say? Eventually, the owner of the fake flower store did call—like all good criminals do—to make sure I was “cool,” and since I didn't know anything, he just wrote me a check, and we went our separate ways.

I then spent some time as a deadbeat teenager dodging work and responsibility, which got me kicked out of the house and living with Grandma, who, of course, wanted me to get a job. Sheesh. Since my early retirement wasn't going over well, I landed a job working at the Circle Z, cleaning rooms with a spoiled rich girl on a sabbatical from Dartmouth—her parents' plan to rid their daughter of her evil ways.

Things went well until it was discovered that my newly acquired friend from New Hampshire had other plans. She wanted to “discover the Mexican culture,” so we ended up in Mexico every night. I drank and drank and drank, while she discovered Javier or Jesús or whatever his name was. This life came to an end with her being shipped to Montana, while I took a ride with the cook to Wyoming. I lived on a mountain and cleaned rooms and cooked at yet another dude ranch, while moose ran by and it snowed in July.

By then I finally had my wits about me and took my newly acquired cooking skills home to Patagonia. I spent the next 10 years cooking and eventually running restaurants, did some time at the Patagonia Market, and, well, most of you know the rest. These are all the stories I've always wanted to put on a job resume and couldn't. Who would want to hire a drinking, hot-dog-dropping cook with a foreign accent who made flower arrangements for a drug smuggling operation?

Losing Walter  By Gilbert Quiroga

The first time I met Walter was on the tennis court. We played for two hours. Then we took a break. That’s when I really started to know him. He joked around and told me how much he loved playing tennis. He told me how beautiful the town was. I thanked him and told him I was the mayor. So he asked me about the town and how it worked. I told him, “it works very slowly.”

We would often meet at the courts and play, then talk about people and the town history and many other things. We started meeting on my porch and he always told me how much he enjoyed it. My wife, Rebecca, would bring him some tea or water. We would sit for one and sometimes two hours.

He introduced us to Sarah, his daughter, and we had a wonderful time going to Mexico to eat. Walter began to feel like family to me and he talked to me like a father. He really cared for me. When I had a problem I would talk to him by phone or he would come to my house. He would give me advice when I asked.

I am sitting here at my desk with tears running down my face just thinking about our last breakfast. He told me what was happening and after we finished breakfast, I took him home. I walked him to his door and said goodbye and thanked him. Then he invited me in. He took my hand. I thought he was going to shake it, but instead he pulled me close and gave me a very long hug. We never looked at each other. I walked away knowing I would never see him again. I cried on my way home.

So I started to look for something nice to say at his memorial and I found this quote on a piece of paper in my Bible.

God saw he was getting tired and the cure was not to be.

So he put his arms around him and whispered “come with me.”

With tearful hearts we watched him fade away

Although we love him dearly we could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, his working hands are put to rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us that he only takes the best.
Between 1854 and 1929, over 250,000 orphans and unwanted children were taken out of New York City and given away at train stations across America.

On February 6, at 7 p.m., the Patagonia Library will host Arizona Humanities’ multimedia program “Riders on the Orphan Train” as part of a five-city tour. The program focuses on the largest child migration in history, which took place between 1854 and 1929. More than 250,000 orphans and unwanted children were taken out of New York City and given away at train stations across America. Children were sent to every state in the continental United States; the last train went to Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1929. This 76-year experiment in child relocation is filled with the entire spectrum of human emotion and reveals a great deal about the successes and failures of the American dream.

This “placing out” system was originally organized by Methodist minister Charles Loring Brace and the Children’s Aid Society of New York. His mission was to rid the streets and overcrowded orphanages of homeless children and provide them with an opportunity to find new homes. Many of the children were not orphans but were “surrendered” by parents too impoverished to keep them. The New York Foundling Hospital, a Catholic organization, also sent out children to be placed in Catholic homes. In 1904 a group of 21 Irish children came to Clifton, Arizona, from the New York Foundling Hospital, and the ensuing confrontation over stewardship of these children became a state and national controversy in ethnic and class conflict and a poignant illustration of the disparities between the east coast and the developing west at the turn of the 20th century.

The one-hour program combines live music by musician Phil Lancaster and author Alison Moore, a video montage with archival photographs and interviews with survivors, and a dramatic reading by award-winning author Moore from her 2012 novel Riders on the Orphan Train. Especially featured will be a recounting of the Clifton controversy.

Although the program is about children, it is designed to engage audiences of all ages and to inform, inspire, and raise awareness about this little-known part of history. The presentation was originally developed as an outreach program for The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc., and is currently the official outreach program for the National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center in Concordia, Kansas. Seventeen years of touring have provided the presenters with many true stories of Orphan Train riders and their descendants.

Cecilia Hurt Barham, of the Decatur Public Library, in Decatur, Texas, says, “The program far exceeded any expectations I may have had, as did the community’s response. . . . this was by far the most well attended program the library has ever offered. . . . everyone who attended was moved, educated and entertained. . . . your program truly made an impact on our community.”

The program is free to the public. Local relatives and acquaintances of Orphan Train riders are especially invited to attend and share their stories with the audience. For more information, contact 394-2010.
I have never been entirely comfortable talking about vaginas, let alone saying the word, which as a woman is kind of an odd concept. While I have a vagina, I think for most of my life I’ve used just about every other word but vagina to describe it. For socio-political/cultural reasons that we don’t have time to delve into at this moment, many children are taught from a young age that it’s not okay to discuss, look, touch, or experience their vaginas and penises. They’re taught that somehow, the body that they have, the body that they have no control over (in the sense of what a body inherently is—an archetype that has been replicated over and over for thousands of years), is shameful or embarrassing or so private that no one can even think about it. This, of course, gets carried over into adulthood. What I find more shameful than having a strange body part is that many adults can’t even seem to say the words “vagina” or “penis” without either laughing or wincing.

It wasn’t until a group of strong, intelligent women in town threw around the idea of performing The Vagina Monologues, that I began taking heed, as well as ownership of my femininity in a more serious, thoughtful way. The Vagina Monologues is an episodic play written by Eve Ensler and has been staged nationally and internationally since 1996. Words from the first page of the play stick out in my mind as the ultimate definition of how the play came to be: “We were worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more worried that we don’t think about them.”

The play is made up of monologues that deal with aspects of the feminine experience, touching on matters such as sex, love, rape, menstruation, orgasm, and birth. Some monologues are humorous and others tragic. A recurring theme throughout the piece is the vagina as a tool for female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment of individuality. I’d heard of the play before, but never read it, let alone considered that I would get the chance to be a part of such a diverse and powerful performance piece.

While the play is frequently performed as reader’s theater, we have opted to combine the reader’s theater experience with memorization and acting out the monologues according to each cast member’s preference. There will be two performances at the Tin Shed Theater: one at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 13 and another on Saturday, February 14 at 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to be involved with stage décor, or general support, contact Francesca Claverie at (760) 996-0893 or aclaver@gmail.com.
For all you streaming Netflix fans out there, be sure to watch the quite compelling movie, "Frontera", filmed in 2014 and set in the border area of Arizona.

The movie follows events that take place after a former Arizona Sheriff’s wife is killed while riding on her property. It appears that a Mexican immigrant, Miguel, played by wonderful Michael Pena, who is crossing into the US illegally, is the culprit. The former sheriff and the current sheriff have differences in their views of fairness as lives are changed during the search for who is really at fault.

Albeit an oversimplified look at the desperation of illegal immigrants, it is none the less well cast, well made, well acted and who doesn’t love Ed Harris, playing a land owner and the former sheriff? Few actors could turn mournfulness into a riveting performance of human decency like Harris. He is tall in the saddle, a symbol of the American rancher who stubbornly protects his land but has the intuition to make honorable decisions. His wife, played by Amy Madigan (his wife in real life) is more simpático and together they show how husbands and wives can compliment each other.

Eva Longoria (beautiful as always) plays the victim role as she joins a group of immigrants who are led across the Border by an unscrupulous "coyote" and abandoned without their clothes in an empty garage.

It’s not a great movie—but well worth watching for some lovely performances and it does make us aware of the plight of what immigrants endure when they leave their country and head into the great unknown of freedom in the US.

On The Difference Between A Pigeon And A Dove:

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

Chains of fear...
Blankets of chains
We pull them close
And close our eyes...

Afraid of the dark

Still clutching
We reach...
Fingers blind and visions numbed
We fall across velvet ropes
Price of salvation: cost of admission
And who do I make the check out to??

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

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

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

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

— S. Hines

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Artwork by Donna Reibslager

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Get Your Ying and Yang In Balance by Ann Katzenbach

Cera Lynn has brought her healing and skin enhancement skills back to Patagonia after tending to clients for the last eight years in Tubac. Lynn is an expert in many facets of skin care and Chinese medicine, but at this point in her life she is primarily interested in the Chinese art of acupuncture. She holds a master’s degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and has been treating clients for over 30 years.

She stresses that acupuncture treats many kinds of dysfunction including menopause, PMS, fertility, migraines, weight loss and digestive problems. Pain is what gets most people to an acupuncture appointment. Pain is migraines, weight loss and menopause, PMS, fertility, of dysfunction including dysfunction. She integrates her skills as a massage therapist with acupuncture treatments so there is soothing touch as well as energy movement.

For women to put their best face forward, Lynn offers several kinds of facials as well as waxing and peels. She uses a specially designed machine for her lymphatic therapy facial that can eliminate puffiness and dark circles around the eyes and mouth.

With all this healing and pampering come a selection of herbal concoctions, essential oils, and skin care products that Lynn has found to be most effective over the years.

Cera Lynn’s practice is next door to Livia Pontual in the building next to Tiny Bubbles in the Piper Plaza complex. Pontual is a massage therapist and also does colon hydro therapy. Their two small spaces are cozy and private and right in the heart of town.

Lynn is also working in Tucson, so her hours in Patagonia are limited to Mondays and Saturdays. For an appointment or more information, call Cera Lynn at 520-398-9886.

Animal Tales

By Cate Drown

Here are more examples of how beings other than human show their ability to share compassion and grieve.

When my Siberian Husky, Skye, died, I was so grief-stricken, I wanted to die with him. He is one of my soul mates, without question. One day that week, I picked up my little ferret, Tika and held her in my arms. For at least five minutes, she leaned her head on my shoulder and just stayed still. I know she was sharing my grief with me. For any of you who have known a ferret well, they do not stay still unless they are dead asleep. It’s either go, go, go or go unconscious!

A close friend of mine recently shared a story with me about her dog, Liza. Liza had to have one of her legs amputated. When she came home from her surgery, she had a drain attached to her wound while it healed. Despite this she was getting around famously.

At this time, her owner was conducting an equine facilitated workshop at her ranch. Liza generally stuck very close to her owner and always sat at her side. Totally out of character, when the group sat in a circle, Liza instead went directly to her owner and always sat beside her.

As the discussion progressed, this lady shared that she had had a drain attached to her after her mastectomy. No one had warned her of this before hand and she was repulsed, horrified, embarrassed and until this day had not spoken of it to anyone. She said when she saw Liza easily and happily joining all of them with her drain protruding from her wound where they had amputated, she was so moved and felt her shame of many years just melt away and was able to share all of this with a whole group of people she did not really know.

When I shared this remarkable story with another close friend of mine, she told me of an amazing incident similar to this one, except this time it was a horse who zeroed in on one of the participants at a similar workshop. As the people and horses chose who they were wanting to work with over the weekend, this mare made it very clear just who her choice was. As the weekend progressed, it was revealed that this mare had had a very rare operation for a horse. It was a hysterectomy. Lo’ and behold, the woman she had chosen had also just had a hysterectomy and was attending this exercise specifically to deal with her emotions surrounding the surgery and aftermath of it.

How did these animals know? DID they know? I have heard and experienced these kinds of interactions far too many times to not believe that they do indeed know exactly what is happening. A sixth sense, an intuition, a knowingness, an offer of healing.

Cate Drown is a certified Sumerel technician, specializing in horses and exotics. She can be contacted at drown_cate@hotmail.com
Painting’s Title Inspires Exhibit At Velvet Elvis
By Ann Katzenbach

There are some new faces joining the portrait of Elvis on the wall of Patagonia’s favorite pizza restaurant. Paula Wittner, an artist whose imagination overflows with faces and stories, thought that a particular painting of hers would be appropriate in a restaurant where the message, “we love cash,” is painted on the front wall. The title of Paula’s painting is “Pay in Advance.”

Paula’s studio is near Velvet Elvis and she is friendly with Cecilia San Miguel, the restaurant’s owner. The two have talked from time to time about Paula hanging her work in the restaurant, but Paula doesn’t like distractions, and putting a collection of her work together and hanging it felt, for a long time, like a distraction. However, one evening in early January Paula was having dinner at the restaurant with visiting family and somehow “Pay in Advance” was trundled out of the studio and into the restaurant and now it’s on the wall.

Paula was born in Washington D.C. and was inspired to draw by her family and frequent visits to the National Gallery of Art. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and spent her senior year in Rome where the painters of the Italian Renaissance left a deep impression. She majored in photography—mostly, she says, because those teachers were more relaxed than the ones who taught painting.

However, when she moved to the southwest after graduation, she found her true vocation and has been creating paintings that are informed by memories of her childhood and Renaissance art.

Visiting Paula’s studio is like stepping in to an Alice in Wonderland experience. Suddenly you are surrounded by people who seem slightly strange and also very interesting. They are everywhere, peering down at you, looking up, looking sideways, looking into your soul. Like the Wonderland characters, they are often surreal and seem to beckon you to come closer.

You can see Paula’s work online at PaulaWittner.painter on Facebook. Velvet Elvis is open Thursday through Sunday for lunch and dinner.
Local rancher P. D. (Sonny) McCuistion turned 90 in October. He has spent his life riding and raising cattle along the Arizona border, and he still rides and tends to routine ranch maintenance. He appears to be in good health, although he says, "Some days I think I could use a brain transplant."

Sonny grew up in South Texas, where his parents had a small ranch. He entered rodeos from time to time to earn a little extra money. "Nothing like they can make these days," he says in amazement. After graduating from high school, he came to Tucson, where some cousins had started a construction business. They were doing well enough that they decided to buy a ranch and sent for Sonny. Over the years he managed several ranches in the Patagonia area.

In 1990, Sonny and his wife, Nancy, bought their own ranch. Nancy, who died four years ago, named the ranch Brush Hill after a historic property in western Pennsylvania. Sonny says that Nancy's mother came to Patagonia from Pennsylvania in the 1920s to stay at the Circle Z Ranch. She fell in love with a cowboy who was working there. They married and lived on a ranch near Fort Huachuca, where young Nancy became comfortable with the daily chores and ups and downs of raising cattle.

Today, at Brush Hill ranch, Nancy's east coast heritage is reflected in an antique Steinway grand piano that holds pride of place in the living room. The ranch sits on 80 deeded acres and leases 7,920 acres from the US Forest Service, about which Sonny, says, "We try to have a good relationship." The cattle grazing on this rugged land are black angus, and Sonny says they are good quality stock and "They're taken good care of."

In his comfortable kitchen, Sonny keeps a TV monitor tuned to RFD, a site with up-to-date information on beef prices, auctions, sales, and other arcane aspects of the beef industry. His neighbors, Christie Peterson and her son, help him with ranch maintenance and management of his cattle.

At his age, Sonny is pretty relaxed about most everything, but the mining trucks that go up and down the road out front and the possibility of an open pit mine in the mountains get him a little riled up. "I absolutely do not like the mines," he says, pointing to the wear and tear on the road and the fact that he has to clean his water filter far more often than he used to. He shakes his head. "I'm lucky though; I've seen the best of everything."

Sonny remembers the time when a Mexican would come across the border and work for him, then go home when the work was done. When border crossers were heading north, most ranchers would give them water and food. "They were really good people," he recalls. Another memory includes doing a little business with Stewart Granger and Jean Simmons, who were looking for a ranch to buy in New Mexico and enlisted his help.

Nowadays Sonny doesn't drive further than Nogales, and he is always happy to get back to the peace and quiet of his ranch. He thinks he lives in the best place in the world because of the open country, the climate, the rainfall, and the good neighbors. "I've got my horses, my dogs, my cattle. I think that's about as good as it gets."
February’s Ferocious Owls

Which state boasts the most owl species? Arizona! We boast an impressive 12, of all shapes, sizes, and habits. February is an excellent month in the Sky Islands to see several species that either leave our area in warmer months or that become less visible once trees and shrubs begin to leaf out in spring.

Perhaps the best known and certainly one of the most common Arizonan and North American owls is the great horned. Most people probably have seen and/or heard this species at some point during their life. Growing up by Pennypack Park in Philadelphia, I was treated annually to nightly choruses of hoo-ho-ho-ho-hoo-eminating from not only the woods but also my own backyard. Even in the rather icy wintry realm of Philadelphia these large owls begin courtship in December, rendering them highly vocal. You’re most likely to hear one there just before dusk. Listen carefully and you may hear the muffled, doglike sounds of this “hoot owl.”

Here, too, we are treated to breeding great horns in winter. Initiating the breeding cycle this early helps to ensure that the owlets hatch at a time when sufficient prey is available—in March and April, when mammal and bird numbers rebound from the lows of winter. The Arizona diet of this nighttime equivalent of the red-tailed hawk includes such varied fare as mice, shrews, tree squirrels, skunks, house cats, other owls, roosting turkeys, and just about anything else they can lay their formidable talons on. They have even been known to prey upon red-tailed hawks, who sometimes return the favor during the day. Look for the remains of prey—mostly in the form of regurgitated pellets—beneath favorite roost trees. Their perches are often located in dense evergreen or deciduous trees with tangles of vines and/or branches—anything to conceal them from the numerous perils of daylight hours.

It may be difficult to discern the presence of awesome hunters unless they vocalize, as they possess numerous evolutionary adaptations that conspire to keep them camouflaged. Even their namesake “horns” are feathers aimed at breaking up their outline. I can attest to their efficacy, having spotted numerous false “owls” that turned out to be only the broken branches or trunks of trees.

Coming down a notch in size are long-eared owls, who likewise sport terminal feather tufts that are neither horns nor ears. They, too, use their mottled brown and gray coloring as a disguise to help them find food and avoid predation. Unlike great horned owls, long-eared owls are here only for the winter, so they are scarcer than other owls. I have only seen them on a handful of occasions. Once, in Whitewater Draw, a well-known Arizona Game and Fish wildlife management area, I spotted one low in a dense willow thicket. Otherwise, they seem to like dense stands of oak and juniper.

In fact, long-eared owls gravitate to these sites with such regularity that you may encounter them every winter at their favorite roosts. Once you have located such a place, you should wait there at dusk in hopes of seeing what appears to be a giant moth gracefully plying the dim sky. If you are quite lucky, as I have been at times, you may see that owl joined by 10 or more others on their way to terrorize any number of small prey species and to delight your eager eyes!

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.
Collaboration is key to increasing the resiliency and health of our watershed. I remember learning about collaboration around the Legos set as a kid. My brother Mike knew how to create the perfect stairs in the castle walls that I built. Created together, our structures had both style and function. Well, Borderlands Restoration has been playing with the Legos of landscape restoration with a group called the Sky Island Restoration Cooperative (SIRC). SIRC is a coalition of restoration practitioners, land managers, scientists, and private citizens, whose work spans the Borderlands region. We are like a family that shares skills, expensive tools, and even shovels to achieve a common goal of restoring ecological processes and systems.

The really awesome part is that, because we work together, we are more attractive to funders: not only do we share our Legos, but we increase our power to obtain more! Borderlands Restoration was directly involved in seven of this year's SIRC projects. I'll highlight some of these projects and talk a little about how we collaborate.

Borderlands headed up two watershed restoration projects by restoring physical processes and also created the walls of our Legos castle. These projects are Babocomari Ranch Restoration and Recharge and Harshaw Creek Restoration. After the monsoon rains at the Harshaw site, we observed a spring return to life and saw water running in the creek for an extended period, things that hadn't happened in recent memory. If we pair these observations with soil moisture and precipitation data taken by scientists with the US Geologic Survey, over time we should have a picture of how our structures are performing and whether these structures actually did bring a spring and the creek back to life. This data can then be used to influence future watershed restoration efforts, in the hope of bringing back more springs and creeks with fewer resources.

SIRC has several projects focused on restoring food chains through habitat improvement, which are like the stairs that connect our Lego walls. We can work within watersheds, but linking these watershed projects across landscapes to actually improve habitat takes collaboration. Borderlands is involved with these SIRC habitat improvement projects: Monarch Waystations in National Parks, Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor Protection and Management, Chiricahua Leopard Frog Conservation, and Seed Collection in the Madrean Archipelago. These projects aim to increase forage and habitat for more critters, no matter where they roam.

Finally, I want to mention the power of community-based restoration. This is the amazing work coming from all of you, and that drives the work of SIRC. This is the whole reason we play Legos in the first place. It is impossible to overestimate the value of contributions made by our collective volunteers. In every project reported on, volunteers are swinging picks, digging holes, planting plants, building or geolocating check dams, and contributing good energy in a myriad of ways. Volunteers help us to understand what is possible through concerted, engaged action. So here's to a big family-sized group hug. Come play Legos with us!

To find out more and read SIRC's first annual report, visit www.BorderlandsRestoration.org, scroll over the Projects tab, and locate the Sky Island Restoration Cooperative (SIRC) page.

Molly McCormick is the Restoration Project Manager/Outreach Specialist for Borderlands Restoration.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

meetings

**The Patagonia Museum** - Regular meetings w/topics including local history; hwy. clean-ups, & workdays at Lochiel Schoolhouse. For more info, visit [www.thepatagoniamuseum.org](http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

community services

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

**Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service** - Medical transportation available Mon. - Fri. for seniors & disabled to Sierra Vista, Tucson, Gr. Valley & Nogales. By appt. only. 394-2494

**Patagonia Food Bank** - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

**Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop** - Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon.

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

events

**Feb. 4-8 - Annual Tubac Festival of the Arts** - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 12 Tubac Road, Tubac, AZ. 100's of artists and craft persons from around the country and Canada.

**Feb. 5 - 28: Photo Exhibit** by Borderlands Earth Care Youth Core Institute 2014 student interns at Gathering Grounds, showcasing their restoration work in Santa Cruz County. Reception on 2/5 from 5 to 7 p.m. with refreshments.

**Feb. 6 - Riding the Orphan Train** - 7 p.m., at the Patagonia Library, 346 Duquesne Ave. See p. 14 for info.

**Feb. 7 - Global Arts Lov-A-Thon** - 12 - 5 p.m. at Global Arts Gallery; See p. 23 for details

**Feb. 7 - Grand opening and Premiere Movie at Tin Shed Theater** - Asking $5 donation (only $3 for kids 12 and under). See p. 27 for more information

**Feb. 8 - Richter/Uzur Duo (guitar, cello) performs; SCFPA's Benderly Salon Series** - 3: p.m. at the Santa Fe Ranch House on North River Road, Nogales. For info: scfpapresents.org or call (888) 202-1942

**Feb. 13-14 - The Vagina Monologues** - Fri. at 7 p.m. and Sat. at 5:30 p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater in Patagonia. See p. 23 for details.

**Feb. 14 - Seven Saturdays in Patagonia** - presented by Tucson Audubon's Paton's Center for Hummingbirds. Hike, Learn, Eat. Gates are open dawn to dusk at 477 Pennsylvania Ave., Patagonia, AZ. For more information: patoncenter@tucsonaudubon.org

**February 15 - Centennial of the 1914 Nogales City Hall & Fire Department** - will be celebrated at the Museum, 136 N. Grand Ave., in Nogales, beginning at 2 p.m. For more info call 520-287-2646.

**Feb. 28 - PUHS Drama Class Performs "Our Town" and "The Waltz"** - at 6 p.m. in the high school multi-purpose room

**Feb. 28 - Dave Stamey Concert** - cowboy singer/songwriter performs in Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. 7 p.m. Tickets at High Noon Feed & Tack or call 1-800-838-3006

special interests

**Jan. 31- Feb. 15 - Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show** - For more info call (520) 622-4367

**February 19 - The Things They Leave Behind: Placed-and-Found Objects Along the US-Mexico Border** - 7 p.m., Patagonia Library. See p. 23 for details.

**Adult Art Classes** - at the Patagonia Art Center, Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m; Figure Drawing: first Thursdays of the month. 394-9369.

**Art Makers** - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. $3-5 suggested donation. Call Cassina @ 394-9369 for info.

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

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

**Bingo** - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6 p.m. 455-5681

**Crossroads Quilters** - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9 a.m.; call Polly Lightner at (520) 732-0453.

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


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

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**FULL MOON**

**FEBRUARY 3**
The Tin Shed in Patagonia will host two performances of The Vagina Monologues, a play written by Eve Ensler that has been widely staged in the US and abroad since 1996. The play is made up of monologues—some humorous and others tragic—pertaining to aspects of the feminine experience, such as sex, love, rape, menstruation, orgasm and birth. A recurring theme throughout the piece is the vagina as a tool of female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment of individuality.

The cast will include Laura Wenzel, Francesca Claverie, Andrea Stanley, Wendy Russell, Molly McCormick, Jennie LaDage, Janice Pulliam, Sharon Calvert, Anita Clavesko-Wharton, Erin Blanding, and Bethany Brandt. Performances are scheduled for Friday, February 13 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 14 at 5:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $5+. Money raised will go to benefit the New Life Center for Women and Children in Nogales, AZ.

Cultural anthropologist David Seibert [PhD UnivAZ 2013] will open a public discussion on his research and experiences conducting collaborative conservation in the border region—a place where myriad interests are always in play, and where tragedy, beauty, danger, and grace erupt into peoples’ daily lives regularly.

February 19, 7 p.m.
At the Patagonia Library

For more information about Seibert’s research on this subject, go to http://Arizona.openrepository.com/arizona/handle/10150/311534
By John Fielding

For eight months nine local volunteer cadets have been training every Saturday morning at the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District to become certified firefighters. They’ve already received training in emergency medical response and are now ready to complete the next level of instruction in preparation for a career in public fire safety.

Their training at the Fire Academy began with textbook instruction presented by Fire District Chief Joseph DeWolf and Battalion Chief Kevin Venos. Additional training was provided by fire captains from the local and nearby participating districts. That instruction was supplemented with live field training, or “practicals,” requiring the cadets to learn more than 60 field skills, including communications, ladders, extrication, propane fires, smoke reading, firefighter down emergencies, car fires, and more.

The most intense and demanding field training involved “live burns,” for which the cadets and instructors traveled to the Palominas Fire District. Their facilities include a 14-foot-square “burn room,” in which old wood pallets were stacked in a pile and set on fire. As the fire grew hotter and the sound of crackling wood could be heard outside, the cadets donned their fireproof clothing and their breathing apparatus and prepared for their final field test.

Safety officers were on hand and extra water hoses were in place around the structure. When the temperature inside the burn room exceeded 600 degrees, cadets, four at a time, clung to a fire hose together and crawled slowly into the burning building. The door was closed behind them with a loud metallic clang. The room inside was dark, except for the orange glow of the fire.

One by one the cadets took turns with the hose. They were told in advance to use a strong and steady stream of water on the fire and also on the ceiling. This cools down the fire and the temperature of the room without causing the dreaded “steam simulation” effect that is produced when a thin mist of water is sprayed on the fire, a procedure that creates steam and water vapors, which, when heated, become hotter than the fire itself. As part of the exercise, the cadets applied such a mist, and the temperature of the room instantly went up another 400 degrees. The hot water vapor, being heavier than the air, descended from the ceiling, surrounding the cadets with almost unbearable heat that could be felt through their protective gear. A lesson well learned.

Minutes later the door opened and the students crawled out, still clinging to their water hose. Their blood pressures and heart rates had been measured before they went in, and the numbers were a lot higher when they came out. This was their last field skills test. After 220 hours of training, the cadets are now ready to complete state certification, and begin their work as firefighters.
Animal Light Therapy To Reduce Pain

Cate Drown, local resident and writer of the monthly column “Animal Tales” in this newspaper, loves animals—large and small. Her experience as an equine veterinarian assistant and proprietor of a specialty care facility for animals led her to an interest in becoming a certified bioscan technician. She now devotes herself full time to treating animals in need, using Sumerel Therapy equipment, a two-part process for treating pain or injury in an animal. It begins by identifying the source of the problem, then applies light diodes to the targeted area to help in healing and pain reduction.

Cate’s equipment consists of two units. One is a scanner, which searches for drops in the body’s electrical resistance caused by injury or damage, and is used to pinpoint where the therapy should be directed. The other is a control unit that provides treatment. The control unit establishes the frequencies and settings of noninvasive red, blue, and infrared light diodes to be placed on the affected area. Two pads, with 500 lights each, are used to administer the treatment.

Cate begins by placing a pad she refers to as the “Happy Hat” on the animal’s head. The pad produces pulsating lights at two frequencies, releasing endorphins that calm the animal. Then she scans the animal, looking for damaged tissue, which is identified by a beeping sound. Finally, she applies heat to the injured area via the light diodes. According to Cate, “Light energy stimulates the release of nitric oxide from hemoglobin into the bloodstream. The muscle cells relax and allow more blood flow to the injured area.” Some situations require only one treatment to rectify the problem. More chronic issues may require several treatments.

Ann Alden, director of the Borderlands Center for Equine Assisted Services in Sonoita, uses Cate’s light therapy on many of the animals living at her equine center. She strongly endorses the system, especially on her older horses. Ann says, “Light therapy improves their quality of life and makes them feel better. Stable management should include light therapy.”

Cate Drown can be contacted at Beyond Reason Ranch by email at drown_cate@hotmail.com.

The Fair Board has begun planning for this year’s Centennial Celebration. Five Committees have been formed to plan the events. The board encourages all members to participate in one of these committees. The committees are: Building and Grounds, Membership & Volunteers, Publicity, Marketing & Social Media, Centennial Celebration Events, and Fundraising.

Recent elections results: Jim Cosby is re-elected as President. John Titus is the new Vice-President; Jamie Smith serves as the Treasurer and Roland Cowan is elected as Secretary.

Recent elections of the association members also resulted in welcoming three new members to the Board. They are John Titus, Gary Brown and George Masek.

The Board has already scheduled many of the events for the year with the promise of more to come. Already scheduled are:

- February 28 - Dave Stamey Concert
- March 7 - Sonoita Royalty Contest. Categories include Little Miss, Rodeo Princess & Rodeo Queen.
- Deadline for applications is February 10
- May 2 & 3 - Kentucky Derby Day races
- June 11 thru 14 - 77th Annual Quarter Horse Show
- September 5 thru 7 - Labor Day Rodeo
- September 18 thru 20 - County Fair

Contact the Fairgrounds office by email at info@sonoita-fairgrounds.com, or visit their website at www.sonoitafairgrounds.com
On January 17 the Patagonia Museum held its annual meeting at the Patagonia Library. A good-sized crowd gathered to hear Rebecca Orozco, an instructor in anthropology and history, talk about the Chiricahua Apache. Orozco commented on the large attendance, noting that the Bisbee Corral of the Westerners, a group of history buffs that meets once a month in Bisbee, rarely has such a large turnout.

The history of the Apache in this region is complicated and tragic. Orozco wended her way carefully through the treaties and characters that played a part in the eventual resettlement of this once proud Indian tribe. Using visual aids, she painted a balanced picture of the many conflicts, treaties, and massacres that were part of this history. It was a fascinating talk.

At the meeting, the museum declared a financial balance of more than $6,000. German Quiroga was again elected president, Bob Allerton vice president, Ralph Schmitt treasurer, Bea Quiroga secretary, and Bob Bergier and Tom Bartholomeaux members at large.

German told the audience that they are still negotiating with the hotel to rent the old bank space to house the museum (which is currently located in the small back room of Creative Spirit Artists Gallery). The schoolhouse at Lochiel might be completed with one more workday. There are now historical transcriptions by longtime town residents available on the museum’s website, and there will be two bound copies at the library.

The museum currently has 100 active members. An individual membership is $35, and a family can join for $45. You can download an application at thepatagoniamuseum.org.

February 17 marks the 150th anniversary of the battle of Fort Buchanan, which had been established by the US military to protect immigrants traveling through the newly acquired Gadsden Purchase. The fort was located three miles west of present-day Sonoita, on the east slope of what is now called Hog Canyon. Only nine American cavalrymen manned the fort, a collection of military buildings without a perimeter wall.

On the morning of February 17, 1865, land surveyors William Wrightson and Gilbert W. Hopkins, accompanied by a young Mexican boy, were traveling on horseback toward Fort Buchanan when they were suddenly attacked by Chiricahua Apache warriors armed with both rifles and bows. The three rode as fast as they could toward Fort Buchanan, which was 12 miles away, but they were overtaken and killed.

The Apache, estimated to be about 75 in number, then approached the unsuspecting fort and opened fire, quickly surrounding the small building where the soldiers had gathered. They set it ablaze, and as the roof was caving in, the commander, Corporal Michael Buckley, told the surviving soldiers to retreat. This required them to charge through the enemy, firing wildly, and into the surrounding hills. They were chased until reaching the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains, where the Apache gave up.

Today, the privately owned site of Fort Buchanan is used for grazing. The only remains are scattered rocks, mounds of earth, and fragmented adobe ruins. Fort Buchanan was the only American military post conquered during the war against the Chiricahua Apache. Mt. Wrightson and its neighbor, Mt. Hopkins, bear the names of the men who were surveying it on February 17, 1865.

Joe Mulhatton was in Florence this week from the Ripsey country, where he has recently discovered a magnetic cactus, which from his account, must be a wonderful species of vegetation. Its attractive powers are so great that it draws birds and animals to it and impales them on its thorny spikes. Mr. Mulhatton approached no nearer than 100 feet to the cactus, which is of the saguaro variety, yet at that distance it was all he could do to resist its influence to draw him to it. While in town he purchased a long rope, which he will tie around his body, and four of his friends will take hold of it and allow him to approach near enough to minutely examine the wonder without danger. Mr. Mulhatton, who is one of our most truthful citizens, promises an accurate description of his recent find for publication in the Tribune.

—Florence Tribune.
Community Shares Stories and Laughter At Gathering To Remember Walter Andrew

A gathering in memory of Walter Andrew Jr., who passed away in December, was held at the Patagonia Community Center on January 17. A crowd that filled the room to capacity shared stories about the locally well-known Andrew, as did his wife, Judith Hinton-Andrew (shown above right.) Large boards displayed over 200 of his photographs of people, and those who were represented in the photos were encouraged to take their photo home with them.

Cinema At The Tin Shed

By Cassina Farley

Lights, camera, and a lot of action is what is happening now at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association (PCAA). Within the Tin Shed Theater, volunteers have been busily building and readying the Tin Shed Movie House, a project first organized by board member Adrienne Halpert. Fundraising began in the form of film festivals and donation drives. Lack of funds and volunteers almost derailed the project, but, through a stroke of luck and with the help of PCAA board member Bob Ollerton, the Tin Shed Movie House is now a reality. On a budget of less than $6,000, the Movie House has a 24-foot wide screen, surround sound, and an internet-ready DVD/Blu-ray player. The projector, salvaged from a surplus store, is a temporary fix until fundraisers and donations get the funds needed to purchase a new, quality projector. Don’t worry—this old equipment works just fine. You will have a quality movie experience.

All of these additions to the Tin Shed Theater can be tucked out of sight as necessary to make way for live theater and other programming.

At this time, the Movie House has obtained one cinema license and is working to get more. One stipulation of this licensing is that we can’t divulge the title of the films to the general public. So, here’s a hint. Our first movie opened in 1977 and is the first in a series of films made by George Lucas that take place in a fictional galaxy far far away. If you want to know for sure, check out the marquee in front of the PCAA.

The grand opening and premiere movie showing will be Saturday February 7. A $5 donation (only $3 for kids 12 and under) will also make you a member of the Tin Shed Cinema Club. This membership will allow you access to information about upcoming movies and special events. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie will start at 7 p.m. Popcorn and candy will be available before and after the show. Movie titles and schedules will be posted in front of the Patagonia Creative Arts Association, 304 Naugle Ave-

To Walt

You left us beautiful memories
Your love is still our guide
Though we cannot see you
You’ll always be at our side.
You will forever be in our hearts and minds
For that is what our hearts know.

— Sylvia

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for all your support, thoughts and prayers through Walter’s illness! This energy sustained us through some very tough weeks. Thank you also for your presence at the gathering to remember Walter on Saturday. I am sure Walter ‘heard’ all the loving, kind, and funny stories! I appreciate all of you immensely!

Love, Judith Andrew

Photos by Ann Katzenbach
Students Go Head to Head At The Annual Spelling Bee

By Exelee Budd and Juliana Quiroga

Every year, the Patagonia Middle School and Elementary School has a Spelling Bee for grades 1-8, and on Wednesday, January 7, the kids finally went head to head in the big competition. With excitement in the air, the time had come for the practice round. Levi Padilla, a seventh grader, said he was nervous, but he just had to get used to the pressure of being on stage in front of everyone. A few of his peers agreed that the words continued to get more difficult as rounds progressed. First place winner, Jami Peterson, will be representing our school at the Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee on February 7, along with elementary school winner, Santiny Aguilar.

The winner of the spelling bee, sixth grader Jami Peterson said “I knew I was a good speller, but I didn’t plan on winning. I thought I was going to lose and then I was confident after my first word.” We asked Jami if she had studied the words at all, she said “I did study for two days at home”. I was very shocked and very proud of myself when I won.” The second place winner in middle school, seventh grader Arrinna Ochoa, said her teachers were a big part of her motivation. The seventh grade faced words such as: bona fide, nostalgia and albeit.

Destiny Alvarez, an eighth grader, took the slot in third place for middle school. “I was nervous,” she said, “I thought I was going to be humiliated.” We asked Destiny if she studied, and like other students, she said “only at school, but I felt confident enough with the words we were given”. Eighth grade students were asked to spell words such as: noctambulist, obfuscate, ballyhoo and shebang. Their list included 50 challenging words from their grade and another 50 challenging words from the ninth grade as an opportunity to learn and challenge their skills.

Elementary school spelling bee winners (from left); Olivia Blystone, Andres Guzman, Arihanna Pelayo, Daniel Castro, Santiny Aguilar and Carlos Chap

Drama Class Prepares For Double Performance

By Alexis Montanez

Back in November the Patagonia High School drama class got high marks for its performance of “The Nutcracker.” Another play is on the way, actually two plays! Ms. Lucas, the drama teacher told me that the longer play is “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder. It’s about a small town in the 1880s where everyone knows each other. Reminds you of Patagonia, doesn’t it? The story reflects on life and how quickly it can pass by.

The second play, a comedy, is shorter. “The Waltz,” written by Trisha Sugarek, is about a woman in the 1970s who isn’t very happy about her dance partner.

The class has 21 students. This allows everyone to fully participate. Come support the drama class with your enthusiasm. Don’t forget! February 28 at 6 p.m. in the middle school MPR. See you there.
New Test From Board Of Education
By Hector Lopez

On November 3, 2014, the Arizona State Board of Education announced that AIMS testing, for mathematics, reading and writing, will be replaced with a new form of test—the Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teach or AzMERIT test.

Students will still have to take the AIMS Science test. However, unlike the AIMS testing, AzMERIT will be taken on a computer and, for every question a student answers, they will be required to give an explanation of their answer in a text box, once he or she checks one of the four lettered boxes to answer a question.

A Fresh Start For Doc Mock Park
by Elizabeth McKay

Patagonia’s Tree and Park Committee is now working and planning some new things—good things. Although the Tree and Park Committee’s activities often go unnoticed in Patagonia, it is now going to be getting a lot of new publicity, under the direction of Cornelia O’Connor and fellow members Ann Gosline, Andy Wood, Jason Botz, Barbara Ellis, Bethany Brandt, Caleb Weaver, Mary McKay, Harry Hower, German Quiroga, Karla Espinoza, and Yunghi Choi.

If you don’t know what Doc Mock’s Park is, it’s the vacant, “and quite dusty” piece of land in the middle of town across from Richardson park. It’s been vacant for years but the tree and park committee is planning to rejuvenate it all. The grant that was written for it was “ranked #1 out of 22 in the state,” according to the Program Manager for Urban Community Forestry, Alix Rogstad, who signed the grant.

The Patagonia Tree and Park Committee will apply an AZ Forestry grant, together with the efforts of the Nature Conservancy, Borderlands Restoration, and Patagonia High School’s biology teacher Charles Mitsak and his class, to make Doc Mock’s Park a better public space.

Borderlands Restorations is planting native trees that provide shelter, a food source, and a habitat, mainly for birds. They are getting volunteer students to work because, “you have to match the amount of volunteer hours with the amount of money you get with the grant,” says Cornelia O’Connor, and she adds that she’d “like to see a skate park but there are a lot of issues that go with it.”

The Unstoppable Lady Lobos
By Guadalupe Bueras

On January 6, Patagonia hosted the Tombstone Yellow Jackets. During the first half the pace was slow, but during the third quarter the Lady Lobos pulled away and got the upper hand. By out rebounding and taking more shots, the Lobos won 39-31.

On January 8, they traveled to Tucson to play against St. Augustine. The Lobos went out hungry and wanted a win. Without their starting point guard, Lily Wharton, the Lady Lobos managed to switch up the offense and take home a win with a final score of 40-28. Then came a second game with St. David, who the Lobos beat in December. The Lobos wanted another win in the Tigers’ gym. The game was intense up to the last second. The Lobos always had an extra point or two, but in the last 15 seconds, the Tigers tied it up 48-48. The crowd went crazy. Coach Ralph Padilla called a timeout and wrote up a play for point guard Lily Wharton. Wharton made the winning shot to put the Lobos up 50-48. That left the Tigers with 8.0 seconds to to tie the game or go for the winning shot, but the Lobos defense didn’t give them that option. The Lady Lobos took home the win.

Editor’s note: This article was submitted in mid-January. As we go to press, the Lobos’ record is 11-4.
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TAR/MLS #21501917, $274,000
Fanciful regional charm & uncommon elegance are hallmarks of this special home. A comfortable 2,349sf split-level (2Be/2.5Ba/2G w/4 int steps). The stylish details & rich finishes, gorgeous FP’s, Hacienda-style windows, seductive Master Suite & inviting Chef’s Kitchen will capture your heart. Newly back on the market @ a fabulous new price. Wow!

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

ADOPTABLE PETS OF THE MONTH

Reba is a playful, 10-month old grey tabby who was found in an abandoned house. Despite her rough start in life, Reba is a happy and playful gal, and one of the current stars in our Purr Palace. She loves attention and enjoys romping and running with other cats. One look at her will melt your heart.

Look at the big smile on Brandy’s face! This sweet, one and a half year old shepherd mix loves adults and children. She’ll lean on and cuddle with humans, and gets along well with other dogs. Brandy needs some leash training and does not like all cats. She also needs time to adjust to new places and people.

Adoption fees include spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchip. See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org.

SANTA CRUZ HUMANE SOCIETY
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales 287-5654

Use As Directed

Some people in town have noticed that not everyone who uses the cardboard recycling container is flattening their boxes before tossing them in to the bin. This practice uses up a lot more space, requiring more frequent pick ups. If cardboard is broken down first, the container can hold double the amount—which cuts down on transportation costs by as much as fifty percent.
Long Realty
Ad
goes here