Audubon Has Big Plans For Paton’s

By Ann Katzenbach

If you’ve been to Paton’s bird sanctuary lately, you will have noticed big changes under way. Most obvious is that it is now called Tucson Audubon’s Paton Center for Hummingbirds. This, as readers may remember, came about as the result of the property being purchased earlier this year under a joint agreement between Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, the American Bird Conservancy, and Tucson Audubon. When all the necessary legal and financial papers were finalized, ownership passed to Tucson Audubon.

The new center was dedicated the first weekend in December. Supporters from around the country came to Patagonia for a variety of presentations and events that started on Friday evening with dessert and coffee in a big tent on the property and went through to a Sunday morning birding trip.

Bonnie Paton Moon, the daughter of Wally and Marion Paton, came from Connecticut to be here for the celebration. Since her parents’ deaths, Moon has held onto the property, hoping to find a way to save it for birders. She said it was a long process, and for many months she wasn’t sure that the deal with Audubon would go through. Such property purchases by nonprofits are fraught with difficulties, but in the end, mainly through the efforts of George Fenwick, president of American Bird Conservancy; Paul Green of Tucson Audubon; and Victor Emanuel, who runs a large and highly respected birding specialty tour company, the deal was finalized.

The Saturday segment of the weekend focused on the dedication of half the property that was, until a few months ago, an overgrown paddock. Under the leadership of Jonathan Horst, a restoration ecologist, there are now lots of hummingbird-attracting plants taking root, along with native grasses and other bird-friendly plantings and a new water feature. It is now called the Richard Grand Memorial Meadow. Richard Grand was a well-known Tucson trial lawyer who was a passionate activist for the preservation and protection of nature and wildlife habitat. His widow, Marcia Grand, donated a large portion of the funding for the property and was present (continued on page 2)
MISSION STATEMENT
To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz county—including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita—and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

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An Innovative Partnership
This edition marks the third month of Patagonia High School’s partnership with the Patagonia Regional Times (PRT) and on behalf of the Governing Board of the Patagonia Public Schools, I want to express our gratitude to the PRT staff for the opportunity and support that you have provided our students.

Through this collaboration, the Journalism students have gained real print media experience and learned the joy of seeing their articles in print. The Lobo Lingo now has wider readership and the students realize that they need to raise the level of their writing skills to meet the expectations of the PRT’s audience. Those students with published articles can now add the hard copies to their high school portfolio.

For years, the Journalism class produced an 8.5 X 11 version of the Lobo Lingo that was mailed to over 3,800 households in Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita. The exercise had its benefits but it also had several tangible and intangible costs that the school could ill-afford: paper, mailing costs, staff time, wear and tear on our equipment and frustration. Inevitably, each month one or more of our copy machines would break down in the middle of the printing process.

Years of Federal and State budget cuts have strained the public education system and K-12 schools all over Arizona have had to trim programs and student services. Small rural schools, like Patagonia, have been particularly affected. Each year, the Governing Board and the administration at Patagonia Public Schools work diligently to provide our students with the tools, infrastructure and programs they need to learn and succeed.

Working with the PRT is a shining example of a successful collaboration where both parties benefit. It has enriched our journalism course and provided our students with a way to share their campus life with the community at large. At the same time, the school has been able to save resources during a time of scarcity. As a nonprofit, the PRT has found another way to showcase local talent and serve its constituency.

Letters From Our Readers

Resident caretaker Larry Murphy and Bonnie Paton Moon

An innovative partnership

no enthusiasm

While I always respect the quality of Ann’s writing I certainly hope the next opportunity a small town newspaper has a chance and perhaps more to the point; an obligation to the community, the writer can muster a bit more enthusiasm for this precious holiday than what was just offered. It was politically correct though, touched all the bases.

—Mike Thompson
Arizona’s unique combination of geography and climate supports more than 400 kinds of birds—that’s about half the total of all the bird species that can be found in the U.S. and Canada, in just one percent of the land area.

For decades, the Patons’ small property at 477 Pennsylvania Avenue has attracted visitors for great views of special birds and for the tranquility the site offers. Its recent acquisition by Tucson Audubon is a big deal for both the local community and the international birding community. Renamed Tucson Audubon’s Paton Center for Hummingbirds, the property is already being developed to attract more birds and birders.

Recent studies show that bird watching is among the nation’s most popular recreational activities and growing. Why birding? Ask the more than 47 million bird watchers in America why they love birds, and you’ll probably get a range of replies as diverse as the birds themselves. With colors and songs that can stop you in your tracks, equally colorful and evocative names, and life stories full of amazing feats of speed and stamina, birds are an exciting gateway to the natural world, right outside your door! A recent economic impact analysis suggests that Arizonans now have a billion more reasons to appreciate birds and wildlife.

Arizona’s unique combination of geography and climate supports more than 400 kinds of birds—that’s about half the total of all the bird species that can be found in the US and Canada, in just one percent of the land area. Diverse and distinctive, Arizona’s bird life features 36 species not regularly found elsewhere in the US, and 40 found only in the US-Mexico border area. Combine this with our rich cultural heritage and first-class destination services, and it’s no wonder we’re recognized as one of the top birding and nature destinations in the country, attracting ecotourists from around the world.

And that’s where the billion comes in. You might be surprised to learn that Watchable Wildlife recreation in Arizona has a larger economic impact than hunting, fishing, golf, or Tucson’s Gem Show. Southwick Associates, a fish and wildlife economics and statistics firm, reports the total economic impact from 2011 watchable wildlife activities in Arizona to be $1.4 billion ($1.1 billion by residents and $314.6 million by visitors). Southwick’s analysis is based on raw data from the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In this survey, “wildlife watching activities” include observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife.

When birders visit, they spend money—mostly on lodging, food, and transportation. Local participants contribute, too, with equipment purchases like optics, camera gear, and bird-feeding supplies (among other tools of the trade). These expenditures have increased since 2001, despite economic instability; in 2011, Arizona residents spent a total of $665 million on watchable wildlife recreation, while wildlife watchers visiting from out of state poured $183.7 million new dollars into the state economy.

Original expenditures by wildlife watchers generate rounds of additional spending throughout the economy, resulting in additional indirect and induced impacts that are commonly called the multiplier effect. Economic activity associated with both the direct spending and multiplier effect impacts is the total economic contribution resulting from the original expenditures.

Here in southeastern Arizona, watchable wildlife recreation has a total economic impact of $330 million and supports about 3,000 jobs in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties. To support and grow this valuable industry, we need to promote responsible wildlife observation, provide destinations like the Paton Center to attract visiting bird watchers and nature tourists, and protect and enhance the habitats upon which our wildlife depends. Local organizations, government, and business can work synergistically to build a bird-friendly and birder-friendly community and nurture “The Goose That Lays the Golden Eggs.”

For more information, including Southwick Associates’ full report (Economic Contributions of Wildlife Viewing to the Arizona Economy, May 2013), please visit http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/birdingeconomics.
Making a Difference

Ron Pulliam has been a remarkable "rainmaker" for the Patagonia area since his arrival. He is a founder of Borderlands Restoration and the visionary behind the three Canyons purchase. Ron's commitment to a working landscape, supporting both people and wildlife, has fostered critical partnerships and attracted a cadre of seasoned scientists and committed young people to Patagonia. Borderlands has provided numerous workshops, numerous volunteer opportunities, and a significant number of new jobs in our community. Ron's vision and connections are helping making Patagonia a hub for conservation awareness and action in our region.

These three people have devoted their time and efforts to improving the quality of life in their community. In doing so, they have not only strengthened their community, but have inspired a greater sense of commitment in others.

ANNA COLEMAN
Advocate for Our Youth

Anna Coleman's ongoing commitment to the needs of our communities' youth led her to create a youth center where kids and teens can truly feel at home. This past year, with help from her husband, Steve, and some dedicated volunteers, she rehabbed a space, furnished it, and pursued funding to operate it. And, as its Director, she continues to make that "home" a place that provides not only requisites like pizza, movies, foosball, and a place to hang out, but also mentoring, help with learning, and workshops on topics that teens can relate to.

Our community's youth now have a place to go that they enjoy—and that is safe. Anna's generous and caring spirit, and her involvement with the kids at the site, are what has made this youth center such a great success.

FOSTER DRUMMOND
Passionate About Education

Foster Drummond, outgoing Elgin School Board member and past President, was recently recognized for 20 years of service on the Board. Mr. Drummond says he has never missed a single Board meeting in his twenty years of service. For the last 12 years he has been President of the School Board. School Superintendent Chris Bonn said at the presentation, "Foster Drummond is an amazing and dedicated gentleman committed to a life of service to others. He is passionate about his community and believes rural communities still hold an advantage over large cities because the community embraces and values quality education for students."

RON PULLIAM
Conservation Visionary

Ron Pulliam has been a remarkable "rainmaker" for the Patagonia area since his arrival. He is a founder of Borderlands Restoration and the visionary behind the three Canyons purchase. Ron's commitment to a working landscape, supporting both people and wildlife, has fostered critical partnerships and attracted a cadre of seasoned scientists and committed young people to Patagonia.
“Magic of Christmas”
A Great Success

“Magic of Christmas,” the Patagonia Woman’s Club major fund raiser held during Art Walk, was a great success. The club wishes to thank the community and the Christmas tree sponsors for their loyal support. Proceeds from the event go toward the four-year $1000 scholarship awarded yearly to a winning graduating high school senior who seeks further education. Other club recipients in the community include the Art Center, Patagonia Library, Patagonia Elementary School Readers Program and the Patagonia Fire Department’s education instruction. Serving local educational needs in the community is the principal focus of the club. For further information about monthly meetings that feature guest speakers from surrounding businesses such as Native Seeds, SCFPA, and Soulistic Hospice, contact Betty Johnson at 394-2243.

Outdoor holiday decorations at 567 Harshaw Road (above) and 377 Duquesne Avenue (below) were two of the locations that received awards from the Patagonia Women’s Club. The award money was provided by Sulphur Springs Electric Company.
They Like That Old Time Rock and Roll

The Senior Community Center was decked out with silver streamers, special lighting effects, and a DJ for its 25 Year Anniversary Celebration on December 6. Songs like “Willy and the Hand Jive,” “Y.M.C.A.,” and “Wipeout” got people up and out on the dance floor. The center also served food and refreshments, to thank the community for their support.

From left: Tucson DJ Aletha Kalish, Gama Leyva, Judy Miller, Cornelia O’Connor, Geraldine Boling, Mike O’Halloran, Carl Fuller, and Jan Herron enjoy a senior moment.
On December 16, Cady Hall was filled with people interested in learning about and influencing plans for the recently purchased Three Canyons property just outside Patagonia along Route 82. David Seibert and Ron Pulliam from Borderlands Restoration led the 2½-hour discussion. The first half of the meeting included a presentation on what the property offers, the goals of the new owners, and how Wildlife Corridors purchased the land. For more detail on that, take a look at the article in the November edition of the PRT. The remainder of the meeting was a “listening session” to field questions and suggestions from the audience. There were several breaks for people to enjoy a nice spread provided by Borderlands.

Pulliam asked the audience to share any concerns about the vision for the property and to offer suggestions on what uses should be allowed. He made clear that all uses must be consistent with the owners’ primary goal of preserving the wildlife corridors. Questions included: Will there continue to be access to National Forest lands through Three Canyons? How will encroachment on wildlife corridor be prevented? Will commercial development be permitted on available lots? How will the roads be maintained? Will there still be access to National Forest lands through Three Canyons? How will encroachment on wildlife corridor be prevented? Will commercial development be permitted on available lots? How will the roads be maintained? What will happen to the currently defunct water company?

Pulliam and Seibert prefaced most responses with “We don’t know yet, but we want to involve interested community members in helping us determine the right answers for Three Canyons.” However, they did share what they now know. As many as 24 additional lots—hopefully, fewer—could be sold over a 10-year period. The first available lots for sale will be near properties already purchased from the original developer. Lots will vary from 3 to 16 acres and will be competitively priced at levels far lower than the original development. Regarding the financial viability of the new venture, Pulliam said the relatively modest purchase price, the ability to secure both grants and investments, and the limited reliance on lot sales make the project feasible. He expressed confidence that they would pay off the $700,000 mortgage before its 5-year term expires.

Pulliam and Seibert suggested that there will be improvements in the CC&Rs and that the changes will be made through a process that includes all existing landowners. Dogs and horses probably will be allowed on some parts of the property. Small commercial enterprises may also be considered. The new owners have attempted to contact all existing lot owners and have connected with most of them.

A number of people praised the overall concept for the property and encouraged continuing focus on wildlife protection, small-scale agriculture, involvement of children, and replicating sustainable practices. Zay Hardigen, representing the Arizona Trail Association, encouraged the new owners to consider extension of the Arizona Trail on the Three Canyons property.

The owners plan to establish an advisory group to assist them in developing the operating plan for Three Canyons.
Assisted Living Home in Patagonia Moves Forward After Setbacks

By Linda Huffstetler-Dearing

There has been hope in the Patagonia community for an assisted living facility so our elderly can live locally and be near family and friends. Helen Chester acted on this hope when she bought the property at 56 Harshaw Road some years back. Unforeseen circumstances stalled the realization of her dream, but recently, she signed the property over to Donald Borham, and was compensated by Borman for the improvements she had made to it, with the provision that it be used to house seniors currently living in the Mountain Empire region.

For 20 years, Donald Borham managed a nonprofit housing department in Minnesota. After moving to Arizona he worked another fourteen years in housing finance. He left finance to pursue a career in the medical field and is blending his work history into a new vision for senior housing. Mr. Borham has completed the schooling and licensing to become a certified nursing assistant and certified caregiver. He has worked the last two years in a long term care/sub-acute nursing facility. As the new owner of the property, Borham opens the doors of the home at 56 Harshaw Road on January 1, as private or semi-private housing for up to four seniors.

In order to have a state licensed facility, Patagonia must establish its need for an assisted living facility to the state. Until then, the home will operate as senior rental. Seniors living in the home can arrange for food preparation, housekeeping, laundry services, and share the expense of a single caregiver. Health-related services are available locally through Patagonia Assisted Care as well as through other independent businesses such as Lutheran Social Services, Dependable Health Services or others located in Nogales and Sierra Vista.

Once it becomes clear that our community can maintain an assisted living facility, with licensing in place for the home and for Borham as facility manager, the home will be fully functional in that capacity and can offer health-related services through the facility itself. In the meantime, another step has been taken toward establishing a facility for assisted living to Patagonia's senior residents.

All interested seniors, their family and friends are invited to an Open House on January 11, from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. at 56 Harshaw Road. Refreshments will be served.
Judge Fink Keeps His Robes

By Ann Katzenbach

Back in June, Tom Fink was a lawyer practicing in Nogales; then, almost overnight, Judge James Soto, Superior Court Judge of Santa Cruz County, moved up the judicial ladder to the U.S. District Court. Governor Brewer appointed Fink to serve out Soto’s term, and he found himself on the other side of the courtroom with a robe and a gavel. In the fall, Fink campaigned successfully for a new term, (maybe you voted for him), and he is now an elected judge with four years to serve.

In addition, the Arizona Supreme Court appointed him to a concurrent three-year term as Presiding Judge of Santa Cruz County. In that capacity, he will serve as the executive officer of the courts in the county and will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of court business. Judge Soto was also the county’s presiding court judge and left behind a seasoned staff that Judge Fink says makes his job much easier.

Governor Brewer appointed Fink to the Superior Court because he is an extremely experienced litigator. Before he began private law practice in Nogales in 2003, he worked for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Arizona. As he says, “I’ve spent 30 years observing a lot of good judges.”

Fate, of course, played a part in Fink’s career. When he worked for the U.S. Attorney in Tucson, he fell in love with this part of Arizona. Then he found a house that he loved, and so he decided to give up a comfortable and secure government job and move here. He was 46 when he opened an office in Nogales and started a law practice with no clients and no office in Nogales and started a practice government job and move here. He was 46 when he opened an office in Nogales and started a law practice with no clients and no office. In 2003, he worked for the U.S. Attorney in Tucson, and he was 46 when he opened an office in Nogales and started a law practice with no clients and no office. In 2003, he worked for the U.S. Attorney in Tucson, and he was 46 when he opened an office in Nogales and started a law practice with no clients and no office.

Fink says it was an ongoing lesson in how to conduct a fair trial. Nearly everyone in Nogales called the judge “Jimmy,” because he was a hometown boy and knew nearly everyone. But when it came to a trial, Fink says, the rich and poor, the powerful and the weak, friend and foe, were equal in Judge Soto’s courtroom.

Lawyers learn to be judges by watching and listening and figuring out what works and what doesn’t. Fink says that being a judge after all this time feels natural. He thoroughly enjoys his job, but he says the hard part for him is keeping silent when he wants to go back to being a lawyer and give advice. Sometimes, he says, it’s hard to refrain, especially when defendants come without a lawyer and try to defend themselves. Fink says he tries to help those who come into his court by explaining legal procedures and rules in simple, straightforward, and sympathetic terms. He thinks this helps calm fears and makes for a better outcome, as does making it clear that he is paying careful attention. “If people know they’ve been listened to, even if they lose their case, they’re more likely to accept the outcome,” he says.

Fink loves his job and would have been devastated to lose the election. He spent money putting up a lot of big signs and went all over the county knocking on doors. Judges are supposed to have an open mind about political issues.

During his early years practicing in Nogales, Fink was in Judge Soto’s courtroom many times. He says it was an ongoing lesson in how to conduct a fair trial. Nearly everyone in Nogales called the judge “Jimmy,” because he was a hometown boy and knew nearly everyone. But when it came to a trial, Fink says, the rich and poor, the powerful and the weak, friend and foe, were equal in Judge Soto’s courtroom.

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In a largely Hispanic community, where family is so important, it’s appropriate that Fink’s father, uncle, and brother all came from various parts of the country to be here on the day of the election. They each went to a polling place and stayed all day campaigning. When the polls closed, they all reported that it had been a lot of fun. “It was great that they came. And great that I won,” said Judge Fink. They celebrated at the Wagon Wheel.

Tom Fink does not look or act like a stereotypical judge. He’s witty, relaxed, and informal and appreciates the fact that, as he says, “The locals don’t treat me with any less disrespect than before.” He still goes to the Wagon Wheel and knows the guys at the gas station.

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Losing Walter  
By Ann Katzenbach

I had thought to write about the old year and the new year and be positive and hopeful which is really not easy with the earth sort of staggering along, running near empty. Sorry, but most days that’s how it feels to me.

And for several days after Walter Andrew died in this darkest time of year, positive and hopeful thoughts did not come to mind at all. However, in a strange way this morning, I realize that Walter’s life was so affirming and what he left behind is so positive, that I’ve moved on from grieving and feel a bit hopeful.

First of all, Walter’s extended family is remarkable and being with them is a lot like being with him. They are friendly, inquisitive and caring men and women. That’s a great legacy if you can manage it -- wonderful kids who now impact the world in a good way. Walter and Judy’s children took time out of their lives when Walter received his diagnosis of brain cancer and came here to spend time with him. His health was still good enough to enjoy having them here and one afternoon he insisted on coming down to the tennis courts with his daughter, Sarah, to watch her play. He went to a girl’s basketball game shortly before he died because he was so proud of the team and always loved to watch them play. And he briefly appeared with his wife, Judy, wearing wigs (Walter’s was pink and curly) at Lee’s opening at the Gathering Grounds on December 4. He died nine days later. The cliched expression, “an indomitable spirit” is so appropriate that I can’t think of a better way to say it.

In Port Townsend, Washington, where I used to live, there were twins, Meg and Julia. When I told them we were moving to Patagonia, they gasped and then clapped and hugged each other and then hugged me and finally told me that “Uncle Walter” lived here. The “uncle” part was an affectionate term -- Walter had known their mother for many years and always stayed in touch, encouraging them to develop their many talents. They told Walter that I was moving here, and he called me as I was driving down to invite me to write for the paper. He said he knew I would quickly be scooped up by other non-profits here if he didn’t get his foot in the door. I was surprised that there was such an aggressive person in this small town, and then I moved here and got to know him and realized that his ability to jump right into a topic that interested him, or to ruthlessly pursue an idea -- was real, as were other traits: generosity, intelligence, honesty, great warmth, humor, and most of all, a deep love of Patagonia.

The standards he set for this paper were lofty. He always hoped to cajole and coerce people into seeing the importance of such things as education, sports, youth, history, business, art and getting along with one another. He seemed to know everyone, and always sought them out to share a laugh, ask questions, give opinions. He was a great news gatherer because he was a good listener.

The town has lost someone who deeply believed in building community. Walter’s concern for affordable housing, the museum, the youth center, the sports’ teams, and so many families here in town were deeply seated. It’s this passion and hope that I will always remember.

Photo by Sue Scott
I took my new dog, Piggy Rose, out to Casa Blanca Canyon last week. What a beautiful spot! Later, as I drove back into town, a trucker flashed his lights at me, the traditional warning for "cops running radar ahead." Sure enough, seconds later, there he was — The Man — not candidly parked at the edge of the road near the high school as usual, but tucked into a thicket at the northern end of town. Sneaky little devil.

My wife loves it when drivers flash their lights in brotherly warning. She's always seeking evidence of kindness and solidarity among humans, as if to counter the horror and hopelessness renewed daily by the media. To her, the motorist is like Little Red Riding Hood or Tchaikovsky's Peter, while the cop is a wolf in our midst. We raise our fat, white tails and run away, or flash our lights to warn the herd that there is danger near.

It's ethically perplexing, though. The police are working to ensure public safety, so trying to foil them endangers the herd. Does the very existence of speed-limits seem like an insult to our judgment and competence? Are we unsure that cops are our friends? Or, does fellow feeling simply trump concern with safety here? Kathryn would never knowingly break the law, yet she rejoices in those who interfere with the administration of justice. It must just be her sentimental side.

I'm fascinated by the many ways in which humans embrace parental authority or, alternatively, embrace sibling solidarity against authority. It's mostly not a conscious choice, and not a level playing-field. How could it be? Children start out ignorant and helpless, after all. The Big People — parents and teachers — have all of the power. In politics, the basic divide between "Liberals" and "Conservatives" — ranging from anarchists and libertarians at one extreme to traditionalists and fascists at the other, comes down, in large measure, to: Which side are you on — the parents’ or the kids’?

In any particular child's case, though, it's hard to predict which way the ball will roll, largely because of the 180 degree rule: A person will do X or exactly the opposite of X, in response to any given stimulus.
With Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching I sit here in awe that yet another year has sped on by. It has been a trying year for me personally but I am quickly humbled by people who have had a much greater challenges than me and continue to move forward. The bottom line is we are all lucky to have one another. I want to thank all the readers that loyally read my column month after month and who through no fault of their own have gotten to know me and Zach for the last two years. I have met some interesting people who live within our community that I otherwise may not have had the opportunity to meet. It was weird at first having people recognize me from my little picture in the paper but it was always nice to hear how much they related to Zach falling down the ice covered ramp at our back door. My readers have helped me through some of my more interesting life moments like when I cut off all my hair and the ensuing chaos that followed. I have confessed to taking dog pills, climbing all over mountains of gravel and my dis-taste for girl clothes. I've even showed my soft under belly a time or two. It did my heart wonders when my “Crazy Coupon” friend told me that she cuts out my columns and mails them to friends. The constant feedback is nice and it encourages me to move forward. So thank you Patagonia and Sonoita for reading and responding. I like that people look for my column each month and laugh at the same things that I do even if it ends up being mainly about Zach. So from me, Zach, the dogs, cats, chickens and our late turkeys we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thanks for reading.

Hats Off To Town Workers
By Gilbert Quiroga

Last year I wrote about some of the town’s employees and how they have such an impact on the town. Now I would like to give credit and thanks to rest of the other workers I didn’t mention.

The water works is headed up by Juan Urias. He and George Deithorn handle the water needs of the whole town, often working on weekends. George is a certified welder. Juan knows his way around the water system’s valves. Both men started working for Patagonia’s water department in 2004. I want to thank them for all the hard work they have done for the town over the past 10 years. Thank you Juan and George.

Andrea Sanchez has been working for the town for four years. She is a hard-working employee and a fast learner. She works full time in the front office. Thank you Andrea.

Yasidh Morena just started working as court clerk. She’s always cheerful and helpful and it looks like she is going be an asset to Patagonia and the courts. Thank you Yasidh.

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Teas and infusions differ in the amount of time it takes to make them. Teas take a few minutes. Infusions use larger amounts of plants steeped in hot water for a longer period of time. They extract more plant constituents, and can be used medicinally or nutritively, depending on the plant infused. Overnight infusions of nutritive plants that contain beneficial vitamins, minerals, and other supportive elements, can be an excellent addition to any self-care practice.

The standard ratio for making infusions is one ounce of dried plants (weight), to one quart of hot water (volume). If you don't wish to measure out your plant material, then you can just grab a handful of lighter plant material (such as leaves and flowers), and heavier plant material (such as roots and bark). Add the plants to a quart jar, then fill the jar with freshly boiled water. Cover with an airtight lid, then let it sit overnight. In the morning, strain out the plant material, composting it back into the earth. Based on your needs and preferences, the remaining infusion can be drunk slowly throughout the day, reheated and drunk, or refrigerated and ingested slowly through a few days. Infusions, depending on the plant, can keep in the fridge for 3-5 days.

Here's some suggestions for plants to create nourishing overnight infusions. There's a *star next to the plants that grow around here as weeds, or you can easily cultivate.

Energetically drying (many of these are mildly astringent or diuretic):
* Nettles leaf (*Urtica dioica*)
* Red clover blossoms (*Trifolium pratense*)
* Raspberry leaves (*Rubus spp.*)
* Rose leaves and petals (*Rosa spp.*)

Energetically neutral:
* Oatstraw (*Avena sativa*)
* Violet leaves and flowers (*Viola spp.*)

Energetically moistening (nutritive demulcents):
* Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*)
* Mallow leaves, roots, and flowers (*Malva spp.*)
* Borage flowers (*Borago officinalis*)
* Linden flowers (*Tilia americana*)

Make nourishing infusions with one plant at a time so as to deeply understand that plant, and how it affects you. Once that base relationship has been established, then other plants may be added. For example, energetically drying plants can be balanced by nutritive demulcents. Different plants, with their different properties, can be artfully combined to create nourishing masterpieces to ingest, enjoy, and celebrate life and our intimate relationships with the plant world.

You can write Jiling at LinJiling@gmail.com, or call her at (626) 344-9140.

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This animals's front track is 4.5 inches long x 4 wide with claws visible on a good track. The little toe is wimpy and is less likely to be visible. The hind track is 7 long x 3.5 wide inches and has a humanlike heel. Don't worry about the size; there is nothing to confuse it with. The claws are dominant and worrisome and may be used for scribing parallel lines, hopefully on trees. Can you identify this animal?

(answers on page 19)
A Rainy Day for Bird Counting
By Gary Romig

This year’s Christmas bird count in Patagonia went on despite the horrible weather. My team of four people, including an eleven-year-old beginning birder from England, had the territory starting at the extreme west edge of the San Raphael Valley and then west and south along the road back to Patagonia. This included Corral Canyon which was the center of our territory.

We certainly appreciated a border patrol agent with tow strap and truck who came along and pulled us out of a muddy ditch after our car began to do nothing but slide into said ditch.

After that, we got some good birding in the wooded canyons of our territory. Patagonia continues to be an amazing Christmas bird count but it is not always easy. Many thanks go out to all who participated and especially to Abbie Zeltzer, Matt Brown and Tom Army. They have been running this count for many years now.

Editor’s note: The CW stands for "Count Week." These are birds not seen on the specified day of the count but are seen during the seven-day week before and after the main day of the count. In this case that day was the 18th. So any birds seen three days before or three days after can be added to the list if they were not seen on the 18th. These are often just one special bird, but may be of a bird that is very common and was just not seen by anyone on the day of the count.

Sp designation happens when the observer cannot identify the separate species of very similar birds. We have Eastern and Western Meadowlarks here and they are so similar that many observers just say Meadowlark sp and can’t separate them. This designation does not add to the total species list but does add to the total number of birds seen.

Note: This is not the official count.

Total species: 131  Total individuals: 6432
Close to noon on December 7, Bob Morphew, a 70-year-old Canadian, crashed his motorcycle on Salero Canyon Road. Marshal Joe Patterson was called to the scene, and he in turn called for an ambulance. Shortly afterward, Morphew was airlifted to University Hospital's critical care wing with a punctured lung, broken ribs, a fractured right foot, and various lacerations.

Morphew's jacket and cell phone did not make it onto the helicopter, so the next day Marshal Patterson took them to Morphew at the hospital. He learned that Morphew was in the Tucson area by himself, having driven from Ontario with his RV, a trailer, and his motorcycle. He was alone because his wife has terminal cancer and was with their daughter on a specially planned trip to Florida. Morphew did not want Patterson to contact his wife and spoil her trip, so for the next week or so, Patterson checked up on him, by phone or in person. When the patient felt well enough, Patterson helped move him to a motel and got his prescriptions filled. For a few days it looked like the Canadian Government would pay for a special medical evacuation. Sometimes in that period, Morphew called his wife, who flew back to Canada to make arrangements, but the Canadians finally decided that Morphew didn't qualify for a special flight, and so Mrs. Morphew came to Tucson.

When last contacted, Patterson said the couple was waiting for Morphew to feel healed enough to get home, where medical care is paid for by the government. Throughout this ordeal, Patterson has looked after Morphew's interests and been a friendly presence in his life. He says he did what he would want someone else to do for him if he was injured and alone in a foreign country.

Cindy Matus Morriss has been on the Patagonia Elementary School Governing Board since 1989. That's 25 years doing a job that doesn't get a lot of recognition. She has also been a member of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) for almost that long and is a strong supporter of public education at all levels.

On December 18, at the schools' winter concert, Matus Morriss received the Barbara Robey Lifetime Achievement Award from the ASBA, which said, “Like Mrs. Robey, who passed away earlier this year, Cynthia . . . has modeled the vision, principled commitment, impeccable character, persistence, servant leadership, and generosity of spirit in all aspects of service to public education.” We all congratulate Matus Morriss on being selected for this well-deserved award.

Matus Morriss grew up in Patagonia and graduated from high school here, then went on to Pima Community College. In addition to her work for Patagonia Schools and the state board, she has been vice chair and chair of the National School Board Association—Pacific Region and has worked with and held positions in various Hispanic educational organizations. Over the years she has attended many conferences and workshops, so she is very clear about the legal responsibilities of governing boards: set policy, oversee the budget, and hire the superintendent. Her knowledge and experience have helped support school governing boards for many years.

Matus Morriss plans to retire from the school board in 2016 but isn't likely to slip away into a well-earned retirement. The library and the youth center are both on her list of local organizations that will benefit from her expertise and enthusiasm.
If Walter Andrew was asked to take photos of an event for the Patagonia Regional Times—like the Pie Auction or the Fall Festival—he would dutifully comply with a few panoramic shots of the crowd, and then set his sights on his true interest—taking closeups of people. He'd wander around through the crowd, pausing to chat with people and snapping a few shots each time. Coaxing a smile with small talk and humor until they were at ease, he captured his subjects in a way that was both flattering and revealing.

Here are a few of the many photos by Walter Andrew that have appeared in PRT, photos of his favorite subject—people.

“...I love the variety of Patagonia. As a town everyone, we have really enjoyed living with...”
I love the variety of personalities and cultural stew that is Patagonia. As a town we are unpretentious, we care about multitudinous deficiencies which we

— Walter Andrew
An exhibit of artwork by Lee Katzenbach was on display through December at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia. The watercolor landscapes, pen and ink drawings, and sculptures created from a variety of materials all seemed guided by a wry, spare, tongue-in-cheek perspective.

You may have been introduced to Lee’s art through the drawings he began contributing to PRT more than a year ago. Lee says that, for him, drawing is an essential foundation for the process of creating. Over the years, he has filled countless notebooks with drawings that serve as an ongoing journal for his thoughts and impressions. When I mention that art is communication, Lee says that it seems to him the person he’s seeking to communicate with is himself—note that drawing sometimes helps him to better understand a mood he’s in, or to respond to it. But if his world view is a private one, it is nevertheless one that draws the viewer’s eye—landscapes that reduce a scene to its essential elements and sketches that reflect the foibles of the human condition.

Lee earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Puget Sound, in Tacoma, Washington, and followed that with drawing classes at the Art Students League in New York. While he continued to make art, he pursued a checkered career path. In the 1980s, he and his wife, Ann, bought an old hotel on an island near Grenada, which they operated for four years, then sold, moving to Port Townsend, Washington. During the time they lived there, rehabbing houses, Lee and a crewmate sailed a 40-foot boat from Port Townsend to New Zealand. (Ann joined him for the last 1,000 miles.)

Lee’s work is in private collections nationally and abroad. If you missed the exhibit at the Gathering Grounds, he says that visitors are welcome at his studio—just give him a call at 394-0098.
Ursus americanus, black bear or what the Spanish call baribal. The black bear is the only bear species still found in Arizona. The fur color varies, including black, brown, cinnamon and dark blonde. Black bears are characterized as shy, secretive animals possessing considerable curiosity and displaying high levels of intelligence and exploratory behavior. They have been known to screw off jar lids and open doors. They weigh between 125-400 pounds with males being larger than females. They range from 3 to 3 1/4 feet tall when on all four feet and anywhere between 4 1/2 to 6 1/4 feet long. Black bears are most active at dawn and dusk, eating primarily acorns, berries, insects and cactus fruits. Locomotion is usually a lumber on all four legs but they are capable of running up to 30 mph, just slightly faster than Usain Bolt. Arizona black bears hibernate from November through March and the females produce two to three cubs in January or early February depending on food availability. They are known to live up to 25 years in the wild. The adults, when stressed, will make sounds including woofing, hissing, popping of teeth and grunting. They roam in territories of five to fifty square miles and have a sense of smell seven times greater than a dog. Wear your deodorant.
January is upon us—the dawning of yet another new calendar year. The now past winter solstice often heralds the onset of much colder weather in our region and the commencement of winter. If we are fortunate, storm systems emanating from the Pacific Ocean dump their leftover rain and/or snow in the Sky Islands. The one-two punch of a drop in the mercury coupled with an increased chance of precipitation can have profound effects on the natural history of our region.

Foremost now in the minds of many naturalists is whether we'll have a good, spectacular, poor, or nearly nonexistent spring wildflower season. January often seems to be the telling month in this regard. Tiny sprouts of various plants may start to punctuate the soil in our lower and middle elevations, particularly in the deserts and grasslands. Many at their onset indeed require more than a cursory glance to even confirm their presence, so minute are their initial leaves. Tansy mustard, papago lily, evening primrose, and a wide range of borages, among others, may make their premiere during January. While moist soils can tease them forth, they seem to have evolved an impressive resistance to the many hard frosts that the month inevitably offers.

Sometimes the dense blooms we all long for do indeed materialize in later months, although having decent January rains may be a prerequisite. It’s a complicated affair, and few folks seem to predict the ultimate spring outcome correctly. That said, I’ll go out on a limb and guess that we’ll enjoy an above-average year of vernal flowers in 2015. At least you know whom to blame if we’re mostly devoid of floral color this year!

A dense herbaceous layer in winter affords our legions of herbivores excellent forage. Fat desert cottontails, jackrabbits, mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorns, and rodents readily translate into well-fed predators in a classic example of an upward nutritional cascade. Red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, gray foxes, coyotes, bobcats, snakes, and most other predators may ultimately benefit from January's wildflower sprouts, having more and/or healthier offspring.

Sufficient moisture in January may also help raise the levels of our many waterways, allowing a broad spectrum of aquatic and semiaquatic species to thrive in an otherwise arid region. A case in point is Willcox Playa in the Sulphur Springs Valley. This large and complicated seasonal wetland helps support a truly amazing diversity of life, especially wintering birds. Upwards of 40,000 sandhill cranes populate the valley, along with scores of diurnal raptors and many species of waterfowl—but only if there is water in the playa, Whitewater Draw, and other nearby wetlands.

The icy grip that may nightly descend on us in January has its benefits, as well. Anyone who has orchard trees—peaches, apples, cherries, and the like—knows that a certain number of freezing nights in winter are required to tease out spring blossoms. Freezing temperatures may also help to keep certain bark beetle populations in check, allowing their host trees to sometimes avoid mortal damage. In lieu of a drop in the thermometer, these Coleoptera thrive beyond the ultimate capacity of the host trees to survive them. Just look at the many dead Arizona cypress trees lining the entrance to Chiricahua National Monument and you’ll glimpse a possible vision of the future of this conifer.

What will January hold for us this year? Will we be wet, cold, and green? Or will we again look skyward to the snow-shedding spires of conifers and wonder if the evolution of their form is for naught this year?
Many of us have become aware of various types of companion animals. Most of us have heard of dogs and miniature horses working alongside humans who are blind or prone to seizures, suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have Parkinson’s disease, or are in many more situations where having these companions enriches their lives and allows them more independence. It has been proved that stroking the fur of a pet such as a cat, dog, ferret, bunny, guinea pig, hamster, rat or any other beloved critter lowers stress in an individual, thus also lowering blood pressure. Grooming a horse can do this, too.

I recently became aware of several other species that play an integral role in the health and well-being of humans. Rojo, a llama, regularly visits the elderly who live in seniors’ residences and people of all ages in hospitals. The joy in peoples’ faces when they see and touch Rojo is so moving. Apparently, Rojo’s owner used to take him to fairs and agricultural events to introduce people to llamas. After hearing so often, “Rojo should be a therapy animal. He just makes you feel so good!” she decided to do just that and now has a full-time business visiting various establishments with him. They ride up and down the elevators together and cheer the sick and the lonely. From posted images on Facebook, you can see that Rojo truly enjoys his work and is endlessly sociable with everyone.

Monkeys Helping Hands is another example. This organization teaches monkeys to assist people with spinal disorders. The monkey is able to open doors, retrieve objects, even go to the fridge and bring them food, not to mention to offer joy in being a cuddly, affectionate friend. Ferrets are found to be very effective in alleviating depression. One man says, “What could be better for depression than a spastically silly, soft and fuzzy, cute little character who makes people laugh AND looks good in a hoodie?”

Then we have the African Penguin, Roast Beef, who also visits various institutions to spread joy. One individual’s psychiatrist wrote a letter to the courts saying that her patient’s iguana played a paramount role in his medical treatment for severe depression and that his level of progress would suffer severely were he not allowed to keep his special companion at his apartment. They won! One more amazing being to be recognized is the dolphin. These animals have a unique ability to utilize ultrasonic vibrations for healing purposes, addressing anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Craniosacral therapists are employing dolphins to assist them and are experiencing great results in reducing stress and helping with disabilities stemming from Down’s syndrome, autism, attention deficit disorder, muscular dystrophy, and spinal cord injuries, as well as boosting the production of infection fighting T-cells, helping people with cancer and AIDS.

I feel so privileged to be living in a time when we are becoming more aware of so many wonderful ways in which animals bring valuable gifts of healing.

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides “specialized animal care for all beings large or small.” You can contact Cate at beyondreasonranch@wildblue.net.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Jan. 11: Pianist James Behr performs; SCFPA's Benderly Salon Series. 3:00 P.M. in Patagonia. For information/reservations: scfpapresents.org or call (888)202-1942

Jan. 18: Vox Kino: a cappella ensemble performing Renaissance music. SCFPA. 2:00 P.M. at Mission Chapel, Tumacacori National Historical Park. Free with a $3 admission fee to the park. For info call 520-394-9495

events

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, Green Valley & Nogales. By appt. only. 394-2494

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

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

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

special interests

Herbal Medicine Classes - at the Border

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.

Lorrie Warren, Executive Director of Native Seed Search, and Lynda Prim will speak at The Patagonia Women’s Club meeting on January 8 in Cady Hall. The meeting is at 1 P.M., and the guest speaker begins at 2 P.M

Patagonia Lake State Park

Bird Walks Mondays and Fridays at 9 A.M. Free after admission to Park. Meet at east end of Campground.

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

Lake Discovery Tours at 11:30 A.M.

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

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

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

First Day Hike: Join our volunteers & staff. for a Petroglyph Site Hike across the lake (some rock scrambling required). Wear sturdy shoes; bring water, and perhaps a walking stick. Call to register at 520.287.2791. Thursday, January 1 at 9 A.M. Meet at Visitor Center
Cat—See Long’s Realty pdf
High Expectations

By Chris Quiroga

Every year, The Gregory and Greenfields schools host the Boyd Baker basketball tournament for many teams from Southern Arizona. Our Patagonia Lobos boys' and girls' teams take part in this tournament. It takes place before the regular season starts for most teams who attend this tournament for the practice and experience of playing against teams of different divisions.

The boys' basketball team had a great turn out this year. For the first time in a few years they got to play in the Consolation Championship. Unfortunately, they lost to Boboquivari by six points. I asked coach, Kenny Hayes about the most challenging team he faced in the three day tournament. Coach Hayes responded, “The Patagonia Lobos. When we learn how to get out of our own way we can be very successful.” Coach Hayes likes that the tournament is before the start of the regular season because he gets to see his team's weaknesses and strengths. “The biggest of their strengths would be working hard for me, and their biggest weakness would be their execution.” Coach Hayes also says, “A player’s biggest struggle is the internal fight with personal success and team success; they need to learn that the greatest personal success is team success.”

This year the tournament was just as big for the girls. The girls played in the championship and lost to Desert Christian who they also lost to on the first day of the tournament. I talked to Gaby Bueras about the game. “It was an experience that we needed to get all the nerves out,” Gaby said. “It was also a great time for team bonding and to make more memories with the team.” Gaby believes that the tournament is a good way to learn game situations and gain experience before the start of the regular season. From the outlook of the tournament, Gaby believes that the Lady Lobos are one of the power teams and have a great chance of success this year. Gaby and her team hope to be returning to state and taking it all this year.

The Patagonia basketball teams have high expectations for this season. Both teams goals are to end up in the state tournament and the sectional finals.

Teen Brain’s Response to Parental Criticism Studied

By Exalee Budd

As everyone knows, teenagers and their parents can have difficult relationships, but did you know that neuroscientists have found evidence in young brains to explain why? As noted in Christian Jarrett’s article “The Teen Brain Shuts Down When It Hears Mom’s Criticism,” the Universities of Pittsburgh, Berkeley and Harvard College invited 32 healthy teens (average age 14, including 22 girls), into their lab. Each teen lay in a scanner and listened to clips of their own mothers criticizing them.

For example: “One thing that bothers me about you is that you get upset over minor issues. If I tell you take your shoes from downstairs, you’ll get mad that you have to pick them up and actually walk upstairs and put them in your room.”

Scientists focused on the areas of the brain that are involved with processing negative emotion, regulating emotion, and the neural areas that are included in being able to understand another person’s perspective.

Jarrett wrote that some after listening to a mother’s criticism, teen brains showed an increased amount of activity in the areas of emotional control and understanding other points of view. Researchers said, “youth shut down social processing [and] possibly do not think about their parents’ mental states.” This being said, the study did lack clear instructions for the teen participants, so we have no idea how much attention they paid to the clips of their mothers. Experiments need to be carefully controlled if results are going to be consistent and accurate.
Thanksgiving is known for gathering of family and friends. However, through the years, turkey day has been slowly taken over by Black Friday. How did a simple yet vital holiday become about greed and conflict? People are forgetting the true meaning of the holiday; it is becoming more commercialized every year. Whatever happened to tradition? Like taking a day off to appreciate what you have or being surrounded by the people you love. Thanksgiving is a day that people no longer look forward to, whether it’s because most employees have to work or because their children have to spend the holiday without a parent because of Black Friday work schedules. These days, all people worry about is being the first person in line at WalMart or risking their lives getting the last toy off the shelf. I don’t know what’s more wrong—grown humans physically fighting over a vacuum cleaner or the fact that they’re not home spending time with their family. It’s terrifying knowing that three to ten people die every year as a result of careless shoppers, and yet the madness of it all still goes on. Ask yourself, do we really want a Black Thursday?

For many in the quaint town of Patagonia, bird watching is just a part of life. With its diverse ecosystem, Patagonia is home to many rare, beautiful, exotic birds from all across the Americas. The PUHS Hummingbird Monitoring Project is not only a contribution to birders with compilation of useful statistic and information, but also a learning experience for those who work in the program.

For the past two years, music teacher Jason Schreiber has overseen the PUHS participation in the Hummingbird Monitoring Network led by Dr. Susan Wethington. In this after school job, students proof hard copies of information (sent from researchers) to the electronic spreadsheets and classify photographs of insects that are thought to be eaten by hummingbirds. Eight students work for a two month period that will end in the second week of December and will start up again in the second week back to school in January. For more information about the hummingbird monitoring network, please visit hummonet.com.

Last Season for Football & Basketball Seniors

By Gabriela bueras

Years come and go just like our seniors of Patagonia Union High School. During the 2014 football season, there were four seniors: Andrew Goodnough-Barker, Gregory Zapata, Jose Vasquez, and Jorge Martinez. This year’s football team went undefeated in their regular JV schedule, beating their rivals, the St. David Tigers.

When first becoming a part of a team, it might be scary, but when it comes to asking for help who gives better advise than a senior? Andrew Goodnough says, “If you just listen to coach work hard, then you’ll just be fine.”

During the Lobos last football game against Fort Thomas the seniors felt different emotions. Gregory Zapata said, “It was a rough game for me, I was sad because I knew it was my last time playing in a Lobo jersey.” Every boy’s dream is to one day to make it to the professional level, but not Patagonia’s Jorge Martinez who said, “If I get called up to play somewhere for a team, then I will play, but other than that I won’t.”

During the 2014 Lady Lobos volleyball season there were two graduating seniors: Mariah Acevedo, who has played all her high school career, and Verena Miller, who played her first and final year. The Lady Lobos had a very strong team, but didn’t go on to make the state tournament. When asked about their favorite part of their season, they both commented, “just being with our friends and making memories that we’ll never forget.” To whoever would like to join the volleyball team, here is some advice from the seniors. Mariah commented, “always try your hardest no matter what, and play every game like it’s your last.” Our first timer, Verena said, “don’t make your last year your first year.”

Caleb Weaver of Borderlands works with Iliana Castro and Calvin Whitcoe to improve water harvesting at the school campus grounds
The Sonoita Fair and Rodeo Board returned from their November planning retreat with renewed enthusiasm and great plans for the year 2015. Board President Jim Cosbey called the retreat a success. Thirteen local residents, representing the two groups (the Fair and Rodeo Association and the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Foundation, a 501c3 corporation) that provide leadership for events at the County Fairgrounds in Sonoita, participated in the retreat. They spent the day in the Patagonia Town Hall planning and organizing under the facilitation of Paula Schaper of West-Word Vision.

The retreat attendees brainstormed topics and goals including facilities, maintenance, volunteers, membership, events, and fundraising. “2015 is our centennial celebration for the fairgrounds, and we want this to be the biggest and best family event in Santa Cruz County,” proclaimed Cosbey. He is pleased that newly elected board members John Titus, George Masek, and Gary Brown will add their expertise to deliberations.

The fairgrounds hosts four main events a year—the County Fair, Rodeo, Derby Day Races, and the quarter horse show. Jim Cosbey reminds everyone that the fairgrounds is membership owned and welcomes public involvement. The boards are looking for suggestions for new and exciting events for 2015. Some that are already hoped for include bull riding, barrel racing, dances and musicals, cowboy mounted shooting competitions, junior rodeo, film festivals, and trade shows.

Cosbey points out that maintenance needs are ever present. His current list includes repairs to the infield and restrooms. He also says the fairgrounds need a newer tractor, bleachers, more grandstands, and permanent storage units. It is hoped that increased membership and fundraising will provide funds for these items. A membership drive is under way, and residents from throughout the area are invited to join the Fair and Rodeo Association and help make 2015 a year to remember. Contact the association at 520-455-5553.
460 Christmas Shoeboxes Delivered To Children In Sonora, Mexico

On December 18, 460 shoeboxes full of Christmas presents were delivered to church workers in Sonora for distribution to needy Mexican children. Local churches, civic organizations, and the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District all prepared boxes for this annual project. Each box was filled with presents that were age and gender specific. This guaranteed a great Christmas party for the children of the barrios.

Two large vans packed to the hilt with shoeboxes left Sonoita and stopped at the El Via Nueva area of Colosio Colonia, where the presents were delivered to Elder Michael Fuentes. Fuentes then distributed them to four additional barrios in Sonora. “Without the contributions from the Sonoita residents, the children in these barrios would have no Christmas presents whatsoever,” he said.

Pastor Chuck Carlson of the Sonoita Hills Community Church led the caravan to Mexico, accompanied by Chuck Hammond, Jean Gawenda, and Susan Johanssorn. Kathryn Pena, Prisicilla Perez, and Greg Zumsteg represented the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District.

The tradition of collecting empty shoeboxes and filling them with gifts for Sonoran children has been going on for many years. Pastor Carlson and the many churches and organizations participating thank the local residents for supporting this important project.

Dentistry Practice Restored After Crash

Six months after her Sonoita dental office was severely damaged by a runaway car, Dr. Christina Pace is reopening her practice. She has almost completed the rebuilding and re-equipping of her office and is looking forward to serving the community again. She is taking appointments now for basic dental cleanings. By January 21, she and her new assistant, Kathy, will be ready to offer all the procedures she previously provided, including fillings, crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, and extractions.

This year Dr. Pace, an Arizona resident since her childhood, began her 26th year in dentistry. She initially attended the University of Arizona, where her father taught for many years. She then received a doctorate in dental surgery at the University of Southern California.

The office of Santa Cruz Family Dentistry, located at 3121 Highway 83, Suite D, will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 520-455-9230 or contact Dr. Pace at santacruzdentistry@gmail.com.
Walter Andrew Jr. passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on December 12.

Walter and his wife, Judy, came to Patagonia in 2004. During his years here, he established this newspaper, and served as its guiding force. He loved Patagonia, and took a strong interest in its issues, its politics, and its people. He and Judy’s children were with him during his last weeks. They passed along Walter’s wish that his friends in Patagonia know what an impact this community had on his life. His family writes, “He enjoyed open, honest, introspective relationships, and embraced the challenges of difficult moments, differing opinions and perspectives as opportunities for personal growth and discourse. He was always remarkably positive and happy and enjoyed bringing humor to every moment of life. The overwhelming support he received from the community, in the form of letters, cards, telephone calls and conversations, gave him great reassurance, strength and comfort. His desk overflowed with books and legal pads with his hand written notes and thoughts, the wall above it covered with photos and art from and of family, friends and his beloved Patagonia community. He loved to share his passion for reading, literature, politics, journalism, philosophy, ethics, law, writing, art, community, discourse and deep, honest intellectual inquiry regarding just about anything and everything.”

Walter Melvin Andrew jr was born in New York City, to Lydia and Walter M Andrew. He received his BA from Syracuse University, and JD from the University of Michigan. After retiring as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, he practiced law for over 30 years in Westport, Connecticut, specializing in general and family law, estate planning, and mediation.

Walter is survived by his wife of 26 years, Judith Hinton Andrew, his children, Felix Andrew of New York City, Bridget Andrew (Anne) of Santa Fe New Mexico, Sarah Andrew of Brooklyn NY, Richard Andrew (Nicole) of Shelburne Massachusetts, Kerry Inman (Denby) of Houston Texas, Rick (Tammy) Inman of Denver Colorado, and Andy (Tonya) Inman of Ridgefield Connecticut; his stepmother Evelyn Kallima of Sun City Center, Florida, his sister Jane Dunham of South Bend Indiana, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

There will be no memorial service, as per Walter’s request. However, a celebration in his honor is planned, to take place in Patagonia in the near future. Donations in Walter's memory to Patagonia organizations that were a big part of his life are welcome, and should be forwarded to Soulistic Hospice: 26 Tubac Road, Tubac, AZ 85646, The Patagonia Regional Times, P.O. Box 1073, Patagonia, AZ 85624, and The Patagonia Public Library, 346 Duquesne, PO Box 415, Patagonia, AZ 85624.
On December 15, a memorial service was held at the Patagonia Community Center for Jeff Evans, who died in his home on December 8. Linda Fong, a good friend of Jeff’s, acted as moderator and speaker. The room was overflowing with people who knew and liked the man who had worked for many years as a realtor with Long Realty, and had warmed a chair most mornings with a group of regulars at the Gathering Grounds.

Linda read some of Jeff’s favorite quotes - one by Doctor Seuss, who Jeff thought was right up there with other spiritual writers. There was lots of laughter and fond reminiscing. The words of Mark Twain came up several times, including one of his quotes which Jeff enjoyed: “If there are no dogs in heaven, then I want to go where they go.”

Jeff’s niece Lisa was in town for the gathering. She talked about how Jeff was her favorite uncle and remembered him telling her not to take herself too seriously, a trait that speakers remarked on again and again. They also talked about his sly sense of humor, his intellect, the fact that he never complained, his contribution to the business association and to CHOP, and his quiet, self-contained spirit. Listening quietly to all these tributes was Jeff’s famous dog author, Sammi, who came to the service with Jean Miller, his friend and business associate. When it was Jean’s turn to speak, she and Sammi stood up at the microphone and she told some wonderful stories about Jeff, ending with the words, “We’ve had lots of offers, but I’m keeping Sammi.”

Michael Schwartz, a close friend, spoke philosophically about death, reminding everyone that it was inevitable and acceptable. “But,” he said, “It’s okay to miss somebody.” There will be lots of people missing Jeff -- especially the discussion group that meets on Wednesday evenings, the morning regulars at the Gathering Ground, his long-time friend and fellow realtor, Jean Miller, and, of course, Sammi.

Jeff was born in Baltimore, Maryland. His parents were prominent artists and very short. He was neither. He was very spoiled. He attended Gilman School for Boys. He was thrown off the tennis team for throwing his racket. He went on to the University of Maryland. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business, -- he’s pretty sure.

He torpedoed the engagement of the stunning hottest gal on campus, Rodney Lee Flesner, whose fiance was seriously named Wright, as in “Mr. Wright.” Jeff married her instead.

They had two boys, Gregory and Clarke. Clarke and Greg were awesome to behold. Years later, he took a second wife, consecutively not concurrently, because that is illegal. She was the smashing beauty Karen Lee Everhart who had two wonderful children, Glen and Victoria. He worked in the corporate world for IBM where he believed it was his responsibility to stay in the same hotels as the United Airlines stewardesses. He ventured off on his own to own several companies. He had a framing store, was a builder and new home sales contractor. They all bored him, so at age 50 he became a carpenter. He was drawn like a moth to a sweater stored in a non-cedar closet in Patagonia, Arizona. There his weak heart’s light suddenly illuminated and it shone.


I say, “Not Patagonia Magic, Pop. The magic is you. You spread your magic upon the town. A sunny day that followed you wherever you went. It’s Jeff Magic. Always was. Always will be.”
PALS members and other supporters of the new Patagonia kennel broke ground for the new building on December 7. The new facility will be located on a small hill next to the treatment plant at the south end of town.
ADOPTABLE PET OF THE MONTH

Misty is a darling, 2-year old miniature poodle mix. She was rescued from Animal Control covered in spines and matted hair. A trip to the groomer fixed her right up, and now this sweet thing is making new friends at the shelter. Misty is quite mellow and would make a great lap dog. Maybe you are the one to give her a new beginning and a loving home.

Adoption fees include spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchip. SCHS is located at 232 E. Hwy 82, Nogales. (520) 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org.

SANTA CRUZ HUMANE SOCIETY
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org
McCarthy Lane ~ Nearby Wineries
$349,000, 20 acre Elgin homestead w/1,809sf 2Be/2Ba/2G family home + a very substantial 2,800sf Utility building suitable for innumerable uses. Gorgeous grassland setting w/exceptional 360 views; 10 minutes from Sonoita. Private Well; good roads; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21426399

Central Sonoita Home on 3.16 Acres
$269,500, dramatic views + easy access to Sonoita’s crossroads & Elgin’s wineries. 2,400sf custom home w/3Be/2Ba/2G vaulted ceilings & pigmented concrete floors t/o. Energy-efficient construction w/wrap-around porches; strong private Well; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21409806

Elgin Family Home on 12.68 Acres
$449,000, Shady Lane (off Lower Elgin Rd) w/surrounding wineries & sweeping 360 views. 2,784sf custom quality Insulated Concrete Form construction w/3Be/2Ba + attached 1Be/1Ba Guest Qtrs, 2carG. High ceilings t/o; shared Well & Pond; fully fenced. TAR/MLS#21424460

Patagonia Adobe Ranch House
$379,900, vintage 1920’s adobe on 2.27ac w/regional charm & details. Beautifully updated 2,100sf w/2Be/Study/2Ba + 2 Studio Apts. Terracotta tile flrs w/radiant heat; Tejas tile roof; cement-fortified adobes; high ceilings; pvt well; natl gas; evapor cooling. TAR/MLS#21406410

Adobe & Rstra Contemporary
$274,900, Architect-designed w/exceptional attention to detail & quality. Soaring ceilings; custom cabinets; beautiful o/s windows/sliders for in & outdoor living. Fully walled for privacy; auto & pedestrian gates; lovely garden areas & desirable in-Patagonia setting. TAR/MLS#21414334

Patagonia Adobe on 11.24 Acres
$250,000, vintage 1920’s adobe on 2.27ac w/regional charm & details. Beautifully updated 2,100sf w/2Be/Study/2Ba + 2 Studio Apts. Terracotta tile flrs w/radiant heat; Tejas tile roof; cement-fortified adobes; high ceilings; pvt well; natl gas; evapor cooling. TAR/MLS#21406410

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

Lake Patagonia Hilltop Home
$269,500, Near the Lake + extraordinary 360 views. 2,056sf custom quality home on 4.13ac w/2Be/3Ba/2L living areas, formal Dining. 30x10’ screened AZ Rm is a huge bonus. Detached RV & boat storage; walled garden, fenced grounds w/elec gate. A fabulous value! TAR/MLS#21406410

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

Horse Property w/ Fabulous Rideout
$195,700, North of Sonoita, surrounded by Las Cienegas Natl Conservation Area & Historic Empire Ranch. Gorgeous views! Beautifully maintained 1,456sf home w/3Be/2Ba split-plan; GrtRm w/Living-Dining-Kitchen; high ceilings t/o. Excellent horse facilities. TAR/MLS#21404767

Pristine Papago Springs Regional
$269,500, 1.73sf split-plan Santa Fe w/3Be/2Ba/2G w/high ceilings, Viga beams & corner Kiva FP. Ceiling fans & skylights; tile floors in living areas. New appliances & ADT system; convenient circular drive; fully fenced + outdoor storage & new plantings. TAR/MLS#21332942

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