Bringing in the new year at Cady Hall
PYEC Funded For Empowerment Project

The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center received a grant from the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona- Unidas to begin a long-term youth empowerment project, beginning January 1, 2016. The Unidas Foundation selected only one nonprofit organization in Southern Arizona to receive funding to focus on women and girls’ healthy relationships education and services. The PYEC Girl’s Project will address various problems that young women face and provide guidance toward healthy solutions. The project will support local girls to build healthy relationships with themselves, peers, adults, and the community and allowing the young women to be empowered in their decisions regarding future, finances, and living situations.

Two PUHS senior women, Gaby Bueras and Annika Coleman, have been instrumental in this start-up project. Their goal is to develop a program with other high school women to provide hope for the young women in the community, to help overcome past decisions, and become more proactive and constructive in the future, to better individual lives as well as benefit the community.

The PYEC Girl Project has secured another room in the Plaza de Patagonia for meetings, activities, and a base office. The group will consist of high school leaders mentoring middle school and younger high school girls. The starting topics of choice consist of: friendships, being true to yourself, downplaying drama, leadership choices, personal creativity, having a purpose within a community, staying healthy, and making tough decisions.
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS: Getting It Done

Our community has more than its share of people who contribute their time to activities that benefit special needs, or enrich us all. This year, PRT would like to recognize these two community members who distinguish themselves as ‘movers and shakers’, people who not only devote their personal time to the needs of their community, but who have a role in creating new and worthwhile projects, and using their energy and leadership skills to get the job done.

Cassina Farley: High Octane Fuel for Patagonia Creative Arts

There’s always something afoot at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association these days: Tin Shed Theater renovations, a brilliant float in the 4th of July parade, on-going art classes for all ages, movies, plays, innovative and delicious fund-raising events. One wonders, what’s next?

We can thank Cassina Farley for the juggling and management of these innovations and events. Since becoming director of the art center last year, Cassina has worked hard to involve the community, improve the facilities, and collaborate with other organizations. Martha Kelly, a staff member, says "She’s level-headed, very thorough, and she can sort things out." Bob Misiorowski, who is on the board of the Patagonia Players, says, "Cassina is a little hustler," adding that she tries to accommodate everyone and he knows that working with a bunch of sensitive artists isn’t easy.

Board Chairperson, Molly Phinny, sings the praises of her new director. "Cassina is a ball of creative fire! Not only does she imagine the new programs and fundraisers and grant requests, she makes everyone of them happen! She is bringing the whole town together to participate and have fun at the Art center. Thank you Cassina.

Brent Bowden: Always Ready To Lend a Hand, a Voice, a Backhoe

Two years ago, Brent Bowden decided that when it came to community projects that were clearly needed, sometimes the process of deciding how to go about doing them got bogged down in endless discussion. So he got together with Charlie Montoy and created the Patagonia Regional Business Coalition (PRBC) - an affiliation of local businessmen and women determined to cut through the red tape and take a hand in getting things done.

This year, PRBC President Bowden coordinated the second annual Patagonia Clean Up--a huge undertaking involving lots of volunteers and vehicles, and a lot of man hours. In connection with Earth Day, the PRBC employed the same kind of volunteer muscle to collect and haul away hazardous materials. Bowden donated fill and did the construction for the basketball court in Richardson Park, and donated the fill and did the trenching for the Patagonia Animal League's new structure. Now he is initiating a program to provide smoke alarms to low income residents.

When he’s not doing his job as owner of D&M Engineering, he serves as volunteer firefighter with the Patagonia Fire Department, and lends his services as an auctioneer (Danny Fish fundraiser, Little Free Libraries auction, Firemen’s Steak Fry auction.) Bowden is a powerhouse with a strong social conscience and we are fortunate to have him here.
Town Council Approves Park Plan
By Bob Brandt

The proposal to upgrade Doc Mock Park was approved by the Patagonia Town Council at its December 16 meeting. This action gives the green light to the park’s design team to finish and submit, by January 31, the one-year and five-year master plans required by Arizona Forestry which issued the $14,000 grant that funded this phase of the project.

The team has incorporated four themes of local importance in the park’s design: ranching, railroading, birding and Doctor Mock’s legacy. Historical vignettes of these themes will also be featured on accordion style story boards located at the park entrance.

The park will include new trees and shrubs to provide shade, noise abatement, traffic calming, pollination, food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. New and enhanced elements planned are:

• A prominent entrance featuring an archway similar to the one at Richardson Park and a railroad portico covering a walkway leading to a 25’ X 25’ ramada covering the Doc Mock memorial.
• Several picnic areas with BBQ facilities.
• A meandering constructed stream fed by treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant and returned underground to Sonoita Creek.
• A raised accessible footpath paralleling the stream.

The Michael Martin Memorial Skate Park as requested by the youth of Patagonia.

• A raised observation deck for viewing wildlife.
• A raised amphitheater near the center of the park for staging special performances.
• A dog park which could be listed in a national directory of dog parks.
• Seven underground cisterns which will store up to 105,000 gallons of captured rainwater.
• Parking spaces (161), some of them covered.
• Solar panels (90,720 square feet) shading part of the parking and capable of capturing 5,832 gallons of rainwater in a 1” rainfall.

Local citizens will have an opportunity to get an up-close look at the master plan and ask questions when the design team offers a public presentation of the plan at the Audubon Society’s Paton Center for Hummingbirds on January 23. The presentation will be followed by a workday in the park at which volunteers are invited to help install rainwater harvesting terraces and spread mulch.

Having secured town approval for the park enhancements, the design team will now turn its attention to the challenging task of securing funds for construction and long-term maintenance of the facility.

County Supports Major Conservation Grant Proposal
By Lynn Davison

The Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT) is leading a major conservation effort with private landowners in Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pima counties. In 2014, Fort Huachuca and ALWT received $5M in Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funds from the Department of Defense. That money along with a smaller grant from the State of Arizona allowed purchase of conservation easements on 2,037 acres of private land on two historic working ranches near the Fort. The REPI funds are used to prevent encroachment from the development of private land around military bases, primarily through the purchase of conservation easements.

Conservation easements are a tool to protect land from future development while supporting current uses. The landowner retains ownership of their land and continues traditional ranching/agricultural/recreational uses. The land stays on the tax rolls and may even raise the value of neighboring properties. A third party, like ALWT, facilitates the purchase of the development rights, in the form of a conservation easement, at a value established by a qualified independent appraiser. The conservation easement prevents the land from ever being subdivided.

In the spring of 2015, Fort Huachuca was also designated a Sentinel Landscape: places where serving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economics of farms, ranches and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes. There are only three military installations in the country that have received this designation, which is conferred by a partnership of the federal Departments of Defense, Interior, and Agriculture. This designation increases the chances for more conservation dollars to come to our region.

On December 16, ALWT representatives presented the REPI project to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. They asked for a letter of support for the next phase, a $7M request for more REPI funds. The majority of this phase will be in Santa Cruz County, where ALWT hopes to facilitate the purchase of additional conservation easements and some restoration work on private properties within the Babacomari Watershed.

The Santa Cruz County Supervisors unanimously endorsed the grant application. And why not, where else can you find a project which helps ranchers preserve their land and their livelihood, conserves and restores land, water and wildlife habitat, and supports the mission of our military to protect all of us? If you want to know more contact ALWT at www.alwt.org.
Gilbert Quiroga Settles Suit With School District

By Ann Katzenbach

Gilbert Quiroga had been driving buses for the Patagonia schools for 37 years when he was told, at the end of the school year in 2013, that his contract would not be renewed. Despite the testimony of many parents and colleagues to the school district’s governing board, Superintendent Denise Blake did not change her decision to let Quiroga go. [See Patagonia Regional; Times July/August 2013 issue for story.]

Quiroga, who believed he was let go unfairly, sued the school district for wrongful termination.

It has taken two and a half years for this case to be resolved. During that time Quiroga says he has suffered from anxiety and depression. “This almost killed me,” he said. “I didn’t even feel comfortable going to my grandson’s basketball games.” He added that he’s always had a way with kids and that he saw them as his “ministry.” Not being able to greet his school kids each morning and say good-bye in the afternoon made him feel useless.

The case concluded as a out-of-court settlement in December 2014. When Quiroga returned from settlement negotiations in Phoenix, he said he felt that a huge weight had been lifted from his soul. Under the terms of the settlement, Quiroga is not allowed to divulge how much he will receive or talk about the case in any way. He is, however, delighted that his life is back on track and he can feel fine about going into the school gym to see his grandson play basketball for Patagonia Regional High School.

FOSC Implements Three New Measures To Monitor Health Of Sonoita Creek

By Bob Brandt

It’s just human nature to pay little attention to something that we do not directly encounter in our daily lives. But when it comes to Sonoita Creek, we ignore it at our own risk. Were this modest stream to become polluted or suffer the fate of rivers such as the Colorado, the Rio Grande and our own Santa Cruz, the consequences would be catastrophic...and very costly. That’s why Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC), has been working for more than a decade to protect this vital natural resource.

Under the direction of their board, and president Anne Townsend, FOSC is intent on ratcheting up the organization’s efforts both to gather data needed to monitor the health of the creek and to educate the public about the threats to the creek. Three major activities have either been recently initiated or will be undertaken in the near future. The first is known as Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment (RSRA), a systematic method of assessing the health of a stream and its adjacent environments. Last spring, RSRA was employed to survey a segment of Sonoita Creek within The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve and a stretch just below the dam at Patagonia Lake State Park. FOSC hopes to employ the RSRA method regularly over many more segments of the creek to establish a baseline of data which it can then share with other agencies who have interest in, and in some cases, responsibility for, protecting the watershed.

A second area of focus, in collaboration with Borderlands Restoration, will be to monitor the status of individual wells and wet/dry areas within the watershed.

A third activity will be to document the status of fencing around the perimeter of Patagonia Lake State Park and the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area which encompasses more than 11,000 acres immediately west of the park and through which Sonoita Creek flows. Presently, ranchers have permits to graze their cattle in portions of the park and the natural area. Yet cattle do get past the fence to graze in the off-limits parts of the natural area to the detriment of hikers and horse riders using the natural area as well as the protected flora and fauna, some of which are threatened species.

To extend its effectiveness FOSC is partnering with several local and state agencies, both governmental and not-for-profit. For example, Friends volunteers will be working closely with the Arizona State Park’s Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee on the fencing project. Working with the town’s new Flood and Flow Committee, on which Townsend serves, and representatives of other watershed-interested agencies, FOSC hopes to engage miners and ranchers in efforts to identify ways in which their mutual interests can be served. Volunteers will also be helping plant new cottonwood trees along the creek within the Nature Conservancy’s preserve as well as helping preserve manager Luke Reese plan activities to celebrate the preserve’s 50th anniversary this year.

FOSC, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt agency, needs more members and volunteers if it is to succeed in carrying out these ambitious plans. Individuals interested in becoming members or simply volunteering to help with any of the activities may call 520-394-0173 or stop in to the Patagonia Regional Visitor Center to pick up a membership brochure. Dues are $15 and up and donations are tax-deductible.
Red Sleigh Toy Run Comes To Town

A group of Tucson motorcyclists have been giving toys to children in Tucson for eight years now. They get the names of children who would otherwise not get much for Christmas. Then they ask what each child hopes for, and in early December, they deliver the toy in person. Patagonia's Town Marshall Joe Patterson volunteers his time to escort the motorcycle Santas with their deliveries in Tucson, so Pastor Steve Young, of the Road to Grace Motorcycle Church, says the group decided to “pay it forward,” and bring Santa’s sleigh to Patagonia.

On Saturday, December 19, at about 10:30 a.m., the Red Sleigh Toy Run arrived in Patagonia. Escorting the motorcycle Santas with their red sleigh filled with toys pulled into town. They circled the park, gave a salute to honor fellow biker, Jim Coleman, who died on December 8, and came to rest near the Patagonia Park gazebo. Families that had been alerted beforehand, some from as far away as Elgin, turned up for the event. Children came forward one by one to say what they wanted, and each was given a toy. One mom said, “It was a terrific mix of excitement and happiness for these kids.” And as for the motorcycle group, Pastor Young said that they get much more than they give from this yearly event and as the last of the group drove on “out of sight,” they agreed that Patagonia’s children were wonderfully warm and very polite.
Wendy Russell Battles
A Stroke
By Ann Katzenbach

The morning of November 25, Wendy Russell got up and went to the kitchen to make coffee. Her partner, Gooch Goodwin, began to smell the coffee from their bedroom, but noticed that Wendy hadn’t come back to bed, as was her custom. He got up and found 46-year-old Wendy sitting on the kitchen floor, a full cup of coffee on the floor beside her. She was motionless and speechless. A droopiness on the side of her face suggested she might have had a stroke. Gooch called 911 and in five minutes Harry Hower, an EMT who lives close by, arrived at their house. He immediately ordered an evacuation helicopter, knowing that their house was on the side of a road with a speed limit to 4 miles an hour! He immediately ordered an evacuation helicopter, knowing that there wasn’t an empty seat in the hall and lots of people were coming through the door. It was an enthusiastic crowd, all drawn by a wish to help and support Wendy and Gooch.

As soon as word got around town that Wendy Russell had suffered a stroke and was in intensive care in Tucson, a fund raiser was planned to help with medical costs. Friends organized a lasagna dinner catered by the Gathering Ground, to be held at Cady Hall. Barry and Friends provided music. Dinner was $15 and raffle tickets were also on offer. The event started serving dinner at 5:30. By 5:45 there wasn’t an empty seat in the hall and lots of people were coming through the door. It was an enthusiastic crowd, all drawn by a wish to help and support Wendy and Gooch.

...And The Community Responds

She had to lie very still and was given a drug to boost her blood pressure.

Within a few days, there were signs that her body had already begun to slowly repair and she started a daily regimen of therapy sessions. Her speech quickly improved and before long she could take a short walk down the corridor without her walker. Gooch says that during the first two months of recovery, the brain pathways come back and get stabilized, but it requires hard work and determination to mend. Being young and in good health is certainly a major plus in Wendy’s healing, and Gooch adds, “Wendy is hard-headed and independent. Those are both good things in this situation.”

Wendy didn’t have a stroke in the traditional sense of a blood clot shutting off blood to the brain. She has discovered that she has a condition called fibra muscular dysplasia. Gooch and Wendy mentioned this because it is rare, often occurs in women between 40 and 60 years of age, and they think this information should be shared. The Cleveland Clinic offers a helpful description on its website.

“Patients with FMD have abnormal cellular growth in the walls of their medium and large arteries. This can cause the arteries with the abnormal growth to look beaded. The arteries may also become narrow.” This is essentially what happened to Wendy.

There is no known cause for this condition and no cure. The most common arteries to be effected are the carotid (Wendy’s case) and the renal arteries.

Back home in time for Christmas, Wendy is doing very well. She will have a lot of out patient therapy in Sierra Vista for her speech and coordination. Gooch says her progress has been excellent and everyone holds out hope that Wendy will heal completely. Her attitude is positive, made more so, they say, by the enormous generosity of the community. They thank everyone for the cards and donations that have poured in. Even, says Gooch, “from people who don’t much agree with us.” If you would like to help Wendy and Gooch with their medical bills, you can donate at Go Fund Me. www.gofundme.com/bddfveus will take you to Wendy’s Medical Care Cost Fund set up by Erin Blanding.

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When people finished eating, they moved aside to give a chair to the next diner.

Patagonia Players’ improv group, Pick Up Schticks, had originally planned to perform that same evening at the Tin Shed. When the fund raiser was decided on, the improv group changed their plan and offered their Saturday evening performance at Cady Hall. It was all pretty orderly, but the noise level kept going up. Pick Up Schticks had to give a piercing whistle to get attention, and the space they had to perform in was the size of a travel trailer. But, hey, what is improv if not figuring it out at a moment’s notice? They put on a good show, even if half the people in the room were not paying attention. In a clever skit representing their version of a news program, a reporter said that Patagonia had discovered a wonderful new source of revenue—they were reducing the speed limit to 4 miles an hour!

After the raffle tickets had been drawn, it was time for music. People stayed to dance. Organizers were delighted with the overwhelming demonstration of support.
The morning of December 23, Cassina Farley, director of the Patagonia Art Center on Naugle Ave. unlocked the front door to find that the center had been broken into during the night. A side door leading to Martha Kelly's ceramic space had been kicked in and the front door to Farley's office, made of thick, shatter-proof glass, had been bashed with a rock in an unsuccessful attempt to get inside.

"Whoever this was, didn't know this used to be a bank," she said with a sad laugh, adding that there was little of value in the center and why would anyone do such a thing?

As she tried to figure out what had happened, Marshall Joe Patterson drove by on his way to an appointment in Nogales. Farley and Charlie Montoy flagged him down. Patterson put out a call to Deputy Ron Davis, and as they were assessing the situation, a little before 10 a.m., Cecelia San Miguel called, saying that Velvet Elvis had been burgled and money stolen from the cash register.

Patterson left to investigate the second crime scene and discovered a clear shoe print in the wet ground by the back door. Deputy Davis took photographs and Deputy John York drove around town to see what might be going on. On Harshaw Road he came across a group of boys walking into town. He stopped them and asked to see the soles of their sneakers. One seemed to match the print at Velvet Elvis, so he called the marshall who soon found the boys in town. They were in a car driven by the mother of the boy who was under suspicion. In the process of patting the boy down, Patterson discovered a wad of bills in his pocket amounting to slightly less than what had been taken from the restaurant. It was just after 1 p.m.

The youth was taken into custody, and although he denied everything at first, after talking to his mother, he confessed to stealing the money from Velvet Elvis. He also admitted to several other crimes and misdemeanors, including having parties in a room at the hotel, stealing a hotel key, stealing money and equipment from the library, and being involved with the kids who partied at night in the library garden. However, he refused to acknowledge that he had broken into the art center, and he insisted that he had robbed Velvet Elvis by himself.

The suspect is a sophomore at Patagonia High School and legally considered a juvenile. He was charged with 11 counts, including trespass, theft, and destroying property. After further interrogation and paper work, he was taken to the prison in Nogales where he spent the night in juvenile detention.

Twenty four hours later he was remanded to his mother's custody. When his case comes to court, a judge will decide the juvenile's future.

Cassina Farley, who began the day feeling angry, now says that she is sad and hopes something good can come from this apprehension. She also praised the rapid response of Patagonia's law enforcers.

Anna Coleman, director of Patagonia's Youth Enrichment Center, knows the young suspect, and says she likes him. "He's not a bad kid. I feel really sad."
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**Dogwalk**

By Ann Katzenbach

Early each morning I take my dog, Lucy, for a walk. It is a routine that we never miss and even if I sometimes would like a break from this ritual, I quickly get over my attitude when I swing open the gate and hear her happy barks as she does a little dance of anticipation.

This is my favorite time of year for a morning walk, when the days are short and the sun is low in the southern sky. As we set out, the neighborhood rooster sends a cock-a-doodle-do across the neighborhood and the dog as to whether you follow you home. Happily, we have never met one.

At first light, the earth and sky seem flat, lifeless. Then, suddenly and silently the peak of Mount Wrightson catches the sun’s first rays, and within minutes, the whole mountain is painted in shades of pink, lavender, pearly grey, and sometimes smokey blue. It’s never the same and I always feel a sense of awe. No matter the ills of the world, the sun on Mount Wrightson offers some hope.

Then the grasslands take on a mystical shade of gold, a color that must come from some mixture of high altitude horizontal light, the color and quantity of dry grasses and an overlay of effervescence that sifts through it all. Before I can quite take it all in, the early light chases the hillside shadows away, sending streams of gold across the ridge tops.

Somewhere in this changing light, comes the sound of ravens. When I walk along the wash, the common ravens converse from tree branches where they may have spent the night. On other mornings, I see and here a “conspiracy” of them heading from some eastern roosting place towards town. I think these must be the more socialized Chihuahua ravens. These corvids with their strange croaks and rasping voices, the whirring sound of air moving through their feathers as the fly, sets them apart from other birds. Even when I can’t see them, I love to hear their sounds. The Haida Indians in British Columbia believed that a raven created the earth, but also imagined them as tricksters because of their wily ways. In the summer, I miss them. When they come back, after the vultures have gone, I am always delighted. They are mythical, marvelous creatures – part of what gets me out the door in the cold first light.

As the sun climbs a bit more, Lucy and I head home. I watch the shadows of a very tall woman and a long-legged dog keeping pace with us. They feel like good friends, part of the morning light show.

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**A Guide To New Year’s Resolutions**

By Cassina Farley

Fact: New Year’s resolutions are for suckers. You make them, you break them and by February you are sitting in your truck at the post office digging the last peanut M&M out of the crack in the seat. So much for the no sugar thing. If you still feel the need to indulge this age old tradition, here’s a guide for your resolution needs.

1. Don’t resolve to give up your favorite food. You are setting yourself up for failure. I tried giving up bread once, didn’t work out on account of my need for toast daily. Instead try giving up Kale. You’ll hardly miss it.

2. Exercise. Don’t say you are going to go to the Gym more and then go out and buy all of those silly workout clothes. I once had to watch a fellow in a pair of short shorts ride a stationary bike, but that’s another story for another time. Every January the gym fills up with those “fair weather exercisers” taking up space grunting, gasping and sometimes farting their way to never coming back again. You’ll show up twice, pull a groin and donate your clothes to the thrift store. Take a walk instead and leave the gym to those folks that are now eating all that Kale you gave up.

3. No resolutions made on the dance floor in the sweaty embrace of a dance partner you just met count. Example: “I am so going to run for Town Council” or “I want to try to live off the land for a year” or “Let’s resolve to be together forever”. Nothing you say during a drunken dance party can be taken seriously and this is a good thing. This will prove helpful if the sweaty dance partner follows you home.

4. Once a resolution is made, tell no one. That way it’s between you and the dog as to whether you followed through or not. My dog is non-judgmental and will be glad when I fail at giving up beef jerky.

5. Maybe you are having trouble coming up with a resolution at all. Here’s a hint: after the New Year’s Eve party make a list of everything you did and then at the beginning write “Stop” this should be a good start.

All jokes aside, what the world needs most right now is kind people. So resolve to be kind. It’s a simple resolution and can be restarted over and over again. It doesn’t involve Kale or workout clothes and it can be done by anyone, anywhere. Happy New Year Patagonia and Welcome 2016!
On Second-Guessing God
By Martin Levowitz

Isn’t it odd that a freely occurring, natural substance can be declared illegal? Does that presume immoral, too? If cannabis is deemed illicit, what about sycamore trees, or the sky? If natural does not mean good, please, Uncle Sam, help me see why. Are you illegal? Or, am I? Does this suggest that God’s creation harbors innate flaws? Or is it The Devil who authors our need to believe that we must have laws?

It’s true, of course, that weed intoxicates. Many—even open-minded—public-safety officials would rather not add to the number of stupefied drivers out there on the road. You can’t even raise this topic, though, among dope-smokers without getting an angry earful on alcohol’s harmful effects. “And, alcohol’s legal!” they snort. If you had to decide between ethanol and cannabis in terms of impaired competence or violent behavior, it’s not the hemp that would be nixed. The alcohol should be deep-sixed. But trying to prohibit anything that humans want has always been a dismal flop. If conscience won’t prohibit something, what chance is there, really, for a cop? Them smarmy, “decent” types, over the years, have campaigned against booze and drugs and lust; to no avail. The rum, the bong, the bit o’ tail, is clearly worth the time in jail, or so statistics seem to say.

In addition to concern with safety, another factor prompting prohibition is mostly called morality, which springs from learned mistrust of pleasure. The world is a huge and mysterious place; the lengths to which humans will go to believe that they know what is good (and what’s bad) cannot be overstated. As a matter of course we are willing to die and, routinely, to kill, just to safeguard some set of beliefs. Too bad that dude across the street will shoot you to ensure some other set. We’re even willing to believe in fictions such as “sin” and brittle codes of moral “laws” which promise Hell as punishment for all our favorite flaws, if that’s the only hope we have of certainty at all.

The U.S. is bipolar, or is schizoid, at the least. The libertine and puritan, the angel and the beast, live side by side in mutual, perpetual mistrust. They fear and feed on one another: yin/yang kid and yin/yang mother. Societies are organisms. Normative values are their immune system. That which is tried and familiar is grandfathered in, and is favored, of course. Anything less moderate is likely feared or banned. The farther your appearance or behavior from the norm, the more your fragile frigate will be battered by the storm; the more attention (much of it adverse) you’re gonna get. But I digress.

And, while we’re on the subject of mistrusting Mother Earth, let’s pause and think of nudity, for what that may be worth. In paradise they ran around with neither bras nor britches, and everyone was happy as a Howard Johnson clam. But then they ate “forbidden fruit”, resulting in self-consciousness of nakedness, and shame. They covered up, and found out that your formal fig-leaf itches. Among the so-called “moral” folks, if there is grief or pain, then bet your bottom dollar they’ll decide that sin’s to blame. Your sin or mine? Well, hell, it hardly matters. The good news is: we’ve got someone to blame! (Cause and Effect.) Seismologists misunderstood the San Francisco quake. They blamed it on the movement of immense tectonic shelves. But Jerry Falwell knew the truth: that San Francisco’s sodomites had brought it on themselves, as punishment for looking at the other fellows’ butts. While Jerry’s hopeless homophobes stood tall and raised their glasses, the rest of us knew they were totally nuts; an exceptional caucus of asses.

Hey, I was born naked. How about you? Yet, nudity is almost universally taboo; a subject for embarrassment and jokes. The loss of self-acceptance is immense — it’s called The Fall. What hope is there of sanity at all, for a species which thinks we are flawed in our natural state? "If somethin’ isn’t broke, don’t try to fix it.” Epicurus, ipse dixit.
III. Free Lunch or Freeloading?
By Stuart Brody

Your close friend, a partner in a prominent financial services firm back east, comes to Tucson a few times a year and you usually drive up from Patagonia to meet him for dinner. You always offer to pay your own way, but he insists on paying every time. He explains that the cost of a dinner with you is a fraction of his business expenses and his company “couldn’t care less” about taking a friend out once in a while. Over the years, you’ve come to expect, and now accept without protest, his payment for your dinner.

Is it a breach of integrity to let your friend buy you dinner, courtesy of his firm?

In this scenario, though, your friend is not offering to pay with his own money, but with someone else’s money: his firm’s. Does that make a difference? In a previous column, I described a duty as being created from a reasonable expectation arising from a promise made, either express or implied.

You would probably agree that most businesses reasonably expect their employees to submit truthful documentation in all business matters. Forget for a moment that your friend may work for a high-flying, money-to-burn, master-of-the-universe, financial services firm. I’m asking you to discern the reasonable expectation of an average, painstakingly-built, expense-conscious business, the kind most of us work for. Employees in these firms are reasonably expected, and have a duty of truthfulness, to accurately report business trip expenses.

Of course, you’re not an employee, so you do not have the duty of truthfulness to the company. But ask yourself, is the duty of truthfulness just a matter between an employee and employer? Is there a broader duty here that requires you to decline your friend’s invitation to have dinner at the company’s expense?

Think about this for a minute.

Does each of us have a reasonable expectation that everyone else act in a way that strengthens trust in the institutions upon which we all depend for common benefit? Isn’t there an implied promise we make to everyone else, as members of an interdependent society, that we will not assert a personal advantage at the risk of undermining that trust?

Let’s put this on a personal level. When you apologize to a friend for breaking your word, don’t you acknowledge the impact of your breach on his trust? That’s why you repair it by apologizing. Is the impact of a breach of trust any less damaging when committed, not against a single individual, but against society as a whole?

If you think taking a dinner charged to a big company that has no knowledge of who you are and could “care less” is too small to matter, just ask yourself three questions: Is trust in the way American business conducts itself important to our overall confidence in our country? Does American business currently have a crisis of trust? Does the practice of padding expense accounts fuel that crisis?

It is a breach of the duty of community to accept payment for a non-business related dinner on the corporate expense account of a friend.

The Law: The duty of community fulfills the reasonable expectation that we all have of each other to preserve trust in the common institutions from which we all benefit.

Stu Brody is a student and teacher of philosophy, law, politics, and other fields related to personal decision-making. He is nearing completion on a book entitled: “The Law of Small Things: Integrity, Authenticity and Freedom in American Life” which examines misconceptions about the meaning of integrity and outlines how we can maintain a more consistent practice, by focusing on small things.
Reflections on Retirement

By Lynn Davison

This is a tale for all you former working stiffs who have recently retired and wonder……. well you wonder about a lot of things, but generally about what happens next. For those who are enlightened and evolved, it is a happy and exciting question. For the rest of us, it may be exciting, but it’s also a little scary. There is the immediate good stuff like not setting the alarm in the morning, taking a walk whenever you feel like it, starting in on the books you have had on your list for soooo long, visiting your grandkids more than their parents ever expected, or planning that big trip you now have time to take. If you have a hobby, it now can take front and center.

Sounds great huh? Well yeah, but how do you feel about drawing down, as opposed to building up, that nest egg? It’s a weird feeling isn’t it? Or where do you get your ego stroked now that the workplace is gone? Your kids are launched and living their own independent lives. Can you be comfortable filling your days with puttering around? What about the too many hours spent talking with friends about your own health or someone else’s? And how about the twinge of guilt when you know you have it really good, but somehow life seems a little dreary? Is this all there is?

If you have not had any of those discouraging thoughts, well good on ya. I, for one, have had most all of them. Nonetheless, after three years out of the workforce, on most days I am really enjoying retirement. I got there with a little help from my friends. Four women, including me, decided to tackle the transition head on. We have met four times in the past two years and come up with a number of strategies to guide and encourage us as we move through this major life change.

Early on, we talked about our values and how they might direct our choices about how we spend our time. I’d like to say that I have always lived my life in full alignment with my values, but maybe not so much. Getting through the day doesn’t really count as a value, does it? It’s interesting to think about your own values, not those that some person or institution told you to have, but those you choose. The real challenge is to make those values drive how you actually spend your time. So, in the spirit of full disclosure, these are my values: practice generosity, build community, create home, and appreciate the beauty around you.

The values are a good start, but the biggest AH HA our group of four came up with was realizing that we need new measures of success for this new phase of our lives. In our income- generating and/or child- raising years the measures of success were things like: earning enough money to support your lifestyle, creating a safe, stable, and loving home for your kids, receiving recognition from your peers for good work done, and contributing to make the world a better place. Our new measures of success are simpler and easier to employ on a daily basis…. have you had some fun? have you done some good (for others)? have you learned something new? have you done something for yourself?

So these days, every Monday, I make a little list of things I want to do during the upcoming week. I sit at my desk with my values and our measures of success posted and inspect my list against them. Sometimes I adjust the list, but more often these days it aligns okay. You might try it. It’s January, the time for resolutions and new beginnings after all.

Wall (US/Mexico Border)

Rain falls in a wintry mix, the fresh aroma of banana bread wafts from kitchen to this room. The dog sleeps in the other chair. Meanwhile, people make their way across the border. It is not without pain and sacrifice that they leave their family and country under great risk of hazard, of life. Little alternative exists, their livelihood stripped by trade agreements monopolizing business. They want a better life. Didn’t I too? I cannot deny my neighbors humanity. If I were a wall of unremitting law, I could not be human. I cannot have it both ways. I cannot have the wealth of their business at the expense of their poor, the disenfranchised.

I have hiked a few times in the Guajolote Flats, climbed to a view of the US/Mexico border. It is beautiful with mountains, valleys, trees and desert. Slicing through all this public land is a symbol of forgotten kindness when a border linked two cultures, two countries.

— Robert E. Druchniak
The Patagonia Christmas Bird Count started in 1963. There is a designated 7.5 mile radius circle of territory that is covered by several teams of birders. The center of the circle is located very near the intersection of Harshaw Creek Road, Harshaw Road, and the San Rafael Valley Road. This location is picked to maximize the amount of different habitats. The count covers parts of the San Rafael Valley, much of the riparian areas along the Sonoita Creek in the Nature Conservancy Preserve, and mountain habitats in the southern parts of the circle. Forty nine volunteers participated in this year’s count.

2015 Christmas Bird Count:

Acorn Woodpeckers

Mallard 2
Northern Shoveler 9
Green-winged Teal 5
Canvasback 5
Lesser Scaup 3
Ring-necked Duck 1
Ruddy Duck 19
Wild Turkey 45

Gambel's Quail 19
Montezuma Quail 80
Pie-billed Grebe 1
Least Grebe 1
Great Blue Heron 2
Black Vulture 3
Turkey Vulture 1
White-tailed Kite 2
Northern Harrier 21
Sharp-shinned Hawk 5
Cooper's Hawk 6
Accip 1
Gray Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 36
Golden Eagle 4
American Kestrel 53
Merlin 1
Peregrine Falcon 1
Virginia Rail 2
Sora 3
American Coot 9
Killdeer 5
Spotted Sandpiper 3
Long-billed Curlew 1
Wilson's Snipe 11
Eurasian Collared-Dove 93
White-winged Dove 74
Mourning Dove 316
Inca Dove 46
Greater Roadrunner 3
Western Screech-Owl 1
Whiskered Screech-Owl 2
Short-eared Owl 1
Northern Pygmy-Owl 2
Spotted Owl 1
Broad-billed Hummingbird 4
Violet-crowned Hummingbird 2
Anna's Hummingbird 5
Rufous Hummingbird 1
Elegant Trogon 2
Belted Kingfisher 2
Gila Woodpecker 90
Red-naped Sapsucker 32
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 46
Arizona Woodpecker 23
Northern Flicker 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 58
Hammond's Flycatcher 24
Gray Flycatcher 22
Dusky Flycatcher 6
"Western Flycatcher" 1
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet 1
Black Phoebe 10
Say's Phoebe 40
Eastern Phoebe 1
Cassin's Kingbird 1
Loggerhead Shrike 5
Cassin's Vireo 1
Hutton's Vireo 34
Steller's Jay 1
Western Scrub-Jay 10
Mexican Jay 273
Chihuahuan Raven 73
Common Raven 200
Raven sp. 99
Horned Lark 20
Bridled Titmouse 160
Verdin 19

Bushtit 128
White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Rock Wren 20
Canyon Wren 3
Bewick's Wren 1
House Wren 14
Marsh Wren 3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
Black-capped Chickadee 1
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1
Eastern Bluebird 1
Western Bluebird 2
Bluebird 2
Hermit Thrush 1
American Robin 1
Northern Mockingbird 1
Curve-billed Thrasher 2
Crissal Thrasher 9
Starling 3
American Pipit 1
Cedar Waxwing 1
Phainopepla 1
Olive Warbler 1
Black and White Warbler 1
Orange-crowned Warbler 1
Hooded Warbler 1
Yellow-throated Warbler 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Aud 75
Myrtle 1
Townsend's Warbler 1
Black-throated Gray Warbler 1
Louisiana Waterthrush 1

Chihuahuan Raven 73
Common Raven 200
Raven sp. 99
Horned Lark 20
Bridled Titmouse 160
Verdin 19

The Patagonia Christmas Bird Count started in 1963. There is a designated 7.5 mile radius circle of territory that is covered by several teams of birders. The center of the circle is located very near the intersection of Harshaw Creek Road, Harshaw Road, and the San Rafael Valley Road. This location is picked to maximize the amount of different habitats. The count covers parts of the San Rafael Valley, much of the riparian areas along the Sonoita Creek in the Nature Conservancy Preserve, and mountain habitats in the southern parts of the circle. Forty nine volunteers participated in this year’s count.

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Red-Tailed Hawks

Lesser Goldfinches

Canyon Wren 30
Bewick’s Wren 179
House Wren 18
crowned Kinglet 321
Gray Gnatcatcher 1
capped Gnatcatcher 10
tailed Gnatcatcher 1
Western Bluebirds 19
Eastern Bluebirds 66
Northern Cardinal 40
Pyrrhuloxia 19
Black-headed Grosbeak 1
Red-winged Blackbird 21
Western Meadowlark 22
Eastern Meadowlark 17
Meadowlark 25
Brewer’s Blackbird 45
Scott’s Oriole 1
House Finch 232
Pine Siskin 73
Lesser Goldfinch 125
House Sparrow 177
Total # of Individuals: 6482
Paula Wittner Paintings Cross The Border

By Ann Katzenbach

On Friday, January 15, at 7 p.m., Paula Wittner will open an exhibition of her paintings across the border at Museo de Arte de Nogales in Sonora. Its a somewhat adventurous undertaking, as it entails transport of her paintings across international borders and communicating with museum personnel in Spanish, but Paula is pleased to have the opportunity to show her work in this setting.

The building was designed as a museum by Mario Pini, a well known Mexican architect, and was constructed in the late 1960s as part of a border development area that never came to fruition. After serving as a warehouse and then a function hall, it became the museum it was meant to be in 2012. The renovation, paid for with grants and private investment from Mexico, cost $2.3 million.

It is a dramatic building with a sweeping roof and well-lit exhibition space. When Paula heard about the “museo” from a fellow artist, she and her husband, Bob, went to have a look. They met with someone at the museum, and learned that there was an empty exhibit slot in January. The slot was given to Paula; she will have the entire first floor of the museum to display her paintings and hopes to hang a lot of them -- slightly down from 100 at last count.

The cross-border logistics are a bit daunting, but she and Bob have persevered. Barring last minute barriers, they think they can manage to get the work across the border, get it hung, and enjoy the opening, to which we are all invited.

The museum is a two-block walk south from the DeConcini border crossing. It is located across the street from the Parroquia La Purisma Concepcion church.

Wind Quintet Opens Benderly Concert Series

By Mark Nicholson

The first concert of the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA) Benderly Concert Series took place at the Santa Fe Ranch House Sunday, November 22, with a performance by the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Wind Quintet. One of the attractions of this series is the beautiful homes you get to visit, and the Santa Fe Ranch House was no exception. Built in the 1950s along the Santa Cruz River (which flowed year round back then), it is a wonderful example of southwestern architecture and is filled with interesting art.

The concert took place in the spacious living room which brings me to another great thing about this series - the intimacy of the experience you get by being so close to the musicians in a casual setting. The musicians were all members of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra but seeing them play a few feet away in someone's living room is a whole different experience then seeing them on stage in a concert hall.

As they kicked off the first song – Trois Pieces Breves by Jacques Ibert – I was fascinated by watching the clarinet player sway to the music like a snake charmer! There's also interaction between the artists and the audience at these concerts. At this one, following intermission, the quintet answered audience questions.

However, the best part of this series is clearly the music. One thing I've learned about Christina Wilhelm (director of SCFPA) is that she has impeccable taste in music. When she brings artists to town, you can be sure they are going to be well worth your time. I also love her definition of “classical” music which she refers to as any music which is "authentic" whether it be a piece by Mozart or a traditional song from the Appalachians.

This group was no exception, a wind quintet made up of flute, oboe, horn, bassoon and clarinet,
The fireplace at the Circle Z ranch house was blazing as the Patagonia Woman’s Club held its annual luncheon in the dining room on December 16. Decorated for the holidays, the rooms were warm and welcoming. Current members were encouraged to bring guests -- and the Woman’s Club is hoping to increase interest in the organization, which has been losing members. As Sara Cobb, the current president, pointed out, the club keeps shrinking and without new members, it will likely fade away into the pages of Patagonia’s history.

The stars of the luncheon menu were the butternut squash soup and the cupcakes. The chef made copies of the recipes for everyone.

After the tables had been cleared, there was a round robin exchange of gift items that sent everyone home with everything from a pair of earrings to a set of dish towels.

The Woman’s Club was formed in 1931 and has been an active part of the fabric of social and cultural life in Patagonia ever since. Each year it awards scholarships and contributes to non-profit organizations in town. They invite people in to lecture and are responsible for starting “The Country Connection.”

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month in Cady Hall from September through May. German Quiroga will be the guest speaker on Thursday, January 14, at 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Woman’s Club
Lunches At Circle Z
For Annual Meeting
by Ann Katzenbach

The next Benderly concert will be Sunday, Jan 17, featuring The Merling Trio, www.merlingtrio.com.
A Wet and Wild Winter?

Although there is no doubt that the earth is gradually warming with humans playing a key part, our temperatures of late are certainly no indication of this calamitous trend. Indeed, this past November and December have both proven to be rather frigid. Typically our coldest month on average is January. Here in the greater Patagonia area, temperatures during a “normal” January day may range from about freezing to the lower 60s. Trends are just that, however, and anyone who has spent significant time in the Sky Islands can attest to the fact that wild winter swings in the thermometer are not unusual. This winter may in fact turn out to be a rather wild one.

Given the continued forecast of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean, the prediction for January weather is both wetter and cooler than normal. All of a sudden we get a bit of a taste of what its like to winter in a wetter and more northerly clime. This kind of weather makes me sympathize with Seattlites and pout as if I’m in Portland. Walls of grim clouds can sweep in from the Pacific as if a dusky cloak is being drawn over us. Unrelenting winds pick up and soon the deluge begins. It may not stop for days on end, rendering blue skies a thing of memory and transforming even normally stoic southern Arizonans into wintry whiners.

Of course the same folks will no doubt later marvel at the pageant of native wildflowers strewn across our lower habitats. Can’t have one without the other? We’ve had enough November and December rain that any decent January precipitation should proffer us a respectable array of blooms. We’re due. The last one I recall was in 2009. The seeds of spring annuals such as evening primrose, Mexican poppy, various mustards, and the bulbs of spring perennials like Papago lilly are all entombed in the soil, awaiting the salvation of a wet winter.

Ample rain and perhaps a bit of snow at mid-to-high elevations will also benefit our native trees. A broad range of species rely primarily upon winter moisture to sustain them. The drought we are hopefully emerging from, mainly pirated our winter rains and hence took a toll on our arborescent species of plants. If El Nino delivers as expected, then keep an eye on the growth, flowering, and fruiting of our velvet mesquites, catclaw acacias, oaks, and others, as spring brings warmer temperatures.

Nor will as much of that surplus wind up in the stomachs of voracious grasshoppers. Many species, including those that make the most inroads into plants, seem to be knocked back by a rainy year. For example, differential grasshoppers were legion here during the drought, but have been more or less under the radar for the last few years. It’s quite likely that the parasites and/or diseases that keep their populations in check tend to thrive under moist conditions. Conversely, desert encrusting and other species of termites will have a heyday with the damp soils. As key decomposers, termites facilitate the breakdown of dead plants, allowing nutrients to cycle, somewhat reducing the local threat of wildfires.

Freezing temperatures also benefit a variety of species. Those of us who yearly try to tease a goodly amount of fruit from our orchards know that these trees bear better if there are a number of freezing nights. This serves to stimulate flowering and hence fruit production. True, these frosty nights can and do kill some native species of plants. Witness the local die-off of Hopbush about four winters ago when the thermometers dipped into the nearly unthinkable realm of single digit temperatures.

A fringe benefit of this apparent calamity was the demise of many nonnative grasses, such as Bermuda grass, Lehmann’s lovegrass, and natal grass. The cold knocked these $#@&!’s down a notch, much to my delight. Likely, local bark beetle populations were kept somewhat in check by the same Arctic blast, allowing trees such as Arizona cypress to survive their depredations.

All in all an El Nino winter will be a wild ride, both taking from and giving to, various flora and fauna. So dust off your rain gear, go buy a good pair of mittens, and change the wiper blades on your vehicle, hoping that your purchases have not been in vain.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands Region. For more information, visit www.ravensnatureschool.org.
A Series Of Fortunate Events

Brad Sander and his wife, Aisha, live in Pakistan. They met while Brad was leading adventure expeditions in the mountains. Brad’s mother, Joyce Sander, and his stepfather, Ken Ludwig, live half way around the world in Patagonia. Thus this serendipitous story begins.

When Aisha Chapra Sander discovered she was pregnant last spring, she knew she wanted to give birth naturally, safely, in a supportive environment. In Pakistan, such a birth is not an option, because, as she explains, “pregnancy is treated as an illness and birth requires medical intervention.”

They also wanted to be near family, and thus they came to Patagonia. Their search for a natural, supportive birth led her to a birthing center in nearby Tucson, and they discovered that the facility—El Rio Birth Center—was founded by Kathryn Schrag, a midwife and teacher of midwives, who is a neighbor of Joyce and Ken’s. When Aisha searched for a doula, a woman who is trained to assist in childbirth and provide support to the family, she was thrilled to learn that there was a registered doula, Bethany Brandt, in Patagonia. Joyce found the couple a house to rent, they connected with Bethany and the birthing center. They settled in, but didn’t have long to wait.

In describing the birth experience, Brad writes, “Aisha went into labor at 4:50 a.m. and pretty soon the contractions were regular at five minutes apart. We drove to the El Rio Birth Center in Tucson, a 1 hour and 15 minute drive, and we watched the sunrise on the drive...


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go to
www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org
and find it in our archives
Pipe Dreams

“Put that in your pipe and smoke it!” is a phrase we have all heard. But to Jon Rinaldi of Sonoita it has a special meaning. He makes the pipes.

Jon came to Arizona after selling his successful wholesale beauty supply business in New Jersey. He lived in Rio Verde and Carefree, Arizona, but finally settled in Sonoita 15 years ago because of the great weather.

Woodworking has been his passion for many years. His workshop in Sonoita is filled with all kinds of tools and accessories including lathes, drills, files, sand blasters and chisels. His first venture into woodworking was making bowls. Soon, although he never smoked, his interest shifted to making pipes. He visited eBay for ideas, then went to a pipe convention in Chicago. That’s all it took to thrust him into the pipe business.

Jon uses only the best wood for his pipes—brier—from Italy. Brier wood comes from a shrub called Erica Arborea and is part of the root. The roots are dug out of the ground by hand, then divided into small blocks. It takes nearly 30 years to grow those roots large enough to harvest. The blocks are then washed in boiling water to remove the sap, then stored in kilns for a year. All this takes place before Jon can import the brier blocks and carve out a pipe. Brier wood is best suited for pipe making because it is fire resistant and dense, yet porous. This characteristic and the use of his tools allow him to make pipes that are smooth, rough or sandblasted.

Jon sells his custom pipes around the world. They are featured at the most famous and oldest pipe retailer in the country, Iwan Ries Pipe Company in Chicago. He also sells his pipes on his own website at jRinaldi pipes.com. Pipe connoisseurs are willing to pay Jon $300 to $450 for a good custom pipe, and most have more than one because some tobaccos require a special pipe.

Jon has been busy this season making pipes for holiday gifts. But being from the shores of New Jersey, he says his own secret Christmas wish is, “I want a boat.”

Recognition For Educational Excellence

Denise Bowden is the most recent recipient of the Elgin School Educator of the Month award. The local Site-Based Council, comprised of members from the community and Elgin School, reviewed her nomination and chose her for the month of November. Denise Bowdon came to Elgin Elementary School from the Camp Verde School District. She has medical skills and experience with the Federal Government’s Title 1 Program (improving the academic performance of the disadvantaged).

Denise is the administrator of Title 1 programs at the school. She helps the elementary students with their reading skills and assists the teachers with their reading programs to make sure everyone is working towards the same goals for the students.

Previous winners this school year of the Educator of the Month award include certified aide, Linnette Weisel and Special Education Director Christine Sadorf.

School Superintendent, Bonn congratulates these recent winners and thanks the community, teachers and students who truly embrace an attitude of excellence for Elgin Elementary School.

Bonn also congratulates the teachers and students for exceeding the state norms in the A2Merit testing. Elgin School students have made impressive improvements in their achievement and instruction. Students are competing in the sciences, robotics and future city competitions. Some have received awards in language arts and essay competitions.

Elgin School has also implemented an extensive professional development program so that teachers and staff can learn from teachers in top-rated schools in southeastern Arizona. For many students, the best news is that Elgin School has reinstated art, music and drama classes.
Elgin firefighter Priscilla Perez has completed her medical training at Cochise College and is now a certified medic. This means that she can now provide advanced life support services to patients.

Perez has been working with the district for over five years as a wildlands firefighter while taking over 600 hours of emergency medical courses. Two other Sonoita firefighters are now taking courses at Pima College to become certified medics. Steven Rodriguez and Paul Tranter are working their shifts at the district headquarters while working towards this certification.

Sonoita-Elgin Fire District aims to have two medics on duty for every shift so that they can answer all calls with qualified personnel.

It takes 18 months for firefighters to become medics and once they graduate there is a period of on-the-job training. This takes hard work and a lot of personal time.

Chief Joseph DeWolf congratulates Perez, Rodriguez and Tranter for their hard work and dedication to help increase the level of service that the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District can provide.
Amazon: An Etymology
By Gianna Martin

What do you think of when you hear the word Amazon? The rainforest, the world’s largest river, or the Internet? I bet your first thought wasn’t breastless woman. As odd as it sounds that is one of the earliest origins or etymologies of “Amazon.”

Amazon in ancient Greek times referred to the fable of the fierce Amazonian woman warriors who cut off their right breast so as not to have it interfere with their use of a bow and arrow.

You might wonder how this word turned from having such a fierce meaning to the title of an online shopping site with more than 244 million customers? When Amazon.com first launched as an online bookstore it was almost called Cadabra.com, but when someone mistook it for “cadaver” (a corpse), Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon, decided that he wanted his online store name to be changed and also come up earlier in the alphabetical listing on the Internet’s search engine. He came up with “Amazon” because it’s the biggest river and he wanted the world’s largest book store.

Isn’t it weird how the meaning of a word can change so drastically over time? From the mythological race of fierce women warriors to the world’s longest river, and today’s largest American online shopping site, the word Amazon is synonymous with force.

Martin Luther King: History of an Arizona Holiday
By Garrett Fish

On the third Monday of January, America comes together to promote equal rights for everyone, regardless of their background, on Martin Luther King Day. MLK Day is a federal holiday, first celebrated in 1986, that honors the life of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. Something that thousands of Arizonans don’t know is the tumultuous background and history of this day becoming a legal holiday in Arizona.

In 1986, Ronald Reagan was the first to recognize Reverend King with a national holiday, and in the same year, Arizona Governor, Bruce Babbitt, decided the same for Arizona. When Evan Mecham succeeded Babbitt in 1987, he rejected Babbitt’s decision, saying that Babbitt didn’t have the authority to declare a paid state holiday; the votes were close, but the holiday was not approved. Boycotts by organizations planning conventions in Arizona followed.

The National Football League cautioned that it would consider relocating the 1993 Super Bowl to Pasadena, California to avoid racial anxiety. The NFL followed through. Eventually, after much effort, voters approved a state MLK holiday in November of 1992, making Arizona the only state that put the holiday to a vote of the people and saw it pass.
The technological innovations being made in this century are staggering. But along with them come negative aspects such as cyberstalking. Cyberstalking usually targets an individual, and employs technology to empty bank accounts, ruin credit scores, harass family, friends and employers of the targeted victim.

According to womensissues.com, an estimated one million women and 400,000 men are stalked annually in the United States. Today’s technology allows stalkers to find their victims by simply looking at the location where a photo or status update was placed on any social media website.

January is Stalking Awareness Month. If you think you’re being stalked online, tell others about it—they may be able to help. Contact the stalker and tell them to leave you alone. If necessary, contact the local police. Eighty five percent of stalkers are someone known by the victim. Remember to be safe online--don’t post anything you might later regret--because everything stays on the internet.

What’s Your Workout?

By Audrianna Paz

Working out is good for anybody and everybody. You want to make sure you stay fit for a good healthy life. Victor Barajas, freshman at PUHS, is 6’2” and 155 pounds. He is the tallest boy in his class and has a heart pounding workout routine to share with everybody.

The Workout:
Victor usually works out six times a week for an hour every week -- as long as he is not too sore from playing on the PUHS basketball team. The type of workouts he does are usually lifting weights at the school or at home. PUHS’s weight lifting class, which meets daily, is the usual spot where he works out from 2:20 to 3:15. He loves working out with his “brothers” Danny Miranda, Chris Quiroga, and Chris Miranda. Victor can dead lift 275 pounds, bench press 170 pounds, hang clean 155 pounds, and squat 225 pounds.

The Diet:
Victor says, “I don’t really have a diet, I pretty much eat whatever I want and then work it off later.”

Clothing:
Victor usually wears basketball shorts, tank tops and his basketball shoes or his Vans while working out.

The Playlist:
Victor doesn’t listen to music while working out at the school since it is a class. But, when he is at home he listens to whatever makes him happy. As you can tell Victor loves working out and tells us why: “I choose to live this lifestyle because I want to be fit and active and don’t want to live a non-healthy life.”

I got my Saturn halfway through my sophomore year. My mom needed a car that had more gas mileage. She bought the Saturn from Sabina Peterson for $600. The car didn’t need any maintenance except an oil change and was pretty much ready to hit the road. The name of my car is The Cruisin’ Rocket Whip. The acronym is TCRW. Danny Miranda came up with the name and it just kinda stuck. The four brothers-Danny, Chris, Victor, and myself treat the car as if it was all of ours. The car holds our possessions; from basketball shoes to clothes -- anything really. If it needs to be put in for safekeeping, TCRW is there.

My Cruisin’ Rocket Whip

By Yasmin Quiroga

Christopher Quiroga, 16, a junior at PUHS, on his 1998 white Saturn, as told to Yasmin Quiroga:

Be Aware Of Cyber Stalking

By Gaudalupe “Gaby” Bueras

The technological innovations being made in this century are staggering. But along with them come negative aspects such as cyberstalking. Cyberstalking usually targets an individual, and employs technology to empty bank accounts, ruin credit scores, harass family, friends and employers of the targeted victim.

According to womensissues.com, an estimated one million women and 400,000 men are stalked annually in the United States. Today’s technology allows stalkers to find their victims by simply looking at the location where a photo or status update was placed on any social media website.

January is Stalking Awareness Month. If you think you’re being stalked online, tell others about it—they may be able to help. Contact the stalker and tell them to leave you alone. If necessary, contact the local police. Eighty five percent of stalkers are someone known by the victim. Remember to be safe online--don’t post anything you might later regret--because everything stays on the internet.
### January Calendar

#### Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Southern Arizona Quail Forever Chapter meeting, Matt Walton speaker. Steak Out, 7 p.m. Sonoita. Public is welcome.</td>
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<td>AA - Patagonia Comm. Ctr., Sun., 8 a.m.; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Al-Anon - Wed. at 6 p.m., Sonoita Hills Comm. Church, 52 Elgin Rd., Info: 237-8091</td>
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<td>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board Meeting 3rd Monday at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
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<td>Patagonia Town Council - 2nd and 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.</td>
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<td>Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua Winery, 6 p.m. Call (520) 907-5829 for more info.</td>
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<td>San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon. at the Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall at 5:30 p.m. Tami @455-5561.</td>
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<td>Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. &amp; Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520 404-3490</td>
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<td>The Woman’s Club - January 14 at 1 p.m.; Talk by Herman Quiroga at 2 p.m. Cady Hall</td>
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#### Events

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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Sylvia Saenz exhibit at Gathering Ground opening reception, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>Paula Wittner exhibit opening, Musee de Arte de Nogales, see p. 16.</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Quail Forever Chapter Fundraiser, Elgin Community Club, 475 Elgin Road, 5:30. Call 520-379-9715 for information</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Benderly Concert Series presents Merling Piano Trio, 3 p.m., Kirby Residence, Nogales. Tickets and info at scfapresents.org.</td>
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<td>January 30</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts Show, Tubac, 10 a.m.</td>
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#### Special Interests

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<td>January 4</td>
<td>Gail Elfrig: lecture/discussion about Willa Cather’s “The Professor’s House.” 2 p.m. Patagonia Library</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Patagonia Lake State Park Hikes: 1/8: Sonoita Creek Black Hawk Loop, 1/15: Petroglyph Site Hike; 1/29: Hike to George Weiss Spring; 1/30: Sonoita Creek Natural Area; Meet at 9 a.m. Call 520-287-2791 for advance reservations or info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Gail Elfrig: lecture/discussion about Willa Cather’s “Death Comes to the Archbishop, 2 p.m. Patagonia Library.</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Park Plan Presentation, Paton Center. Followed by workday in which volunteers are invited to help install rainwater harvesting terraces and spread mulch. Times to be announced.</td>
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#### Lunch for Seniors
-  Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. thru Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center.

#### Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service
- Medical transportation Mon. - Fri. for seniors & disabled by appointment only. Call 394-2494

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

#### Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop
- Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
**HOUSING RENTALS**

**ROOMS FOR RENT** at a 4 bd. ranch home on 52 acres, 6 m. east of Patagonia. $300. Call Fritz at 480 215 1907

**HOMES FOR RENT:** contact Kathy O’Brien @ Sonoita Realty 520 455-5381

Fed. funded Senior apt. complex; 285 Pennsylvania Ave. Call (520) 394-2229, or go to the Town Clerk’s office.

**2 BR/1 BTH $850/mo.** Carport, laundry rm. John: 394-0148 or 360 317-4281

**SONOITA HOME FOR RENT:** 2 BD/2 BTH, All appliances, W&D, front & back yards. $900/mo. (520) 400-2949

**1 BR/1 BTH** $750/mo. Utilities included. 3 BR/2 BTH $1450/mo. Includes utilities. John: 394-0148 or 360 317-4281

**BRIGHT PRIVATE 1 BD/1 BTH VACATION RENTAL** in town. Courtyard, kitchenette, nightly or weekly. Claire: 520.904.0877

**JACK & JILL BDRMS.** available w/ shared bthrm, $350/mo. ea. Seniors preferred. Short term rentals ok. Call 520 297-7065

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**

321 DUQUESNE AVE. TOTALLY and Creatively renovated 2 BD + office main house, + 1 BD guest cottage + a car garage, all in a great IN VILLAGE location. $289,500. Call (907) 299-1514.

275 S. 4TH AVE.; Beautiful adobe lovingly restored on lg. Patagonia VILLAGE lot. 1 BD. + office. CUSTOM throughout. $239,500. Call (907) 299-1514

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

**MISC.**

**JULIA GREEN VOICE & PIANO STUDIO**
voice & piano lessons $20/half hour www.juliagreenmusic.com
122 Rothrock Alley, Patagonia 85624

**HELP WANTED**

Certified caregiver or CNA for Patagonia Assisted Care. Call 520-604-8179.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canelo Cowboy Church
Hwy 83, MP 14 455-5000
Sunday Services: 8:45 & 11:00 (except third Sundays)
DONALD WEINSTEIN, 89, died of a aortal aneurysm Sunday, December 13 while at Peppi's House in hospice care in Tucson. Donald grew up in Rochester, New York, born to immigrant parents who came to America in the early 20th century to escape the persecution of Jews in middle Europe and Russia. In 1944, at the age of 18, he volunteered to serve in the US Army, and was sent to fight with the 4th Division as a replacement at the end of the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945. He won a Bronze Star for bravery.

With the help of the GI Bill, he attended the University of Chicago and completed his BA and an MA in history. It was a place of tremendous intellectual excitement and was, he always said, the only real education he ever had.

He went to the University of Iowa for his PhD. In 1953 he won a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Italy. From his two years of study there, he focused his academic work on the Italian Renaissance. During that time in Italy, he married his first wife, Anne Kingsley. They had two children.

After several academic postings, he was offered a job at Rutgers where he remained for 18 years and was eventually made Distinguished Professor. He met his second wife, Beverly Parker, at the Rutgers Library.

His last academic position was as head of the Department of History at the University of Arizona. There he recruited rising young scholars and developed innovative programs that involved community outreach such as night courses at Fort Huachuca. The department under his tenure was voted the most improved in the country. He was always available to younger scholars, advising them, discussing their ideas, editing their speeches, papers, books, helping them to find jobs.

After he retired in 1996, the couple moved to Sonoita where Don was immediately swept up in the Crossroads Forum and the development of an area plan, but the main focus of his energies was the fight against the open pit copper mine. He was one of the founders of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas. He is survived by his wife and two children, Jonathan and Elizabeth Weinstein, as well as four grandchildren, Anna, Lydia, David and Nathaniel.

There will be a celebration in the spring. Meantime anyone who would like to make a donation in his memory should consider Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (on line at scenicsantaritas.org or 8987 E. Tanque Verde #309-157 Tucson 85740) or The Patagonia Regional Community Foundation scholarship fund. (PO Box 764 Patagonia 85624).

This place and the friends he made here enriched his last years.
After a life battling a disease passed to him through a childhood blood transfusion, in the early hours of October 3rd, 2015 Stephen Jones Mann took his last breath. He was the son of James Harold Mann and Mildred Elzetta Jones and was brought into this world on the morning of July 1, 1952.

His military family’s lifestyle enabled him to live in many towns, but he grew up primarily in Memphis, Tennessee. His itchy travel-feet landed him in Tucson where he attended college and pursued his many interests. Sonoita, Arizona, however, stole his heart and put a stall on his travel craze. He fell in love with the scenery and Olga Alicia Rebeil who later became his wife. His “Desert Rose” as he called her. Together they had two children, William and Jacqueline.

He treated his loved ones with all the care his massive heart possessed. The favor was returned. He was very loved by his wife, family, and friends. If the case is that Heaven is a reality, his wonderful soul would certainly grant him a position.

Steve was a visionary entrepreneur, starting and succeeding in many businesses throughout his life. He was one to take in small moments; he never missed a sunset. He was always open to listen, share, and learn. He had stories that could draw crowds. A talented guitarist who started playing at the age of eight, he once toured with the Four Tops, drawing crowds through music. Stephen was a man of honor with many stories, who was instinctively kind and generous. He had a physique to match a standing bear, but a heart that leaned more towards that of a teddy bear. During sentimental films it was common to hear a noise indistinguishable from a laugh, but then proven to be otherwise when you saw the single stray tear that escaped his efforts to wipe away evidence of his tender heart. To those familiar with him it was clear he had a heart that melted as easily as chocolate. A notion of which his sweet tooth undoubtedly would have approved.

Productivity was important in his lifetime; he only took a break for music. Unquestionably, music was his favorite pastime. If you’d like to honor his time here, you can contribute to Hunger for Music, an organization that provides instruments and facilities for those who don’t have access to such luxuries otherwise. www.hungryformusic.org accepts online donations and would be the best way to commemorate what was truly important in Stephen’s life.

Born in New York City to George and Mary Soper, Jock spent his youth in Darien, Connecticut and graduated high school from St. Luke’s School in New Canaan, Connecticut in 1964. He went on to continue his education at Dartmouth, class of 1968.

Jock’s writing career started as a cub reporter for the Brattleboro Reformer in Brattleboro, Vermont. At this time, he married his wife and partner of 42 years, Pamela. Jock and Pamela had two children while living in Vermont, Amanda and Colin.

Jock’s career took him to New York City in 1980. There he found success working in Public Relations for Nikon Camera, Nabisco Brands, and Shandwick USA.

Some of Jock’s career achievements include working on the America’s Cup, and collaborating with Julie Nixon Eisenhower to document President Nixon’s trip to China for the Nixon library. He was the recipient of a Cable Ace award and the Public Relations Society of America awarded him the Silver Anvil award.

In recent years, California’s Sonoma County became his source for writing about one of his many interests, wine. His work for Gallo Wines became his top priority, developing not only good writing but many of his dearest friendships.

By 2010 Jock found himself semi-retired in the town of Patagonia, Arizona. The Soper family wishes to extend a sincere thank you to all who have expressed condolences and blessings.

Memorial services will be held in Patagonia at Cady Hall, 2 p.m., Saturday, January 16.
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