



## Slowing It Down on Naugle

By Ann Katzenbach

The *Patagonia Regional Times* recently received a letter from an irate driver who said he had driven through Patagonia and received a speeding ticket when he wasn't speeding. He claimed that Patagonia was a speed trap, giving out tickets to line the town's coffers. His was not the first complaint about speeding tickets here, nor will it be the last. I made an appointment with Patagonia Marshal Joe Patterson to find out about Patagonia's "speed trap."

"What's your definition of a speed trap?" he asked. As I searched for words, he told me his. "It's when the police put up a big sign that tells drivers: 'Go Right Ahead and Speed Through Town.' Then when they do, they all get tickets." He went on to explain how a driver earns a speeding ticket. It's not subjective. Radar is an



Photo by Ann Katzenbach

Marshal Joe Patterson talks to a driver who was speeding

accurate way to read the speed of an oncoming car or a car to the rear. All Patagonia law enforcement vehicles are equipped with radar, and they are recalibrated every day. The officers are trained to use radar and are tested on their visual perception. Before graduating from radar school, an officer has to be able to accurately evaluate the speed of a car or truck within two-miles-an-hour of its speed, which he or she then checks with radar.

Patterson explained that there is usually some leeway in their decision as to whether to pull a car or truck over. Five to eight miles over the limit is a general rule of thumb. Whether to give a ticket, a written warning, or a verbal warning is also somewhat subjective.

Patterson invited me to go out on the road with him to experience what it's like to patrol the highway. Before we left, he handed me the belt he straps on whenever he's out on duty. I could barely hold onto it. Then he had me put on a Kevlar vest. This too was cumbersome

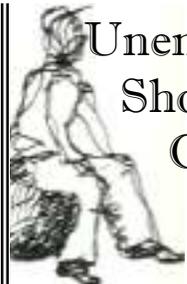
and weighty. Clearly I was never going to make it as a cop.

Joe drives an unmarked white truck. The dashboard is filled with radio equipment and radar. The first car we stopped was heading south and going about 15 miles an hour too fast. The first thing Joe did was call a radio dispatcher in Nogales to say he was making a traffic stop. He turned on his flashing lights and pulled the car over. As he did this, he read off the numbers of the license, which happened to be from Pennsylvania. As he approached the car, I noticed that he touched the rear tail light. Then he bent down and spoke to the driver with politeness and authority. When he returned with the man's driver's license, he called in the name and number. If there had been any outstanding warrants or if the  
*(continued on page 2)*



Your  
Property  
Taxes

PAGE 4



Unemployment:  
Should We  
Care?

PAGE 7



The  
Making  
Of PRT

PAGE 14



In Memory  
Of Anne  
Swan

PAGE 19

## About Us

### 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.

### WHO WE ARE

We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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## Slowing It Down continued from page 1

license wasn't valid, he would have known in a matter of minutes.

These are all precautions. Knowing about the car and who is driving is important information to have before you get too far into a traffic stop. Touching the tail light, Joe explained, leaves the officer's fingerprint and DNA on the car in case there is any need for later identification.

Joe guessed from the binoculars that the driver wore around his neck that he was a birder. He didn't give him a ticket but wrote out a warning, explaining that he put it in writing so that there was a record of the stop. "He's not paying attention," Joe said. "He's looking for birds. If he runs into someone down the road, I want



Photo by Ann Katzenbach

The Marshal cautions two Nogales girls who were hitchhiking home

there to be a record that he was pulled over and warned." As we drove back to town, Joe called Nogales again and told them the stop was complete.

A little later, driving past the

high school, Joe spotted a northbound 18-wheeler flashing its lights to warn another big truck of our unmarked vehicle. He made a safe U turn and pulled the offending driver (continued on page 3)

# Taking Care of Business

By Ann Katzenbach

What do you do when the garbage truck breaks down? The response from most trash collectors would be that someone else will figure it out. Patagonia, happily, employs people with initiative, and when the town's garbage truck broke down earlier this winter, Francisco ("Poncho") Valenzuela and Everardo ("Pio") Gonzalez, who live in town, used their own pickup trucks and trailer to do the twice-weekly trash pickup along with their third man, Manuel Cardenas. This new routine re-

quired several bumpy trips up the road to the dump each Monday and Friday. No one asked them to do this. They saw a problem and fixed it.

According to those who know, this is not surprising. Patagonia is fortunate in having a crew of excellent workers keeping the town functioning and tidy. This was highlighted by the retirement of Arsenio de la Ossa on February 21. He worked for the town for 21 years, starting out as a mechanic in the maintenance de-

partment and retiring as superintendent of that department. People say, "If you needed something done or you wanted to know what was going on in the town, you asked Arsenio."

As the next chapter of the town's garbage truck unfolds, we can report that Poncho Valenzuela (also an accomplished team roper) has already passed the written part of his commercial license test. The practical part is still ahead.

Congratulations to Arsenio and many thanks to the rest of the town's employees.



Photo by Ann Katzenbach

Francisco Valenzuela and Everardo Gonzales used their own pickup trucks to keep the garbage service going

Continued from page 2

over where there was plenty of room on the shoulder. Again he called in the license plate number. This time he returned to the truck with a driver's license and the trucker's daily log book. There he could see when the driver had last had a long break. Everything checked out. Joe walked back to the cab, issued a verbal warning, and the truck pulled back onto the highway, melted ice leaking from its back doors.

In April 2011, when the town hired Joe Patterson as marshal, many drivers regularly sped through Patagonia. In the 12 months before Joe took over, only 34 speeding citations had been issued by Patagonia law enforcement. Nowadays speed limits are enforced—some might say too stringently—but as we all know, if you don't speed, you don't get a ticket.

And as for the idea that the town is growing rich from all the citations, well, it does get a percentage of fine money from the state. Also, the marshal's office receives a small stipend from each ticket, something in the neighborhood of a few dollars according to Joe Patterson. With this money they purchase enforcement or office equipment. This helps offset the town's expenses.

People who have lived in Patagonia for a long time remember what it was like to have little evidence of any police presence in town. "I'm delighted," said Susan Belt. "For years there was inadequate police presence." Everyone I spoke to about law enforcement in Patagonia says they are glad that Joe and his deputies are out on the road and around town.

# Decoding the Hermosa Project

By Wendy Russell

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and Earthworks are working together to analyze Wildcat Silver's open pit mine plans so that our community can better understand its likely impacts. Here are some of the outcomes we can expect if this proposal moves forward.

By reading reports that Wildcat Silver has recently released, which contain detailed information about its mining plans in the Patagonia Mountains, one can understand the purposes behind its current drilling proposal, which describes "drilling 24 geotechnical boreholes, 10 exploration boreholes and 12 hydrogeologic boreholes/monitoring wells, and excavating 16 test pits."

One purpose of the monitoring wells, as described in a January 2014 Wildcat report, is to help "determine the quantity, location and pumping rates required to dewater the pit." By the second year of mining, Wildcat's open pit would go below the water table, and water would be seeping into the pit. In order to mine, Wildcat would have to continuously pump out this groundwater. The study says, "This creates a cone of depression around the pit allowing mining to take place." What the report does not say is that this "cone of depression" will lower groundwater levels of the broader landscape. A rough calculation of groundwater pumping required by the mine would be 670 million gallons of water annually. To put this in perspective, the ground-

water level for the town of Patagonia has already dropped nearly 18 feet since 2008, and the town uses approximately 42 million gallons per year. Wildcat's drilling would require 15 times that amount.

Drilling is slated to occur primarily in Corral Canyon and Goldbaum Canyon. Corral Canyon is described in Wildcat's report as "an optimal location for siting the TSF [Tailings Storage Facility]. Tailings typically contain dangerous chemicals, including arsenic, lead, mercury, and processing chemicals like acids and cyanide. Wildcat notes that Corral Canyon is at the top of the watershed. It is also the top of the Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed, the sole source of drinking water for the town of Patagonia and an additional 300 area wells.

Goldbaum Canyon is the planned location for Wildcat Silver's Waste Rock Storage Facility. Waste rock is rock that does not contain desired minerals. It often contains iron, which can transform to produce acid runoff when exposed to air and water. This phenomenon is

known as acid drainage. Acid drainage is irreversible and is already an ongoing issue from historic mines in the Patagonia Mountains.

The 10 exploration boreholes proposed in the current drilling plan, whose purpose is to prove the extent of the silver deposits, are essentially the same exploration holes Wildcat proposed in 2011 but withdrew when PARA, Defenders of Wildlife, and Sky Island Alliance sued the Forest Service over its approval of Wildcat's plans.

By reading Wildcat Silver's reports to investors, it becomes clear that the purpose of its current drilling proposal is to advance its open pit mine plan. A peer-reviewed study of Wildcat Silver's mine plan being prepared by PARA will provide further information on anticipated risks to our groundwater, the potential for acid drainage contamination, and heavy metals pollution, as well as the range of issues associated with air pollution, light and noise pollution.

Wildcat Silver reports can be found at:  
[www.wildcatsilver.com/hermosa-project/overview/](http://www.wildcatsilver.com/hermosa-project/overview/).



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# Property Assessments: What Do They Mean for Your Tax Bill?

By Lynn Davison



The deadline for initiating appeals of 2014 assessments is April 29, 2014

You should receive your 2014 property assessments about the time this edition of the PRT hits the streets. Surprised at the assessed value of your property? Puzzled because your assessment went down but your taxes went up? Frustrated by a big jump in the assessed value of your raw land? Well, here's the scoop.

Your property taxes are determined by the tax rates adopted annually by the County Board of Supervisors multiplied by the value of your property as determined by the County Assessor. The January PRT carried a story on tax rates; this article is about the assessment piece of the puzzle. Over the last couple of years, property assessments have been dropping. At the same time, tax rates have been increasing to cover the costs of public services. If they don't get you one way, they'll get you another!

## Property Value

Santa Cruz County Assessor Felipe Fuentes is an elected official responsible for determining the value of your property for tax purposes. Like all other county assessors, he operates under laws passed by the Arizona State Legislature. The basis of the property assessment is a comparison of the value of your property with that of similar properties in your **local market area**. Property reviews are done on a three-year cycle. Homes are assessed on a cost basis: the Assessor's Office determines the exterior square footage, considers the design and materials costs, and applies a market adjustment to estimate the full cash value. The market adjustment takes into account the average value of properties in the local area. According to Fuentes, it's often about "location, location, location." If your house is in Sonoita or Tubac, it probably will be assessed at a higher

value than a comparable property in Rio Rico or Patagonia. Or, if your house is on the Mesa or in the Rail X Estates, it may be valued higher than the same house in "downtown" Patagonia.

Of course, there are complicating factors. The most troublesome is timing. The 2014 assessment you just received is applicable to your 2015 property taxes. That assessment was based on property reviews done, on average, 18 months ago. This lag may or may not work in your favor for a given year, depending on whether the real estate market is moving up or down. Also, if you make major improvements that increase the value of your property, you may not see the impact on your assessment until one to three years later (depending on when your property is reviewed by the Assessor's staff).

Another complication involves the state's use of two property valuation measures—the full cash value and the limited cash value. Full cash value is the market value, updated every three years. It is used when computing property tax for voter-approved initiatives (like our Community College District). Limited cash value is computed using a state formula that defines the portion of the full cash value. It is used to determine property taxes that support general government services, such as police, courts, public health, and public education. By state law, the limited cash value can never exceed the full cash value. Our limited cash values in Santa Cruz County currently average 98% of full cash values.

Mobile/manufactured homes are valued differently, using the factory list price and a depreciation factor set by the state. If you own the land under your mobile/manufactured home, you can complete an Affidavit of Affixture, surrender your title, and have your home moved to the Real Property Assessment Roll. If you do not own the land, the home will be taxed as personal prop-

erty.

The valuation of raw (also called vacant or undeveloped) land uses a market comparison based on costs, just like homes. However, the assessment process is more difficult because there are often few comparable properties in the local market area. Other land is classified as agricultural and assessed differently, using a formula based on the income generation of the property. In general, agricultural land's assessed value is significantly less than raw land, so resulting tax bills will be lower.

## Agriculture and Grazing

The Assessor determines whether a property qualifies as agricultural land on the basis of a complex set of regulations contained in the state Department of Revenue's Agricultural Property Manual. Basically, the land must be at least 20 acres and be owned and/or leased for a legitimate agricultural business that operates successfully three out of every five years. The most common, and occasionally controversial, agricultural use in Santa Cruz County is grazing. To qualify, the land must have sufficient carrying capacity for livestock and must make a significant contribution to the overall ranching business of the landowner or lessee. Pablo Ramos, Chief Deputy County Assessor for Santa Cruz County, described the

state regulations as having "lots of loopholes" that allow landowners to secure the agricultural designation without contributing significantly to a legitimate business (the "rent a cow" strategy). Conversely, a number of property owners believe that the Assessor's Office unfairly denies applications for agricultural status. In addition, owners of raw land may be surprised by a major jump in their property assessment several years after purchase. In many of these cases, the County Assessor removed their property from the agricultural designation when it was subdivided from a large ranch and sold for development. Because the County Assessor's Office visits 25% of all the agricultural properties every year, it could be as many as four years before this change in assessment appears.

## Inequitable Taxation?

Not surprisingly, not all property owners in Santa Cruz County believe that their assessments are fair and equitable. Are some property owners paying too little and some too much? A number of Sonoita residents have complained that they are carrying more than their share of the tax burden because the County Assessor has valued their properties higher to compensate for lower property values in

other parts of the county. Others complain that too much land is inaccurately classified as agricultural, shifting more of the tax burden to residential property owners. No property owner agreed to be quoted on the record for fear of retribution in future property assessments.

So what if you don't agree with the County Assessor's valuation of your property? Fuentes strongly encourages property owners to call his office (520-375-8030) with any questions or complaints about their assessment. You can request an informal review of your property at any time during the year. If an error is found, a correction will be ordered that will impact your assessment in the next calendar year. There is also a formal Appeals Process available to property owners within 60 days of the release of annual assessments. **The deadline for initiating appeals of 2014 assessments is April 29, 2014.** Ramos noted that in the last few years the number of appeals has dropped significantly in Santa Cruz County. This is probably because property assessments have been dropping in response to the depressed economy. He also said the majority of appeals are denied. You may be the exception, but know that the odds are not in your favor if you appeal your

# PRT and the Business Community

*An Editorial Commentary*

By Donna Reibslager

What should the role of PRT be in relation to our business community? Are we adequately promoting local enterprise? What kind of image are visitors getting about our community when they read our newspaper?

PRT's mission is to create a dialogue between the diverse factions of this community, to talk about our town's concerns as well as its accomplishments. We feel that our job as a newspaper is to *inform*. We are not an extension of the Chamber of Commerce, dedicated to printing only promotional articles that will draw people to our lovely community. Nor are we a publication whose profit margin dictates that its pages be dominated by advertisements, with a little news squeezed in. We chose to be a nonprofit newspaper so that our

decisions as to content would not be subject to such influences.

When a local business opens, or makes improvements, we want our readers to know about it. And if a local enterprise is hosting an event, we will always try to include such information in our paper—along with everything else we attempt to include each month within our space limits.

We truly appreciate the support of our advertisers, whose interest in the purchase of ad space continues to rise. We believe that their increased patronage can be credited to our growing readership, which looks forward each month to an issue that they can be entertained by, learn from, criticize, and talk about with each other. And that's the point.

## Baseball Season and Interactive TV at PUHS

The playing fields and tennis courts at Patagonia Union High School are back in action. The once untended fields were reseeded and fertilized and received red stabilizer dirt for the infield. Superintendent/Principal Denise Blake reports, "The kids are really looking forward to the season and I hope our community can make it out for some of the games." The baseball team plays Saint Augustine at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 3. On Tuesday, March 4, all the teams except girls' tennis play against San Miguel at 4 p.m. The girls play Thatcher away at 3 p.m. Check the school website for more schedule information.

Blake also reports that "back in October, the Patagonia Union High School District received a

grant for Interactive Television equipment (ITV). This is allowing us to provide students with courses that we might not otherwise be able to provide. This spring semester we are beginning with our first class by using the ITV equipment to provide our more fluent Spanish students with an advanced Spanish class through collaboration with the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 Rio Rico High School. We are all learning how to navigate the system of technology as a means for providing new learning experiences. Everyone is excited and interested to try a new style. It really opens up the possibilities for students in rural areas to be able to receive a variety of classes."

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## The River Bed's New Profile

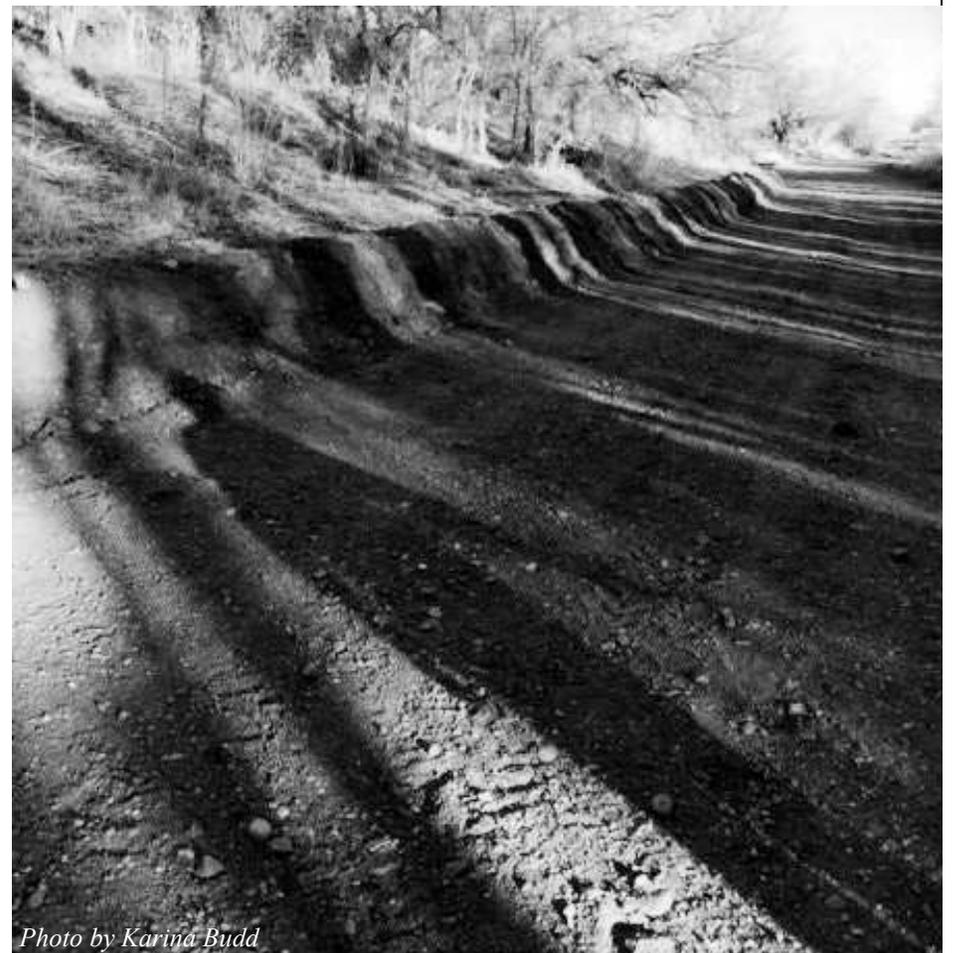


Photo by Karina Budd

Some Patagonia residents have become concerned about the scraped out bottom of the wash in an area near where it crosses Sonoita Avenue. The river gravel has been removed down to the hard soil below by Brent Bowden, who takes the gravel to his yard for use in construction projects. Town Manager David Teel says that he approved such removal by Bowden, based on the advice of an engineer, who told him that it might reduce the chance of flooding if the bed were deepened.

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# The Aftermath of a Proposal

## (Or, I Must Have Been Crazy But It Worked)

By Abbie Zelter

It was on a hot summer day two and a half years ago that Patagonia Library proposed to the Arizona Humanities Council that the library host the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit Journey Stories. As I write, the exhibit is packed into 14 well-labeled crates that are neatly lined up in Cady Hall awaiting transport to the next host venue.

When I submitted the proposal, requirements of venue space, a local history companion exhibit, and two related programs appeared easy enough to fulfill. I certainly could not have fathomed how

through the process of community input and area-wide support this venture's success would exceed any pre-conceived notions. The Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit—13 events at seven eastern Santa Cruz County venues and three new permanent local history exhibits—attracted 2,990 people.

Though most of the figurative journey to coordinate the six week event went smoothly, there were a few minor bumps in the road, which took more attention than I thought possible. How much Top Stick, the tape used to hold a toupee in place, was needed for our local history exhibit? How many red and blue tacks were needed to designate on maps birth and favorite vacation places? What if I gave a party and no one came? And then there were the 427 email correspondences to finalize schedules and graphics.

A *Woven Journey*, our local history exhibit, was an adventure unto itself, as I am certain the Empire Ranch's *Cowboy Life* exhibit and *Homesteading* exhibit in the Bowman History room also were. Defining *A Woven Journey* content evolved effortlessly, and selecting the images went well, but then there were the text edits—at least 15 of them. Names, locations, dates needed to be verified and spelled correctly. The closest to final edit from Elise Misorowski's text was accomplished when Laura Wenzel and I decided to head to the Wagon Wheel for a beer.

The Journey Stories exhibit guest book listed 65 visitors from outside Arizona and 11



Photo by Lou Schatz

people from outside of the United States, including a gentleman and his daughter, who call Patagonia, Argentina their home. There were days when Cady Hall was filled with generations of family members who were thrilled to see images of their relatives riding the Lochiel school bus. There were moments of sharing memories about dances in Cady Hall and the Big Steer bar. Linda Hummel Roslund's visit was also special. Alvessa Ochoa Hummel, her mother, played the sax at dances in Cady Hall during the 1950s. Alvessa was a plant lover, and the library's Legacy Garden is now home to the aromatic violets that she nurtured long ago in Patagonia.

This six-week event was brought to life by a multitude of Sonoita, Patagonia and Elgin organizations and too many people to name. A sincere thank you is extended to every one who helped make this a reality.

What's next for the library is, as always, a work in progress. This summer will highlight a reading program for preschool children; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects for middle school children; and the huge step of adding ebooks and downloadable audio to our circulating collection.

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# Unemployment— Why Should We Care?

By Carolyn Shafer

To be unemployed is scary—especially when one is the head of household and has a child to feed. I have been that person, and I know only too well the frustrations and despair of being unemployed. Many of us, however, have never been in such a situation and know little, if anything, about today's unemployment problem.

Let's lay out some statistics that may help. As of January 2014, the nation's official unemployment rate was 6.6%, a figure federal and state agencies base on "total unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force." Out of that, about 5% comprise persons relocating, changing occupations, coming to the end of a seasonal job, or simply not wanting to work.

So where are we locally? According to the Arizona Commerce Authority, as of December 2013, the rate of unemployment in Patagonia was 12.8% (56 people), in Sonoita 6% (28 people), and in Elgin 16.1% (28 people). It is unrealistic to expect a 0% unemployment rate. There will always be people who are moving between jobs or who voluntarily choose to be unemployed.



Subtracting the 5% that are jobless due to factors listed above, the number of unemployed becomes 34 in Patagonia, 5 in Sonoita and 19 in Elgin. That still leaves people who want to work and can't find employment, even though there are jobs available. Some jobs can be found in local advertisements or by word of mouth. In addition, there is the Santa Cruz County One Stop Center for Workforce Development, located in Nogales (for information call 520-375-7670). This facility, part of a chain of One Stop Centers throughout Arizona, posts job listings and offers information about career options and instruction on how to conduct a job search, write a resume, and behave during an interview.

In part the problem of finding employment relates to matching the skills and experience of those seeking jobs to the

requirements of the jobs that are available. Some of those who can't find work need to earn a wage that can support their family, but don't have the skills to qualify for such positions. Others may get turned down for a job because they are overqualified.



Patagonia's high school seniors who are preparing to enter the job market, are "strongly tied to this community," according to school counselor Rosann Clark, who has worked in high school counseling for many years. She says that she has never seen any place where students return to their home community at the rate she observes here. The career interests expressed by this

year's graduating class include medicine, environmental sustainability, criminal justice, military service, social service, and ranch management, among others.

In order to stay in their community, these young adults will need to find jobs that suit their career goals within the industries that comprise our local economy. Right now, those industries are primarily ranching, local food production, eco-tourism (hiking, bicycling, birding, etc), retail sales, and wineries. For them, as well as for those in our community whose struggle to find employment is ongoing, our challenge is to define and strengthen a local economy that provides a diversity of livelihoods that are economically stable enough to support all who are willing to work. To be truly sustainable, that economy must also take into account factors contributing to quality of life. Next month, we'll explore ways of defining a community's quality of life and evolving a thriving economic model that meets that goal.



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## I Remember Nora

by Ann Katzenbach

I feel bad that Nora Ephron is no longer with us. I miss her spunk, her humor, and her style. I miss her honesty, and her outspoken feminist point of view. Although she's been dead for nearly two years, I have been visiting her thanks to the recently published, *The Most of Nora Ephron*, a sizable book that contains much of her best writing, including the entire text of *Heartburn*, the novel about her marriage to Carl Bernstein that won her so many fans and supporters while vilifying the character of the fa-

mous Watergate reporter in perpetuity.

What I enjoyed most in *The Most....* were Ephron's early essays. I didn't read *Esquire* or *Cosmopolitan* back in the 1970s, so I missed some wonderful insights and writing. Ephron's slant on the events and personalities of that era was radical and insightful, and ranged from amusing to hilarious.

We were born two years apart, during the second world war. Nora graduated from Wellesley College in 1962 and returned in 1996 to

deliver the commencement address. In her speech, she reminded all those graduates of how much the world had changed. Referring to her own class, Ephron said, "We weren't meant to have futures; we were meant to marry them. We weren't meant to have politics, or careers that mattered, or opinions, or lives; we were meant to marry them." She noted that a teaching degree was recommended as something to fall back on—in case you didn't find a husband. Ephron did find a husband—three of them—but she never taught school. She wanted to be a writer.

She went to New York to find a job and ended up at *Newsweek* working in the mail room while young men with college degrees were hired as reporters. She was then promoted to "clipper," which involved cutting out articles from national newspapers and sending them to relevant departments. Next rung was "researcher," a fancy name for "fact checker." This was all moving too slowly for Ephron who was easily bored. In most cities, it helps to know people if you want to jump start a career, and Ephron was always good at this. She made friends with a magazine publisher, Victor Navasky, who asked her to write a parody of a well-known *New York Post* gossip column. She did, and *The Post* almost sued, but instead, the publisher, Dorothy Schiff, thought if someone could

write that well, she should hire her. This launched a career that went from reporting to commentary to films to stage plays. Nora

*"Here are some questions I am constantly noodling over: Do you splurge or do you hoard? Do you live every day as if it's your last, or do you save your money on the chance you'll live 20 more years? Is life too short or is it going to be too long? Do you work as hard as you can or do you slow down to smell the roses? And where do carbohydrates fit into all this? Are we really going to have to spend our last years avoiding bread, especially now that bread in America is so unbelievably delicious? And what about chocolate?"*

Ephron wrote for so many decades that her early writing seems dated to younger readers who probably never heard of Helen Gurley Brown or Deep Throat, Julie Eisenhower or Craig Claiborne, but if you lived consciously, or even unconsciously, through the 70s, these names will bring back the amazement of *Cosmopolitan* Magazine, Watergate, and the beginning of the food revolution. Ephron documented so much of it and continued to do so into the 21st century. She mined the irony, skewered the duplicitous, admired the great talents, and was painfully honest and therefore funny where her own looks, cooking, and sex life were concerned.

I feel bad that I am using the past tense. I didn't know how much there was to miss until I picked up *The Most of Nora Ephron* at the library. Check it out yourself if you want to be reminded of how comical we all were, and still are.

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LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

## Beyond Beyond

By Martin Levowitz

One sunny autumn day, 12 years ago, our next-to-last dog, Punk, was cashing in his chips. We took him up Mt. Lemmon to a meadow in the woods, his favorite place. He had barely enough strength to walk. We helped him get down from the car. He had to yield to gravity, and wobbled down a gentle slope into the deep green grass beside a stream. There he lay down. It seemed certain he'd never get up. We sat there for a while; then we left. Every hour or so we'd check back. Too

weak, by then, to raise his head, he'd roll his eyes to see that it was us, and try to wag his tail, to signal, as before, that we were very special friends. The tail just twitched. This was touching, heartbreaking, and uncalled for. Our visits were recalling him to what had been his life—distracting him from his more inward work. The best thing we could do as this guy's friends was walk away, so he could do what he was there to do. In love and tears we said goodbye, then moved away to let him die in peace. Time To Let Go.

All of us animals know how to die. It's natural, like being born. In fact it is a lot like giving birth. There are cycles of pushing and cycles of rest. Both take a lot of concentration and a little work. Let's hope that when our time is up, if we have human company at all, we're surrounded by those who respect this natural passage, and not by spooked-out, superstitious twits whose distress with

reality—notably death—inclines them to oppose and complicate. I hope to croak alone, at night, out lying on the ground.

An artist friend of mine, at 62, was dying in the hospital. He'd had a massive hemorrhage of the brain. We'd had a playful kinship, Chuck and I, and were always quite pleased to collide. We felt like fellow aliens, a long, long way from home. The doctors were certain he'd die, and they held out no hope. The corridor was full of Chuck's good friends, and half of them were pretty freaked. The vibe out in the hall was raw: replete with horror and dismay—which saddened me and slightly pissed me off. These folks were old enough to know we die. They hadn't done their homework and thus needed to resist. Forgive my petty judgment trip, please, Lord.

By now these other friends had paid their last respects to Chuck. All morning they'd been ushered through his room, to say goodbye. I was one of the last to arrive. There he was in a coma, his breathing distressed, loud and rough. The blinds were

drawn; the light was dim. His daughter stood beside the bed. She gave me a brief, tearful hug, then nodded toward the door—that she would take a little break—so I was left alone with Chuck. I felt great sadness, certainly, but something deep and peaceful, too; some sort of faith that it was all OK. I don't know what took hold of me, just then. I had a strong, surprising urge to place my open palm atop his head. I felt something open within me—I don't quite know what—something old, something wise. The feeling was easy and solid and calm, and it made me some sort of a bridge or conductor for Chuck, who took one long, very deep breath, sighed, and died. He had surely been waiting to go, and just needed a sign that the runway was clear.

Plato once said that we aren't really dead so long as those alive remember us. He offered that as solace, I suppose. But now I have to wonder if that's good. Do fond or hostile recollections in the minds of those who live confuse, perplex or tug on us once we have gone beyond? Will we be goats? Oops, I mean ghosts?



## Drug Store Sirens

By Cassina Farley

My 38th birthday (gasp) happened back in June, and it's taken me until now to come to terms with it. I couldn't stop it. But I look at my bathroom counter and realize I sure did give it a good try. For crying out loud I own a cream or potion for just about every body part.

It all started when I noticed a...well let's just call it what the commercials call it "a fine line"—somewhere on my forehead. I know by admitting this publicly I'll have people studying my forehead while purchasing their tomatoes. I caution you:

it's a touchy subject. That being said, this aforementioned fine line was like a giant beacon and I needed to squelch it.

So off to the drug store I went to purchase the potion that would rid me of my problem. I bought a \$10 cream that promised the world and went home. Nothing. I figured it's because I needed to go and purchase it from a reputable dealer, you know—the dreaded beauty counter?

Can I just say they freak me out. All of those perfect, unflawed, seductively sweet-smelling women telling me what I need to be beautiful. Like sirens luring women to their own cosmetic deaths. This time I bought the \$35 cream, (and a shirt and a purse).

I started to use the cream and

something happened—I started to notice the dark circles under my eyes. So back to the sirens I went. This time I came home with an entire "face care system" (and some shoes). I don't need to tell you that this was becoming an expensive obsession.

I used all of the creams religiously, buffed my elbows and feet, scrubbed myself down with the scratchiest washcloth known to man. I toned, exfoliated, hydrated, hot oiled, shaved, plucked and you know what happened? I still turned 38.

So I began to focus on the positive. I have good car insurance. I guess I'm no longer considered a risk. Depressing. As a matter of fact, I'm so insured it seems it would make good sense to start taking risks, I'm covered



right? I have an IRA—not exactly sure how that works, but I have it on good authority that it's what you get when you reach middle age. I'm also very aware of my health—every creak, crack and pop. Overall I guess I feel pretty good, except that as I approach 39 I have yet to deal with that "fine line." Not sure I will.

Good news is Zach informed me the other day that the older I get the younger I look. Did I ever mention to you what a smart man Zach is?

# The Real Threat to Our Water Supply

by Michael Stabile

Our municipal watershed is the only source of potable water for the town of Patagonia and over 300 private well users within a three-mile radius of town. The recent article in the PRT about the drop in the town's water table and the subsequent discussion of possible water rationing is a wake up call to all residents of Patagonia.

Water is taken for granted; we all just assume that we will be able to turn the tap and water will flow. Thirteen years of drought and climatologists' model of drier years to come should affect the way we use this precious resource. We should all do our part to conserve water.

At a recent meeting of the town council it was decided to have a further discussion with town residents on cutting back

on their water usage voluntarily. Where else might the Town Council look for water protection? How about opposing industrial mining impacts on the community water supply?

The Rosemont project is projected to use 6,000 acre feet of water per year. That's almost two BILLION gallons of groundwater. The Sonoran Institute's water study calculated that the effects of this drawdown of the water table could possibly be felt as far away as Patagonia and could in turn, have a great effect on the Sonoita creek drainage.

The Wildcat Silver project is located in the headwaters of the Harshaw creek drainage. When Wildcat Silver's first Preliminary Economic Assessment was issued for investors, the project covered about 3,000 acres. The project has since grown to 13,666 acres, and

the open pit has expanded by at least 30%, according to Wildcat Silver's Pre-Feasibility Study released in December 2013. When Chris Jones, Wildcat Silver's then CEO, gave a presentation to Patagonia



residents in 2010, he said that the water usage would be 450,000-700,000 gallons of water per day. Estimating water usage from Wildcat Silver's own formula and data (one-half ton water for each ton of ore processed), the Wildcat Silver open pit mine would potentially consume almost two million gallons of water per DAY. By comparison, the town of Patagonia uses roughly 115,000 gallons of water per day. Even if everyone in town conserves water by 20%, it amounts to only

23,000 gallons per day. It will have very little impact if these mines go into operation.

These two mines would use close to three billion gallons of groundwater per year. The Town should take a stronger stance on the real threat to our water supply. We can conserve all the water we want, but it would be nothing in comparison to the amount of water consumed by proposed mining.

We live in a desert. We are in a drought with long-term scientific forecasts for increasing water shortages. Water is simply the most precious commodity we have. Water is far more precious than a few jobs promised to us.

*Michael Stabile was the chairman of Patagonia's Planning and Zoning commission, and at present is a Board member of PARA. He worked with Patagonia Town Manager David Teel to get the Sonoita Creek and Harshaw Creek drainages designated as the Town of Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed.*



**Beth Barth**  
home matters  
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# My Turn

by Sammi

First I would like to thank all the nice people that have complimented me on my first attempt at journalism. It wasn't easy learning Microsoft Word for Windows 8.1, and even harder to learn to type—especially with paws—but now that I know how, I thought I would try to write another column. Thank God for Spellcheck.

I need to let you know that I am in the dog house—not the good kind. In fact I am so deep in my “Time Out” corner I need a flashlight to find my way out for meals and walks. I am trying to make the best of it.

Here's the way it happened. The other morning as Master and I were

leaving the house for my morning toilet and extended sniffing session at Three Canyons, there in the front yard was a leopard—yes, I said Leopard! In an attempt to protect Master I knew I had to chase away the beast before someone got mauled. That is just what I did. I chased the leopard from the yard and down the street. Unfortunately, I didn't take the time to open the screen door. Now we need a new screen door. I should like to point out that Master was not attacked. He says it was just a black cat. I believe if you Google

“leopard” it is described as a black cat. I didn't have the time to analyze its size. It looked big to me.

So this is what I need—if one of my dear readers would buy a house from Master, then he could buy a new screen door and I could get out of the “Time Out” corner. And all would be right with the world. At least think about it.

Speaking of Master, he is driving me crazy. All he talks about is some lady in town—how smart she is, how nice she is, what a great smile she has—plus she is pretty. I think whoever she is should know that there is only room for one female at 319 Sonoita and that female be ME. Should someone try to cut in on my action I would have no choice but to inflict a severe butt bite requiring that individual to sleep on her stomach or remain standing for two weeks. Hell hath

no fury...

Also, I learned a new word. I was in front of the Gathering Grounds chatting with some friends when one of them mentioned “BACON”. They said it was the most delicious of all foods. They said it tastes equally good whether it is undercooked, cooked just right, or overcooked. I need some of this stuff. I hope it can be micro-waved since that seems to be the extent of Master's cooking skills.

Well it is getting light out and Master will want his laptop back—so, till next time.

And despite this “Time Out” problem I still love Master a lot—a whole lot and I know he loves me a whole lot. So all is good with the world—except for the presence of cats.

# Discipline

By Melissa Murrietta

It was just another Saturday morning. I got up, took a shower, got organized, and headed to Nogales for a day of grocery shopping, running errands, and McDonald's for lunch. I took my eight-year-old daughter with me. We planned to make a day of it.

My daughter asked, “If I eat all of my happy meal, can we go to Dairy Queen for ice cream?” I hesitated, since I was on one of my diets and I had just lost 12 pounds, but I love her and said, “Yes.” We got to McDonald's, and I ordered her a happy meal containing six pieces of chicken nuggets and an apple juice. Instead of my usual Big Mac, large fries, and a Dr. Pepper I had chicken salad and a bottle of water. Yuck! I am not thrilled about this rabbit food, but diets require discipline.

We sat, ate, and then my daughter ran around on the jungle gym yelling, screaming, and playing with the new friends she'd met. I sat there with my magazine full of trashy gossip about the Hollywood stars. I read this stuff for different reasons, some too embarrassing to admit. I will say, I find it satisfying to know that rich and famous people still have drama and

nonsense in their lives just like the rest of us.

Then, my little one reminded me that it was time to go to Dairy Queen. We drove there, went inside and got in line along with all those millions who want their ice cream. It was pure torture for me as each person paid and walked by me on the way out with those yummy treats. Why didn't I go to the drive-thru window and avoid this agony? I thought. Our turn came, and I said, “Can I please have a small vanilla cone dipped in chocolate.” Then, I hesitated and self-control went out the window. “Can you please make that two.” As I paid for the ice cream, my precious little angel asked in a very loud voice, “Mom, I thought you were on a diet because your butt's too big!”

All I can remember is that I felt a menopausal hot flash which I am too young to experience. I wanted to die. The lady behind me tried to cover her hysterics by coughing and the man behind her was staring at my big butt! I wanted the ground to open up and swallow me. We took the two cones and walked to the car. There, I decided that I had burned plenty of calories as a result of my embarrassment and was entitled to a treat.



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# Does Patagonia Need a P&Z?

By Walter Andrew

Is it beneficial for Patagonia to have a Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z)? The state statutes don't require one for a town our size, and after the resignations of the last two chairpersons and additional members, it is a legitimate question. PRT sought a number of opinions on the question, and the responses follow:

**Adrienne Halpert** was one of the original members of the P&Z and a longstanding chairperson. She believes the P&Z has an important function, speaks on behalf of the community, and should present proposals with clarity and without bias. Her view is that "if you don't plan, you get planned," meaning that lack of planning can result in development that is in conflict with community views. Halpert

feels strongly that a P&Z must be proactive, and thinks that the Use Permit Ordinance is a good example of that. Contrary to the perception that the use permit was adopted in reaction to Brent Bowden's large vehicle storage yard on North Third Avenue, she says that, in truth, "We worked on the use permit for years." She commented that recently "things have become too personalized and we need to get back to our focus on the greater good."

**Michael Stabile** is the immediate past chairperson of the P&Z and spent three years on the committee. He resigned this past year stating, "There is no incentive to join the P&Z". Stabile feels that when Adrienne Halpert was chair-

person, the P&Z was an independent body, and that the council listened to its advice. But, says Stabile, "the composition of the council has changed over time, and conflicting personality and political issues are now affecting the relationship between P&Z and the council." As a result, he says, "the council does not listen to the advice of the P&Z, and sometimes the advice they gave was not even discussed at council meetings." In Stabile's view, "The P&Z is irrelevant when it comes to the majority of the present council members."

**Mayor Ike Isakson** says he originally thought that Patagonia did not need a P&Z, but now feels that it provides a service to the council by looking into details of the use permit process and providing

a summary of pertinent information to the council". He says that "Patagonia probably does not need a P&Z, but it is nice to have one, as it provides a buffer between the council and use permit projects." He added, however, that "It depends upon who is on it and whether they have an open mind," and said in closing, "It is too bad that we have to plan and have permits."

**Mary Munroe** is the current chairperson of the P&Z, serving with Melissa Murrietta and Amanda Montenez, pending the full complement of five mandated members. She has served on the P&Z for nearly three years and says that the present P&Z is steering clear of politics. She feels that the P&Z fulfills an important function as the eyes, ears and conscience of the community.

**Melissa Murrietta**, a life long resident, has been on the P&Z for less than a year but feels that it provides a valuable service. She believes that it is important for the Council to trust and respect what the P&Z does and that both groups need to separate personal and professional aspects. She notes that political differences over mining have been a problem in the past but that the council seemed to be paying more attention to their recommendations now.

**Gary Gay** is a former mayor of Patagonia, and his question is, "If you get rid of the P&Z, who is going to do the legwork and

review and give the council recommendations?" He suggests that the council is not going to take the time to do this, and that with a P&Z there is someone who is going to look at all the material that is presented in connection with use permits.

**Meg Gilbert** is a current and long-serving member of the council. She says, "I think P&Z can be a great asset to the council. First, P&Z involves more citizens in the town decisions. Second, there is a lot of research the P&Z could do to better inform council decisions about planning. The code says the P&Z should identify the factors influencing the character and locations of development, focusing on existing conditions and desirable changes. This research could help the council avoid making planning decisions randomly and in haste, but rather approach them as part of an overall view. Third, there are still goals in the Patagonia General Plan that need to be transformed into specific suggestions for the town code. Finally, the P&Z's review of use permits prior to the council considering them adds an extra step of public review before council has to act, giving the applicant some feedback which could help them fine tune a project before the final decision.

Even though it isn't what's happened recently, I am for a two-hearing process for use permits. Going forward, I believe the P&Z deserves more staff and council support, more training and education on the open meeting law, use permits and the building permit process, and positive feedback from the council."



Photo by Cassina Farley

Friends and family gathered to release balloons on February 12, in memory of Patagonia resident Jacob Dodson, who was killed on that date two years ago.

# Keys to An Effective P&Z

## A COMMENTARY

By Walter Andrew

From the results of the survey on page 12, it appears that the P&Z can and does perform a useful function for Patagonia. However, to function effectively, it requires a number of things:

1) Respect: It is important that the council show respect, due consideration of, and appreciation for the P&Z's recommendations. Otherwise, P&Z members will have no reason to apply themselves to the time-consuming job of investigating the facts and developing suggestions.

2) Education: P&Z members need to have or obtain some familiarity with municipal planning, including the Town General Plan, applicable Arizona statutes, and town ordinances. They also need access to the town attorney when they have legal questions. Council members go to "Council school," but unfortunately, the P&Z members are not afforded that opportunity.

3) Avoiding Politics: Political and environmental views can destroy the proper functioning of the P&Z. Restraint and professionalism are needed when it comes to members of both the P&Z and the Council. It is not a perfect world, but history indicates that improvement is needed in this case.

4) Ample opportunity for inquiry: In any public hearing, the P&Z members must have ample opportunity to question applicants. The joint P&Z and Council hearings do not seem to have provided that. Perhaps this could be remedied by allowing P&Z members to have the first opportunity to ask questions of the applicant at joint hearings.

5) Apply the same standards to each applicant: The P&Z's handling of the initial use permits resulted in detailed approval resolutions with specific conditions. Subsequent approvals have not been handled with the same care. The best example is the Bob Ollerton permit. Because he seemed to have the unanimous support of the town, the permit sailed through with no conditions except that the Youth Center have "an adult present when it was open." If John Shelton had applied for a permit at this location, the application might well have been subject to much more scrutiny and had numerous conditions attached. Even though we may be confident about how Ollerton will manage this property, in all use permit cases *it is important to remember that the applicant may not be the only owner of the property and that the permits are forever.* In my view, the P&Z, at a minimum, should have provided an in depth investigation and recommendations that included the location of the Youth Center (which was never discussed by the council) and details such as hours of use, lighting, etc.

Both the council and the P&Z need to follow these guidelines in order to work together effectively.

## Meet the New Teachers Journey Hayes

By Carlos Mingura

The Patagonia Union High School is thankful to have received such a wonderful teacher this school year, Journey Hayes. She is more than qualified for the job with with a Bachelor's degree in journalism at NAU, and a teaching degree at Ottawa University in Phoenix, Arizona. She is currently finishing her master's degree in English Literature at South Dakota State University. Mrs. Hayes also has a great deal of teaching experience. She taught at Payson High school for two years, at South Dakota State University for two years, Howard High school in South Dakota for two years, and is currently teaching English and journalism, grades 9 - 12 at Patagonia Union High School. When asked



Photo by Savannah Skiver

why she wanted to become a teacher, she responded by saying "Someone once told me that I couldn't save them all, so I thought to myself, challenge accepted." Mrs. Hayes' motives for teaching are uplifting and inspiring to many of Patagonia's students.

### Doogie R.I.P.

Missing since September 11th, 2013. I discovered Doogie's little skeleton, bleached white and surrounded by brilliant red tail feathers and some grey ones, on February 8, not far from home. He was so fond of this entire community and vice versa. He blessed many lives with big joy, song, mischief, comedy, companionship, LOVE, and the list goes on. I was overwhelmed in a beautiful way by how so many in Patagonia and the surrounding area helped search for him; cared so much, and offered support in many ways. I'm so grateful, and lucky for that. A big Thank You.

—Cindy Mohr



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# The Making of A Community Newspaper

*Every month, with the exception of July, the Patagonia Regional Times publishes a newspaper that is offered for free on news stands in the Mountain Empire. When it began publishing in 2009, PRT was 12 pages long. Four people put it together. These days the paper covers 28 pages, with more than 20 people involved in its publication. Nearly all are volunteers.*

They put in long hours each month to provide this community with a paper that's informative, entertaining, and painted with local color. Everyone works from home. There is no PRT office. Who does what? And how do they do it?

Early in the month our six editorial board members meet to outline story possibilities and decide who will write each article. Katie Ballard usually goes to town council meetings. Walter does a little bit of everything, from local issues to sports events and photography. Lynn Davison likes doing research on difficult topics, and Ann and Donna usually sign up for what remains. Or someone

pose and write about a subject, like Carolyn Shafer, whose article is on page 7.

Columnists (eight and sometimes more) and reporters (two, sometimes five) have a deadline of the 20th of each month. They send in their articles electronically, and Patra Kelly, who serves as gatekeeper for our email account (prteditor@gmail.com), keeps track of everything that comes in (articles, announcements, photos, ads, press releases) and organizes them so they don't get lost.

While our deadline is still a week or more away, the submissions trickle in slowly, but on the 20th, there is an avalanche, initiating the busiest period of activity. All articles are reviewed by Ann and Donna and are edited as needed, with the help of Judith Whitcomb. Editing may consist of nothing more than minor grammatical corrections or may entail revision to shorten an article or to reword awkward phrasing. The edited versions are sent back to the writers for their approval.

Meanwhile, Ad Manager Janie Trafton is hustling to ensure that our advertisers have sent in their ads. Walter may be chasing down subjects he's been asked to photograph, and Ann and Lynn are doing last-minute

research and making phone calls to check facts. While all this is going on, Donna is beginning the process of fitting all the articles, columns, poems, art, photographs, classifieds, the calendar, and ads into a 28-page layout on her computer. There are constant questions: What will go on the front page? How many photographs should accompany a particular story? Did we get all names spelled correctly? Who is this a picture of? and on and on. When it all seems to be falling into place, there always seems to be some last-minute addition or change.

When everything is finally edited and laid out, Donna prints a copy. Ann, Walter, and Susan Belt each proof-read it. Errors are corrected, and then it's proofed again by Judith Whitcomb and Judy Clegg, our master grammarians. Donna makes these corrections. By now we are a day away from printing. Ann looks over the layout one last time, and Donna sends it electronically to our printer in Tucson. The next day it is delivered to Patagonia, where it is put on news stands by Ron Reibslager; it is distributed in Sonoita by Don Webster.

As can be seen from our masthead, this process includes a supporting cast of columnists; advisory board members; our bookkeeper, Marti Chase; and our website technician, who uploads each issue to our website. Bethany

Brandt has just taken over this important job.

Although our staff brings a mix of relevant experience and skills to the job of newspaper publishing, none of us had a career as a professional journalist. In some sense, we are learning as we go, but we all enjoy the challenge of trying to produce a newspaper that somehow manages to reflect the unique nature of this community.

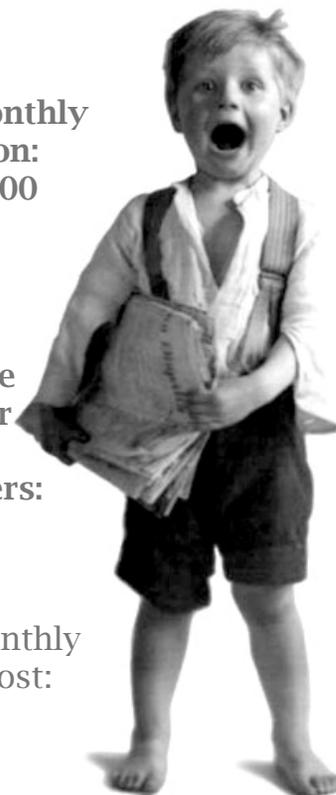
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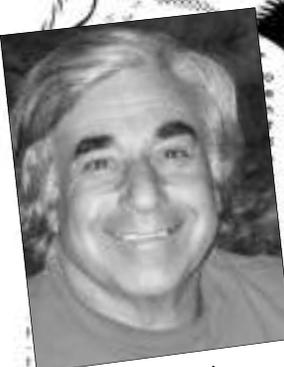
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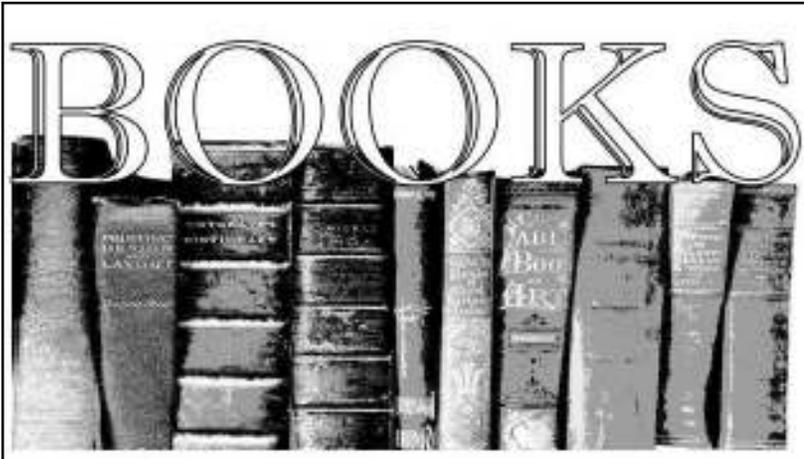
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LAURA WENZEL



A Review by Elizabeth Zinn

### *The Horse Lover: A Cowboy's Quest to Save the Wild Mustangs*

By H. Alan Day with Lynn Wiese Sneyd  
University of Nebraska Press, 2014 243 pages

and wild, are the very heart of this book. You won't forget the power of Saber, the huge heart of Jemima, the bravery of Tequila, the magnificence of Happy. Day's love of these animals and the untamed beauty of the land shine through on every page. He speaks to us in a cowboy vernacular that is both colorful and elegant. The book is sprinkled with black and white photos of some of his favorite equine characters, woven among vignettes both thrilling and heartrending, including Day's encounters with the unpredictable bu-

of 1971 says, "It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands." When the BLM contracted with Alan Day to care for 1,500 wild horses, pressure from grazing interests already had begun to force the wild animals off public lands. A sanctuary seemed a reasonable, cost-effective, and humane way to house the un-



When Alan Day bought an old ranch on 35,000 acres of South Dakota grassland, he was no starry-eyed idealist trying to save the west. The brother of Sandra Day O'Connor, he grew up on the Lazy B cattle ranch in southern Arizona, learned the business from the bottom up as a youngster and spent his entire career in the ranching industry. So he came armed with a sound business plan and the deep knowledge necessary to carry out his dream of running the first government-sponsored wild horse sanctuary in the United States. He named the ranch Mustang Meadows, brought in 1,500 feral horses, and began a five-year adventure that brought both exquisite joy and the most profound heartbreak of his life.

This memoir details Day's experiences as he and his crew developed groundbreaking techniques to control the unruly herd and got to know some of the individual horses in his care. Day's portraits of individual horses, both tame

reaucracy of the BLM.

Indeed, though the events in this book occur in the late 1980s, they possess an uncanny timeliness, as investigations today uncover the extent of the BLM's collusion with moneyed interests and its callous handling of the animals under its authority—often illegally sending them into slaughter. The Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act

wanted animals within the intent of the law. And, in fact, Day's experiment does stand out as a shining example of what intelligent policy could accomplish, in contrast to the huge taxpayer expense and abhorrent conditions endured by over 50,000 animals currently in the BLM's "care." Perhaps someday soon the powers that be will reexamine Alan Day's experience, so beautifully set forth in this heartfelt memoir.

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## Patagonia Pool News

By Martha Kelly

The Patagonia Pool will be opened this season—yay! Repairs to the filter equipment are complete and the process of organizing lifeguards is underway. One of the big changes to come—which has affected most of the world and has arrived here because of the unrest and crazies in the world—is that everyone on campus must be accounted for. What does that mean to pool users? We will all have pool tags for our cars and passes to be shown at the gate.

A schedule for lap swim, water aerobics and swim lessons will be posted in May.

After doing some research on other school pools, we've come to find out how few there actually are. We are a lucky community to have this gift. To keep it, the community will have to pitch in. The pool will always need donations, and user fees will go up, although an amount for this summer hasn't yet been finalized. If everyone pitches in and supports this valuable community resource, we can keep these fees affordable.

## Laundry Day

By Rhonda Brew,  
2013, 352 pages

Review by  
Cornelia O'Conner

This is an account of the worst laundry day ever. Arrested! Through Rhonda Brew's eyes we see what would be a devastating event in anyone's life. How does Rhonda deal with prison?—with humor, unshakable faith in her God, and a very resilient personality.

*Laundry Day* is a peek into the journal she kept while she was in prison. It's filled with wry humor. There's the food: "I think lunch is ready. It smells like burnt chicken." There are clothing issues: "I want to go to prison so I can buy a sweat suit." (She was still in a detention center awaiting transfer to federal prison). And gratitude for everyday things like hot water in the shower and



a toilet stall with a door.

This is a "tell all and tell it like it is" account with enough detail to give insight into her daily life in prison. Rhonda wrote to help herself survive from day to day. You'll find this the story of a funny, hard-working, kind hearted and talented woman who gained fame among her fellow inmates for her creative abilities.

She describes the boredom of baloney sandwiches, the unfairness of lockdowns, and the interactions of guards and inmates. From Rhonda's experience, it's not hard to imagine life in any United States women's prison.

Being cooped up with the same people day after day,

with almost no privacy, can wear on the nerves. Rhonda reveals how she and her "bunky" can barely stand one another one day only to be giving each other valued presents (a postage stamp or a pair of shoelaces) a few days later.

Ironically, Rhonda's arrest and conviction stemmed from transporting a substance (marijuana) that is being decriminalized world wide. Twenty states, plus the District of Columbia have enacted medical marijuana laws, and two of those states have legalized recreational use. Who knows, in the near future transporting marijuana probably won't be a criminal offense in Arizona.

After reading this book, you will know why Rhonda can hold her head high, and why she deserves respect. Rhonda is an exceptional artist, and Patagonia

has benefited from her talent. Look for her lettering art at the following locations and probably some that I don't know about: Patagonia Market, Patagonia Gas Station, Red Mountain Foods, Vivapura, Pilates Patagonia, June's Tax, the ice cream mural by Gathering Grounds, The Tin Shed, Grayces, Ovens of Patagonia, Long Reality, Stage Stop Inn, Wild Horse Restaurant, Mariposa Clinic, Many Horses Trading Co., Patagonia Creative Arts Center, Creative Spirit Artists, Pony Tail Salon, and the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

The Patagonia library has a copy of *Laundry Day*, and it's available at Red Mountain Foods, Mariposa Books, and on Amazon.



## Earthworks Provide a Solution to Water Problems

By: Molly McCormick

works created by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). These simple structures made of earth and rock have continued to protect the residents of Patagonia from torrential monsoon rains for 80 years. Slowing down water has many benefits, like recharging the aquifer, increasing moisture in the soil over longer periods of time, and supporting plant populations, pollinators, and nature enthusiasts. All of these benefits can lead to a return of flowing water in creeks and springs.

The town of Patagonia is currently feeling the effects of water that hasn't been slowed enough in places. As the rain falls on our grassland home, it begins to collect and follow the path of least resistance, joining together as it flows from the top of the watershed, moving down hills and into channels and eventually to Sonoita Creek. If it is raining heavily and the rain falls on dry soil, it is like water from a bucket being poured

onto a dry sponge. The water will rush off, and the sponge will remain dry. The rushing rainwater can gain momentum as it travels downhill, and we all know how destructive that erosive force can be.

Have you ever been kept from crossing a flashing Sonoita Creek during monsoon season? Have you worried your car wouldn't be able to make it through deep puddles around town? Maybe you have witnessed a favorite cottonwood tree begin to die as its roots get exposed when rushing water undercuts the banks and a sinking water table leaves its "feet" high and dry. At the most extreme, erosion in the creek bed lowers our water table. Undercutting can creep close to houses. Structures can be flooded. These are all effects of water moving too quickly.

Water in this region wasn't always in a hurry. Just visit the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve to see a remnant of the Sonoita Creek cienega as a spongy habitat filled with water-loving grasses and reeds, ready to absorb heavy rains.

Ask the town elders about the role the creek played in their childhoods. This spongy habitat reduced the negative impacts of storm water erosion, undercutting, and flooding.

Let's not let gently flowing water and spongy soils be just a memory and an artifact inside a preserve. We can actively recharge our aquifer, our most valuable resource in the arid southwest, and lay the foundation of ecological restoration by infiltrating moisture, starting at the top of the watershed and working all the way down to the creek, to revitalize Patagonia's legacy of earthwork construction. This needs to happen one community project and one rock at a time. It will take all of us together to shape a landscape to better suit the needs of everything living here. Fortunately, there are a number of opportunities both large and small for you to learn how to access sites and build structures.

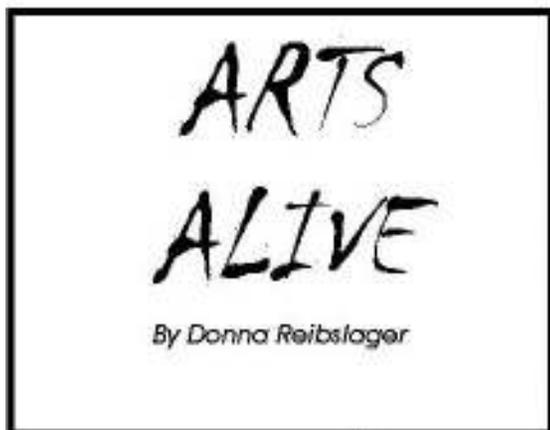
Patagonia's Tree and Park Committee has been hosting earthwork-building projects. You can see the results of recent projects

by checking out the sycamore trees across from the Marshal's office, and the serpentine mounds around the junipers by the community center. Look for further opportunities as this work continues.

The Friends of Sonoita Creek and the Patagonia Museum lead tours of watershed related topics. Find out more at [sonoitacreek.org](http://sonoitacreek.org) and [thepatagoniamuseum.org](http://thepatagoniamuseum.org).

Stay tuned. Borderlands Restoration will be hosting a residential earthwork project for backyard gardeners in March. Borderlands will also be hosting training workshops and hiring folks to construct large-scale earthworks on the Babocomari Ranch this spring, and we continue to develop these kinds of opportunities on both public and private lands. Visit our website at [borderlandsrestoration.org](http://borderlandsrestoration.org).

Patagonia's Earth Fest, to be held April 26, will offer many educational opportunities on the subject of water.



## New Artists at Creative Spirit Artists Gallery

The gallery has added several new artists over the past few months. It now features work by Patagonia artists Richard Connolly (metal work) and Saul Lieberman (recycled art).

New Sonoita artists include Tom and Cheryl Rogos, who create mesquite lamps, as well as western photos and glass work, and Stagecoach Bags, featuring cowboy boot purses.

There are gourd masks and vessels by Diane Wiest of Green Valley, and watercolor giclée prints by Margaret Brummerman of Cortaro. Kat Manton Jones of Tucson is exhibiting her watercolors, and the gallery's newest photographers are Livia Pontual (see story below) and Frank Cripe of Nogales.

The gallery has also installed a grid display system on its walls, which has notably increased the volume of wall art on display.

## Sacred Sky / Sacred Earth

An Exhibit by  
Judith Hinton Andrew



An exhibit of new work by Patagonia artist Judith Hinton Andrew will be opening at the Gathering Grounds on March 6, with a reception from 6 to 8 P.M. Titled "Sacred Sky/Sacred Earth," the exhibit is a selection of works on paper, taken from a series of pen and paper notations done from direct observation of the skyline at dusk. The artist made drawings every evening for one year, beginning in January 2013, from which she created paintings that seek to capture the soft and luminous quality of the day's last light.



When asked what led her to this project, she says "After the sun goes down, twilight envelops the earth in darkness, while the sky is still celebrating with color. This gift of nature's masterpieces, different each day and at times only lasting a few minutes, draws me inward, inspiring a magical joy and a feeling of gratitude for the spirit within."

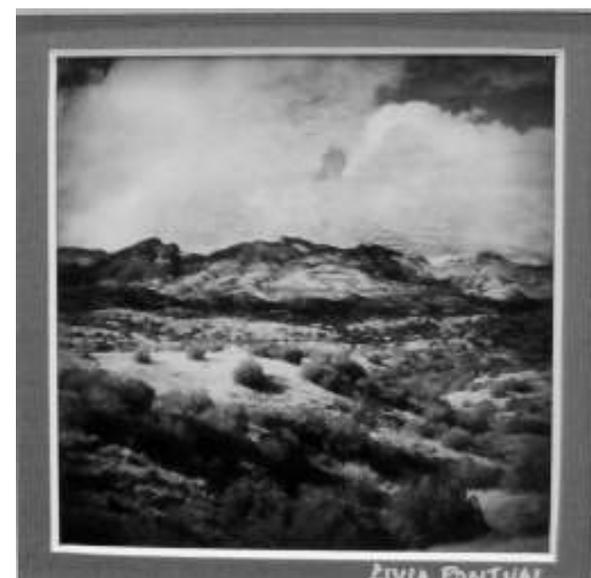
Judith Hinton Andrew's work is represented at Mesquite Grove Gallery in Patagonia and Tubac. The Gathering Grounds, located at 319 McKeown Avenue in Patagonia, will host this exhibit through March. For a visit to her studio to view work in progress, contact the artist at 394-2143.

## Photography by Livia Pontual Featured at Reception



Livia Pontual's new photographs were featured at a reception she hosted on February 18 at Creative Spirit Artists Gallery in Patagonia. The small, framed images are subtly iridescent and almost appear to be beautifully detailed miniature paintings.

Livia, who is known for her jewelry making, is one of several new artists at Creative Spirit, where her exhibit can be seen during gallery hours, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., seven days a week. The gallery is located at 317 McKeown Avenue.



# In Memory of Ann Swan

March 16, 1922 - February 18, 2014



Anne Swan was so much a part of Patagonia that it is easy to forget she had a life before coming here.

That life began in Minneapolis, where she grew up and attended the University of Minnesota, earning a degree in architecture. It was there that she met another architecture major, George Swan. They married in 1945.

In the postwar years that followed, they raised a family.

While George was pursuing his career, Anne remained at home with their three children. It was, after all, the 50s. But Anne's son, George, recalls that he always felt that his mother was not like the other kids' mothers. "I used to look forward to coming home after school," he says, "to see what colors she had been experimenting with. Half the living room would be taken up with her hand-dyed fabric, drying on clothesline stretched across the room."

Anne and George moved to North Dakota in 1961, and then to Wisconsin, about four years later. Anne was experimenting with fiber art, then in its infancy as an art form. She created wall hangings, soft sculpture, and fiber paintings, which were exhibited in gal-

leries and museums. Her award-winning work began to earn a reputation, and Anne was asked to lead seminars and workshops in this new media.

In the early 1980s, after hearing from Anne's sister Charlotte ("Cici") about the small town in Arizona where she lived, Anne and George visited Patagonia. They loved it and came to live here in 1984. George, by then a distinguished architect, designed a home for them on a hill just outside of town. Anne did some of her most productive work as an artist in the years that followed, exhibiting and selling at galleries in Tucson and back in Chicago.

Anne Swan was known and loved by many in this community. She encouraged its aspiring artists. She enjoyed a good argument. In recent years she could often be seen conversing with someone in the town's shops or on the sidewalk. Her lively mind never ceased to enjoy a dialogue with the world around her.

She often stated her belief that art's purpose was to communicate, to share. She wanted people who viewed her work to gain from it an emotion, an enthusiasm "that made them want to dance."

Anne also often said she

felt blessed to be a part of this community. She wrote a final message to any one she hadn't "had a chance to say goodbye to" that read: "To all of those who love me and care for me, who have made my life so rich and happy: I wish you all a bundle of love and happiness. I love you. Anne"

George, her husband of 64 years, passed away in 2009. Anne is survived by her sister, Cici Finley; her children George, Cynthia, and Nora; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson. A memorial service for the community is being tentatively planned for March.



*"Doing art in any form stirs up creative energy, putting us in touch with our deepest selves. The creative process is a journey into unknown territory. There is always a sense of mystery because we don't know what we will be bringing out. The more we become involved in creativity, the deeper we go. Then we begin to develop a trust in ourselves."*

— Anne Swan



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# Forever Young

By Penny Shellenbarger

The full moon came blasting through my window, and I knew this would be the best day yet. I carefully slipped my legs through the dogs, off the bed, and into my jeans. As I grabbed my boots and crept quietly out the door, I realized I would have to hurry to get the horses fed so we could beat this February 80 degree heat.

Last year I sold everything I had, to buy a small, secluded finger canyon for my horses. Patagonia's Young Riders meet out there most mornings for a new adventure. We might just ride to town for coffee, tying up at the new hitching post, or head out from the barn in any direction into the miles of hills and forests that surround us.

With the sun an hour up, we choose a horse and saddle up, sometimes quickly, sometimes not. Then check cinches, and, oh yeah, check again, 'cause something is bound to be upside down or backward. After all, there are a lot of important discussion going on (mainly with the horses), and even though we are masters at our trades—lawyer, educator, editor, detective, architect, author, taxidermist, and gemologist—we are just 60++ ingenués at the barn.

We grab our hats, though I've just traded in my felt for a helmet after admitting that comfort and security trumps cute and cool. And we are



Photo by Donna Lee

off, with Leslie and Jerri sitting up straight and confident, taking the lead, and Nancy on her finely groomed Hershey Bar, bringing up the rear. For now it is the warm feeling of being in the saddle. Becoming that child that straddled the old rusted barrel at sunset, dreaming of riding the mesa on my steed. Through those eyes, the hills and canyons come alive with history as we travel old trails or discover new ones. But the thing is to ride this horse. You may hear "Race!" and we will urge our horses on with everything we've got—for about 100 yards—each of us knowing that we could have won. Every horse presents a new opportunity.

You might need to talk him out of a tizzy or into a gait. We share each insight and success. We laugh at our failures and fears.

Loved it today when Phil yelled "Whoa!" and then, "I seem to have a problem." Both reins were on the same side of the horse. And we'll never forget Phil galloping through town to head off a loose horse, with bystanders pointing and yelling "He went thata-way." Twice I was treated to Yunghi's flying dismount off a stumbling horse—a tuck and roll over the shoulder that was gold medal quality. I love hearing Elise patiently explaining to

her buckskin, Nell, what a landfill is, and why she should not be afraid of white bags.

The bonus of any ride is the first poppy we see, or the chance to help find a lost dog or stray horse, rescue an orphaned calf, report a wounded doe, or warn property owners of new illegal traffic. Just to pick up trash or tie up a loose fence, makes a good day. Best of all is the generosity and encouragement of our community and our neighbors at the Rail X, Lazy RR, Native Seeds Search, and Nature Conservancy, who grant us the privilege of crossing their property. We come home with a new respect for the beauty, culture, and history of this land because we are trailblazers. Forever Young.



Photo by John Fielding

ABOVE: Both Kathryn Pena and Priscilla Perez are EMTs and firefighters with the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

## Its a Team Effort

By John Fielding, SEFD volunteer

Did you know that every time a resident of Patagonia has a medical emergency and calls the local medic team to their home for help, an ambulance and two EMTs from Sonoita arrive about 12 minutes later, in addition to the Patagonia squad?

The Sonoita-Elgin Fire District (SEFD) has a 'Certificate of Necessity' from the State of Arizona to provide patient transport by ambulance from anywhere in the district down to Patagonia Lake. Patagonia's ambulances are limited to transport within town. In the past the town would have to call Tubac for such assistance. In 2013 the SEFD made 108 ambulance runs to Patagonia to provide such backup in case they were needed for transport. Seventy-eight of these runs resulted in providing transportation of a Patagonia resident to a local hospital. The town of Patagonia is not charged for the transports, which are instead billed to patient insurance.

Chief Joseph DeWolf of the SEFD says, "We appreciate the opportunity to assist our friends in Patagonia, and these runs also assist us in the training and improving of skill levels of our personnel."



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Photo by Ann Katzenbach

# The Garden Beckons

By Colin Treiber

Conveniently located at Fourth and Duquesne, the Patagonia Community Garden offers a resource to all aspiring or experienced gardeners. It is a great opportunity to connect directly to our food, our neighbors, and the earth. By participating in local food growing, we become closer to the land, the community, and life. Through growing our food we take a vested interest in our own health and the health of this planet.

space that resonates with you and make it your own. In addition to the standard beds, we will have some raised beds, developed this year to assist those that may find it difficult to plant at ground level.

The community space is convenient and affordable. Not only are you supported by the knowledge of many other gardeners, but you also have access to necessary tools, water, seeds, and seedlings to make your plot a beautiful and abundant garden.

The importance of the community garden—and the space it offers—is manifold. The dryness that has developed over the last several years has intensified recently. Poor agricultural conditions spread across the farmlands of the west. It seems inevitable that our nation's food production will dwindle, and consumers will feel the burden of increasing prices.

Fortunately, the systems supporting our nation's food industry are changing. Small, regionally adapted, and sustainable farms are gaining traction. Community gardens and home gardens are sprouting into prominence, and for good reason. As the Community Gardening Association puts it:

"Community gardening improves people's quality of life by providing a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, beautifying neighborhoods, producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, conserving resources and creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education."

It could be said that the community garden is a doorway to new growth and intimacy in our life. It is an opportunity to develop respect and understanding for all life that surrounds us and an occasion to bring greater abundance into our lives. Let us do the work, together, to nurture this abundance.

The Patagonia Community Garden rents plots at the low price of \$5 per month. The garden has a variety of seedlings available for gardeners. They will begin to be available for sale in the garden greenhouse by late March. We look forward to turning the garden into a true community of gardeners and growers eager to share experience, ideas, stories, and food. Please call Martha at 520-394-2752 with any questions. See you in the garden!

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## OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Submitted by the Mowry Tracking Team



The tracks of this animal look like two jellybeans next to each other. The front tracks are larger than the rear tracks, with the front measuring 1-1.8" long by 3/4 to 2" wide. Other signs of this animal are holes dug in the ground and trash cans raided. If you see one set of tracks, look

carefully as you are likely to see more. What is it? See answer on page 24.

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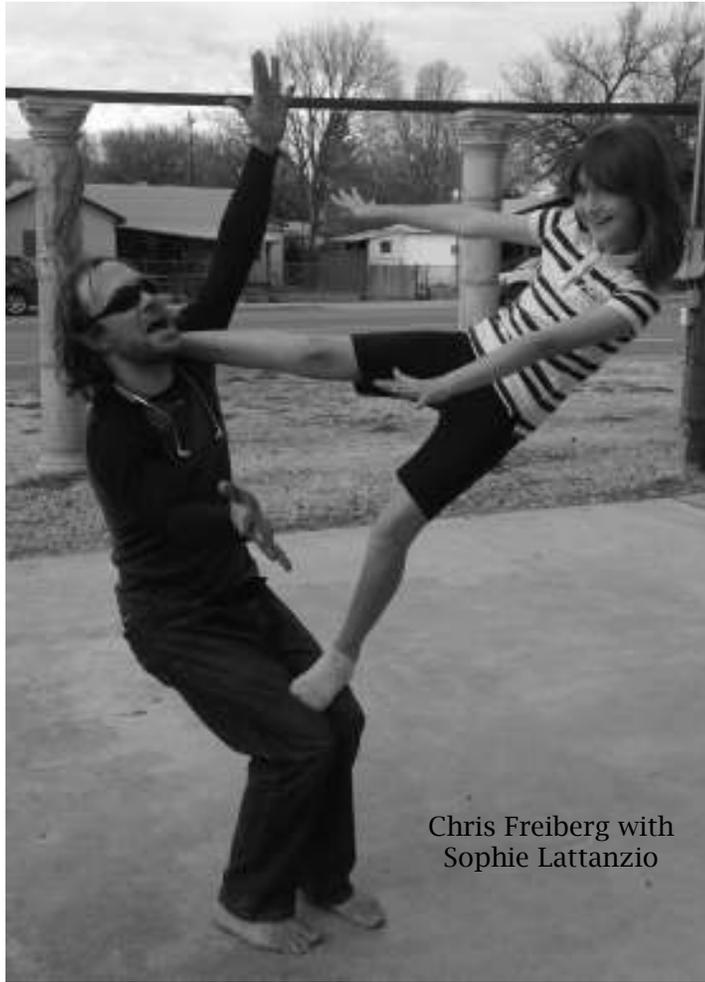
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# Montessori Students Walk the Line

By Jesse Beebe



Chris Freiberg with  
Sophie Lattanzio

The Montessori School has been doing Acro-yoga and slacklining with Chip and Laura Fieberg, who have been doing these activities for about five years. The Fiebergs learned about Acro-yoga at a festival in 2008, and soon after discovered slacklining from their Acro-yoga teachers.

Acro-yoga is a combination of yoga and partner acrobatics. Slacklining is similar to tightrope walking; it involves a one-to-two inch flat nylon or polyester line, stretched between two points; the objective is to walk from one side to the other. Chip's record distance is 270 feet, and Laura's is 180 feet. They practice one or two times a week.

As a warm up, students play games like freeze dance, follow the leader, and other memory and exercise games. Then they take turns walking the slackline or mastering balance with Acro-yoga.

"Chip and Laura are amazing. Their passion for Acro-yoga and slacklining really excites and motivates the students. All of the children look forward to the classes," Montessori director and guide Jessi Beebe explains.

Chip and Laura have been traveling around the world on and off for the past four years. One of their favorite moments traveling was when they went to Korea to teach at a yoga conference. They were in the streets performing in front of coffee shops when they saw a group of children talking and playing, and they started to perform AcroYoga for them. The children were fascinated and cheered them on, while the teachers asked many questions.

When they're not working with the Montessori students, the Fiebergs conduct yoga classes, and Laura has a massage therapy practice, both in Patagonia..

The students thoroughly enjoy Acro-yoga and slacklining, and some even practice outside of class. "As long as there are smiles and laughter we feel like we are doing our job," Chip explains.

To learn more about the exciting programs offered at Patagonia Montessori School, please call 394-9530.

# March Madness—Avian Style

By Vince Pinto



One of the hallmarks of trying to understand

and interpret nature is the ability to find, identify, and learn the behavior of birds. True, we also strive to know plants, mammals, snakes, rocks, and much more. But few topics fire our imagination like watching birds!

What is it about birds that so excites the naturalist and ornithologist? For starters, there are a lot of them—some 10,000 species in the world, approximately 1,000 recorded in the U.S., and about 500 thus far noted in Arizona.

March is truly a month of transition for our Sky Island birds. True, April through May is peak migration time for many species, but March holds it own, special allure. Many early migrants begin to spill into our area from their wintering grounds further south

and a keen eye might reveal a few surprises.

Waterfowl are on the move, and the daily flavors of the day can change quite rapidly at Patagonia Lake. One day a raft of Lesser Scaup might rule the roost, numerically speaking, with a good five to eight other species thrown in for good measure. Another day Northern Shovelers may well be the most abundant duck at the lake.

Raptors that had mostly disappeared in the fall can once again call our sublime Sky islands home. Our breeding pair of Gray Hawks soar back into their mesquite bosque to breed like clockwork each March. We may be able to follow the aerial antics of Zone-tailed and Common Black Hawks if they arrive here in March. I suspect that they will, given our above-average temperatures of late, though that late frost may still kick us hard!

Meanwhile, some wintering

raptors, such as Merlins and Ferruginous Hawks, in an effort to reach their own breeding grounds, could call March their final month in our haunts.

Just as March is notoriously schizophrenic for weather, the presence of various bird species—influenced in part by the climate—can be rather erratic during this month. Warm temperatures may push some birds north rather quickly, while the inevitable cold snap can delay others from coming or departing, depending upon the species. This year, I already heard and saw my first poorwill near home in mid-February—weeks earlier than I anticipated that species. As March progresses, listen at dusk for the arrival of Elf Owls, our diminutive, nocturnal hunters. The males will soon be scoping out hollow Arizona sycamore trees for nesting. Black and Turkey Vultures, though already here, will widen their geographic

reach as things warm up. Various hummingbird species had better heed the early warmth, particularly this year, as the local ocotillos seem hellbent on flowering very early.

As a group, perhaps flycatchers take the prize for the greatest seasonal flux, as many are distant neotropical migrants. Kingbirds, Northern Beardless Tyrannulets, pee wees, various empids, and others join the small handful of species that glean a living for what passes as winter in these parts. Vireos, warblers, swallows, thrushes, and icterids all conspire to swell our avian ranks in March, even as many wintering sparrows prepare for their annual move north.

All in all, March helps to heighten my passion for birds, as old friends return and others depart. As far as I'm concerned you can keep your hoop games; I'll be outside with my binoculars!

*Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run Raven's Way Wild Journeys. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.*



# Animal Tales

By Cate Drown

## Legends of the Arabian

Nothing would excite me more as a young girl than to sit and listen to my father and his fellow horse owners share stories about all of their equine-related experiences over the years. I was a child in awe!

I don't know if that ever goes away because today I never tire of kibitzing for hours on end with fellow horse lovers in the very same way. Horse tales are so romantic and colorful to me and are a big part of my fascination with the Arabian.

Over the years I have spoken with historians and experts about the Egyptian Arabians. The recorded bloodlines and details of this breed go back to a time before written word, with stories shared generation to generation. To the Bedouins of the northern deserts of Africa and the Middle East, they were life and blood, and determined family wealth.

The mares and foals actually slept inside the families' tents to keep them from being stolen. They pillowed the heads of children, who slept up against them for warmth. The Bedouins used the mares as their war horses because the stallions were too noisy and would give them away.

There are five strains of the Egyptian Arab, with legendary qualities attributed to each. Whether folklore or fact, they thrill me.

The *Saqlawi* is noted for its great speed and fineness and is thus prominent on the track of Arabian horse racing.

The *Kuhaylans* are bigger chested and more muscled; they are very strong and known to be high kickers.

The original female representing the *Hadbans* had a mane and forelock so long one could not see her eyes or neck, so they are recognized for this trait.

The *Dahmans*, dating back to the herds of King Solomon's stables, are noted for their dark skin, with eyes that appear to be lined with kohl. My mare is of this strain.

Last, but by far, not the least is the *Abayyan*, which means cloak—and this is my favorite story.

A tribesman was riding his most treasured mare in battle and he had to flee for his life. To ease the burden of his precious beast and afford her more speed, he threw off his tribal cloak. When they returned to their tent unscathed, lo and behold, he discovered that his mare had thrown her tail high in order to save his prized and valuable tribal colors all the way home. Thus, the *Abayyan*, my favorite strain, are known for their high head and tail carriage as they gallop, snorting and blowing.

The horse world is filled with so many amazing breeds and preferences among those of us privileged to have equine charges in our lives. I have to admit that whenever I look upon a certain breed or type or color of horse, I find myself saying, "Oh, these are the most beautiful, or the most fascinating, or the most talented!" But when I stroke my Sha-Tali's forelock, I hear the old

Arab proverb, "It is a privilege and an honor to touch the forelock of the mare."

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## ANSWER TO TRACKING QUIZ



Collared peccary or Javelina (*Pecari tajacu*)

Though its official name is collared peccary, in Arizona this species is better known as javelina, a Spanish word pronounced "hav-a-LEEN-ah." Javelina are not wild pigs or boars. Rather, this native species is the only US member of a mammal family that is widespread in Central and South America. In the US, javelina are only found in Southern Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Adult javelinas are typically 34 to 36 inches long, and have short slightly curved tusks and a thick spiky coat. They eat prickly pear, mesquite beans, grubs, roots, and occasionally small rodents. Javelina are highly social animals, traveling in family groups or herds. They have very poor eyesight, so if you encounter one or more in your back yard, make some noise to encourage them to move on. Did you know that the javelina is related to the hippopotamus and that, in some places, their meat is eaten by humans and their hide used to make leather gloves?

# Now Covering Sonoita...

John Fielding and Susan Lancaster have raised their hands and volunteered to keep PRT readers informed about what's going on in and around Sonoita. The couple went to high school together in Arcadia, California, and found each other again after more than 50 years. John moved from the Seattle area two years ago to join Susan, who has lived in Sonoita for 15 years.

John has a bachelor's degree in psychology and has had a career in the retail and hospitality sectors. He's always had a shadow career as a freelance photographer.

Susan studied journalism at the University of Southern California and has a degree in anthropology. She



*Photo by Ann Katzenbach*

worked in health insurance for 30 years.

With Fielding and Lancaster reporting, we look forward to telling you more about the things that matter to folks who live and work in Sonoita and Elgin.

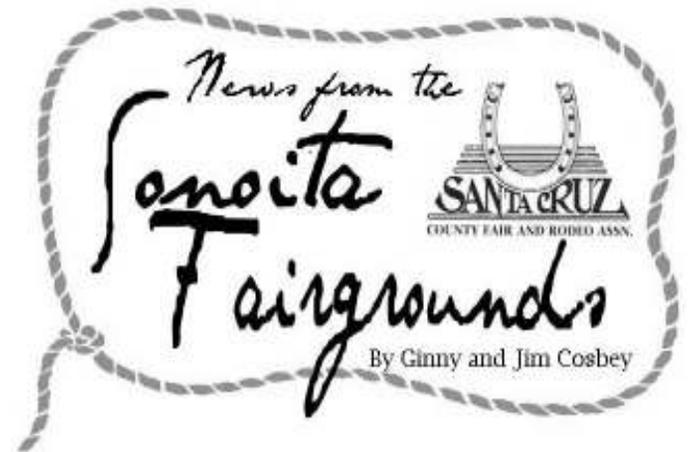
## James David Hathaway

February 17, 1927 - February 10, 2014

James David Hathaway, 86, passed away February 10, 2014, at his home near Nogales. He was laid to rest at Black Oak Cemetery in Canelo, on February 13. He grew up on his father's ranch, near his current home, and graduated from Nogales High School in 1945. He was honorably discharged from the US Air Force in 1948 with the rank of Sergeant. He graduated from the University of Arizona, earning his Juris Doctorate in 1954. While at the university, he completed advanced ROTC and received a commission as second Lieutenant in 1952. In 1957 he was honorably discharged as first Lieutenant from a JAG Reserve Flight. Upon graduation from the University of Arizona, he practiced law in Santa Cruz County and served as Santa



Cruz County Attorney from 1955 to 1964, at which time he was elected to the newly created Arizona Court of Appeals, Division II. Continuing his education during his professional career, he earned a Master of Laws in Judicial Process from the University of Virginia in 1984. He served as a member and chairman of the Arizona Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee from 1987 to 1994. Judge Hathaway retired from the Court of Appeals in 1997. Through the years, he donated his time and talents to several legal, civic, and Christian organizations. A lifelong rancher, he owned and operated a small cattle ranch in the San Rafael Valley from 1950 to 2012. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carolyn; five children, Roseanne Janelle, James David (Karen), Thomas Daniel (Georgia), Joseph Michael (Michelle) and Jennifer Carolyn (William Westholm); 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Robert and Paul, both of Nogales.



Pioneer Hall at the Fairgrounds has certainly been a very busy place during the past few weeks! The many weekend functions included a 50th Anniversary celebration, where guests enjoyed dancing to a fantastic nine piece band from Mexico. On February 1, more than 400 people from Santa Cruz County and beyond experienced the wonderful Journey Stories exhibition presented in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution. The following Saturday was highlighted by a wedding reception hosted by a Sierra Vista family. And finally, on February 15, our community gathered together for a memorial service to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a much loved and respected area resident/rancher: Via con Dios, Rukin Elks.

We, as county residents, are so fortunate to have these fairground facilities in which to host so many different types of activities!

If you're planning for your next event, call the fairground for information and availability.

SAVE THE DATES OF MAY 3 AND 4 FOR THE 99TH ANNUAL SONOITA HORSE RACES held on Kentucky Derby weekend. For more information, donor opportunities, race sponsorships, or program advertising, call Jim Cosby at 455-4641 or call the fairgrounds office at 455-5553.

Reservations for limited seating in our Turf Club are now being accepted.

SAVE THE DATES OF MAY 9-11 FOR THE 76TH QUARTER HORSE SHOW. An all breed and AQHA sanctioned event. Great prizes and fun! Call Jamie Smith at 1-305-395-0043 for more information.

WANTED: A Sonoita Rodeo Royalty chairperson. Duties include coordination of the royalty pageant and royalty appearances. For additional information, call Kristin at (520) 909-8307.



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# WHAT'S GOING ON?

## meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## community services

**Lunch for Seniors** Mon - Fri at the Community Ctr. 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 appointment only. 394-2494

**Patagonia Food Bank**, 3rd & Smelter; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

**Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop**, Fridays 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. Open Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,. Donations accepted during business hours. Info: 455-5262

## events

**The Little House Tour** - March 8 at 1 p.m.; See p. 13 for info.

**High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference** - March 14 at 9 a.m., Cochise Community College, Sierra Vista

**7th Annual Montessori Garage Sale & Bake Sale** - Saturday, March 22, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Patagonia Community Center, 100 Quiroga Lane. For more information, call the school at 394-9530

**3rd Annual Nogales Bicycle Classic** - March 10; Begins at Nogales City Hall, 777 N. Grand Ave. 8 to 84 mile routes. Go to [www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org](http://www.nogalesbicycleclassic.org) for details.

**2nd Annual Mardi Gras Fundraiser** - March 1 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds; costume contest, food awards, Elvis & Liza performers; to benefit the Eastern Santa Cruz Community Food Bank; Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. For more info call (520) 455-4700

## PRT's Policy on Press Releases

We receive many press releases at PRT, as a way of informing us about an upcoming event. As their purpose is to promote, they sometimes include subjective description or testimonials. An article such as this is essentially an ad. To be considered for publication as an article, a press release must be limited to the journalistic who, what, where, when, and why.

All press releases are reviewed by the PRT Editorial Board, and a determination as to whether or not to include them as articles is based on 1) the relative interest and value of the information to a significant portion of our readership, and 2) available space. If an event cannot be included as an article, it will nevertheless be listed in this monthly Calendar ("What's Going On?"). PRT actively encourages both nonprofit and for-profit enterprises to submit their event or class info for publication in the calendar, which is a free service.

## special interests

**Cooking Classes** - w/Chef Pedro Rubio begin Wednesday, March 5. Call Cecilia for details. 520 604-0604. Space is limited.

**Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshops** - Multiple classes offered from March 15—April 13. \$20-40 for adults, \$5 for children, \$10 for students. Must pre-register. Call 394-2929 or go to [susancorl@hotmail.com](mailto:susancorl@hotmail.com).

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

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

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

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

**Open Tennis** - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4:30 p.m., Sat. at 8:30 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973

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

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

**Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club** - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For meeting info or newsletter contact [clare-bonelli@gmail.com](mailto:clare-bonelli@gmail.com).

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

**Send your event info to [prtevents@gmail.com](mailto:prtevents@gmail.com). Include time, date, location, and contact info. Next deadline: Mar. 20**

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**DOWNTOWN PATAGONIA - 1 bdrm. 1 bath Studio Apt. \$650/mo, utilities included 520-394-0148, 360-317-4281**

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## MISC.

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

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## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

**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.

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

## PETS OF THE MONTH



Happy-go-lucky Toby was brought in as a kitten and has grown up enjoying lots of volunteer love. Almost a year old, he's a talker who has always lived with other cats. Toby is a perfect fit for someone who has a friendly feline or two for him to play with.



Chapo is a little guy with a big personality. The 3 1/2 year old terrier loves to play as much as he loves to lean on you for affection. Chapo's family moved away and didn't take him along, leaving his ultra-cuteness to be yours today!

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### Sonoita Wine Country

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

**MLS# 21400036** **\$199,000**



**BETH BARTH**  
520-907-4409



### Papago Springs, Sonoita

**OAK STUDDED PROPERTY!** 2298 sq ft. 2 BD/2 BA. 2 master suites, great room, open floor plan is light and airy. Beautifully landscaped with courtyards and gazebo. 2.21 acres, barn, ride out to forest. 36 Colbie Drive

**MLS# 21310291** **\$329,000**



**CAROL FORD**  
520-604-0162 or  
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### Serenz Lake Patagonia

**JUST LISTED!** Unique custom home on two lots! Over 8 ac with lots of flat, usable land to add garden/workshop/barn/pastures. Built in 2007, 2625 sq ft w/ additional 480sq ft. office. 4 beds/4 baths. 20 Escalones Ct.

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March 2014

