Sawmill Fire Blazes Through Sonoita

Photo by Marion Vendituoli
New Superintendent Selected For PUSD

By Marion Vendituoli

“I do believe that I’m the first millennial superintendent,” 34-year-old Rachell Hochheim said in a recent interview. In April, she was offered, and has accepted, the position of Superintendent for the Patagonia School District. Hochheim, who is currently Director of Early Childhood and Community Education for the Tucson Unified School district (TUSD), was chosen from a pool of 25 candidates who applied for the position left vacant by the passing of former superintendent Denise Blake.

Hochheim will be moving to Patagonia and starting her new job July 1, with her three children, Cameron, 9, Allie, 7, and Hendrix, 3. Her mother will be accompanying her, as well. “I’m growing the population of Patagonia by five,” she said. “I have the most amazing mother in the whole world,” she added.

Hochheim grew up in Yuma. “Sometimes I stand in front of a hot oven and pretend I’m in Yuma,” she told the audience at a community meeting in April. She started as a substitute teacher there in 2001, and, from 2004 until 2007, taught kindergarten through third grade. She taught kindergarten and first grade in the Vail School district, then served as a new teacher mentor and a school improvement coach for TUSD before spending the last three years in her current role.

She has a master’s degree from NAU in early childhood education, has an administrative certificate for educational leadership, and has finished the course work, and plans to take the written test before fall, for a superintendent’s certificate. She has also completed most of the requirements for her doctorate and plans to write her dissertation on the professional development of teachers.

Although there were other openings for school superintendents’ jobs in Arizona, Hochheim applied for the position only in Patagonia. “This place speaks to my soul,” she said. “I’m a community driven person, and it’s very difficult to build relationships in larger communities. When you go to an event in Patagonia, you’ll know someone there and your presence means something. Sometimes in larger communities you can feel lost. I don’t want my children to be raised in a large community.”

She was also attracted by the fact that Patagonia is a K – 12 system. “It’s rare to find all grades on one campus, to see a child go from pre-school to age 18 in one place,” she said. “It’s a tighter learning environment. It’s like planting a seed, you nurture it. Kids have less of a chance to fall through the cracks.”

Hochheim believes that the school needs to develop a reputation as being the place you want your children to be, which she believes starts with a strong early childhood program. “We have classrooms and a campus that is enviable. I think we could do a better job of communicating what we have here,” she said. “We could do a better job promoting it.”

She is aware that situations arise where tough decisions will have to be made, but is confident that she can deal with them. “I have had a lot of experience in resolving conflicts. TUSD has a lot of challenges, and I have had my fair share” she said. “At the end of the day, a decision has to be made by those in authority.”

In her spare time, Hochheim enjoys hiking, outdoor activities and is a long-distance runner, competing in marathons and half-marathons. She is looking forward to possibly competing in the local triathlon, as well.

She is eager to get started in her new position. “I’m excited,” she said. “I know I’m young and I know there’s going to be challenges, but I’m here to grow and to learn and to do the best I can for the teachers.”

Teachers, students, and staff welcome new Patagonia School superintendent Rachell Hochheim to the community. (From left) Interim superintendent Bob Tollefson, senior Chapo Barrios, Rachel Hochheim, registrar Liz Collier, and secretary Joy Quiroga.
When the Sawmill fire tore through Sonoita, displacing 400 people and leaving behind 47,000 acres of charred landscape, people from across Arizona and beyond responded to help out the community and the firefighters working to put out the fire.

Eight hundred firefighters from states as far away as Florida and New York were deployed to fight the fire, as it was designated a Type 1 incident, due to the size and complexity of the fire.

The firefighters set up their command center at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, turning the horse racing betting tables into personnel stations, setting up tents, catering, showers and conference rooms in all the buildings and throughout the grounds. “The population of eligible men in Sonoita just went from zero to 600,” said one visitor to the fairgrounds Thursday evening.

This space was shared by race horses training for the upcoming Sonoita Races May 6 and 7, and by animals and people evacuated to the fairgrounds, including a litter of beagle puppies, horses, cattle, goats and cats. The Red Cross set up an evacuation site for displaced people in Pioneer Hall before moving to the Sonoita Bible Church as more and more firefighters came to town.

As all this was going on, residents responded to help make life a little easier for the evacuees and for the men and women fighting the fire. Sonoita resident LynnRae Hale organized crews from the Canelo Cowboy Church to clean stalls. Many people donated hay for the animals, including High Noon Feed and Tack. Lowes in Sierra Vista donated and delivered cattle pens to house animals, a list was posted offering homes and stabling for anyone who needed it, and the Sonoita Inn opened its doors, offering showers to evacuees.

Costco donated a flatbed truckload of water, gatorade and supplies after being approached by Monica Rigas and the Lunow family, which Rigas passed out at the fairgrounds, at the Red Cross center and at the SEFD Fire Station. She, with Paul and Jody Brosseit, also went around the fairgrounds picking up trash.

More than 100 donors dropped items and food off at the fire station, as well, including two van loads of supplies donated by listeners to two Tucson radio stations. “We set them out on tables in the bay of the station and invited the wildland crews to come help themselves,” volunteer Sue Archibald said. Donations came in from several organizations, schools, businesses, other fire stations and individuals.

Perhaps the most touching donation was a gift of 20 crates of fruit brought to the fire station by an organization founded by the wives of the firefighters who lost their lives in the Yarnell Hill Fire in 2013. “It just touched our hearts,” Archibald said. “We got very emotional. These are people who lost their loved ones, and they’re giving to others."

Archibald and Suzanne Jenkins served meals all week at the fire station with food donated by the community, feeding between 20 and 50 people at each meal. Homemade soup, prepared by the Patagonia Senior Center, casseroles of all types, and even a roast turkey dinner were donated.

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““It’s been a wonderful outpouring of support,” SEFD administrator, Katie Goodwin, said.
“It’s been amazing,” Archibald said. “We always knew we lived in a wonderful community, but this
confirms it.”

Photo by Robert Dorney

The Deborah Fellows’ statue at the entrance to the Fairgrounds greets firefighters.

Photo by Laurel Thornburg

Fire trucks fill every available space at the Fairgrounds

We Are So Grateful To All The Firefighters And Volunteers Who Worked So Hard To Help Our Evacuees, Our Animals And Our Community.

And Now, We’re Off To The Races!!!

SONOITA FAIRGROUNDS

SONOITA HORSE RACES

MAY 6-7, 2017

POST TIME 1 PM
Paton Center Welcomes Spring Visitors

By Bob Brandt

A dozen avid aviary admirers, acting on the advice that the early bird gets the worm, arrived well before the official opening time of 7:00 a.m. at the Paton Center’s Spring Wing Fling on Saturday, April 8. The “worm” in this case was not only sightings of the winged wonders that make the Paton Center for Hummingbirds one of the premier destinations in the entire realm of birdwatching, but hot coffee and donuts as well, for those willing to lower their binoculars long enough to grab a bite or a drink.

On this made-for-birding spring day, Center Manager Jonathan Lutz and his Tucson Audubon Society (TAS) colleagues, Diana Rosenblum and Luke Safford, nearly a hundred (TAS) colleagues, Diana Rosenblum and Luke Safford, nearly a hundred

Birders spotted dozens of bird species on both the Paton property and along Blue Heaven Road during guided walks scheduled throughout the morning. One of the best attended walks, led by volunteer Bill Hays, was geared towards beginning birders. Among the notable species spotted during the event were Gray Hawk, Cassin’s Kingbird, Bell’s Vireo, Rufous Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Yellow Warbler, and Lazuli Bunting.

A “birding by bicycle” activity failed to draw even a single taker, but Lutz was undeterred. He had successfully instituted that kind of birding experience in Michigan, plans to offer it again here in Patagonia, and is confident it will catch on.

TAS has made dramatic changes to the property while trying to maintain the welcoming tradition the Patons had established. The bird viewing area has been greatly expanded. The paddock area has been transformed into the Richard Grand Memorial Meadow and includes a perimeter walking path, native plants, benches and a water feature. Native grasses and other plants have been planted along the creek to help control erosion, bird feeders and benches have been strategically placed throughout the property and a new wood fence defines the entire perimeter. Signage interprets much of what is offered at the facility.

A new viewing pavilion, designed by DUST, an award-winning Tucson architectural firm, will be erected by the end of 2017 in the spot where the Patons had maintained a back yard canopy to shelter birders. Much of the groundwork for the pavilion has already been completed including a gradually sinking gravel pathway lined with a beautiful stone retaining wall that leads visitors to the back yard.

Lutz, the former director of the Michigan Audubon Society, was pleased with how the event was received. He also noted that the Center needs more volunteers to help care for the property, the birds and the humans who enjoy them. Reach him at jlutz@tucsonaudubon.org.

Opera House Unveils New Sculpture

By Lynn Davison

The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts unveiled a remarkable outdoor sculpture on Saturday, May 8, commemorating community donors who helped to build the Benderley Kendall Opera House. Local artist Linda Chase created a larger than life mosaic peacock adorned with individual donor’s name tags, which was installed in the front yard of the Opera House.

Both the artist and the major benefactor of the Opera House, John Kendall, were on hand for the celebration, where guests sipped wine and scoured the peacock to find their name tags.

As a special treat, everyone was invited into the Opera House for a quick preview of the next day’s concert, musicians playing baroque music with their beautiful period instruments. Their brief impromptu performance was topped only by a truly amazing concert on Sunday.

Local artist Linda Chase stands with her mosaic statue designed to honor donors to the opera house.
Racing Roots Run Deep for Patagonia Family

By Marion Vendituoli

If the five-year-old quarter horse Hesahardhitter recovers from a heel injury in time and steps onto the race track at the Sonoita Fairgrounds the first weekend in May, he will be carrying on a tradition that stretches back over a century for the Lewis family of Patagonia.

This year marks the 102nd running of the Sonoita Races, and no story about the track would be complete without acknowledging the five generations of the Lewis family that have been instrumental in keeping county racing alive in Southern Arizona.

Jim Lewis, the owner and trainer of Hesahardhitter, lives on the Double Staple Ranch in Patagonia, the ranch brand handed down from his great-grandfather B Lewis, who brought his family to southern Arizona in a covered wagon in 1912, and helped to organize the first Sonoita Races in 1915.

B’s son, Blain Lewis, moved his family to Patagonia in the 1930’s, after the family lost their ranch in the Huachuca Mountains during the depression. He continued to build his reputation as a horse trainer and breeder at their new ranch off Harshaw Rd.

Lewis’ most famous horse was a chestnut stallion named Parker’s Trouble, whom he bought in the early 1950’s. Lewis bought Parker’s Trouble as a three-year-old from Dink Parker, who bred the colt on his ranch near Fort Huachuca. Parker had sent the colt to be trained for racing at Lewis’ Patagonia ranch, but after working and racing Parker’s Trouble for six months, Lewis decided to buy him for $3500. Parker’s Trouble went on to be a leading sire of not only race horses, but several performance horses, as well. He was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 2016.

“My grandfather sold and trained Bill Baffert his first race horse in the early 60’s,” Jim Lewis said. Baffert’s son Bob has gone on to become one of the most successful trainers in the sport, including winning the triple Crown in 2015.

“I rode my first races in Sonoita,” Baffert said in an interview in 2015. “There were a lot of horse people in Santa Cruz County at that time. “You always wanted to win in Sonoita in front of your friends” he said.

Jim Lewis remembers those days, as well. “It was an amazing life,” he said. “I got to travel around a lot as a kid. County racing was a way of life. We could make a living from it then. It was a hard life, but it was a good life. You could raise your family and have fun doing it.”

County racing in Arizona has been on the decline for the past several years, however. Today, Sonoita hosts the only county horse racing in the entire state. “I guarantee you if we had more places to run horses, you’d have more people involved,” Lewis said. “We don’t expect top purses at county races. We just like to race.”

The Lewis family has always been an integral part of the Sonoita Fairgrounds and the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association. Lewis still has the original starting gates built by his grandfather for the Sonoita races. Lewis serves on the board of directors for the fairgrounds, a position he has held in the past, as well, and is working to keep racing alive in southern Arizona.

Horses continue to be a way of life for the Lewis family. Jim’s father, Iree Lewis, still owns horses that Jim has in training. Jim’s wife, Dawn, is an accomplished barrel racer, and their daughter, Kayla, and her husband Bo Simpson, who manages the T 4 Ranch south of Patagonia, help work the horses. Jim and Dawn’s son, Kasey, an engineer in the navy, is Lewis’ business manager, according to his father. When asked if he thought his children would stay involved in the horse industry, Lewis answered, “I do believe this will continue in the family. If it don’t, I’ll haunt them.”
Thank You!

It is so very important that when anyone extends time, money, and efforts to enhance your organization or project, that those people will should get a heartfelt ‘Thank You.’

Mike and I have had the most wonderful experiences while living in Patagonia for that last sixteen years. It certainly was the right place at the right time for both of us.

I want to thank everyone that made our lives here so memorable. Thank you to everyone that made contributions in Michael’s memory to the Senior Center and the Food Bank. I regret that the details of who and what had been donated were not shared with me.

The people in this town are what make Patagonia such a wonderful place to live.

I will certainly miss all the familiar waves, smiles, and conversations.

A very sincere THANK YOU,

Edith O’Halloran, Patagonia

Register your Residence

My husband and I were evacuated from our home during the Sawmill Fire. We discovered that several of our neighbors who no longer had land-line phone didn’t receive telephone notification of the evacuation order.

Below are links where you can register to be notified by Santa Cruz or Pima County of emergency situations. I would recommend that each one of us does this. It allows you to specify how you want to receive alerts and in what order (e.g. home phone, text, email, etc.).

Pima county registration: https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085614483#/login

Santa Cruz County registration: https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/218A80E36F49

Alison Bunting, Sonoita

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to the community

We are looking for a few good people to join the PRT Board of Directors. Could you be one? In 2013, I was recruited to the board of the Patagonia Regional Times by Walter Andrew. Volunteering for the PRT has been a totally rewarding experience. I am proud to represent the paper and thrilled we have been able to successfully manage the recent transitions that allow the PRT to continue for the community of Patagonia, and, more than ever before, for the communities of Sonoita, Elgin, and Canelo. People love the paper and many of you have generously supported us financially as we transition to a sustainable level of part-time paid staff.

But, we remain primarily a volunteer-based organization. Our writers, our distribution team, and our board of directors all give freely their time, skills, and commitment. The current board is a feisty group of six: Cassina Farley, Bob Brandt, Kathryn Schrag, Jac Heiss, Dave Ellis, and Lynn Davison. As terrific as we may be, the board is too small to effectively carry out our responsibilities for setting policy, broadening our readership, maintaining the quality and character of the paper, and raising funds.

We hope to grow the board from 6 to 9-11 members with at least two new members from Sonoita, Elgin, or Canelo.

The timing is perfect for adding board members. Our new editor, assistant editor, and bookkeeper are in place and all doing great work, the board is successfully raising more money than we have historically, and the paper recently received a grant from the PCRF to support board development. That said, our last founding board member and co-editor, Donna Reibslager, has recently retired and our stalwart co-editor and board member, Anne Katzenbach, has just left for Philadelphia. While their “staff” roles are covered, they have also left a significant hole to fill on the board.

The success of any community newspaper depends on strong leadership from local residents and readers. The PRT is no exception. If you love the paper and have a little time to give to assure its future, please consider joining us. To learn more about being a board member, contact Lynn Davison at 206-276-2019 or ldavison1947@gmail.com.

The PRT Needs You

By Lynn Davison

Register your Residence
COUNCIL NOTES

By Bob Brandt

April 12:
Tam Scott and Chris Cowen, owner and manager of Vivapura Superfoods, addressed the Town Council. They asked for an exception to the ruling passed by the council in March banning heavy trucks from Smelter Alley, as the loading area for the business is only accessible except through the alley. Scott, who owns the building, answered Mayor Isakson’s April 12 routine call to the public, stating, “The council has a right to make rules but Vivapura can’t survive if the ban stays in effect. It’s an open and shut case,” he said.

Cowen, the Vivapura manager, joined the discussion, explaining that he’s had over 1000 deliveries there in nine years. He instructs the truck dispatchers and drivers to back down the alley from Third Avenue so they don’t have to drive the entire alley between Third and Fourth Avenues. “I want to get along with everybody and make this work,” Cowen asserted.

The matter was not immediately resolved but the mayor directed Marshall Patterson to work with Cowen to come up with a solution that both the business and town could live with.

Town Manager Dave Teel reported that the budget for 2017-18 was approximately 75% done. Another budget work session would be held an hour before the April 26 council meeting, at which time he believed the budget will be almost complete.

He also reported that street repairs on First Avenue, Roadrunner Lane, W. North Ave., and N. Third Ave. would be undertaken by the county beginning the following week. The work would consist of applying a base layer of millage covered by chip seal.

In other business, the Council approved a proclamation declaring April 28 as Arbor Day and approving the planting of a tree in the playground park. It also approved a liquor license for the KPUP LUAU May fundraiser to be held in Cady Hall on 13 this year. Marshall Patterson announced that his staff will once again provide rides home for those who imbibe too much.

Mayor Isakson reported that one of the council members had written a letter in which the member allegedly spoke on behalf of the council without authorization to do so. As a result, the matter was placed on the agenda for the April 26 meeting.

April 26:
The council session went relatively smoothly and quickly despite a long agenda. Several items were dispatched with little fanfare, including approval to allow the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts to use their office for resident musicians, approval to replace a $39,000 blower at the wastewater treatment plant, renewal of the contract to clean the rest area restrooms and approval to fence the butterfly garden.

The Council also arranged for two trees to be planted near the bench in Doc Mock Park. Extended discussion resulted in the proposal for a single tree to be expanded to two, thanks to the generosity of Mayor Isakson and Fred and Irma Sang, owners of Patagonia Market, who each offered to pay for a tree. May 5 was selected as the day for the planting which will be handled by town employees.

The issue that might have drawn the most heated debate, the matter of a council member speaking for the council without authorization, was tabled until a future meeting, as requested by Vice Mayor Andy Wood who could not attend this meeting. Carolyn Shafer and Fred Sang both spoke in favor of the council arranging a training session focused on conflict of interest and related issues, as had been suggested in earlier council meetings.

The 2017-18 budget received preliminary approval. Final approval will be subject to public hearings.

Library Renovations, Improvements Will Enhance Programs

By Laura Wenzel

If you’ve been to the library any time in the last couple of months, there’s no doubt you have noticed building improvements that were made. New paint, bathroom fixtures, a commercial refrigerator, and even a Tuff Shed have all been installed or are slated for installation.

John Henry Kendall, longtime benefactor to the library, donated funds this spring for the Friends of the Library Board to purchase a Tuff Shed. The shed will serve “as a workspace for sorting and storing the Friends of the Library books,” Jan Herron, the board president, said.

Insulation and drywall will be installed and the electric is almost completed inside the shed to make volunteers’ work and book donations more comfortable. “We are short of space,” Herron noted. “It will be nice for the Friends of the Library to have more room, as well as the library.”

The ongoing book sale will continue to be held within the library. The librarians’ office will be converted into a study room or ‘Makerspace’ for library patrons of all ages to enjoy. The office will be moved into the room which has been used by the Friends of the Library for book storage.

The restrooms were recently painted a cool white and will have new toilets, faucets, and a new urinal to replace the old fixtures.

The Cady Hall kitchen is now a certified commercial kitchen, having been recently upgraded with a fresh coat of paint and a commercial refrigerator donated by the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department. Library staff will undergo food handler’s training in preparation for the summer lunch program, when free, healthy lunches, made on-site by staff and community members, are made available to children and teens up to age 18.

In addition to free lunches, the library is planning a busy summer program schedule for kids including the Summer Reading Program, chess, science experiments, and arts and crafts.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with lunches or kids’ programs this summer, should call the library at 520-394-2010.

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Photo by Laura Wenzel
Local Student To Compete at Nat’l Level

By Marion Vendituoli

Elgin School 8th grader Aiden Bronstein is headed for Atlanta, GA to compete in the National History Bee. This is Bronstein’s second trip to this event, having qualified last year, as well.

Bronstein, along with three other Elgin middle school students, qualified for the regional competition, held in Phoenix last winter, based on his performance on an on-line exam. In Phoenix, he finished in the top four students for the region, which includes Arizona, parts of Nevada and Utah, according to his social studies teacher, Nate Porter.

The top six students from each grade qualify for the national competition, which is a three-day event that tests the students’ knowledge of both American and world history. “It is incredibly difficult,” Porter said. He will be accompanying Bronstein and his mother, Megan Peterman, to Atlanta to see Aiden compete.

Bronstein is no stranger to academic competition, having competed in the state Geography Bee this year and finishing in the top 50 students. He also competed, with two classmates, in the Future City competition in Phoenix, a science and engineering contest. Bronstein feels that this exposure will help him be more competitive at the History Bee. “The first year, I was definitely more nervous,” he said. “Now I can speak in front of a crowd and not be nervous.”

Bronstein, who will be attending Salpointe High School next year, is also an active member of Santa Cruz County 4-H, and was on the football, baseball, track and basketball teams this year.

AMI Seeks to Purchase Public Land

By Carolyn Shafer

Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI), a Canadian mineral exploration and development company, has recently submitted a Small Tracts Act application to purchase 14 acres of public land adjacent to their private patented lands on the east side of Harshaw Road, situated in the Coronado National Forest. The Forest Service, which has discretion to deny their request, is currently evaluating the application according to Daisy Kinsey, Sierra Vista District Ranger, Coronado National Forest. The Forest Service advised Patagonia Area Resource Alliance to file a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request in order to learn more about AMI’s application.

Senior Center Looking for Volunteers

The Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc. has recently had a turnover following the death of former president, Mike O’Halloran. The board needs rejuvenation to continue its essential functions serving the Patagonia, Sonora and Elgin communities.

The mission of the Senior Center is to provide nutritious meals at noontime to seniors and to those with disabilities five days a week. The organization receives half the necessary funds through a grant from the South-East Arizona Government Organization (SEAGO). The other half must come from individual donations and smaller grants. Last year, the Senior Center fell short by many thousands of dollars.

The Center also provides transportation services for seniors and disabled people, aided in part by a grant from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). This includes medical visits as well as shopping, entertainment and other outings. All drivers are unpaid volunteers. ADOT provides only half the necessary costs; the Senior Center must come up with the other half through individual donations. Last year, there was a deficit of several thousand dollars delivering these transportation services.

The board of directors needs help to ensure that these services continue to be available in the community. They are considering establishing an endowment fund and need someone with expertise to chair a committee to consider the feasibility of such a fund.

The board also wants to establish a closer relationship with the people it serves through increased public relations, and is in need of more volunteers to drive the vans, especially once a third van goes into service in the Sonora-Elgin area.

If you are interested in contributing in some way to this worthwhile endeavor, please contact board president, Gama Leyva, at 520-907-5829, or treasurer, Chuck Kelly, at 520-604-8087.

They need and welcome your assistance.
May’s Birding Blitzkrieg!

The Sky Islands of Arizona are widely renowned as a birding Mecca, so picking the best month for amazing avian adventures is indeed a daunting task. Each season, even every month, has its unique pleasures in terms of species and attendant natural histories.

Still, if you had to pin down just one month as the best time to bird in southeast Arizona, I would personally nominate May. August is a close second, owing to the lushness of monsoon season and the beginning of fall migration. May, however, definitely noses it out.

March and April build up the momentum, as various migratory species make their annual return. Late April and the entire month of May, however, are peak migration times for a wide range of species. The warmth of May brings forth a broad spectrum of insects that serve as vital migratory fuel for birds on the move.

Other species, having already arrived prior to May, are setting up breeding territories or may even have eggs or young in the nest. Species that fall into this “early bird” category include: greater roadrunner, great horned owl, common raven, and vermillion flycatcher among others.

Most duck species will vacate our area in May, though watch for lingering mallards and cinnamon teal. Some raptors are still passing through, including zone-tailed and common black hawks, though most have already migrated to their breeding grounds. Hummingbirds continue to migrate, fueling themselves on minute insects, desert honeysuckle, late ocotillos, penstemons, and other coevolved flowers.

Elegant trogons are setting up breeding territories in May along sycamore-lined streams. They revel for woodpecker-built and natural cavities with elf owls, sulphur-bellied flycatchers, and other secondary cavity nesters. Warblers, vireos, flycatchers, buntings, and tanagers, too, are bent upon migration and/or local breeding in May.

One of my favorite moments of May migration came last year, when the birding tour I was leading spotted five western tanagers in a dense patch of ocotillos. The confluence of color, both winged and botanical, was spectacular.

Given the wide range of local habitats present in our area, May birding opportunities are legion. A day spent in the Sonoran Desert can net you species like cactus wren, verdin, Lucy’s warbler, Gambel’s quail, Harris’s hawk, crested caracara, and elf owl among others. Visit our Madrean evergreen woodlands with their complement of oaks, junipers, and pines and your bird list will be markedly different. Keep your eyes peeled for Virginia’s warbler, Arizona woodpecker, bushtit, hepatic tanager, Mexican jay, and painted redstart. Many of these species are more typical of Mexico, making a day of birding in our oak woodlands a truly exotic experience north of the border. Above 9,000’ search for pygmy nuthatch, Mexican Chickadee, and golden-crowned kinglet.

Some birding tips to keep in mind when out seeking May’s feathered flourish:

1. Get out early to see the most species possible, preferably just prior to sunrise. The temperature will be sublimely cool and you’ll start the day amidst varied songs and brilliant flashes of colors.
2. Invest in quality binoculars that fit both your eyes and budget. Practice using them, as scopeing out birds is a skill unto itself.
3. Move slowly, stopping frequently to avoid startling the birds. Learning about bird species and their behavior is best accomplished on birds that have not been unduly frightened.
4. Use time-tested field guides, such as those widely available at bookstores and nature shops.
5. Consider hiring a local guide for a custom-made birding tour, as you’ll learn countless insider tips for finding, identifying, and understanding each species encountered.

Bountiful birding!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation Organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region.
Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

Borderlands Offering Summer Courses and Activities

By Lynn Davison

So much is happening these days with the Borderlands partners that the PRT June-July edition will be featuring several of their projects in detail. Here is a preview:

The Borderlands Restoration Leadership Institute’s first summer course will run July 3 - August 11, offering a survey of restoration practices across the region with expert mentor support and an impressive group of visiting faculty. The course will include field trips to sites in Mexico and in the U.S., an in-depth look at Patagonia’s history, and basic restoration responses to social and ecological challenges. The course catalogue is available at the Borderlands office in town and on the website www.borderlandsinstitute.org.

Institute offices on the Old Main campus are being spruced up to accommodate students, visiting faculty, and at least 7 permanent employees. These folks are in addition to the Borderland staff of 11, making the collaboration one of the larger employers in Patagonia. The Institute is partnering with the School District and the Patagonia Museum to bring the historic campus alive with more activities and visitors.

This summer, the Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) Institute is kicking off its fifth consecutive year in Patagonia. Starting in June, look around town for a crew of 10 high school interns, ages 15-18 years old, led by facilitators Ben Shonkwiler and Ilana Castro. Daily educational activities follow a curriculum based on watershed, ecosystem, and food system restoration. Applications can be found at www.borderlandsrestoration.orgbecy. Applications are due by May 5.

Borderlands Restoration’s Nursery and Seed Lab are gearing up for the growing season. Seeds, plants, and consultation are available to local gardeners who are itching to get their hands in the dirt. Contact Francesca at afclaverie@gmail.com.

The Institute is sponsoring a two-day leadership training June 14 - 15. It will be open to community members, the tuition will be modest and scholarships will be available. The course may be particularly valuable for local nonprofit directors, board members and other active community volunteers, staff working with youth, and others.

The Patagonia Water Futures Project at the Institute held a popular community workshop this spring on the history of water in our region. A second community workshop, this time focused on water law, is planned for this summer. Contact Oliver at o.lysaght@r-generation.org for more information.
The Sky Islands Tourism Association will hold its annual membership meeting on Tuesday, May 9, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wild Horse Restaurant meeting room. Come to learn more about SITA’s activities last year, meet the Board of Directors and network with other SITA members.

The association will be electing new directors for the board, and encourages every member to come forward to stand for election, or to propose another member.

There will be a cash bar and food can be ordered from the menu. The public is welcome to attend.

The Regional Visitor Center continues to successfully welcome tourists to the area. For the first quarter 2017, visitors are up 11.4% from 2016 with a total of 2747 through the end of March. February was the busiest month – up 24% from last year.

The Arizona Office of Tourism reports that tourism was “the number one export industry in Arizona in 2015. 42.1 million people visited Arizona in 2015 who collectively spent $21 billion in the state. The money spent by visitors supports jobs and generates tax revenue. The $2.99 billion in 2015 tax revenue equals an annual tax savings of $1,180 for every Arizona household and supported 179,600 industry jobs.”

Not just felons are disenfranchised. Citizens in poor health or of low income are affected by registration deadlines, photo ID requirements, limits or restrictions to early ballot voting, easy access to alternate voting options and fewer polling areas.

Residents in assisted living, and other long term care situations, shut ins, and the homeless are in danger of being disenfranchised, as well. A recent study in Alabama found that one third of individuals who could benefit from Medicaid were barred from voting because of registration barriers such as limited access to transportation, physical disability or access to technology.

Voting access is also suppressed by redistricting. Redistricting without oversight can create artificial divisions between low-income vs. affluent areas, and can limit representation, funding and services.

Policy varies from state to state. For a felon in Arizona, the right to vote is lost until the completion of sentence (parole and/or probation), with automatic restoration after sentence completion for first time offenders. Repeat offenders can request to have voting rights restored through pardon. The AZ ACLU identifies more than 176,000 Arizona residents who are barred of their voting rights, of which 77,136 have fully completed their sentences.

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SITA to Report on Benefits of Tourism

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With this success, SITA is continuing to add volunteers to the Visitor Center roster, and welcomes new members. The center will be moving to summer hours beginning May 1st. It will be open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

By Tina Hamilton

In Santa Cruz County, an estimated 16,432 people out of a population of 33,201 residents, age eighteen and older, did not, or could not, vote in the November 2016 election.

Some people do not register to vote because they don’t understand the issues, or are unable to navigate through the myriad of speeches, opinions and misinformation and find the entire process exhausting. But there are other demographic groups that belong to the “disenfranchised”: those who have had their right to vote taken either due to felony, or because of barriers discouraging participation in the democratic process.

Opinions vary regarding a citizen’s right to vote. Some people feel that felons should lose their voting rights permanently. That rationale eliminates a large body of potential voters; felon or not, once released, they pay taxes and represent a demographic that has wants, and needs. Many people believe that ignoring this population, and keeping them out of the voting pool does not create better communities. One study, conducted in 2011 by the Florida Parole commission, determined that former offenders whose civil rights had been restored were less likely to experience recidivism. Rates dropped from 33% to 11% of released prisoners. People who are involved in their communities may be less ready to commit crimes.

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Visit www.democracyghosts.com and http://www.acluaz.org to learn more about what can be done to help restore voting rights to the disenfranchised.
Creek Crossing Closed to Public

By Marion Vendituoli

Patagonia residents were caught by surprise when signs went up closing Salero Rd. between route 82 and Blue Heaven Rd. This portion of the dirt road, which crosses Sonoita Creek has been a popular recreation spot for at least the past 70 years, according to Salero Rd. resident Bob Bergier. “I played in the creek, my son played in the creek, my brother’s grandson played in there,” he said.

But for Diana Nash and her family, who own the Circle Z Guest Ranch, the crossing has been a problem. That portion of the road, it turns out, is located on Circle Z property, and is not part of the county easement that stretches along the rest of Salero Rd. all the way to Rio Rico, a fact that neither the family nor the county realized until Nash began investigating ways to minimize the effects of the public use of the spot.

The Nash family has owned the Circle Z since the early 70’s, and the property on Salero Rd. where Nash is residing, since the mid 90’s. Nash lives on the Salero Rd. property, but declined to say how long she has been a resident there.

The county had no idea that there was no easement. “We’ve been maintaining the road,” said Santa Cruz County Public Works Director, Jesus Valdez. “The landowners brought this to our attention.” The county has been in charge of the road for at least the past 40 years, according to Bergier. “If the county doesn’t continue to maintain it, it will wash out,” he said.

“There are tools that the county has to keep it open,” Valdez said. “Along with that comes purchasing the land, and the road would have to be upgraded to county standards. I know that there are processes that could take place. It would have to come down from the Board of Supervisors, and it’s a situation where the county doesn’t have funds dedicated for this.”

“This is private property,” Nash said. She is concerned about liability should someone get hurt on the property. “We have been calling the sheriff on a weekly basis. We are tired of the danger from the high-speed traffic, people using it as a recreational area, the garbage we pick up on a daily basis and the belligerence we face from people.”

Nash also cites the need to protect the stream as another reason for closing the road. “We are still allowing our neighbors to use the road. We have spoken to all of them,’ she said. “We have spoken with the county attorney and the supervisors, and they agree with our decision.”

District 3 Supervisor, Bruce Bracker, who remembers playing in the creek there as a child, supports Nash’s legal right to close the road. “It’s a private person who owns private property, who doesn’t want people using that property,” he said, “and I’m not in the business of seizing private property.”

“Honestly, this is not something I want to do,” Nash said. “My family has been very generous to Patagonia.” She is hoping that the signs will deter people, but if they are not effective, she will put up a fence.

Her neighbor, Bergier, doesn’t see public use of the area as a problem, though. “It’s not a nuisance. It’s ok as far as I’m concerned,” he said. “People have been crossing there for many years. Most people were pretty astounded that this was going to happen.”

“I’m saddened by the closing,” lifelong resident Cindy Morriss said. “As someone who has lived here all my life, that crossing has always been open to the joy of all the families. We would picnic all along the creek for all the holidays. It was a great experience for kids to play in the creek, learn about the plant and wildlife there. I think about how it affects families.”

Our featured artist this month is Elena Graham, a 17 year old junior at PUHS, whose work has been displayed recently at the Gathering Grounds. “I create with emotions,’ she writes, “paints of happiness, charcoals of fear and pencils that seep out inspiration.”
The Other Cheek
By Martin Levowitz

The challenges of real life sometimes seem designed to make spiritual progress difficult. If we ignore our natural self-promoting / self-preservation instincts, which, in the ego realm, safeguard self-respect, we risk humiliation and defeat. There’s a whole genre of satisfying “instant karma” videos on YouTube. We all like to think that a bully, before he is done, will get knocked on his ass. Something in us needs to think - or hope - that justice will prevail. A slew of movies, books, and plays address this very theme. The hero or protagonist stands up for truth and love, or decency, but circumstance opposes him or her. "Circumstance" can be some nasty individual (e.g., Stalin), an unscrupulous corporation (re: Erin Brockovich), family or ethnic loyalties, (Romeo/Juliet, Sharks and Jets) or some symbolic/military force (think Goliath).

I’m not a fan of Bashar al Assad. He sponsors wanton murder and he has a dipshit chin. I’m disgusted by him and his toxic regime; by how they’ve ruined Syria. It drives me mad that we, here in our well-fed easy chairs, have put up with his brutishness for years, when we might have stepped in. I feel sadness and grief about all sorts of stuff, but I try to stop short of pure rage. If I indulge my moral rage, the reservoirs of hate and pain begin to pulse and bulge, or even burst. All clarity evaporates.

Count me among those who rejoiced when Barack Obama, an intelligent, articulate man with good values, replaced the smirking, clueless Bush at the helm of our floundering state. My one persistent frustration with Obama - although I ain't no steeking hawk, you see - was his humane, for-bearing, genuinely Christian reluctance to employ physical force. (What some folks saw as decency, others called cowardice.) He knew that our country was weary of war, and that to escalate would be expensive and unpopular. He also knew, as we all know by now, that wars are often fought for mis-stated, idealistic-sounding "reasons," liberally doused with patriotic hooey. The bankers and arms-makers profit and the common people die. (Was The Civil War really about human rights, or was it primarily designed to strip the South of its economic advantage -- i.e., slavery?) And why, remind me, please, did we get stuck in Viet Nam? And why, right now, Iraq? Afghanistan?

Despite mistrust of violence, and my unswerving faith that Donald Dump’s a first-rate dick, some part of me was glad to hear that, in response to Assad’s recent use of chemical weapons, Trump authorized the use of 59 cruise missiles to pock-up the runway of the Syrian airstrip from which the Sarin-bearing planes had flown. (Well, a slap on the wrist isn’t much, but at least it’s a slap.) Obama’s oratorically-grand, substance-free "Red Line," his idealistic distaste for military force, and even his misguided choice of nerds like Leon Panetta and Ash Carter as Secretaries of Defense (who seemed like bit-part extras in a low-budget production of Pagliacci) instead of some fierce, square-jawed macho who looked like he could take, or even throw a decent punch -- raises philosophical questions. It’s hard to think a President could ever be elected if it’s known that all he’ll ever do when bullies poke him in the eye is walk away. When villains have kicked down the door of your house, would you or anyone you know really opt for an "ethical" dad who disdains to use the 12-gauge and just turns his other cheek? How "moral" can a modern leader be?

I do not know.

Dog Is Good
By Cassina Farley

I do believe in God. Which God has always been the question. The Lutheran God I knew as a kid seemed reasonable; there was very little standing up and hardly any kneeling. The Sunday school songs were good and I mildly believed that if I in fact did all that was required, I would have everlasting life Amen.

I secretly compared what I knew at grandma’s house to what I learned from home and from my good Catholic dad. Who was this Mary and why weren’t we saying all the stuff about her at grandma’s church? The incense was cool and the man in the little red robe seemed festive. Church seemed a little bit heavier and at times almost a little harder to get into heaven by way of Catholicism. Still, I pondered. As a kid I just thought it was natural that religion was confusing and at times made no sense at all. (Don’t tell Grandma.) As an adult I realize it’s even more complicated.

Up until recently I had very little exposure to Judaism. I was invited to a Passover Seder. Sadly, what I knew of the Jewish Passover came from Charlton Heston and that all too familiar “Let my people go”. Once I figured out who Elijah was (Old Testament) and the symbolism of the bitter herbs and matzah, I had the time of my life. I drank all four glasses of required wine (wasn’t lost on me that that’s four times the wine allotted by Catholics). I stumbled home with a smile and a new sense of enlightenment.

When the Seder hangover had passed, I figured I could be Jewish if I wanted to. I could already be Lutheran or Catholic. I then went on to realize that I was married in a Methodist church by a Methodist minister. So could I be Methodist too? To make things more complicated I often read the teachings of Buddha.

It’s a big world out there with so many ways to worship but exactly who are we worshipping? Is it the Catholic God? Is it Jesus? But wasn’t he a Jew? Is the big guy in the sky Lutheran? Could he very well be Buddhist? Wouldn’t it beat all if his name was Allah?

I’m not convinced that anyone is right. But I am sure that no one is wrong. I remain unaffiliated. I do believe in God. God is in the everyday miracles. God talks to me in ways that only I can hear. God is in me and maybe my dog, G-O-D, D-O-G... coincidence?
Finding Ereshkigal
By Patra Kelly

I have always been fascinated by the ancient Sumerian story of Inanna’s Descent. It is a story of triumph over fear and danger, that seems especially relevant in the chaotic and troubling times we face today.

In this symbolic tale, Inanna, goddess of the heavens, descends into the deepest reaches of her soul to meet her unconscious self, her powerful twin sister, Ereshkigal, goddess of the underworld. When Inanna finally overcomes her fears, and descends to confront and understand her frightening sister who is her other true half, they become one whole, powerful woman.

Inanna clears away mists that cloud thought and perception. She is Mind bathing all things in Light uncovering ideas melting frozen dilemmas exposing harshness and cruelty creating concepts of peace and justice. Ereshkigal is the Dark radiant realm of feeling passion and power creating new worlds and ways. She is Soul that cannot be ignored wildly shrieking angry at injustices everywhere whirling and swirl ing hurling away fear shaking apart all broken things. Together the sisters ride full fury with forces of the cosmos through fields of time.

Glimpses Into Our Past
By Alison Bunting

Several articles in Arizona newspapers describe road conditions and construction in our area 100 years ago. The following article was published in the Santa Cruz Patagonian. Images of the Patagonian (1915 to 1929) can be viewed at the Patagonia Museum website, www.thepatagoniamuseum.org.

Santa Cruz County had authorized a $150,000 bond to conduct road improvements. An article in the Santa Cruz Patagonian, March 23, 1917, describes the work being undertaken between Patagonia and Sonoita.

County Engineer Larimore has finished work on the Washington Duquesne road to connect with the new bridge, and this week has commenced work on the Patagonia road. Two crews are to be employed, one at Bloxton [a railroad station south of Patagonia near the present day Circle Z Ranch], to work towards the place where the new road had been completed this side of the river, the other from Sonoita to work towards Patagonia. When the crew at Bloxton has connected the work from that place to the new road, it will turn towards Patagonia. The engineer says he expects to have a good road all the way from Rain Valley through Patagonia to Nogales in as soon a time as good work will permit. It now looks as though the prediction made by Mr. Larimore several weeks ago, that this road would be completed by the last of July will be fulfilled.

Road work in this county has now reached the point where it will necessarily be slower and more expensive than any, heretofore built. In the neighborhood of Bloxton and on towards Patagonia is a rough mountainous country, and from Sonoita this way... is another hard piece of road that will require considerable work. There is a possibility that the route may be changed at Flux Canyon, below Patagonia, so as to go over the hills and keep away from the river. Hope is also expressed that the road below Sonoita may be so changed as to avoid going under the railroad tracks, which at present is one of the most dangerous roads in the State. Nothing definite is known about these proposed changes, however, further than that the Supervisors and the county engineer have them under consideration.
Cristian Barrios

If you know Cristian Barrios personally, you would know that he is a hard worker, funny, and kind-hearted. Cristian’s future plans after he graduates are to become a wild land firefighter.

During high school he was involved in varsity basketball, baseball, football, and 4-H.

The most influential people in Cristian’s life have been his family and his girlfriend, because they have been most helpful during school. What makes Cristian most fun to be around is his personality because he makes everyone laugh and puts a smile on people’s faces if he notices that they are having a bad day.

Cristian was asked what injustice in the world would he want to change and why. He replied with, “That they can’t kill you in jail even if you have a death sentence because I think that’s inhumane”.

If Cristian could meet anyone from history it would be Merle Haggard and he would like to ask him how did it feel to be famous.

One quote that he says represents his life is, “I’m hiding what I’m feeling, but I’m tired of holding this inside my head.”

By Christopher Miranda

Andrew Botz

I am Andrew Botz. After I graduate I want to go to Embry Riddle University to study aeronautical science and meteorology in order to become a pilot.

I played Tennis and Cross Country for my entire high school career. I also worked for Borderlands and the Hummingbird Monitoring Network.

The most influential person in my life was my dad because he supported me and taught me how to do chores and be independent.

I want equality for all the immigrants coming into the country because they deserve the same rights as Americans.

If I had the chance to meet anyone from history, it would be Albert Einstein. I would want to know what he thought the world would be like in 100 years.

The quote I believe represents my life is a quote by Albert Einstein. “Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the universe.”

By Kylie Kueneman

Michael Ramirez

Michael Ramirez is moving to Las Vegas after graduation to follow his dreams of having his own bakery, where he will share his delicious pastries with the world.

During his high school career, Mikey participated in cross country one year, art for four years, and drama for two years.

Someone who has been really influential and inspiring to him is his aunt. Mikey’s aunt has taught him how to drive and manage bills, but most importantly, she is the one who taught him all the skills he knows in cooking and baking.

Michael is opposed to world hate and wishes for world peace. He suggests that the only way to get rid of hate is to get rid of negativity.

Michael is the type of person who would go back in time to prevent JFK’s assassination and ask him what he would have done to prevent his assassination.

“Be somebody nobody thought you would be” is a quote by Will Chapman that describes Michael Ramirez perfectly. He is unlike most people with his unique and overdrawn laugh and perspective in life.

By Israel Bonilla

Brynn Lough

After graduating from PUHS, Brynn Lough plans to attend college in Colorado. During high school, Brynn was a dedicated member of her FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter.

The most influential people in her life are her mom and a teacher from her younger years by the name of Ms. Mccrea. Brynn said Ms. Mccrea was influential “because she showed me how to not be afraid of going after my goals”.

When asked about what injustice in the world she would change if she could, Brynn replied, “Being able to change the way people look at the different.”

If Brynn could meet any person from history, she would love to meet Jackie Kennedy and ask her how she stayed so strong through everything she went through.

The quote that best represents Brynn’s life is “Life is tough, my darling, but so are you” by Stephanie Benett.

By Alex Escoboza
Senior Christopher Quiroga has given himself to Patagonia Union High School in so many ways, including football, basketball, and baseball and chess. Christopher plans to continue on giving of himself by enlisting as a Marine. He hopes to become a pilot, and then plans to attend the University of Arizona to study Astronomy.

There are so many things Chris has to look forward to, but it is people like Coach Hayes that Chris credits for who he is now. “He taught me how to overcome obstacles, believe that I can do anything, and taught me how to be a man. I always used to say ‘I can’t’ and he took that out of my mind, because anyone can do anything.”

Chris recognizes that if he could, he would like to go back in history to meet the first person who ate an egg and ask “Why’d you eat the egg, bro?” Chris would also like to change world hunger, not so more people can try eggs, but because world hunger should not exist with so many hens.

Chris says he most resembles his father made sure she got the best care and did his best to keep her head up, became a student coach for her basketball team and is currently managing her tennis team.

Lily is also actively involved in the national honor society, student government, and drama. For the past four years, Lily has worked as a waitress at the Wild Horse Restaurant. Lily loves reading books, going hiking, listening to music, and hanging out with friends and family.

The most influential person in Lily’s life is her dad, David. He has always supported her and pushed her to do her best, giving her the freedom to make her own decisions. After Lily tore her ACL, her father made sure she got the best care and did his best to keep her optimistic on her recovery.

If she could meet anyone from history and ask them one question, she would ask Amelia Earhart, “If you could go back and do your final flight where you got lost, would you do it again?”

By Matthew Davidson

Lisa Lopez is a senior ready to graduate from Patagonia Union High School. Her plans after high school are to attend Cochise College for her prerequisites and to eventually attend the University of Arizona’s CALS program to obtain a wildlife biology degree. She would like to eventually move to Indiana and travel around.

In high school, she worked for the Hummingbird Monitoring Network, took four years of art class, and participated in yearbook.

The most influential person has been her mom, “because she’s always been by my side and is supportive. She’s not just my mom, she’s my friend too.”

When asked what injustice in the world/community she would want to change, she replied, “Animal cruelty. Many people don’t value the lives and importance of animals nearly as much as they should. Animals deserve more rights.”

If she could meet anyone from history she would meet poet Maya Angelou and she would ask her why she started writing poetry in the first place.

A quote that represents her life would be, “Just because my path is different doesn’t mean I’m lost.”

By Elizabeth McKay

Christopher Quiroga

Haley Hill is a creative and level-headed senior with a quirky sense of humor. She took public broadcasting and art, participating in the local radio show and expanding her art skills. She also participated in the charity organization, the Tombstone Vigilettes.

She has considered various careers, including animation and cybersecurity. Her current plans after graduation are to continue living with her parents and to attend Cochise College until she makes a concrete decision as for what’s next.

Haley’s mother has been the most influential person in her life. She gives her daughter encouragement, and wake-up calls, when needed. Her mom and she often spend time together and play Pokemon Go on the weekends.

Haley has been concerned for a while about the treatment of war veterans in the United States. She has seen from those around her that, while the VA has good healthcare, it takes a very long time for them to get the veterans the care they need.

If Haley could meet any person from history, she would choose Winston Churchill. “He’s a very interesting fellow,” she says. One of her favorite quotes by Winston Churchill is “Nourish your hopes, but do not overlook realities,”

By Anna Phillips

Lily Wharton

“When it rains, look for rainbows. When it’s dark, look for stars.” This is senior Lily Wharton’s motto. As graduation rapidly approaches, Lily excitedly looks forward to her next steps. She has committed to NAU and plans to major in in environmental science and get a minor in photography or applied mathematics.

During her high school career, Lily played varsity volleyball and basketball for four years and tennis for three years. Unfortunately, Lily suffered a sports ending injury her senior year, a torn ACL, but she kept her head up, became a student coach for her basketball team and is currently managing her tennis team.

Lily is also actively involved in the national honor society, student government, and drama. For the past four years, Lily has worked as a waitress at the Wild Horse Restaurant. Lily loves reading books, going hiking, listening to music, and hanging out with friends and family.

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By Elizabeth McKay

Lisa Lopez
Alexis Montanez

Alexis Montanez is an individual who I’ve had the pleasure of knowing for the past four years of high school. Alexis has participated in many activities, including volleyball, basketball, one year of softball and student council.

Alexis has always excelled in her academics, which led her on the road to attending the U of A after high school.

The person that influenced Alexis most in high school was her mom. Alexis says that her mom has been there for her no matter what she’s going through, and that she’s taught her to be strong through the hardest moments of her life.

If there was one injustice Alexis could change in the world, she says it would be all the racism and hatred toward the people who are seen differently.

When I asked her who she would want to meet from history she replied, without hesitation, President FDR because she wants to know all about the great depression. She picked this person because she has a big heart and feels for people who are struggling.

One of the things that is admirable about Alexis is that she likes to get to know people before judging them, and that’s why the quote she chose to represent her life was “Do not judge my story by the chapter you walked in on.”

By Christina Novack

Hector Para

Hector Para is coming to his last weeks of high school and cannot be more excited to start a new chapter in his life. He is planning to go into the air force to serve and protect our country.

Hector Para has a great personality and is an outgoing guy who has participated in basketball, chess, drama, and yearbook throughout his high school career.

Hector says his biggest inspiration is Yari Cortez for helping him to graduate high school.

In his free time he likes to draw, read books and play video games. After the Air Force he wants to be a graphic designer.

His favorite memory from high school is going to state in chess with Mr. Melanson and the PUHS chess team.

By Issac Vazquez and Stevie Beltran

Rosa Martinez

Rosa Martinez’s plans after high school are to get a job and earn money to go to college.

Rosa participated in culinary arts classes for two years and art classes for four years. She was awarded an Honorable Mention for her Captain America portrait.

The most influential person to her is her Dad because he has motivated her to stay in school and get a good education and a good job. “He is a very hardworking and caring person and wants the best for my family and me.” Rosa says.

Rosa would like to save the earth, because if people don’t recycle there’s going to be a lot of problems in the world. “If we don’t save the earth, we can’t save ourselves. GO GREEN!”

A person from history Rosa would like to meet is Martin Luther King Jr. because without his leadership, there would be more racism than there is now. She said she would like to ask him, “What inspired you to speak up for colored people?”

A quote that represents Rosa Martinez’s life is, “Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile.”

By Mia Arochi

Miya Barajas

Miya’s plans after high school are to start at a community college for two years of general studies, then move on to ASU to pursue her dreams.

Miya has participated in basketball, softball and cross country. She has also participated in student council, drama, yearbook, poetry slams, and was a manager for the football team.

Miya came to the conclusion that her most influential person in life is her mom. Life has not always come easy for them, but her mom always has hope, which she thinks is all you need in life to move forward.

If Miya could meet anyone from history, she would choose to meet Anne Frank. She would ask her what it was like in the concentration camp, and if she thought she was going to make it out alive. Miya has always been interested in everything that has to do with World War II.

I asked Miya to pick a quote that represents her life. She said it would be “In life every story has an end, but an end is a new beginning.” She waits with strong excitement to conclude her high school career and move on to a new stage in life. She will be loved and missed by all at PUHS.

By Ernesto Cabrera
Johnny Swift

Johnny Swift is the epitome of wholesome country living. Swift, as most of his friends call him, plans to attend the U of A and study microbiology. After getting his bachelors, he plans to work for a major brewing company, before starting his own microbrewery.

Johnny has participated in baseball and basketball. He is very dedicated to working with Patagonia’s FFA chapter, even competing at the state level.

Swift sees his Father as the most influential person in his life, “Because my entire life he has been showing me what to do and how to do it.”

If Johnny could change anything about the world we live in today, he would “swiftly” rid our society of “The divide between everybody. There is no more middle ground; we as a country can’t get anything done because we can’t come to an agreement.”

If he could meet anyone from history he would want to ask Stonewall Jackson, what it was like to be fighting on the losing side.

Johnny’s love for his country is reflected in each day and each step of his boot. When asked for a quote that represents his life, he quickly recalled the classic, “Life is hard, but it is harder if you are stupid.” This choice of words truly shows the no-nonsense, hard-working personality that we will all dearly miss after this year’s graduation.

By Eden Lattanzio

Alisa Gutierrez

Alisa is looking forward to graduating. She will be getting married in the summer, and will be attending college at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks to earn her degree in Elementary Education.

She has participated in volleyball and tennis all four years. Outside of school, she participated in 4-H where she raised livestock and participated in many projects. She has been part of FFA for two years and held many leadership roles in both clubs. She has worked at the Steak Out restaurant in Sonoita, as well as with Borderlands.

The most influential person to her is her mother, Julie, because she advices her to the best of her ability and she knows that her mom will always be there for her. She recalls her mother telling her, “Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.”

Alisa would like to change Common Core curriculum because not every student is the same and it is unfair to test them las if they are.

If she was able to talk to any person in history, she would like to ask the inventors of math, ‘why would you do this to us?’

Her quote that she felt represented her life is “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”

Proverbs 19:25 because she believes the God has a plan and purpose for everyone.

By Jules Quiroga

Coy Newman

Cayon Newman, known as Coy to most, is a senior in Patagonia High School. A cowboy at heart, he hopes to own his on own ranch when he graduates, so he won’t have to ever work a day in his life in a constraining uniform, just in his own skin.

He’s always looked up to his dad, because he was the one who taught him everything from roping to walking. “I look up to my dad because he has been here my whole life and taught me everything I know and without that I would be stupid.” Coy says.

He relies on John Waynes’ quote, “Life is hard, but it’s harder when you’re stupid.” Blunt but honest, much like Coy himself.

Coy has participated in football, baseball and FFA throughout his high school career. After he graduates, he will be going to Dillingham, Alaska until the first week of August. When he returns from Alaska he plans to move to Wyoming and start working on building his own ranch.

Coy’s favorite memory about high school was the years spent having fun with his friends.

Johnny Cash has also been an inspiration to Coy because he made the greatest music of the century and has left an imprint on the minds of the people who have known him personally. Coy, like Cash, will leave us with plenty of memories. Memories that’ll write his name on the walls of this school. Unforgotten.

By Elena Graham

Calvin Whitcoe

Calvin Whitcoe is a senior at Patagonia Union High School who is known for spreading memes throughout the hall, and for his outgoing and whimsical personality.

During high school, Calvin participated in cross country, chess and tennis, and was lucky enough to study abroad in Germany his junior year. He also worked with Borderlands Restoration and has been an employee at Red Mountain Foods since 2013.

Calvin has named Mr. Melanson as the most influential person in his life at the moment. “My favorite memory of Mr. Melanson is when he ordered a strawberry girlfriend at a restaurant, because he thought ‘GF’ stood for girlfriend, not gluten free.”

When asked what injustice in the world he would like to change, Calvin replied “Honestly, if people didn’t have prejudice towards other cultures, most of our problems would go away. People need to learn to love.”

Calvin’s first response in regards to plans after graduation was “I want to buy a bike and ride it really fast.” However, with further questioning, he revealed that he will be travelling and exploring in Europe before returning home to begin his freshman year of college at the University of Arizona, where he hopes to attain a double degree in systems engineering and marketing.

Calvin has high hopes for his future, and his family, friends, peers and teachers all know he has a bright future ahead of him.

By Exelee Budd
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cford@longrealty.com

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Water Pollution

By Nicholas Botz

Did you know that while 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered in water, only 2.5% of that is freshwater? The rest is saline and ocean-based. With most freshwater trapped underground or in glaciers, only 1% of that is accessible to humans. Furthermore, of earth’s 0.025% of precious water that we should actually be able to drink, tragically much has been rendered useless by pollution. From improper sanitation to careless dumping of sewage into rivers to just plain accidents, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the world’s supply of water is getting filthier each day.

According the World Health Organization (WHO), 2.5 billion people do not have access to clean water. While these problems are huge in suffering countries, there are right at our own doorstep, too. Of all the lakes and rivers in America, 43% are declared unfit to even swim. Flint, Michigan, has lost use of their tap water because it’s stained deep orange and lead corroded from their pipes. In 2015, the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, spilled 3 million gallons of waste, including arsenic, into Cement Creek. Within a week, the contaminants reached Lake Powell, Utah, and the San Juan River in New Mexico, harming wildlife and the careers of those who made a living by the rivers.

This is not an issue in some faraway land. It affects us directly, here in Patagonia. While it may not have a huge impact on our lives right now, the future of water is going in only one direction, and it’s our responsibility to do something about it. So, what can we do? Since most water pollution comes from domestic acts like littering, make sure your trash goes where it belongs. Be frugal in your use of water at home, running the taps only as long as you absolutely need. You can help people in developing countries, too. Many people, from YouTube stars to worldwide organizations, have taken measures to improve water sources in suffering countries. Remember that the Earth’s water is not unlimited, and that we are always in a position to help.

(Nicholas Botz is a Freshman at PUHS.)

Dress Code Decoded

By Ava Lattanzio

Jumping straight from the freedom of a middle school classroom where you can wear what you feel comfortable in, as long as it’s appropriate, and receive no negative repercussions, to a still small, but significantly larger and infinitely more strict high school has been difficult for a number of reasons.

Prior to this change, I had never worried about whether or not the straps on my most comfortable top were 3 fingers wide, if my skirt was acceptably longer than my fingertips, or if the rips in my favorite jeans were just a centimeter too high above my knee, but this issue is becoming increasingly problematic as the seasons are changing.

Yes, summer in this hot desert climate is almost upon us and I, as well as all the other girls in schools across the country are scrutinized by authority figures just waiting for a life-threatening pair of denim shorts to come and force all the boys to fail their classes.

While it is obviously important that every student at school is fully clothed, kids should be able to express themselves through their outfits in any way they choose. Self expression is a huge part of being a teenager, and the strict rules at many public high schools across the country, and even the world, are keeping us from feeling completely comfortable and confident in our outfit choices.

Self expression is only one of the factors that cause me to not be in favor of dress codes. Most high school dress codes target the female students by using phrases like “you will distract the boys” or “boys will be boys” which is harmful because, as young women, we are constantly taught to change ourselves for the benefit of the males around us.

I have never personally been “dress coded” and cannot claim that any member of Patagonia Union High School has said any of these things, yet I have seen and heard many trusted friends experience similar situations. How is a girl wearing her most comfortable pair of leggings responsible for a boy who can’t focus enough to complete a test? Why are we living in a society where we are taught to dress for the benefit of our male peers instead of teaching them to respect us in the first place, as all of us should respect each other equally.

(Ava Lattanzio is a Freshman at PUHS.)

Why Crying is Good For You

By Kaelyn Kueneman

Have you ever heard someone say that crying makes you weak? Or maybe you’ve heard of the stereotype that men shouldn’t cry?

Well actually none of this is true. Research has proven that crying can actually be beneficial, especially to teenagers.

To understand the concept of crying, first let’s talk about what tears actually are. Tears are produced by tear glands inside your upper eyelids. When someone blinks, tears spread across the surface of the eye, which creates a sort of protective covering. Getting watery eyes around smoke or dust is the body’s protection to keep it from scratching the cornea.

Why is crying good for you though? Well, crying is the body’s way of telling you something is most definitely wrong emotional ly. Whether you are angry, sad, or sobbing tears of joy, tears actually remove toxins from your body. Plus, if you do end up holding back tears it can actually prevent your body’s fight or flight reflex. Over time repressing emotions can actually lead to high blood pressure and diabetes, yikes!

Crying actually helps the body relieve unwanted stress and lengthens your life expectancy. So go on, take that little break and let it all out.

(Kaelyn Kueneman is a student at PUHS)
Keeping our Horses Worm-Free

There are many options available to us these days for worming our horses and other pets. For our equine charges, there are several different conventional brands and hundreds of different wormers. All are based on one or more of the following four types of chemicals: macrocyclic lactones (includes ivermectin and moxidectin), benzimidazoles (includes fenbendazole, mebendazole and oxibendazole), pyrantel and praziquantel.

There are several kinds of worms that can infect horses: bot larvae, large strongyles, small strongyles, large-mouthed stomach worms, lungworms, pinworms, redworms, roundworms, stomach hair worms, tapeworms and threadworms.

Signs to watch for that indicate worm infestation include rubbing of the hind end against fence posts or similar objects. Evidence of this behavior would be broken off hairs at the top of the horse's tail. Other signs would be a dull coat, weight loss, anaemia, or a distended 'worm' gut. Watch for this particularly in a newly purchased or adopted equine from a less than favorable situation.

No single commercial type of wormer is effective against all worms. A few of them get rid of most, or many of, these parasites, but some are effective only at certain stages in the life cycle of the parasites. Therefore, a rotation of different types of wormers becomes necessary to control parasite populations.

This worming business can get rather complicated. For those of us who prefer a more natural approach, there are other options, which, admittedly, might be easier for owners of small herds than those with a large number of horses.

First, one can take fecal samples have a veterinarian test fecal samples for worms. If worms are not evident, then there is no need to worm at all.

If worms are found, one can use a HUMAN GRADE diatomaceous earth. This can be found at various feed and tack stores, plant nurseries, or ordered on-line. Worms can not live in clay. If made available to a horse, it will eat the clay and create an environment unattractive to the parasites. Dandelions in the horse's diet are also beneficial.

I use a natural product, Dynamo Herbal tonic, that makes the equine gut an inhospitable host to worms. I order it from the same company I purchase holistic supplements from.

These natural remedies can be fed to the horse in their grain or with some moistened hay pellets. They must be fed for several days in a row, one week on, one week off and one week on. Fewer days in each sequence will be required for a healthier horse and more for a severely infected one.

It is best to consult with your veterinarian or holistic equine health professional to figure out what approach seems best suited to you and your herd. Once established, you should be able to administer the wormer of your choice, and have peace of mind, knowing that your equine companions are healthy and worm free.

*Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides specialized care for all beings large or small. You can contact Cate at drown_cate@hotmail.com*
Tirion Featured Speaker at FOSC Annual Meeting

By Bob Brandt

Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC) members and guests gathered in Cady Hall on April 15 to review the organization’s activities over the past year and to hear Kate Tirion, owner of Deep Dirt Farm and its affiliated institute, describe her journey from childhood in Wales to her present life as a highly-respected practitioner and teacher of permaculture.

Current president, Anne Townsend, welcomed the attendees, related how the group got started some thirteen years ago and presented a brief oral version of her written annual report.

The organization had a very busy year in 2016-17, highlighted by its spearheading of a survey of the condition of fencing bordering Sonoita Creek State Natural Area and adjacent state lands. FOSC hopes the survey will lead to state funding to repair, replace or add fencing to the area to keep cattle from trespassing on, and degrading, the sensitive landscape, which is home to several threatened or endangered species.

Other notable achievements mentioned by Townsend were continued assessment of segments of Sonoita Creek using Dr. Peter Stacey’s Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment protocol, public presentations by Dr. Laura Norman and Dr. Gary Hix, a walk to historic Camp Crittenden and Fort Buchanan led by Dr. Mark Stromberg, and participation in numerous community groups interested in protecting the creek’s watershed, including the town’s Flood and Flow Committee and the emerging Borderlands Restoration Leadership Institute.

As the featured speaker, Tirion led the audience through a powerful audio-visual presentation in which she described the unique nature of the borderlands region and the techniques she uses on the farm to restore and protect this precious environment. She followed her presentation with a tour of her farm, where members of the group could observe first-hand the practical application of the techniques they had seen in her slides.

Elections for the Board of FOSC were held at the meeting. All current board members and officers were re-elected. New board member Joe Watkins was elected, as well.

Cloud Forest Fundraiser Features Flamenco Artist

A fundraiser for the preservation of Mt. Bomboli, a private ecological preserve in the Ecuadorean cloud forest, will be held May 6 at the home of Cecilia San Miguel, 335 McKeown Ave, Patagonia.

San Miguel has recently returned from her homeland, Ecuador, after traveling around the country for two months searching for land on which to build a healing center. She was confronted with the overwhelming realization of a country devastated by deforestation, soil erosion, and chemical contamination of land and rivers. This violence against nature was positioned in blatant contrast with the majestic scenery of the Andean mountain range and its snow-capped volcanoes.

A week prior to her return to the U.S., she met Osvaldo and Marianita Haro, a couple who has devoted 37 years of their lives protecting what remains of Mt. Bomboli. “Their life’s work is a true gift to humanity and the planet,” San Miguel says.

This private ecological preserve includes a primary cloud forest, sixteen waterfalls of crystal waters, and is the natural habitat of 400 varieties of orchids amidst the bio-diverse ecosystem. It is situated only one and a half hours from Quito, the crowded capital city of Ecuador, yet Mt. Bomboli remains a pristine and mystical world, often shrouded in misty fog.

“I spent two days breathing "living peace" in this sacred place planting orchids with Osvaldo, she said. “What a privilege it was to be in the presence of such a superb human being - a master teacher, conservationist, biologist, ecologist, medicine man.”

San Miguel will be serving tapas and entertainment will be provided by renowned flamenco guitarist Robert Longley. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $30. For reservations, call 520-604-0604.
## Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Meetings</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Events (cont’d)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA - Patagonia Comm. Ctr., Sun. at 8 a.m.; Sonora Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>May 3-7 &amp; 10-13 - Hawaiian shirts for sale to benefit KPUP. Downtown Patagonia, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>May 14 - Skyline Flutes Quartet. Jerry Ervin, Christine Harper, Fran Moskovitz &amp; Sandra Schwoebel. Benderley-Kendall Opera House, 3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board Meeting 3rd Mon. at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
<td>May 5 - Elgin School Burger Burn, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>May 16 - Patagonia Montessori Elementary School presents: “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.” Tin Shed Theater, 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Town Council - 2nd &amp; 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.</td>
<td>May 6 - Exhibitions on Screen presents: Girl with a Pearl Earring. Tin Shed Theater presents: Girl with a Pearl Earring. Tin Shed Theater, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>May 23 - Elgin School 8th grade graduation, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Stage Stop Inn; 3rd Thurs., 5:30 p.m. at Kief Joshua Vineyard. Info: Sue, 520-990-4648.</td>
<td>May 6 - Patagonia Woman’s Club: Celebrating 100 years of service to our community. 4:30-7 p.m., Cady Hall. Please bring a Mexican dish to share and your favorite story to tell. Stringbenders will perform. Info: Connie 287-0071.</td>
<td>May 26 - Patagonia High School graduation, 7 p.m. on PUHS campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon. at the Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall, 5:30 p.m. Tami, 455-5561.</td>
<td>May 6 - “For a Greater Vision”: a fundraiser for the preservation of Mt. Bomboli with flamenco guitarist Robert Longley. Cecilia’s home at La Mision, 335 McKeown Ave. Doors open 6pm, show at 7:30pm. Admission is $30, includes tapas.</td>
<td>May 27 - Flash dating for singles, 2-3 p.m., near south bathroom Patagonia park, 3 min. per flash, free. Info: Jill 287-6075.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. &amp; Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520-404-3490.</td>
<td>May 7 - Danny Brito Latin Jazz Trio. Amilcar Guevara on piano, Manny Brito on bass, and Danny Brito on hybrid percussion. Benderley-Kendall Opera House, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>May 30-Jun 1 - Rodeo Bible Camp at Canelo Cowboy Church, ages 12-18. Register at ccmarodeobiblecamp.com. Info: Dennis Piovesan 520-455-9314 or Pastor Steve Lindsey 520-559-0155.</td>
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### Community Services

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<tr>
<th>Community Services</th>
<th>Special Interests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch for Seniors</strong> - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. thru Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center. Noon—1 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Santa Cruz Singers</strong> - rehearsals Thursdays at 5 p.m. beginning Feb. 16 SCFPA office, 348 Naugle, Patagonia. New members welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service</strong> Medical transportation, Mon.—Fri. for seniors &amp; disabled by appointment only. Info: 394-2494.</td>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong> - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st &amp; 3rd Mondays at 6 p.m. Info: 455-5681.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Food Bank</strong> - Community Center; 2nd Wed. of the month, 9-11 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Crossroads Quilters</strong> - Sonora Fire Dept., 2nd &amp; 4th Mon. at 9 a.m. Info: 520-732-0453.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop</strong> - Fri. 10-2 p.m., Sat. 10-2 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Open Tennis</strong> - PUHS, Sat. at 9 a.m., Info: 394-2973.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop</strong> - Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonora. Thurs—Sat. 10-2 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sonoita Tergar Meditation Practice Group</strong> - 1st Mon. Free. Info: Jonelle 455-9222.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 8 - Mothers Across Borders.</strong> Nogales, AZ at 382 West International Street (Santa Cruz County Association for the Blind.) 10:30 a.m. Info: <a href="mailto:voicesfromtheborder@gmail.com">voicesfromtheborder@gmail.com</a>.</td>
<td><strong>Patagonia Youth Group</strong> meets at Patagonia Community Church, 387 McKeown, every Sunday, 5:30—7:30 p.m.. Info: Pastor Tom Jelinek at 394-2274.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 8 - Club Theater presents: “The Lorax.” Tin Shed Theater. 10 a.m. &amp; 7 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community Youth Bible Hang Out</strong> Ages 12-18, Sonora Bible Church, 2nd &amp; 4th Wed, 6—8 p.m. Info: April Anderson at 520-508-2502, or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-9155.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 9 - SITA Annual Meeting. Wild Horse Restaurant, 5-7 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 11 - Medicare help by appointment, beginning at 9 a.m. Call library at 520-394-2010 to set up a time.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 11 - Elgin Middle School drama performance, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 13 - KPUP Luau, Cady Hall. Dinner at 5:30, The Carnivaleros at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 for dinner and band (children under 10 half price), or $7 for band only.</strong></td>
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She was adopted from us as a puppy
and was used to guard chickens.
She loves kids, animals, and adults.
Very sweet and listens to com-
mands.

Togapei is a grey tabby and white
cat. She is very mellow, likes to
keep to herself, but is quite curious.
Very sweet and loves her bed to
cuddle in. She’s 2 years old and
ready for a new home!

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canelo Cowboy Church
Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
Sunday Services: 8:45a.m. &
11:00a.m. (except third Sundays)

Harvest Christian Fellowship/
Sonoita Foursquare Church
3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

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FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

May 10

Answers to current events quiz, page 25


CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ
(520) 375-8159 or mfish@couuts.az.gov
Local Artist’s Show Opens in Oracle

There was an opening reception on April 9, for Martin Levowitz’s art show at the Rancho Linda Vista Gallery in Oracle, Arizona. A cheerful horde of friends and art mavens from Patagonia, Tucson, and Oracle enjoyed the cool, sunny afternoon, liberally doused with alcohol. The show contained several dozen photos and paintings, and one small, undistinguished sculpture.

Season Opens in Sonoita

More than 60 young ball players were in attendance at opening day for the 2017 Santa Cruz Little League season on April 8 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. The league provides a fun and safe, baseball experience for kids from the Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia and Sonoita areas.

This year, there are two T-Ball teams, two coach pitch teams and one minors team, according to league president Nick Robb.

Santa Cruz Little League, which is a volunteer run organization, is sponsored by Sonoita Propane, Sonoita Vineyards, AZ Pump and Well Svcs., Dos Cabezas Wine Works, KAAT Mini Mart, MCI Monitor Construction, Elgin Energy, Monument Steel Builders, Beyer Tradeworks, Sonoita Bible Church, Headquarters West, Walt’s Plumbing, Unisource Energy Corp., Sonoita Septic, Platinum Contractors, Tucson Conquistadors, Arizona Mining, Darrell’s Designs and Black Oak Builders, Inc.

PYEC Introduces New Program This Summer

Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center has started a PEER POWER program for the summer of 2017. The Peer Power program will feature returning PYEC young adults who will be supporting the younger teens in various programs as well as developing quality activities over the summer months.

One program offered by the Peer Power coordinators includes a summer outdoor camp, where youth will play games, learn about caring for the local environment, ecology, and become stewards of their natural community.

Another task is to build the Girls Empowerment Project and reach out to other local entities that will enhance the program for the girls in our community.

Along with programming ideas, coordination and implementation, the Peer Power staffers will be also creating a stronger public relations/marketing plan for the youth center to network with other organizations that can assist our local youth.

All the young adults are following their career paths in college and this experience at the youth center will allow them to focus on areas of interest while gaining hands-on knowledge in working with youth.

The 2017 Peer Power staffers are Carlos Mingura, Caitlyn Coleman, Illiana Castro, and Annika Coleman. They are all excited to be joining the PYEC family as coordinators and look forward to enhancing programs at the Patagonia Youth Center.

What’s Your Current Events I.Q.?

PUHS history teacher Kenny Hayes gives a current events test each week to his students. See if you can do as well as his students. Match the subjects (Nos. 1—16) to the correct phrases (Letters A—P).

Answers on page 23.

A. Live streamed himself killing a man
B. Executive order to tighten up this program
C. Could cost Washington D.C. millions
D. UK Prime minister is calling for these early
E. Iran is complying, but White House is still unhappy
F. Killed 3 men in day of rage, hate crimes
G. Warns North Korea about nuclear weapons
H. Halts operations in Venezuela
I. Questions Chemical Weapons watchdog
J. Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners are trying to get better treatment.
K. French Candidates worried about safety in election
L. American kids are satisfied, but not happy
M. Opposition wants to cancel referendum
N. Foresees global economy accelerating
O. Execution plan is thrown into doubt
P. GOP challenged for congressional seat

What’s Your Current Events I.Q.?

PUHS history teacher Kenny Hayes gives a current events test each week to his students. See if you can do as well as his students. Match the subjects (Nos. 1—16) to the correct phrases (Letters A—P).

Answers on page 23.
Abla Yala, a folklorico dance group from Magdalena, Sonora, danced on the gazebo in Patagonia on April 23. The dancers, girls from 7—17, who were hosted by the Patagonia Community Church and its youth group, performed several modern and traditional dances that reflected both the folklorico tradition and border issues. The audience, inspired by the lively music and energy of the girls, joined the dancers on the stage for the final dance.
Three PUHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society April 26. (From left) Patagonia Union High School Dean of Students, Carmen Gomez, Junior Eden Lattanzio, Sophomore John Hubbell, Junior Mia Arochi, and National Honor Society Advisor, Gilbert Melanson.

By Marion Vendituoli

Fifty-five guests attended the Friends of the Library (FOL) annual fundraiser Saturday, April 22, to enjoy a brunch and to hear a talk by quilt expert Nancy Landon, of Tucson, who shared her collection of historic quilts. After the talk, guests were invited to view a quilt show at the Patagonia Museum, curated by Phyllis Klosterman, of Patagonia.

On display were more than 50 quilts made by members of the Crossroads Quilters, based in Sonoita, as well as a special quilt that is being raffled off to fund various charities.

Jan Herron, president of the FOL board, and Klosterman had come up with the idea of having a quilt show almost a year ago, according to Herron. “It took a lot of planning to work out how this was going to work,” she said. “There were a lot of people working behind the scenes to get things done.”

“Phyllis and Dick [Klosterman] not only helped financially put on the brunch, but Dick engineered and made the stands for the large quilts,” she said. She acknowledged German Quiroga and the board of the Museum, as well. “They were really easy to work with, and were so nice,” she said.

Fundraiser proceeds will be used for technology upgrades at the library, Herron said.

Patagonia Montessori students held their annual concert April 26 at the Tin Shed Theater. (From left) Front row: Cash Allen, Priscilla Mihai, Hana Bartine, Ivy Allen. Seated in back row: Sophie Lattanzio, Levi Chrisemer.

PCAA To Offer Free Summer Camp

Summer is on its way and so is the Summer Art Camp at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association! Camp runs June 5-29.

Kids ages 5-16 can explore mixed media art with Tammie Quiroga, ceramics with Martha Kelly, and theater arts, dance and karaoke with Laura Wenzel and Anita CW. Although the parade was fun, we will be having our own play and art show to celebrate our work.

We are proud to announce that we have received funding to make the art camp COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE!

To register for camp (SPACE IS LIMITED), please contact Cassina at 520-394-9369 or email makeart1@msn.com.

Cameron Burleson of Sonoita has been awarded the $8,000 Mary Bowman Scholarship.

By Betty Barr

The Anne C. Stradling Equine Foundation has awarded Cameron Burleson of Sonoita an $8,000 Mary Bowman Scholarship, payable at $2,000 per year for four years. Burleson, who graduates from Cienega High School in May, plans to attend the University of Arizona, majoring in environmental science. “Cameron epitomizes the qualities of high academic scholarship, a deep commitment to community volunteerism, and a strong background in agricultural activities that this scholarship was designed to promote,” said foundation president Beth Sullivan.

Five other local students were awarded $1,000 Anne Stradling scholarships. Alisa Gutierrez and Lily Wharton will graduate from PUHS. Alisa will attend a college of her choice, majoring in elementary education, Lily will major in environmental studies at Northern Arizona University. Blake Pruett of Sonoita, and Kelley Titche of Elgin, will graduate from Cienega High. Pruett will major in agricultural economics at West Texas A&M, Titche is enrolled in pre-nursing at the University of Arizona. Dakota Wood of Elgin graduated from Tombstone High and will major in biology at Cochise College.
The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition conducted its third annual hazardous waste pickup on Earth Day, April 22. This year 15 barrels of waste, including oil, gas, paint, insecticides, batteries and lightbulbs, were collected, as well as a trailer full of electronics, according to Denise Bowdon, who worked the event with her husband Brent. “Most of the products will be recycled,” she said.

PUHS Prom a Fun Night At The Fairgrounds

The Lending Shed provides wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, crutches, shower benches, toilet lifts, mobile commodes, incontinence supplies and much more
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