Locals and out-of-towners braved the gusting winds on Saturday, April 26, to attend Earthfest and other activities in Patagonia. Earthfest offered a workshop in the park on native trees, a tree planting, a bike tour, a bird walk, a saunter on Sonoita Creek, and information about plants, butterflies, birds, wild animals, mines, recycling, and restoration. There was live music, and the Fire Department manned the BBQ.

At their booth in the park, Patagonia Animal Lovers (PALS) raised money selling baked goods, burgers and raffle tickets, and Borderlands Restoration opened at their new location on Third Avenue.
McKeown Avenue hosted a book signing for local author Lisa Sharp and her book, A Slow Trot Home, and down the street on Smelter Avenue, the Patagonia Youth Center celebrated its Grand Opening. The Center’s manager, Ana Coleman, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and State Senator Andrea Dallessandro honored the opening with a visit in support of the project. All in all, it was an eventful day.

The crowd watches as Anna Coleman gets ready to cut the ribbon on McKeown Avenue hosted a book signing for local author Lisa Sharp and her book, A Slow Trot Home, and down the street on Smelter Avenue, the Patagonia Youth Center celebrated its Grand Opening. The Center’s manager, Ana Coleman, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and State Senator Andrea Dallessandro honored the opening with a visit in support of the project. All in all, it was an eventful day.

Foosball at the Youth Center

Herman Quiroga with Senator Dallessandro

Teens enjoy hanging around in the Youth Center’s lounge
Candidates wanted: must work nights (and days), read a lot of briefing papers, balance a budget without enough money, make hard decisions that affect people’s lives, and learn how to cooperate and compromise with peers; may be confronted by angry constituents; and will never be able to make everyone happy. There is no pay. Described like that, who would want such a job? Fortunately, in Patagonia, there are many capable and committed folks who have run for mayor and town council.

So why do people run? Typically, they like being community leaders . . . or have specific issues to promote or oppose . . . or feel it’s their turn for public service . . . or believe they can do a better job than the incumbents . . . or are heavily lobbied by their friends and neighbors. While all these are legitimate reasons to run for office, do they actually qualify someone to represent the community? What should we expect from our elected officials?

Here is the PRT’s list of expectations for our council members and mayor:

• Love the town of Patagonia and work toward preserving what is good and fixing what isn’t.
• Be mindful of our history, realistic about our present, and focused on a sustainable future.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities and limitations of the job.

• Commit to becoming well informed about issues coming before the council; do your homework.
• Represent the whole town; talk to a broad cross-section of community members regularly to take their pulse on important issues.
• Listen to all sides before making decisions.
• Communicate your views clearly and openly so everyone knows where you stand.
• Recuse yourself from any decisions where you have or could be perceived to have a financial stake in the outcome. When in doubt, sit it out.
• Treat your colleagues and constituents with respect, always, and especially when you disagree with them.

Embrace the arts of collaboration and compromise; we know from our federal government that nothing gets accomplished when elected officials don’t.

• And for the mayor’s position, run good meetings, model respectful behavior, and hold everyone attending council meetings to the same standard.
• Again specific to the mayor’s role, consider the priorities of the council, community, and town manager in setting the council agenda. Assure that personal interests don’t unfairly influence the business taken up by the council.

There is a primary election coming up this summer; two of five council seats, including the mayor’s, are open. It is our responsibility as a community to field strong candidates, encourage public discussion, and vote! There are big issues that will come before the council in the next two years. Please consider running for office. The more competitive the races, the better the outcome will be for the whole community.

Clean Up Day Planned
At the April 9 meeting of the Town Council, Charlie Montoy reported that he and a committee of citizens were organizing a “Community Pride” town-wide clean up day, scheduled for June 7. The committee, consisting of Charley Montoy, Ray Klein, Chuck Blair and Kaytie King, have already enlisted the help of a number of contractors and their trucks. The organizers, who call themselves the “Patagonia Coalition”, say that they will pick up anything from the street but will not go into yards except with advance notice, and will accept vehicles, tires, and batteries, among other things. They have the equipment but could use volunteers. Those interested should call Charlie at 394-2363.

Water System Usage
Council member Jim Coleman requested that a spreadsheet showing the historical differences between total pumped water and metered water sales be prepared to give Council a perspective on how much water is lost from the system. Town Manager Dave Teel will prepare the spreadsheet. There was extensive discussion about its possible use to establish conservation measures needed due to drought conditions. However, it was determined that the present data is not adequate to make a clear determination, and that further research on wells and drought conditions was needed.

After review and discussion, a 25% rate increase in both base and consumption rates was selected for further consideration and possible adoption.

Street Light Installation
Deferred
There was discussion of problems with the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) and its impact on the town reserves. It was agreed that plans for street light installation should be deferred until the state distribution is restored to its full level.
Noted Conservative Revisits His American Roots
By Ann Katzenbach

Unless you are very up to date on the ins and outs of American politics, you may not have heard of Dinesh D'Souza, the conservative writer and film director. You also probably aren't aware that this best-selling author graduated from Patagonia District High School in 1979. D'Souza was a Rotary exchange student from Bombay, India, where he had already graduated from a private Catholic high school. He was in Patagonia last month with a film crew because he wanted to include a conversation with Posey Piper—his PUHS English teacher—in his most recent film, America, which is due for release this summer.

D'Souza recalls his year in Patagonia with fondness. He says he flew directly to Tucson in 1978 and traveled straight on to Patagonia. During the school year he stayed with four families. He started his year living at the home of a local pastor. Then he moved on to stay with Bob Crosset, the postmaster, Robert Westman, the high school band director, and then with the Yakobian family in Sonoita, with whom he still stays in touch.

He loved literature and Posey remembers him as a fine writer and critical thinker. When it came time for D'Souza to apply to college, Byron Hackett, the school counselor, helped him through the application process. His SAT scores were so good that Hackett encouraged him to apply to Ivy League schools and also to the University of Indiana, Hackett's alma mater. When acceptances began coming in, D'Souza recalls that Hackett steered him toward Indiana, and D'Souza was headed that way when he discovered that Ivy League schools probably would offer the best education and most advantages. His choice of Dartmouth College was to prove fateful.

In 1980 Ronald Reagan was running for president, and a number of his supporters at Dartmouth felt that their views had no place in the college's progressive newspaper, so they started the Dartmouth Review, a journal that is still at the forefront of conservative thinking today. Back in 1980, the paper was controversial, opposing affirmative action and claiming that minorities were degrading the academic rigor of the college. D'Souza made his mark as a writer for the Dartmouth Review. His conservative credentials later led him to serve as a policy advisor to President Reagan.

Over the years, D'Souza has written 15 books and dozens of articles and has produced two films, Michael Moore Hates America and 2016: Obama's America, which is an analysis of the President’s life and suggests that he has an underlying hostility toward America. The film is the highest grossing political documentary of all time. (Together with his new movie, that makes three films he's made with “America” in the title.) D'Souza sees himself as the conservative's answer to Michael Moore.

When he came to Patagonia from a well-to-do Catholic family in India, D'Souza says he was already conservative in his outlook, but he knew little of politics and had no experience of American culture. His first impressions of America were formed in this small town, and, according to those who knew him then, the Indian exchange student adapted fairly easily. He participated in plays, the newspaper, and the yearbook, and he even worked at the Steak Out. Not everyone will agree with his rather extreme political stances, but he's made a name for himself in his adopted country. This is where the Americanization of Dinesh began.
If you were to ask Galen Lamphere-Englund what he’s been doing since high school, you’d need to pull up a chair and sit down awhile.

Galen, son of Winona Lamphere and Larry Englund, graduated from Patagonia High School in 2009. This month, he will receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona Southern University (ASU), graduating Summa cum Laude from the school’s Global Studies Honors Program. His special focus has been on Human Rights. With the help of a Flinn Foundation scholarship (together with other grants, scholarships and internships) Galen has packed an incredible amount of purposeful education and travel into the past five years.

During his first two years at ASU, he completed most of the academic requirements for his major. He also took music coursework and sang in two choirs, with the goal of “using music as a global tool for peace”. During that time he was active in campus politics as well, serving as president of the Campus Young Democrats, and founded Phoenix Rising, a grassroots, nonprofit human rights group designed to serve “university students, Hispanics and low income workers,” who, says Galen, “get the worst deal in the State now.”

Much of his next three years were spent abroad, beginning in Sarajevo, Bosnia, where he studied, hiked, and sang with a group in mountain villages, using music as a means for becoming acquainted with other cultures. “Music can form an incredible basis for conversations leading to the mediation and transformation of conflict,” says Galen. That summer he stayed in Bosnia, where he coordinated a study abroad program, and became better acquainted with the various cultures of the former Yugoslavia.

In his fourth year, he attended the university in Bosnia where he studied the Islamic religion. That year he also spent five months doing research for the War Crimes Court, during which time he observed the court in action.

He then completed an internship with the State Department in Slovenia, combining a public affairs job with education credit. While he was in that job, he developed a music program with the contemporary rock group, REM, in Ljubljana, using music as a means of diplomacy and cultural exchange. He did a TV cooking show for Slovenians featuring two American chefs and Slovenian grandmothers–its focus being the bridging of cultures through food. He also filmed and edited some short documentaries.

Galen’s next stop was Ireland, through a grant he received, to participate in a program on how human rights can be advanced through film. Operated by the Irish Center for Human Rights, the program had 16 participants from 13 countries, and was taught by world-famous human rights photographer Nick Danziger.

Over the course of those five years, he took trains throughout Europe, back to the Balkans, to Turkey, to Russia, to Armenia. He hiked a lot. He listened to people’s stories–people from all walks of life, from many cultures. He traveled back to the U.S., and then back to Europe, then to Cambodia and Thailand for a month. Was he ever nervous, traveling alone and on foot in unknown lands? Galen replied emphatically that every place he has been was safer than the inner city neighborhoods of America’s big cities.

This fall, Galen will attend the University of Washington in Seattle on a scholarship. He plans to pursue an MA in International Studies focused on Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia, and hopes to be enrolled in a concurrent Ph.D program.

Galen was enthusiastic about the academic preparation he received at PUHS, and especially acknowledged his teachers Brian MacKenzie, Lois Rodgers (English), and Gilbert Melanson (Music). He says that his long-term goals are to continue working for peace in the world through music and art, and to explore how technology can be used to advocate for human rights and to reconcile cultural differences.
Patagonia High School students—many of them dressed in Roaring 20’s finery—celebrated in style at the Senior Prom, held on April 12 at La Misión in Patagonia. A total of 55 out of 72 students attended—possibly a record for the event. This year’s theme was “The Great Gatsby”. DJ Ace from Tucson provided a lively mix of music that kept everyone dancing all night. The junior class hosts this annual event, raising money throughout the year to pay for refreshments and music and rental of a venue. The Stage Stop Inn provided DJ Ace with a free room that night. “It was hot”, “It was the bomb”, commented students who attended. Graduation will be held on May 23.
Congratulations to PUHS 2014 Grads!

Savannah Foster and Danny Schrimpf
Johnny Montenez, Jody Quiroga, Alexis (Lexi) Montenez, Nathaniel (Tano) Lucero

KPUP 100.5 FM
~5th Annual Luau~
Saturday, May 10th ~ 5:00

Music by local band *Aztec Blue*
& an appearance by that swordswallower fellow

Luau Themed
~Dinner & Dessert!~
Dinner & Dancing $15.00
Just Dancing...$5.00
Kids 12 & under 1/2 price

All proceeds to benefit KPUP Radio

Luau clothes will be for sale in front of Global Arts Gallery
May 2nd—9th as well as on Luanu Day!

Tickets will also be available for presale with discounts for
clothes/ ticket combo purchases.

Beth Barth
ABR & Home Matters

Step back in time to a place where people
know and care about their neighbors...

We have homes for all ages, lifestyles and price ranges. Homes for
growing families and those looking to downsize. Peaceful weekend get-
aways, western horse properties and luxury homes. Live in the town of
Patagonia where you can walk to the local coffee shop. We look forward
to and are proud of our annual events such as the Sonoita Horse Races,
Patagonia 4th of July Parade & Fireworks Show, Labor Day Rodeo, Santa
Cruz County Fair and the Patagonia Fall Festival to name just a few.

So, step back in time to a place where people care about their
community, the air is pure and parents know their children are safe.

Have you ever dreamed of living in Sonoita, Elgin or Patagonia? It’s NEVER been
a better time to buy! Curious about homes and land for sale? My website
makes it easy to search for homes and land, plus it offers great tools to simplify
the home buying and selling process! Log on today at:
BethB.LongRealty.Com
Rather talk in person? Give me a call
520-907-4409
To contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, send it in Word format to prteditor@gmail.com. PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals for language, length and content.

In biology class they made a big fuss over the body’s organ systems: respiratory, circulatory, digestive, etc., usually leaving the excretory system for last, both because it resides at the end of the line, and because, to those who’ve been potty trained, excretion will always seem a bit funny or embarrassing. Evolution, too, discourages comfort with waste, since it fosters disease. But don’t let that fool you. The organs for getting rid of body-waste are no less important than the other, more heroic-sounding systems, higher up the food-chain, so to speak. Still unconvinced? Then have your local seamstress sew your booty shut for several weeks and see what it does for your health and enjoyment of life. No one’s gonna win a Nobel Prize (i.e., garbage men’s) Union interviewed on TV at that time. "This crisis makes it clear," he proclaimed, without irony or humility, "that sanitation workers are this city’s most important workers, without whom the whole system fails." It made me think that if organs had egos, every major player in the body - the brain or lungs, the stomach or the heart could declare itself King, correctly claiming that everyone else depended on (and would perish without) it. They would all be correct, and ridiculous, too, for forgetting that it’s the team, not the individual players, which prospers or goes bankrupt in the end. All organs are mutually dependent, and are thus potentially held hostage by one another, as are a society’s individual factions. Ukraine, Iraq and Syria, Israel and Palestine. Need I say more? I’ll bet you twenty bucks that if the local landfill doesn’t reopen, you’ll soon start seeing heaps of trash out in the countryside, discarded for convenience or revenge: furniture and sheet rock scraps and loads of brush and rotten boards with rusty nails and big black plastic bags of kitchen waste, in answer to some javelina’s prayer. And when the ravens and the rodents wipe their chins and walk away, the paper trash and other stuff which, till last month, was taken to our local dump, will waft hither and yon on the world-famous Santa Cruz breeze, soon festooning a fence or a cactus near you.
Vastness...A Dwindling Commodity

By Ann Katzenbach

I've been thinking about vastness. It started in those early weeks of the hunt for Malaysian Airlines flight 370. Day after day they tried to figure out where it might be in the vastness. Amazing how long it took to find the hundreds of square miles of ocean where it probably crashed, and then how many days later they narrowed it down to a smaller area of rough ocean, a dot 1,000 miles from Perth, Australia.

As information flowed and overflowed, we learned that it's hard to find bits of an airplane in the vast ocean because there is so much other stuff out there. The sea is the great gathering ground. It's the final resting place for everything that's not tied down. It's hard to imagine how much garbage must have accumulated on the surface of the sea to make it visible from a satellite orbiting the earth 300 miles away. There are lost containers (10,000 go missing each year). The garbage from Fukushima is still out there. Then there's the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, twice the size of Texas, that floats around in the North Pacific Ocean. People who study these things say the oceans may contain as much as one hundred million tons of plastic. “It's not like looking for a needle in a haystack,” said one pundit about the jetliner. “We're looking for a piece of garbage in a garbage dump.”

Once (and never again) I traveled on a container ship from Long Beach, California, to Tauronga, New Zealand. I am glad I did this, because I experienced first hand the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. It took two weeks, during which time we saw the sun rise and set, ate three miserable meals each day, read every book that we had brought with us, played countless hands of gin rummy, and were bored beyond belief. For exercise we walked on the deck while the ship plowed relentlessly ahead. It was a numbing experience. And while we were moving ahead, there were thousands of other container ships doing the same thing, carrying cargo from continent to continent, burning millions of gallons of diesel fuel. And, not to forget that, overhead, jet planes were carrying human cargo and burning through millions of gallons of kerosene. I am bewildered when numbers get into the millions. When there's a visual I can sort of get my mind around it. I'm used to real estate ads offering ten million dollar homes, and I can almost imagine millions of tons of garbage because I've seen landfills, but what does one hundred million tons of half-submerged plastic look like? Or an area twice the size of Texas? I can't and don't want to imagine the number of fish or turtles or birds that are killed by garbage in the sea each year. It's also impossible to comprehend the speed and numbers of satellites and wreckage that orbit our planet.

Vastness is not an uplifting thing to think about—at least not for me. Some might feel a glow thinking about heaven or the infinity of space or a sunset on the ocean's horizon. These are awesome matters to contemplate, but I worry about what's here on earth, and I can't help but think of how quickly we have ferreted out and put at risk the depths of the sea, the forests, the mountains, the sky, and the earth's inards. Vastness is a dwindling commodity. We've solved so many mysteries, found solutions to so many problems. A hundred and fifty years ago we used horses, mules, wheels, wind, and muscle to get things done. Then we found steam, and then we made steel and quickly found petroleum, which gave us the internal combustion engine. Think of the submarine, the telephone, the computer, the airplane, the helicopter, the paved highway, the trucks, the ships, the rockets, the X-ray, the lunar landing. With each step, a certain amount of vastness and mystery disappeared. We've gone nearly everywhere and compromised nearly everything. And now, if we keep at it with our good brains and technical expertise, we will soon solve the vast mystery of how a jet plane could simply disappear. Hurrah for us!
Jus’ Volunteering My Thoughts

By Cassina Farley

It’s Saturday morning, and I’m sitting on the ground, looking up at the sky, noticing the Mickey Mouse shaped clouds. Man, am I glad it’s cloudy today. I’m tired and starting to get sore from shoveling dirt with a bunch of men, one of whom I’m sure is indulging in beer and my foot that seems to be falling asleep (or is it ants?). There’s one more pile of dirt filled with earthworms looming in the background. I consider laying my head on it. Looks like maybe two more truck loads? I start focusing on the fact that my hands are sweating in these work gloves, but I’m too lazy to take them off. You know if all the folks who stopped by to see what we were doing just picked up a shovel . . . well we’d be half-way through a Dos Equis by now. I do realize it’s only 10:30, but man this dirt is heavy.

At last it’s all over. When people ask we’ll pretend it was no sweat. We all know better, and if you don’t mind hearing it again, that dirt was really heavy.

Coming Together As a Community Through Discussion

by Carolyn Shafer

It is critical that we as individuals, our governing bodies, and our community organizations mindfully support existing businesses and invite new business activity that will create a stable and sustainable economy and provide livelihood to all who are willing to work. Let’s first consider some historical and economic information.

The longest lasting local economic activity in the Patagonia area during the past four centuries has been ranching, a part of the economy even now. As prospecting in the 19th and 20th centuries found major mineral deposits, there were also two boom-and-bust periods of mining, from about 1860 to 1910 and again in the middle 20th century. The last mine near Patagonia closed in 1965. In the 50 years since then, the community has rebuilt its local economy on the basis of ranching; tourism; local food production; and recreational amenities, such as birding, hunting, camping, cycling, and hiking.

How did the local economy perform under the industrial-based economy (predominantly mining) and under the service-based economy (predominantly tourism)? A review of all available Town of Patagonia financial audits (1963-2013) helps quantify a half century of economic transformation for the town. Sales tax revenue is one measurement of financial health. In 1963, the town’s sales tax revenues in comparable 2013 dollar value was $54,311 (actual revenue was $7,191). In 2013, the sales tax revenue was $197,540. The service-based economy in 2013 provided 364 percent more sales tax revenue than had the economy based predominantly on mining. Another measure of the town’s health is population, which grew from 540 in 1960 to 913 in 2013—a growth of 69 percent.

I am one of the owners of the local artists gallery. Our business represents more than 40 area artists. Some 85 percent of our business is from visitors to the area, who come here to enjoy birding, hunting, camping, cycling, hiking, and other outdoor activities. I believe that my business and almost all of the other existing businesses will be destroyed as the result of any new mining in our mountains. The number of existing local jobs that will be lost will exceed any mining jobs that might be created for local people.

Yes, there is a history of mining in this area. I know that there are families in our community who were part of that mining tradition. Historically, mining put food on the table and provided a living for many local families. Those mines and jobs, however, are of an entirely different time and place than would exist with today’s mining practices.

What can we as a community do now to proactively create a stable local economy? I propose that we create a discussion group that includes all businesses, as well as community organizations and interested individuals. A few of the topics include a look at the factual information available about the current employment situation, the history of this area’s economic stability and success under both the industrial-and service-based economies, and discussions about how we can support our existing businesses and attract new ones that will contribute to this thriving, resilient community.

I hope to enlist local business owners and community organizations to participate in such a discussion so that we can work together as a community to establish a plan that truly perpetuates a strong and sustainable economy. I will first reach out to the Patagonia Area Business Association and the newly formed Patagonia Regional Business Coalition as two organizations that represent various business interests in the community. Please share your suggestions for economic development and local employment. My contact information is in the Country Connection.
How To Win an All-Expenses-Paid Vacation To Siberia
(In The Dead of Winter) by Binx Selby

From “Stories For My Daughter”

I was in the Peace Corps in the late 1960s, stationed in a little fishing village near Singapore, a big duty-free port. Soviet ships stopped there, and the rubles their sailors left in the economy could be bought for about three cents, while on the world market they were worth more than a dollar. After my commitment to the Peace Corps, I planned to go from Singapore overland through 12 countries to the North Sea with my then wife. I decided to buy $60 worth of rubles to make our visit in Russia more affordable. My roll of 667 ruble notes was the size of my fist, making a bulge in my pants pocket. I put our Soviet visas into a pouch that I wore around my neck. As we made our way to Russia, the pictures got peeled off both visas. Because they were official documents I went to the Soviet Embassy in India to have them repaired.

Our early January flight to the USSR was from Kabul, Afghanistan. We stopped by the Peace Corps office in Kabul, and as I was leaving I saw a bulletin board covered with pictures of volunteers who were serving time in Soviet prisons for smuggling in rubles. I had hauled this fistful of rubles all over Asia and thought—well, actually, I don’t remember what I was thinking—but that roll of rubles stayed in my pocket.

We arrived at a massive unheated stone terminal building in Tashkent. An army officer wearing a fur hat with a big red star looked at my visa and glared. “This is not joke. This is official Soviet document.” I had no idea what he was talking about. He held up my visa and twisted its six folded pages so I could see the picture on one side—mine—and the exit visa picture on the back—a woman. I protested that the Soviet Embassy had mixed them up when they put the pictures back on the visa. “Are you saying the Soviet Embassy made a mistake?” he growled. Without further ado, we were taken to a bench and told to wait. Finally, a young army officer who had been translating at customs walked by, and I asked him what was going on. He motioned for me to follow him.

We went downstairs into a little room with one bright light hanging from the ceiling and a small desk with two phones, one red and one black. Then a guy in a Dick Tracy trench coat and hat arrived. He stood back in the shadows and started questioning me as I stood there under a glaring light. Then he stepped forward and put his hands on my shoulders to search me. As his hands came down my torso I realized Siberia was only a few seconds away.

So I pushed him back. “Look,” I said, “This was a mistake by your embassy. But if you want us to miss seeing your beautiful country, just send us through to Finland. But don’t give us trouble because they made a mistake.” He was taken off guard and jumped back. He picked up the red phone and called someone. They spoke for about 10 minutes, and then he said something to the young army officer, who signaled for me to follow him back to customs. We were checked, got our papers back, and were directed down a long hallway, where I could see the Intourist bus waiting.

With great relief we hurried down the hall. Suddenly a door swung open and the young officer stepped out in front of us. I about fainted. He looked both ways and when he saw no one could see him, he got a big grin on his face, winked, and said, “That was very funny joke. Ha Ha!” and waved us on.

What a Great Town!

By Lynn Davison and Judy Clegg

A couple of weeks ago, we were having dinner with some folks from out of town at the Velvet Elvis. It was a busy Thursday night, and a lot of people were in the restaurant sampling Cecilia’s fine cooking. Right after ordering our meal, one of our dinner partners headed outside, returned, and then keeled over on the hard cement floor. The response to this scary incident was remarkable. One of the Elvis’s staff immediately called 911. A local Patagonian, an ER nurse in Nogales, came right over and ministered to our sick friend until the EMTs arrived. A second nurse, also having dinner, came to offer help, too. None of the other customers stared or got up and left. Then the Patagonia Fire Department arrived, the Town Marshall arrived, and soon afterward paramedics from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire Department arrived. There were at least seven responders in the restaurant, and every last one of them was professional, capable, and caring.

It was almost an hour before our friend was back on his feet. Throughout that whole time Cecilia and her staff were stellar, handling some serious cleanup chores, supporting the first responders, and reassuring our friend. They clearly had their priorities in the right place. In fact, everyone did; it was just the typical Patagonia response. We feel so lucky to live in such a great community. Thanks to Ike and his team, Cecilia and her staff, Jen, and everyone else who did the right thing, the Patagonia thing, on that night.
A week on Catalina Island studying marine biology begins May 12 for 13 graduating eighth graders from Elgin School in Sonoita. After several years of preparation, studying, and fundraising, the students are reaping the rewards of their efforts. They have had to maintain excellent grade point averages and to show leadership skills throughout the year. They have formed a school group called the “Marine Biology Club.” They have raised money for the trip by putting on public dinners, movie nights, and other projects. Superintendent of the Sonoita Elementary School District Sue Schwartz praises the students for raising the funds and says, “They really worked hard to earn this trip.”

The experience begins with a boat ride to Catalina Island off the California coast. There the eighth graders and their chaperones will be hosted by the Catalina Island Marine Institute, an accredited nonprofit educational organization and camp. (For more information about CIMI, go to www.guideddiscoveries.com.) During the week they will study marine biology by doing squid dissection and plankton research and by learning the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates. Some students have never been in the ocean, so they will enjoy kayaking, snorkeling, surfing, and swimming with dolphins. Catalina Island is home to many unusual and fascinating animals, including wild buffalo, which they will see on their daily hikes. And at night, because the sky is clear and dark on the island, the students will study astronomy. Superintendent Schwarz characterizes this trip as an “immersive science experience at one of the most beautiful islands we have.”

Elgin School has sent graduating eighth graders to Catalina Island for 10 years and plans to continue doing so because of the rich experience and excellent science training. Upon their return, the group will have a few more days on campus to report to the rest of the students about their experience and to challenge next year’s graduating class to work toward their own trip to Catalina Island. Graduation for the eighth graders is May 21 at 6 p.m.

Parents and family can see the group’s pictures and read about their learning experience on the school website, www.elgink12.com, and can follow them on Facebook at Elgin School.

Photo courtesy of Elgin School
“Entering Wine Country” is a green and white sign found on all highways leading into the Sonoita-Elgin area. Wine has been grown in the area since 1690, when the Jesuits and Franciscans planted Lonestan Prieto grapes in the area missions. Arizona had a booming wine grape industry before prohibition, but it died soon afterward.

In the 1970s rancher Blake Brophy found some wild, gnarly Mission grapes abandoned on the Babocomari ranch. These old vines were still producing, even after years without care. In 1973 the first experimental vineyard plot was planted on the Babocomari. The success of this effort prompted Brophy and Dr. Gordon Dutt to begin commercial wine growing in 1979. Dr. Dutt, founder of Sonoita Vineyards, is a retired soil scientist from the University of Arizona. Sonoita Vineyards opened in 1983 with a first-vintage production of 300 gallons. Dr. Dutt’s granddaughter, Lori Reynolds, now produces nearly 4,000 cases per year.

In 1984 the federal government designated the Sonoita-Elgin wine-growing region as an American Viticulture Area (AVA), thanks to the efforts starting with Dr. Dutt. To qualify, the growing area must have a unique geographical location, climate, and soil characteristics—all true of the Sonoita-Elgin area. The clay soil retains scarce available water. The high altitude and cool air blowing over the mountains are prime for growing great grapes. The nutrients found in the local grasslands provide excellent nourishment for the vines. The Sonoita-Elgin AVA area is 208,000 square acres.

After having received the AVA certification, the local winemaking industry exploded. First came Sonoita Vineyards, then Callaghan, and now 12 licensed and bonded wineries grow and manufacture wines in the AVA area. Others are soon to follow. Kief Manning of Kief-Joshua Vineyards recently hosted a Southeast Arizona Wine Growers Festival to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sonoita AVA. Kief announced that “This year we want to celebrate that on October 26, 1984, the Sonoita-Elgin Wine Growing Region was granted AVA status, making it one of the oldest federal government granted viticulture areas in the United States.” In fact, the Sonoita-Elgin area is the only AVA area in Arizona.

In 2011 the winemaking industry in Arizona generated 140 million dollars in sales and employed 300 workers in 50 wineries. Today the Arizona business has 90 wineries and has produced more than 189,000 gallons of wine from 1,000 acres of planted vines.

All the local wineries are celebrating the success of the 30th anniversary of the AVA with festivals and events throughout the summer season. They invite everyone from near and far to visit the local wineries and know that they are truly “Entering Wine Country.”

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76th Annual Sonoita Quarter Horse Show

The 76th annual Sonoita Quarter Horse Show, which runs from Friday, May 9 through Sunday, May 11, is the oldest running Quarter Horse Show in the United States and in the world. Held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, the show opens at 8 a.m. and there’s no gate fee. Events include horses working cattle, team roping, running barrels, pole bending and many other disciplines in three arenas. This show also offers classes to Registered Quarter Horses, and a complete complement of All Breed classes. If you are interested in participating in the show, please go to www.sonoitaquarshow.com and download the class schedule and entry form. You can also contact Karen Siefer at 520-425-6393 or Jamie Smith at 305-395-0043.

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A masquerade party was held on April 12 at the home of Lars Marshal, to raise money for the town's Fourth of July festivities. The event was conceived and planned by Amy Miller, Francesca Claverie, Jessica Cowan Cobb, Cassandra Quiroga Farley, Laura Fieberg, Tamara Quiroga, Heather Wood, and Laura Wenzel. The party was well attended, and raised a little over $1000. Jan Herron won a dinner for two at the Wagon Wheel for best mask.

The committee wishes to thank Lars Marshall for the use of his house, Paula Schaper for the use of her property, and Chip Fieberg for his great flyers.

The goal of new dog kennels for Patagonia moves a little closer with each fundraiser. Sandy Young, of Patagonia Animal Lovers (PALS), says that PALS is working hard to make this a reality. She reports that a yard sale held on April 19 brought in $490.00 and there have been donations trickling into town hall—many, she says—from people who don’t even live here.

PALS sold tickets for a 50/50 raffle, and held a bake and burger sale at EarthFest. The raffle winner will be drawn later in the summer, and will get 50% of the total pot. Two 4-H members, Hannah and Brianna Young, have taken on fundraising for the kennel as a club project, and Hannah baked a lot of the goodies that were for sale. She also helped fill out raffle tickets. The sisters also went to Sonoita and gave a fund-raising talk to the Arizona Rangers that resulted in a $500 donation.

At this point, the new building will likely be where the current pens are, but they will be taken away and a new building will take their place. There will be heat and outdoor runs for the dogs as well as a tub to wash dogs and a washer and dryer for their bedding. The building will be constructed with Rastra blocks that use recycled plastic and provide good insulation.

There are already many generous donations of materials. Someone came forward with large and well-built kennels. The fencing has all been donated and the gift of a washer and drier will mean that volunteers won’t be taking things home to wash.

So far PALS has raised $5,000, but the building will cost many times that much, so plans for raising more money will continue well into the future. PALS will have a bake and raffle ticket sale at the Quarter Horse Show and at the Fourth of July celebration. If you would like to help out, you can send a check to the Town of Patagonia marked for dog kennels or PALS. “This is a community effort,” says Sandy Young. “It may take awhile, but we know we’ll get there.”
Community Center Bids To Do Food Prep On Site

By Ann Katzenbach

Historically, lunches at the Patagonia Senior Center have been brought to town each day from a kitchen in Nogales supported by funds from the Santa Cruz Council on Aging, as part of a contract with the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO). The lunches haven’t provide much in the way of fresh fruit or vegetables, and the menu repeats itself every six weeks.

Erika Miller, the Senior Center Program Director, says that maintaining this program with tasty, nutritious, and diverse offerings has become increasingly difficult as a result of funding shortages. Because of the menu, only two to five people would come through the door each noon.

Miller and the board of directors, in an effort to change the situation, began to offer some home cooking to supplement what came from Nogales. They prepared salads and fresh fruit and put out a bowl of yogurt. The numbers began to go up. As of early April there were 10 to 25 seniors coming to eat the weekday lunches.

The center’s contract with the Council on Aging is currently up for renewal, and new contracts will begin to take effect on July 1. The Senior Center has bid to be its own provider. This means that most of the food served Monday through Friday would be prepared on site and would be appetizing and healthful.

Miller says they are hoping to put together a file of 100 dietician-approved recipes to avoid too much repetition.

Miller worries about her seniors. She knows they need not only nutritious food but also a chance to socialize. Lunch is a wonderful opportunity to get together in a relaxed and comfortable situation. Food is always a good catalyst for conversation, the more the merrier.

That seems to be what is happening nowadays as the food improves and the numbers grow. In addition to the weekday lunches, the center offers workout videos on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Also, on Monday afternoons anyone can drop in and play bridge, and on Wednesday and Friday afternoons there is ping pong.

Miller sees the center’s biggest challenge as getting the word out. She hopes to reach more of Patagonia’s seniors and stresses that many of them need reminding as well as a ride. You are considered a senior if you are over 60, and people of any age with disabilities are also welcome.

If you know someone who would benefit from the Senior Center’s lunch program, make a date and bring him or her along. The cost is on a sliding scale from $3 to $5, and, as Miller says, “We don’t look in the donation jar. If someone can’t pay, they shouldn’t let that keep them away.” If you are interested in helping out with the lunch program, Miller says they seem to have enough chefs but can always use volunteers to set the tables, clean up, and donate raw food (vegetables, meat, chicken, etc.). If you do want to assist in the cooking, please note that food preparers need a food handlers license and must be fingerprinted.

A Pool in Summer Is A Beautiful Thing

By Lynn Davison

We have a community pool in Patagonia for another year. It’s the only one in Santa Cruz County outside of Nogales. From May through August, the pool offers swimming lessons for kids, water aerobics, lap swims, and open swims. There is also a new filtering system this year. Sounds great, right? Well it is, and yet...

The pool is jointly funded by the school and the town, each putting in $10,000 a year to operate and maintain it. Unfortunately, that covers only about half of the annual cost. Use fees help fill the gap, but they are not sufficient. Foundation support is not an option because foundations fund only nonprofits. Grants available to schools are limited to funding only things that directly support students, so, for example, they won’t cover the cost of lifeguards who are over 18. Perhaps more critical, in the cash-strapped PUHS and the cash-strapped town, the pool is just not a priority.

So we have this resource that is chronically at risk. Martha Kelly, the town’s representative for the pool, dreams of using solar panels to heat it, allowing it to be open during a greater proportion of the school year. That and a volunteer coach would allow PUHS to again have a swim team. Another dream is putting a bubble over the pool, allowing it to operate it year round. But these are just dreams. Right now, the priority is covering the cost to maintain and operate what we have.

Some local people seem willing to contribute to the pool. Town Manager Dave Teel has offered to set up a separate pool account in the town to hold private contributions. That seems like a good idea. If we want to keep our pool, it looks like the community must step up and help pay for it. If you want to give, call Martha Kelly at 604-0300.
An exhibit of recent artwork by Wally Hill was on display last month at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia.

Walter Ben Hill, age 19, is a native Arizonan and a student at Patagonia Union High School. His art career began when he was 12. He found a piece of baling wire in the yard and made Cinderella’s coach—which he promptly pulled apart and made Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Says his mother, “We began investing in wire.”

The exhibit includes but a few of the many, many wire sculptures he has made over the years from pipe cleaners, increasing in complexity and diversity as he experimented with his techniques. No one ever taught him how to do this. It is his art form.

His drawing ability has increased over the years and his parents credit his natural talent as well as the instruction he has received in art at Patagonia Union High School.

The twenty three drawings in the show were done over a three week period during the month of March 2014. They were drawn from pictures in magazines and calendars that he focused on and made his own.

Wally is a young man with autism and these drawings give us all an idea of how he sees the world. It is a hint of what can only be described as Wally’s Awareness.

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Not Nice

It’s not nice to have a guy die
On your doorstep. It’s not nice
To turn your back on misery,
And not so nice to know
That you could let him go
His way to what could be
Much worse.

He may not belong, but he’s
Around and chose to visit
On his own. He’s not from
Here, but they may hear
And say some things about us
That may, or maybe not be true.

He may have cousins out there
On the desert deadland where
A wall awaits inscriptions listing
All its many dead. I thought
About it once or twice; it may
Be legal, but it’s not nice.

Martin Lahiff
The Patagonia Players performed to a sold out house on Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13. However, the Saturday performance of And Then There Were None, could have also been titled, And Then There Were No Lights. Whatever the electrical malfunction was, it kept the audience waiting outside in the cool spring air for about 15 minutes. Then "the show must go on" seems to have become the rallying cry, and everyone streamed in to find seats.

Eva Wright, the director, asked for everyone’s forbearance and explained that there would be no blackout between acts and no reliable theatrical lighting during the performance. The off-again-on-again lighting didn’t seem to bother either the audience or the players.

Agatha Christie's famous mystery brings eight strangers to an island where they, and two servants, begin to succumb, one after another, to poison, an ax, a deadly injection, a smashed skull, a push off the cliffs, and so on. As each new body is discovered, the remaining victims become increasingly paranoid, realizing that the murderer is one of them.

The book was a straightforward mystery. The play is a comedy, made funnier by some added lines about the lack of light and the owners not paying the electric bill. The cast was excellent, with special kudos to Chip Fieberg for an amazingly polished performance as the fearless adventurer and Anita Clovesko-Wharton, whose prissy comic persona provided lots of laughter.

A great deal of work went into the excellent drawing room set, and the list of other behind-the-scenes helpers was impressive. Eva Wright kept her sense of humor through the lighting mishap, and her directorial skills were evident, lights or no lights.

The show did go on, and, although some members of the audience commented that it went on a little too long, it was an impressive production. Once again, Patagonia amazes with so much talent and hard work.

For Bernice Pomeroy, in Honor of Her 91st Birthday
By Binx Selby

I had noticed that Bernice has been having altogether far too much fun and decided to investigate. I have been watching her and these are my observations...

I.
I caught Bernice in the arms of God
She blushed
Then winked, and smiled,
Reaching out to me, and said
“How about a threesome?”

II.
She asked the Oldman
How can I find you?
He said look into the eyes
Of every person you meet.
I am there.
How can I recognize you?
Smile to all of them.
The reflection will tell you.
How can I know you?
Be the lover and
Love every one of them and
You will know me.
And she did.

III.
I saw Bernice dancing down
the street with God
“He asked me and I just couldn’t resist---
He is such a good dancer!”

Happy Birthday Bernice!
Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

By Vince Pinto

As April comes to an end, so does the lingering luster of winter’s rain. Wildflowers born of this year’s meager cold season inexorably succumb to the desiccating anvil of the sun, as well as relentless drying winds. Spring’s transition into our dry summer can be a painful and austere, yet rewarding metamorphosis to witness. Gone are the bright yellows of Mexican Poppies and Desert Dandelions. Soon forgotten, too, are lively lupines and fabulous phacelias. In their stead stand dry stalks of these and other spring ephemeral wildflowers of dozens of species. The promise of monsoonal life to come rings hollow—a good two months or more away. Left is a gap in life that stands in stark contrast to our two seasons of abundance.

Nature, however, abhors a vacuum. May furnishes just enough new life to help string us along until monsoon season (finally) hits us. Look carefully and you’ll see some spectacular species coming to the fore in this time of dust devils, fire watches, spent streams, and animal estivation.

Bridging the transition between April and May are a variety of flowering cacti. Many species of cactus have evolved to bring forth blossoms during our dry summer. Perhaps their “strategy” is to offer their nectar and pollen at a time when there is little competition in that realm—akin to running a candy shop with limited stock, but with a corner on the market. Santa Rita and other prickly pears, various hedgehog cacti, and more will have multipetaled flowers with numerous stamens, luring in a variety of pollinators—among them many native bees.

Sticking to the succulents, May is the start of our summer stalk season. Some Palmer’s Agaves begin to show the promise of decades of stored sugars. Swelling like a pregnant belly, they’ll soon proffer giant, asparagus-like flowering stalks that grow so fast as to lend credence to the Jack and the Beanstalk fairy tale! The flowers themselves will wait a while (generally June-September) to lure in passing hummingbirds, nectar-feeding bats, orioles, and many others for a free meal. Joining the agaves are sotols, yuccas, and bear-grasses—all in the same asparagus family. Unlike agaves, they cast their pollination lot to the winds and/or to invertebrates available in May and June.

Bare patches of ground on rocky hillside start to show odd, hairy leaves emerging. Here come the “bad women!” Mala Mujer translates to exactly that, only in the singular. A member of the ever-intriguing spurge family, they are eye-fetching yet dangerous botanical wonders. Look, but don’t touch! I, the curious type, will purposely sting myself in the fingers once or twice a year just to recall the sensation and report an eye witness accounting to my natural history and survival students.

Populating the balmy air of May are emerging tarantula hawk wasps, imposing as they buzz by on orange wings. Fear not these ungodly large and dangerous Hymenopterans, as they ignore all, save their would-be tarantula zombie victims. Leafcutter bees start to make Swiss cheese of various native plant foliage in an effort to create nest chambers. Peak bird migration is upon us, and May provides a perfect stage for a myriad of resident, wintering, and transitory species. If you missed the return of some bird species in April, May could be your best hope of seeing them. Meanwhile, many small mammals give the increasingly oppressive heat of May a miss by estivating underground and awaiting the surfeit of summer.

My advice to you? Consider many of the following strategies to survive and thrive in May: visit flowers, rest during the heat of the day, and migrate to a local mountain’s coolness. Just avoid the zombie-making business!
Help Fuel Our Pollinators

By Molly McCormick

Spring has sprung, the pollinators are migrating, but do they have enough to eat? Borderlands Restoration and community volunteers have been monitoring flowers on the landscape, and we have noticed a gap in flowers and thus available nectar each year in May and June. Local hummingbird researcher Susan Wethington of the Hummingbird Monitoring Network has observed some nesting hummingbirds abandoning nests during these hot, dry premonsoon months. It looks like lack of food for our pollinator friends could cause this nest abandonment and potentially a decline in populations. These nectar gaps also affect bees, butterflies, bats, and migrating pollinators.

You can help to solve this problem by planting a pollinator garden! Your backyard can be like a gas station—a place for both our resident pollinators and our migrating friends to refuel. Here are a few helpful pollinator garden tips.

**Start with shaping the earth.** Watch how water flows on your site, and dig basins to capture water coming off roofs or flowing in from various areas. Check out the new Borderlands Restoration retail space on Third & McKeown for an example.

**Group plants.** Create a beacon by clustering plants of the same species or flower color together. Not only does this make plants easier to find, but pollinators will use less energy by flying shorter distances to obtain nectar.

**Create a berm or moat around the plant(s) that extends beyond the canopy of the plant by 1 to 2 feet.** Do this especially if you don’t have the opportunity to shape earth and dig large basins. Line the edges of the berm with rocks to stabilize if needed.

**MULCH!** One of the best things you can do for your garden is to mulch with leaves, straw, or other plant material. Mulch allows water to stay in the soil much longer, provides a barrier against weeds or unwanted plants, and acts as a fertilizer. I like to use a few inches of mulch and to top it off with sticks or heavier material so that the mulch doesn’t blow away.

**Use slow deep watering.** Slow watering allows water to seep deeply, encouraging deep root growth. It also permits less watering, which makes your garden easier to manage. Slowly fill the berm, using a slow drip irrigation system or a hose on low flow. Filling the berm with water two to three times each watering is a strategy for seeping water deep into soils and promoting deep root growth.

**Think about habitat for pollinators.** Not only is your garden a gas station for pollinators, it can become home too. Brush piles, bare earth for burrowing bees, rock piles, and tree stumps or logs are places where pollinating insects like to dwell. Keep a small basin or pot filled with water for thirsty pollinators. You can purchase nontoxic "mosquito dunks" at your local hardware store to keep mosquito larvae out of your pollinator watering holes.

**Avoid pesticides and other chemicals.** There is strong evidence that harmful pesticides and herbicides could be a major part of pollinator population decline. Find other ways to mitigate pests—soapy water in a spray bottle works well. Purchase plants from organic nurseries, and ask about the use of chemicals. Plants grown with chemicals have been shown to kill the pollinators you are trying to help. You can purchase plants from the Borderlands Restoration retail store—our plants are pollinator safe. You can also collect seeds of native plants and grow them yourself.

Volunteer with Borderlands to learn how to design your pollinator garden. Contact Molly at 928-821-5100 or via email at MollyLMcCormick@gmail.com for more information. To volunteer with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network, visit http://www.hummonnet.org.
Ever wished you could pick up more birdseed without driving to Nogales or Sonoita? A big bag of dog food? A hummingbird feeder? Well, that wish is about to be granted by Steve and Carol Schmitt, owners of High Noon Feed and Tack in Sonoita. Some time around the middle of May, they plan to open Patagonia Bird and Pet in the shop at the corner of McKeown and Third Avenue where Many Horses Trading Company used to be.

Senior Felix Wharton participated in the 1A School Invitational Tennis Tournament in Tucson at the Tucson Racquet Club on April 12. He was a semifinalist in singles and finished 4th overall.

Felix, together with Juniors Ililana Castro and Carlos Mingura, Sophomore Danny Schrimpfl, and freshman Lily Wharton, participated in the 2014 State Individual Tennis Tournament that began on Friday, April 25, at the Paseo Racquet Center in Glendale, Arizona.

This year's boys team was made up of Felix Wharton, Danny Schrimpfl, Carlos Mingura, Jonathan King, Caesar Diaz, Calvin Whitco, and Juan Hill.

The girls’ team consists of Illiana Castro, Grace McGuire, Lily Wharton, Kathryn Miller, Verena Miller, Dawn Novack, Alisa Gutierrez, Alyssa Graham, Nicole Manriquez, and Chani McElidowney.

Coach Tod Bowden says this year’s team, which totals 17 players, is the largest number of student-athletes he’s coached since he began at PUHS in 2007.

PUHS Tennis Season Ends on a High Note
By PRT Staff

Both the boys and the girls’ teams finished this season with wins in their final matches at Valley Union High School in Elfrida on April 22. The girls totaled 4 wins and 9 losses. And the boys had 7 wins and 6 losses.

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Four Patagonia School Staff Begin New Ventures

By Ann Katzenbach

As the school year winds down, three Patagonia staff members are retiring, and one is moving to another continent. A period of quiet and contemplation will certainly be a contrast to the pressures of teaching.

Danielle Elskens has taught second grade in Patagonia for two years and gets high marks from everyone. Her husband is in the US Air Force, and the couple will be moving to the Philippines for an extended tour of duty—usually as much as four years. Danielle says it’s a little scary to move so far away for so long, but she looks forward to experiencing a different life style and getting to know the island’s people. There are three military bases in Guam, and she has applied to teach in one of the schools there. She says she will really miss her fellow teachers and the young people of Patagonia.

Claire Thaemert has done a little bit of everything since she began working at Patagonia Union High School—from playground duty to keeping attendance records—“whatever needs doing,” says the retiring school registrar. What appeals to her most about retirement is that it means not sitting at a computer for hours at a time. She wants to get out and walk and enjoy Patagonia, although she says sorting out her late husband’s wagon shop may keep her busy for some time.

Good luck to Kate, Johanna, Danielle and Claire—all turning toward new chapters in their lives.

Sunday Mornings

The canyons we’ve hiked through much of the winter have provided purpose for our Sunday mornings.

The physical aspect for certain and the admiration for rock and water that has, over eons, brought a collective explosion of flora and fauna.

But seeing canyons as time capsules that capture a present state of mind only nature can grasp so freely.

We become enthralled with the coolness and purity of air, the low sun and its play with shadow and light.

And each and every footfall along a path or through a wash, a scramble up a cliff or a slide down a hill punctuates those indelible moments until Sunday mornings never tasted so good and the entire group, sometimes close to twenty of us, cascade through that dreamy space so much better for the effort.

— Robert E Druchniak
Patagonia Elementary’s first grade class proudly participated in this year’s Global Peace Project with the Patagonia Creative Arts Association. Kate Musick, the first grade teacher, said this project was perfect for her class since they are always working toward peace in the classroom. The Global Art Project is an International Art Exchange for Peace, with a mission to joyously create a culture of peace through art. Here’s how it works: Participants create a work of art in any medium, expressing their vision of global peace and goodwill. The art is displayed locally in each participant’s community. The Global Art Project then organizes an international exchange by matching participants. Since 1994 there have been 115,000 participants on seven continents.

Molly Phinny, a local artist, worked with the first graders to produce a work of art for the exchange. The process started with a conversation about peace and what that meant to the children. The project was aptly titled “Let’s Be Friends,” when the students decided that we would have peace if we treated everyone like our friends. Brightly colored envelopes were decorated with handprints and self-portraits. Imagining what their friends might like, they then drew pictures, chose three interesting stamps, and wrote a short note to their far-away friends that they then put in the envelopes. Finally, they made a dove of peace fashioned after one of Picasso’s simple line drawings. All of the pieces were then assembled into a hanging that was displayed in the boardroom at PES until it was exchanged with a group of elementary students in Cambodia at the end of April. It takes a project like this and the words of innocent children to remind all of us that creating a culture of peace is not that hard. All we need to do is to treat everyone like a friend. Peace.

Standing proudly with his five children, Jesus Acevedo Lopez acknowledged his wife 92 year-old wife Cecilia, his two sisters and one brother, and the multiple generations of family members that gathered this past Sunday afternoon to celebrate his 99th birthday. The patriarch of a family that includes 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, Jesus Lopez was born in 1915 in Harshaw, during its mining heyday. He served as a tank soldier in the Philippines during World War II and helped his family back in Harshaw by sending money to his mother during the war. He worked in the mines until he retired at the age of 62. A tireless worker, his family reported that he continues to chop wood and had been tidying up the party site with the weedeater earlier that day.

¡Feliz Cumpleaños! Jesus Lopez Celebrates 99 Years
By Judy Clegg

First Graders Contribute to Global Peace Project
By Liz Collier and Faye Finley

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By Liz Collier and Faye Finley

Patagonia Elementary’s first grade class proudly participated in this year’s Global Peace Project with the Patagonia Creative Arts Association. Kate Musick, the first grade teacher, said this project was perfect for her class since they are always working toward peace in the classroom. The Global Art Project is an International Art Exchange for Peace, with a mission to joyously create a culture of peace through art. Here’s how it works: Participants create a work of art in any medium, expressing their vision of global peace and goodwill. The art is displayed locally in each participant’s community. The Global Art Project then organizes an international exchange by matching participants. Since 1994 there have been 115,000 participants on seven continents.

Molly Phinny, a local artist, worked with the first graders to produce a work of art for the exchange. The process started with a conversation about peace and what that meant to the children. The project was aptly titled “Let’s Be Friends,” when the students decided that we would have peace if we treated everyone like our friends. Brightly colored envelopes were decorated with handprints and self-portraits. Imagining what their friends might like, they then drew pictures, chose three interesting stamps, and wrote a short note to their far-away friends that they then put in the envelopes. Finally, they made a dove of peace fashioned after one of Picasso’s simple line drawings. All of the pieces were then assembled into a hanging that was displayed in the boardroom at PES until it was exchanged with a group of elementary students in Cambodia at the end of April. It takes a project like this and the words of innocent children to remind all of us that creating a culture of peace is not that hard. All we need to do is to treat everyone like a friend. Peace.
Hilltop home on 4.13ac at beautiful Lake Patagonia. The 360 views are exceptional & include romantic night lights in the distance & dark, star-filled evening skies. This 2,066sf custom home features 2 Masters, 3 Baths, 2 Living Areas, Formal Dining, spacious wrap-around Kitchen w/adjacent Breakfast Dining, wrap-around covered Patios + 30’x10’ AZ Room, 2-car Garage + 2 cvd RV/Boat/Dog Run areas. Handsome surrounding homes; paved streets; private well; conveniently situated for shopping & adventuring + historic Patagonia is just up the road.

TAR/MLS #21406410  $309,500

Choice 4.64ac horse property w/360 mtn views. Surrounded by Las Cienegas Natl Conservation Area & historic Empire Ranch, you'll enjoy direct ride-out & adventuring on to 1,000’s of acres of pristine habitat. The 1,456sf home features 3Bed/2Ba/GrtrM-Kitchen-Dining w/vaulted ceilings & elegant appointments. There's a 3-stall horse shelter w/24’ runs, 12x16’ hay storage, cross/field fenced w/2 pastures + pvt well.

TAR/MLS #21404767  $199,500

Delightful Territorial cottage & guest house (1,970sf combined on 6ac) in an exceptional, ultra-serene, hilltop setting w/dazzling mountain & valley views. Of desirable & ultra efficient strawbale construction (built by a master builder), custom features include radiant heat floors, vaulted pine ceilings, custom wd details t/o, granite counters, Saltillio floors, covered porches/patios, storage & artful touches/details t/o.

TAR/MLS #21407739  $322,500
This Memorial Day, local artist Phyllis Klosterman will celebrate by finishing another of the 30 quilts a year she makes for wounded soldiers. Since 2005 she has sent her output to the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which at first distributed them to the victims of hurricane Katrina and since then has given them to returning servicemen and women touched by war. Since its inception in 2003, the foundation has distributed 98,740 quilts. It sends them to military hospitals, whose chaplains handle distribution to veterans. This year the quilts will be going to a hospital in North Carolina. (Phyllis comes from a military family and says she is thankful that her grandsons have not been injured in any conflicts.)

A Quilt of Valor is a generous lap-sized quilt (minimum size 55 by 65 inches) made from three layers of cotton. After it is bound, washed, labeled, and wrapped in a presentation case, it is ready to be awarded. All types of designs are welcomed, but those featuring American flags or anything red, white, and blue are the most appreciated.

The Klostermans divide their time between Patagonia and Battle Lake, Minnesota. Members of Phyllis’s quilting club in Minnesota add quilts they make to hers to be sent to Quilts of Valor. Phyllis will head back to Minnesota soon, but she will return to Patagonia next October and rejoin the Sonoita-Elgin Quilt Club, which meets at the Sonoita firehouse.

Phyllis encourages local quilters to contact the Quilts of Valor Foundation to learn more about how they can help this noble cause. The foundation can be found at www.OOVF.org and on Facebook.

Phyllis at her sewing table putting together another quilt for Distribution to the Quilts of Valor Foundation
The Art of Candle Making Returns to Grayce’s

By Heather Dodge

Those who knew Grayce Arnold are aware of her passion for folding nature into art, especially with her sand-cast candles, many of which are still on display in the shop that bears her name. This type of candle making is an old Egyptian art form, but since Grayce’s passing, no one has stepped forward with a similar passion for candle making—until now.

Meet Mary Mingura, who was already making candles at home, while raising two young children, studying for her GED, and volunteering at Grayce’s, where her family maintains the property for Grayce’s son, Dr. John David Arnold. “I love candles,” Mary said as she described the process she was learning to apply to the sand-cast candles and others in the new wax workshop. “I learned a lot from Clara Hamilton, who made candles here with Grayce, about temperature control, wetness of the sand, safety, and how to use molds and create my own candle designs, colors, and scents. It’s really exciting to see a candle come out beautifully, and I learn something new from each one.”

Asked if she would consider candle making a career, she said, “Absolutely. Candle making is an art and a craft in which practice makes perfect that can be passed down to your children. And everybody needs candles to light the way. Grayce knew that. And I think she’s smiling down on us now with a big thumbs up.”

The Mary Mingura Candle Collection is now available for purchase at Grayce’s Gift and CANDLE! Shop at the entry to Patagonia! Shop at the gateway to Patagonia.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rotary Club Meeting, 1st Thursdays at 7 p.m. a.m. at Pat. H.S. For info: 520.907.5829

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

community services

Lunch for Seniors Mon - Fri at the Community Ctr. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Thursday Special!

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

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

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

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

events

Book Signing - Saturday, May 3, 3 to 5 p.m., Carew Papritz will be at Mariposa Books & More, 305 McKeown Ave., in Patagonia, to sign copies of his new book, The Legacy Letters.


Sonora Quarter Horse Show - Friday, May 9 - Sunday, May 11 at the Sonora Fairgrounds. See p. 13 for details.

Mariachi Festival - Sunday, May 17 at Patagonia Lake. 5 Mariachi bands, dancers, Mexican food vendors. Park opens at 7 a.m. $15 Per Vehicle (up to four adults). Performances 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Rosemont Ours" - Screening and Fundraiser, Saturday, May 17, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. PARA hosts a reception with drinks and dessert at Molly’s Studio Patio followed by a screening at 7:30 p.m. of the modern dance film celebrating the plants and animals of the Santa Rita Mountains.

KPUP Annual Luau Fundraiser - May 10 at 5 p.m. Dinner and dance $15. Dance only $5; kids 1/2 price (12 and under); cash bar, music by local band Aztec Blue, at the KPUP patio, 277 McKeown, Patagonia

"Spring into Summer " - Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sonora merchants will be featuring their best products at their stores located on Highway 82.

special interests

Annual Patagonia Community Youth Tennis Fundraiser - Saturday & Sunday, May 10 and 11, Patagonia High School. Suggested participant donation is $25.00. To find out more, please call Tod C. Bowden: 520-394-2973, or e-mail: todcb@q.com.

Secretary of State and candidate for Governor, Ken Bennett, will meet with the Southern Arizona Republicans at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at the Sonoita Elgin Firehouse, NE corner of Hwys 82 & 83.

Summer Arts Camp - Creative activities for children ages 6 - 18, offered from 9 a.m. to noon, Mon. - Thurs., from June 2 - 26. Theater, folk/textile arts, drawing/painting, & ceramics. Cost is $150. Call Faye Finley at 394-9369 or 394-2377 for more info.

“Summer Shorts” - a discussion group for adults, begins Thursday, May 29 and will meet every other week through August. If interested, leave your name and/or email with library staff so that we can provide you with the material chosen for discussion.

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

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

Yoga with Chip & Laura; Tues. & Thurs., 5:30-7 p.m.; $15/week, $50/5 classes; go to www.chipandlaura.com or call 604-0830 for more info.

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

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

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

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

Sonora Targar Meditation Practice Group - 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at a private home. Free. Information: Jonelle 455-9222, jonelle@tergar.org

Sonora Plant Parenthood Gardening Club - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For info contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.
ADOPTABLE PETS OF THE MONTH
By Sheryl Toth

Penny
Rusty

Penny is a delightfully charming calico who was surrendered to SCHS recently because her family could no longer care for her. 2 and half years young, Penny is very sociable with humans, and gets along well with other cats too.

Rusty is a happy go lucky guy who gets along with everyone in our trail park, and always has a smile on his face! Rusty is an affectionate, furry friend who will make a great hiking buddy.

SANTA CRUZ HUMANE SOCIETY
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales  287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org
GOT HORSES? 5 usable acres in Elgin. Great Barn, completely fenced/cross fenced. Home is pristine, loads of amenities & features, split floor plan, skylights, surround sound, covered porch, gazebo, vegetable garden and even a hitching post!
23 Southmoreland, Elgin
MLS# 21407096
$399,000
Jean Miller 520-508-3335

QUIET AND PRIVATE! 2 BR / 2 BA, 2200 sq ft. Santa Fe home on 28 acres! Within walking distance of Patagonia. Dream kitchen, spacious and open. Barn, plenty of turnout room and a seasonal creek! 31 Cross Creek, Patagonia
MLS# 21316953
$567,500
Carol Ford 520-604-0162 or Cheryl Volk 520-975-7271

GEORGEOUS VIEW HOME! 3 BD / 2 BA, 2542 sq ft. Mediterranean home on 4.2 acres at the Lake. Split floor plan with high ceilings and beautiful windows that highlight the view of the Patagonia Mountains. Truly a turn key home.
16 Rosete Court, Patagonia
MLS# 21408417
$465,000
Beth Barth 520-907-4409

CUSTOM HOME ON 8+ ACRES! Unique custom home on two lots! Over 8 ac with lots of flat, usable land to add garden/ workshop/ barn/ pastures. Built in 2007, 2623 sq ft w additional 490sq ft office. Gorgeous kitchen, 4 bedrooms and 4 baths. 20 Escalones Ct, Patagonia
MLS# 2132613
$389,000
Jean Miller 520-508-3335

LONG REALTY
SONOITA/PATAGONIA Independently Owned & Operated
Patagonia 520-394-2120
325-A Mc Keown Ave
Next to the Gathering Grounds
Sonoita Main 520-455-5235
Hwys 82 & 83
Next to the Post Office
Sonoita East 520-455-4634
N E corner of Hwys 82 & 83
Sonoita.LongRealty.Com

May 2014