Finally, after nearly a year of upheaval, detours, and interrupted water service notices ...

The Water Project is Done!

Letters From Our Readers

Open Letter to Our Senators

I write to condemn recent congressional attempts to interfere with our president’s negotiations with the Republic of Iran over its nuclear ambitions. This great country has had enough congressional time-wasting. We have too many serious problems that need attention, yet our congress wastes its time with frivolous lawsuits, letters to foreign governments, useless litigation, and playing political football with Hillary Clinton over her personal email address and private server. All this while the infrastructure our grandfather’s built rots, our water mains are breaking, railroad rights-of-way have become bike paths for the grossly overweight, roads fail, pipes leak, and bridges collapse. This nation’s airports are crumbling, but we get new names for post offices and federal buildings, more lawsuits, and stupid letters. I’m tired of voting for people who think only of their next election and their political party, and will vote no more for any senator who signs/originates such nonsense.

-- Chuck Hammond, Sonoita

She Found Her Village

In Alberta I manage a 6,000 acre native grassland ranch on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The ranch is in the process of having a Nature Conservancy of Canada easement placed on it. For the past six years I have been very active in learning all I can about watershed issues, and restoration of creeks and other water bodies, creating habitat for wildlife and preserving native grass through grass management. When I decided I needed somewhere to work as a winter volunteer, I went on line to find holdings in Arizona. I chose Patagonia because I like the exotic sound of the name, but I knew nothing about the place. I spoke to Luke at The Nature Conservancy phone and the next day headed straight to Patagonia. I met with Luke and was warmly accepted for next year as a volunteer for noxious weed control, trail work and fence repairs, stuff I am good at! The rest of the day I spent being a tourist and visiting every wonderful little shop, speaking with the people of the village, staying at the visitor center, Borderlands Restoration, the Paton Hummingbird Center, the library and the laundromat—where I met my first friend! I was invited by her to attend the Tin Shed for a night of Who’s Line Is It Anyway? On the last night in town I attended the CHOP fundraiser at the Gathering Grounds. I just have to tell you people of Patagonia that your community made my Spirit Soar!! I feel as though I have been searching for this community all my life and did not even know it. I have found my Village. You are all shining examples of what our world “should” look like! I can hardly wait to return next winter and immerse myself in the community. I brought home a copy of your newspaper, and it is the best damn little paper I have ever read. Thank you Patagonia residents for making the world a better place.

--Tracy Latham, Canada

Compliments To PRT

A friend and I were in Patagonia last month and picked up a copy of your paper. Just wanted to compliment you on putting out a really wonderful paper. I very much enjoyed the articles and thought it had a great selection of things to read. The articles were also very well written, I thought. I was sorry I wasn’t around for the Orphan Train presentation. Anyway, just wanted to pass it along.

-- Mary Eggert
In a remarkable display of community spirit and organization, the Patagonia Regional Business Coalition cleaned up the streets, alleys and backyards of the town on Saturday, April 25. The weather was cool and clear and lots of people had piled their trash by the side of the road in anticipation of what will hopefully become an annual event.

Equipment from Brent Bowden’s DM Engineering did the heavy lifting, and lots of volunteers hitched up their own trailers to take trash to the landfill which is otherwise only open one day a month and can cost more than $25 for a trailer full of garbage. The town donated its dump truck for the massive clean up effort that saw a constant train of vehicles headed up and down Temporal Canyon Road. “People put off going to the landfill because they know we’ll do this,” said Bowden, “But, hey, it gets the town clean. That’s the important thing.”

Along with the cleanup, many of the town’s streets and alleys were recently paved with chip sealing. Thanks to the Patagonia Regional Business Coalition and everyone who volunteered for this amazing clean up effort.

By late morning, this much trash had arrived at the dump site

Smelter Avenue was one of several town streets that have been recently scraped and paved with chip sealing

Photos by Ann Katzenbach

Brent Bowden directs a work crew

One neighborhood’s contribution to the cleanup
Earthfest’s workshops, lectures, hikes and events help foster a greater awareness of our role as caretakers of our planet

Twelve community service organizations and eight local businesses participated in this year’s Earthfest, April 17 - 19. The activities were held in several locations: hazardous materials recycling was at Doc Mock park, the workshops were held at the town council chambers, and Cady Hall was the scene of youth art and other youth activities (“food alive” presentation and face painting), electronics recycling, community service organization booths, and the Friends of the Library auction.

Carolyn Schafer, who organized the event, says that she was pleased to see increased participation from community organizations and a higher turnout than last year. One local resident remarked to her about the youth art on display, "Wow! Awesome stuff! So much talent and creativity on display. Patagonia is so lucky to have its future in the hands of such wonderful thinkers and artists."

The Little Free Libraries (LFL) auction was held outside of Cady Hall in conjunction with Earthfest. Many of the libraries had been sold before the auction. Brent Bowden served as a rousing auctioneer, and the remaining LFLs were sold in short order. Jan Herron, who organized the LFL project, says that the it netted about $8,500, and Friends of the Library hopes to use the proceeds to remodel the friend’s book sale room, redesign and relocate the director’s office, and continue to support library acquisitions. She expressed her thanks to everyone who got involved in any phase of the project, noting that people were "generous with their money, their talents and their time."

ABOVE: Sally Greenleaf, Bea Quiroga, Andy Gould, Tomas Jonsson, Rita Bradley, Kate Musick, Cliff Hirsch, German Quiroga, and Murphy Musick complete planting of a desert willow tree in celebration of Arbor Day during Earthfest. Two more trees will be planted in Richardson Park. All were purchased with funds from a PRCF grant and a generous donation from DM engineering and C. Blair.
About The Post Office
(No Fooling)
By Lynn Davison

Our cover story in the April issue of PRT got so much response that a follow up seemed in order. Surprisingly, few readers noticed the upside down APRIL FOOLS, and many people seemed to like the idea of sprucing up our post office. One resident asked “When is Rhonda (Brew) going to start painting the stamps?” However, most hated our (intentionally controversial) choice of stamps. Several questioned the use of tax dollars for adornment of the post office.

We thought this might be a good time to provide a little truthful information about our local post office, including a few items you may not know:

• The Patagonia PO lobby (for post boxes) is open seven days a week from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.. What do you think happens during the one minute of closure at midnight?? It is a mystery. The retail office is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., although there is pick up and delivery of mail on Saturdays too.

• Patagonia offers most of the services available in larger post offices, but they don’t renew passports. You have to go to Nogales or Huachuca City for that. What we do have in Patagonia are bulk mail, burial flags, business reply mail, duck stamps, general delivery, money orders, pickup hold mail, PO Box online, Priority Mail International. We will leave it to you to inquire about duck stamps.

• Patagonia’s Post Office has its own address: PO Box 9998

A Promotion for Mandy Montañez
By Donna Reibslager

Mandy Montanez was recently promoted to General Manager at Red Mountain Foods where she’s been working since 2010. Mandy began as a part-time clerk with Patagonia’s local produce and natural foods store when it was still at its original location on Naugle Avenue. She commuted to work from Tucson, until she moved to Patagonia about two and a half years ago.

Before she took the job, Mandy had no knowledge of organically grown food or gluten-free diets. She says that she is amazed at how much she’s learned from working at Red Mountain. And she loves being able to help customers who come in with questions about herbal remedies, free range eggs, soy versus dairy, how to cook kale, or how to use kelp as a nutritional supplement. (Or how to get to Patagonia Lake.)

Mandy also loves the sense that Red Mountain Foods is a hub, a place that many of the town’s residents visit regularly. The relaxed atmosphere of the store encourages conversation, and Mandy says that working there has allowed her to get to know a lot of the store’s customers, who often spend a few minutes talking to Mandy when they stop in for a purchase. Sometimes, says Mandy, lengthy conversation ensues. Opinions are aired, problems resolved, insights shared. “Patagonia is such a magical place,” she says.

She also feels fortunate to be a part of Barry Muehe and Annie Sager’s “family” of staff. “They are great people to work for, and we all get along really well.” The promotion will also allow Annie a little more flexibility in her work schedule, so that, after all these years, she can take a day off once in a while.
The Nature of Pit Bulls

By Erin Botz

Patagonia, we have a problem. A pit bull problem. We have had at least six animals (that I am aware of) attacked by pit bulls in our community in the last few years. Four of those were attacked in just the last two months. This is a serious safety issue for our community that needs to be addressed (again).

Pit bulls have a troubling history and traits that make them distinct from other dogs. They were specifically bred for dog fighting: to be highly aggressive, stay in the fight, and have a high tolerance for pain. They were bred to have a strong prey-drive, incredible jaw strength, and a deadly “hold and shake” bite pattern which has been compared to that of a shark, capable of inflicting terrible tissue damage. According to Dogs-Bite.org, an advocacy site for victims of dog bites, “Pit bulls have the highest propensity and frequency of any dog breed to be involved in a severe mauling.”

Of course, there are breeds and then there are individuals within breeds. There are certainly pit bulls that will go their whole lives behaving well with people and other animals. However, defending all the “good” ones out there is not helpful in this context and indeed, there have even been attacks perpetrated by pit bulls with prior good reputations. Even responsible owners with nice dogs need to be vigilant. Pit bulls are a huge liability.

Even the pro-pit bull website, PitBullLovers.com, “A Site Devoted to the Greatest Dogs on Earth,” has several warnings scattered among the many statements extolling the virtues of pit bulls: “The Pit Bull is strong, intelligent, and has been bred for a willingness to ‘test their mettle’ against larger animals and other dogs...Caution should be taken even if you think your dog is dog-friendly....It is vital that Pit Bulls be supervised when with other dogs. This is even true for dogs that have grown up together or get along perfectly....You as a responsible owner should know that the genetics of your breed lean toward dog-on-dog aggression. Keeping your dog and those dogs around your dog safe is your responsibility... Pit Bulls can easily get along with other animals, and can just as easily harm or kill those animals.

...Even Pit Bulls from the same litter will have varying degrees of ‘prey drive.’ Prey drive is a genetic quality that makes dogs driven to chase and kill animals. The owners of a dog with high prey drive must ensure that access to other animals is kept from their dog...Never trust your Pit Bull not to fight.”

You get the idea. These dogs can be dangerous, especially to other dogs.

So, we have a problem. We’ve got a lot of pit bulls in town. We’ve had several attacks and if we don’t make some changes, more can be expected. Some cities have breed-specific regulations or even go as far as banning pit bulls. Do we need something like that here? I don’t know.

While we think about that, perhaps we can voluntarily take some preventative actions. Maybe we can make sure we have adequate gates and fencing to contain our escape artists and be vigilant about keeping them closed. Maybe we can “just say no” to taking one of the neighbor’s puppies and think twice about bringing a new pit bull into the community. Maybe get a different dog instead. Maybe we can be willing to accept that our sweet angels have potential to do harm and supervise them diligently. Maybe we can spay and neuter our pets—especially pit bulls. Especially pit bulls from family lines with attack histories. Some of these dogs attack multiple times and the owners get multiple citations before enforcement happens (i.e. the dog is removed or euthanized). This has got to change. Please, let’s do what we can to prevent future attacks in our community.
Since PRT began over five years ago, we have reported:

- Two incidents in Mendoza Alley, in which dogs being walked on a leash were attacked and injured by pit bulls.
- An elderly resident who was repeatedly threatened by a pit bull near her home on Pennsylvania as she walked down the sidewalk.
- A woman whose horse was attacked while she was riding on Blue Heaven Road.
- A resident who was bitten as she walked down the sidewalk in town past a dog who was tied to a post.
- In 2013, a pit bull leaped out of its owner's truck to attack a dog that was in the park with its owner for the rabies vaccination clinic. The same dog had jumped out of the truck ten days earlier to go after a dog being walked by a woman on the mesa. The dog's owner had to hit the animal over the head with a hammer several times before it finally released its hold on the head of the small dog held in its jaws.

This year, prior to the incident on April 12, there have been two reported attacks involving pit bulls:

- In February, a 14-year-old girl was bitten on Harshaw Road by a pit bull when she tried to pull it off another dog it was attacking. The same dog had killed a goat at the Spirit Tree Inn last summer and the case had gone to court. The dog did not have a current rabies vaccination.
- In March, two dogs wandered into a neighbor's yard on Roadrunner and were attacked by the owner's two pit bulls. The pit bulls' owner was told to keep them fenced in, and yet the following morning they were found attacking the same dogs on the neighbor's front porch.
For the Love of Making Music

By Ann Katzenbach

When Dick and Phyllis Klosterman designed their house, they made the living area one uninterrupted space, and when it was built, Dick says that he imagined it filled with music and friends. On Wednesday evenings, when a rag tag group of musicians come into his living room, this is just what happens.

The New String Benders are mostly male (although some female musicians come on occasion), and mostly grey-haired. They all love to play music, and they play together using their natural talents to find melodies, harmonies and rhythms. Their song book is filled with lyrics, but there are no notes on a page and no one is really in charge—although Dick usually chooses the song and Dave Ellis, on banjo, seems to get each piece started. After that it’s a play-by ear version of old favorites like "Red River Valley," "’Tis a Gift to be Simple," some Spanish tunes, a waltz or two, and on into the evening.

Janice Pulliam comes to sing, while some of the musicians’ wives pull up chairs and work on a jigsaw puzzle. Other people drop in just to listen or sing quietly along using the song book to recollect lyrics. "This Land is Your Land" is sung with a few newly minted lines: ".....from Patagonia to the Biscuit Mountain, from Parker Canyon to the Empiritas....."

The evening I dropped in, the band was almost complete. Dick Klosterman plays guitar, Dave Ellis, banjo, Alex Johnson is the fiddler, and Don Bryan plays mandolin. At the center of the band is a keyboard played with gusto by Gamma Leyva. Next to him is percussionist Fred Moreno, who plays a cajon (ka-hon) drum, a six-sided wooden box that keeps a lovely muted rhythm going. Dick Klosterman rescued an old bass guitar at the Methodist Church that no one knew what to do with. It’s now an important part of the band, strummed skillfully by Charles Moreno. Astarian Mosley was there with his acoustic guitar. Absent that evening was Bob Brandt who plays, according to everyone, a "mean harmonica."

"Everyone brings something to the table," says Dick Klosterman, who has been nurturing The String Benders for 20 years. Phyllis says that most of the original group have passed on, but notes that new faces keep turning up. Sometimes they start on the sidelines, but most closet musicians can’t resist the band’s spirit and inclusiveness. Dick speaks proudly of the improvement members of the band have made over time. Around 9 p.m. the music winds down, but there’s usually "just one more tune" before everyone heads for the kitchen table, where a potluck assortment of desserts is laid out. There’s plenty of decaf coffee that Phyllis says is the only kind she brews anymore. By 10 o’clock everyone is out the door. The very difficult jigsaw puzzle is a little further along, some dishes go in the dishwasher, and the sound of music still lingers. Another musical Wednesday night with the Klostermans comes to an end.
On Wednesday, May 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Family Health Center in Patagonia, Family Healthcare Amigos will be celebrating Ann Mihalik and thanking her for four decades of service securing better access to healthcare in our community. This event will be a potluck and all who would like to lend their thanks to Ann are invited. We will have music, as those who know Ann, also know that we couldn't have a celebration for her without it. There will be cooling drinks and plenty of shade where we can enjoy the afternoon.

Typically, healthcare services in small rural districts such as ours are minimal. Ann Mihalik has worked constantly to expand services for us. In 1975, healthcare services in Patagonia were conducted in a small trailer, staffed by family nurse practitioner, Joanne Baron, a longtime friend of Ann's.

The clinic was founded two years later and named for Carolina Montoya, Ann's aunt. It became a satellite for the Mariposa Community Health Center in 1990. In 1996, Ann joined the Family Healthcare Amigos board and served as its president until 2014. The clinic has five exam rooms and a procedure room, is staffed by a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner, and a part-time Family Physician. Additionally, MCHC makes daily deliveries of prescriptions to Patagonia for patients from its full service pharmacy in Nogales.

We have come a long way since the little trailer. Ann's determination and her ability to muster the help of like-minded people, has supported the increase of the many services Patagonia has today. She has helped us to gain our clinic and its maintenance, extended training for emergency response volunteers through our fire department, and certified training for many here in Patagonia as eldercare practitioners who are gainfully employed in our community and beyond.

Our recently founded Lending Shed, which provides durable medical equipment for those who need it, was also Ann's project. We have had workshops that help us to navigate our newly formed healthcare system. And, we have Family Healthcare Amigos, a local organization that continues her to support increased healthcare services and resources for the citizens of Patagonia.

Ann has many family members who have worked in pioneering aspects of healthcare. Her mother's sisters, Martha, Carrie, Sister Mary Fabian and her great aunt Carolina Montoya were all trained as nurses during WWII, served in it and returned at its end to continue their nursing careers. Carolina was one of the first rural nurses to serve in Arizona and the first nurse in Patagonia to address high infant mortality rates and to focus on prenatal care, the health of infants and their mothers. Sister Mary Fabian pioneered the revision of eldercare facilities by establishing a more kindly and respectful system within them. Ann's brother John is a doctor and his daughter, Amanda, is now the first woman in the family to become a doctor. Ann has carried on this robust legacy and credits her family with inspiring all the work she has done to promote the well-being of others.

Come join us to celebrate Ann's long service to healthcare in our community. Bring your potluck dish and toast the health of someone who has kept our own in her sights for so many years.
Most mornings when I sit down at my computer, there is a very predictable array of solicitations from organizations, for profit and non. Most of these had not arrived when I looked at my mail this morning. Instead there were some messages from people with wonderful things to tell me. Because I am ambivalent about computers and most days find I hate them more than I love them, I will share what came to me through all those waves bouncing off towers and satellites.

The first message I opened was from a friend who lives on Lopez Island in Washington. Marcia sent a photograph of herself dressed in leopard skin. Her face is made up to look like a cat. Next to her is a woman wearing a homemade bird hat. Both carry accordions. Marcia wrote, “It was a pretty swell earth day, the great island cleanup on Lopez picked up 1000 lbs of garbage and recycled 600 lbs. Then we had a very sweet parade, the Procession of the Species. There were all sorts of creative costumes and a lot of sunshine.” Marcia is the director of the San Juan Island National Monument. She works for the Bureau of Land Management, and I am betting that it’s a rare day when a BLM director goes out on the streets with regular folk wearing a leopard skin bathrobe. Yea, Marcia!

Next came an email from my friend Tim who lives in Rhode Island, plays the guitar, writes poetry, sings songs, takes beautiful photographs, and has a unique sense of humor. This is what he wrote, “If you have angels in the house, and you want to see them...this will do the trick...” That sentence alone would have been enough pleasure for me, because it posed the question of whether there might be angels in my house. What he attached was a YouTube video of the Charles Lloyd Quartet playing “Caroline No”. Charles Lloyd is 77 and a virtuoso alto sax player. The three other members of his quartet are younger black musicians - very shaved, very gifted. The camera work in this film is as quiet and beautiful as the music.

There are close ups of the piano player’s hands that make you feel the keys. But the best part is the beginning where Lloyd is sitting beside the piano listening to the drums and piano. He’s wearing a soft hat and half-zipped jacket. His eyes are closed and he moves his body in a way that says he’s way inside the music. Once he raises his arms in a lovely motion - maybe like an angel. A wise man with considerable gifts, Lloyd expresses himself through words as well as music. “Music is a healing force. It has the ability to transcend boundaries, it can touch the heart directly, it can speak to a depth of the spirit where no words are needed. It is a most powerful form of communication and expression of beauty.”

What next? Yes, one more amazing email in the usually mundane stuff that mostly goes to the trash.

A few days ago I asked Gary Romig if he would send me some bird photos so that I could add them to the slide show we have put together for the Visitor’s Center. Gary is one of the town’s bird experts and an accomplished photographer. There was his name in the “from” column and I opened his message with high hopes. What came on my computer screen was a breath-taking image of a hummingbird that appeared to be wearing an amethyst necklace. And then a tiny green and blue hummer with a red beak. These were followed by eight more images, each sharply focused, that ranged from the colorful hummers and an elegant trogon to the brown camouflage of a road runner.

What amazing gifts to help start the day! It will be some time before the dark side of our wired-in world makes me forget the angels of this morning.

Photo by Gary Romig

To contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, send it in Word format to prteditor@gmail.com

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE IS THE 20TH

PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals
Here, Now
By Martin Levowitz

I've never before waited until the last minute to begin an article, largely because my early drafts are unfailingly dismal. I think most of us have trouble seeing clearly what we've just created. Like new mothers, we're blinded by attachment; unable to perceive the hideous deformities everyone else finds obvious. This column—typically baggy, digestible, and unfined—must often seem like an early draft to some readers, even when it's been winnowed down repeatedly. Modern art sometimes achieves childlike appearance by virtue of great effort and time spent. Good thing I'm paid by the hour.

Were an asylum pleasant enough, the inmates would stay of their own free accord. There'd be no need for walls. I've been volunteering at the new Patagonia Visitor Center. Both tourists (passing through) and those who live here comment affectionately on this town's "quirkiness." What a varied collection of cartoon characters has washed ashore here! Some just happened by unwittingly, on their way from Tombstone to Nogales. Others, including, starry-eyed seekers, come for local institutions: Native Seed, The Tree, Borderlands, Deep Dirt Farm, etc., and find they like it here. Once done with their prenticeships, they stay here anyway, to eke out what living they can. Atop the original, quiet Hispanic community, you've got prosperous, well-educated retirees, sophisticated people of means, who've traveled widely and have other options, young agrarian idealists, fossilized hippies, spiritually ambitious seekers, bird freaks, laconic Sasquatchologists, etc. Most of them—despite differences in background and lifestyle—know one another by name and are casual friends. This town, with its enchanting smorgasbord of humility, variety and soulfulness, reminds me of a grease trap under the kitchen sink of a truly excellent restaurant.

It's a friendly place. "Be yourself!" could be the town motto. Nobody really wants you to be much different than you already are. Occasionally, some transplant exhibits signs of normalcy, prestige, or urbanity--appearances perhaps viable in the outside world, but anomalous here. Patagonia requires no credentials. Those who think they must declare their historical "identity"—or are just unconsciously in the habit of doing so—are real—a fertilizing synergy of sorts. Given time, it will end, then show up somewhere else. Our job, so to speak, is to appreciate it and be nourished by it without allowing it—or ourselves—to grow precious, self-conscious, or smug. Patagonia's economic limitations are an important part of the immune system keeping us real. Failing that, we will slip down into the cesspool of glamorous self-congratulation that has already swallowed Tubac, Telluride, Taos, Santa Fe, Marin County, The Hamptons, and—King of Such Mishaps—Sedona.

Every one of these "special" places is beautiful and charming. Their beauty brings doom upon themselves. The artists and rich folks come first; not a problem at the outset. But, then, the word gets out and, next, "discovery" ensues. Where tourists flock, prepare for schlock. Cute, vapid art galleries outnumber ordinary businesses. Buildings are painted unusual colors only because they are unusual. Elegance becomes competitive. Privileged people saunter from gallery to gallery, chatting glibly, wineglass in hand, up and down Canyon Road in their $4000 cowboy boots and $7000 concho belts, like spoiled children at a masquerade, aping local history. Before we let that happen here, please, let's just move to Benson or Wilcox or Sells, where plainness, limited opportunity and bad diet will ward off the scurvy of arrogant vogue. It may take mines and trailer parks to save us from this blight.
It’s been five years now—it was time for her to go. I miss her.

My mamma’s love was a steady effortless flowing fountain; it could fill a room. She laughed easily. She saw the good in things. It’s these qualities that I cherish. It is also true that most of her life was wrapped in fear, physical pain and mental illness. She was often paralyzed by her feeling of inadequacy. She was angry but she swallowed her rage, and it made her sick. In the end she died a turbulent death, still battling her fears and internal struggles.

Growing up with this loving but troubled woman, I adopted her beliefs. I took on her panic attacks and an overarching sense that I was never good enough. Fortunately for me, I received therapy and was eventually able to confront my devils.

She never had that opportunity.

All that is a lasting and unforgettable memory, but fortunately, not the memory that defines her. Through all her struggles with pain and mental illness, she was an irreverent, supportive and merciful saint as a parent and friend. Her name was Anne. Her love saved my life.

Her greatest joy was in loving her children. Even in the cruelty of Alzheimer’s, she remembered both of us kids the longest. First, she forgot her devoted husband, then she forgot Jesus, and eventually she didn’t know me or Leslie either.

Still, she was “the listening post” of my life. She taught my sister and me how to express ourselves, how to shine, and that it was ok to please ourselves. She loved us and she supported our life choices. She was our cheerleader and our dedicated champion.

But more than anything, she taught us that we were loved. And through all her personal health struggles, she modeled that there is great strength in knowing and accepting our vulnerabilities. I admire her still today. Her spirit inspires me.
Scientific concern about the effect on agricultural plants from heavy metals used for fertilizers and pesticides has risen in recent decades. This awareness has led to an emerging concern about the cattle that graze on contaminated land, including areas surrounding old mining sites. A study completed in 2012 by a University of Arizona graduate student, "Bio-accumulation of Heavy Metals from Soil to Plants in Areas Contaminated by Acid Mine Drainage in SE Arizona", sought to address this concern as it applies to the practice of cattle grazing in and around Patagonia area mining sites. The study conducted a comprehensive analysis of the soil adjacent to old mining sites in the Patagonia Mountains to identify metal contaminants and established to what degree they exceeded the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)'s guidelines for acceptable levels.

Until recently, no studies had been conducted to evaluate the amount of metals that grasses in the Alum Gulch, Flux Canyon, and Harshaw Creek areas are accumulating, or to determine to what extent such grasses may be affecting cattle on ranches located in the Harshaw mining district. The research identified several sites where grasses that are available to cattle that graze in the area are polluted. The author alludes to the risk that contaminants ingested by livestock such as these may not only result in disease and deformity in the animals, but are likely to affect the health of those who consume the livestock. She says that "though the mineral tolerances of cattle vary...research shows that grasses laden with metals increase the risk of disease, death, or carcass contamination if the animal goes to slaughter."

By measuring the lead and cadmium levels in Sonora Creek above the point where it converges with the mining district, and comparing those levels with the high metal content of waters below the mines in Alum Gulch, Flux Canyon, and Harshaw Creek, the research also concluded that toxic levels of metal contamination from the mines are being carried downstream into Sonora Creek.

Thought-Provoking Ideas About Human Habitats
By Lynn Davison

Phillip Allsopp gave a fascinating talk on human habitats at this year's EarthFest celebration. He believes we humans have done a piss-poor job creating homes and neighborhoods that promote our own health, comfort and creativity. His talk was peppered with relevant pictures, stories and statistics that demonstrate our failure to design and build communities that work for the people who live in them. Many of these examples come from around Phoenix, although he claims Phoenix is not much different from most places in the U.S. Allsopp says Patagonia is much more like his idea of good human habitat.

Allsopp, who is trained as a human ecologist, a public health practitioner, and an architect, thinks that everyone deserves a home made with quality materials that is aesthetically pleasing and affordable. Further, Allsopp suggests that, if we reinvested a chunk of the billions spent in the healthcare system to treat chronic diseases and instead used the money to build good quality healthy homes, we would significantly reduce the prevalence and severity of chronic diseases in this country. The homes he envisions would be smaller than the average size house today, sited to take best advantage of environmental assets, made of high quality materials available in the current marketplace, and designed to minimize unnecessary costs related to permitting and financing (which take up a hefty portion of today's building costs).

Even for the skeptic, Allsopp's ideas about human habitat and health are thought provoking. You will see more of the Allsopps in Patagonia. He and his wife, who directs the Amerind Museum in Dragoon, Arizona, come to Patagonia often. His new company, Smart Pad Living, has also made a proposal to CHOP to build affordable homes on their new property.

Getting the Word Out About Lending Shed
By Linda Huffstetler-Dearing

First of all, thank you to all community members who have donated items to the Community Lending Shed. We have received many new items since our first article in the PRT. These include bedside commodes, more walkers, shower and tub benches and adult diapers for use in our community.

As we began this project, our volunteer coordinator, Linda Huffstetler-Dearing, began to be asked whether or not the shed had adult diapers or briefs. Over and over, we heard from seniors who live on small monthly pension checks who needed diapers but whose checks ran out before the end of the month and they had no way to purchase supplies. At the time, we only had a few that had been donated by the Patagonia United Methodist Church, so we began to inquire about resources available to assist seniors with indigence needs. Our search took us to Southern Arizona Diaper Bank (SADB), and Family Healthcare Amigos has made application to partner with SADB in order to be an ongoing provider for adult diapers and briefs.

In the interim, a new organization created by Jorge Gonzalez out of Tucson, Southern Arizona Saving our Seniors (SASOS), brought down over 100 diapers and briefs to be used by Mountain Empire residents. At this point, we have more donors than borrowers or users of our service. Not a week goes by without a donation from someone in our community, including three estates in the past month. We know some of you reading this article have a need for either durable medical equipment or diapers. Please reach out to Linda at phone number 394-0268 (cell number 520-256-7213). Your request will be held in strictest confidence. If you or someone you know needs our assistance, please contact us and we will do everything we can to find what you need. Help us get the word out to community members who could use this service.
The Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC) want more people to know about watersheds and riparian areas, especially what they mean for our local creek. FOSC is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 and dedicated to protecting Sonoita Creek and its watershed. The group informs visitors and residents about the creek’s importance through presentations, hikes, trainings, written materials, and their website. They advocate with land owners and regulators on ways to preserve and restore the Creek. They also fund teacher education, citizen scientist training, stream monitoring, and projects led by other local conservation organizations that advance FOSC’s mission.

So what’s the big deal about protecting Sonoita Creek? For one, water flows year round in sections of the Creek. That is an increasingly rare phenomenon in southern Arizona. The best place to view the year round surface flow is in The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia Sonoita Creek Preserve. Sonoita Creek, a tributary of the Santa Cruz River, flows above and below ground through soil, gravels, and rock, about 30 miles from its “headwaters” at the Sonoita Fairgrounds until it joins the Santa Cruz in Rio Rico. Sonoita Creek’s watershed covers 270 square miles. Patagonia Lake (or more accurately reservoir) is the result of the 1969 damming of Sonoita Creek south of the Town of Patagonia. The surface water along the stream and in the lake is the main reason for our remarkable number and diversity of plants and animals--Sonoita Creek is home to over 300 species of birds.

Sonoita Creek is fragile and at risk of further loss of surface water and healthy riparian habitat. Community, agricultural, mining and other industrial water uses that withdraw more ground water than they replace, cause the water table to drop. The lower water table means no surface flow and sometimes no water within the reach of plant roots. Exacerbating the problem, climate change is reducing the average annual precipitation as well as creating higher variability between drought and intense storm periods. Both mean less recharge of the aquifer. Degradation of surface plant and soil cover allows fast-moving water, typical during monsoons, to erode the ground and further prevent aquifer recharge. Overgrazing, road and building construction, and forest fires all contribute to these harmful surface changes. Contamination of surface and ground water by livestock, septic systems, sewage effluent, construction, herbicides and pesticides, and/or mining activity is harmful to plants, wildlife, cattle, and humans.

One long term FOSC strategy for protecting Sonoita Creek is educating young people to understand the value of water where they live. The Friends offers financial support for local teachers who attend the University of Arizona’s Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), a worldwide, real world, accredited, professional development experience for teachers. Project WET curricula incorporates hands-on, fun, experiential learning for teachers which they can extend to their students. A significant number of teachers from southeastern Arizona have participated in the training.

While education of school-aged children remains a priority, the current President of the FOSC Board of Directors, Allyson Armstrong, is also interested in educating adults about the creek. She envisions FOSC training citizen scientists who will add to our knowledge of Sonoita Creek and become advocates for its preservation and restoration. To that end, the Friends sponsored a three-day workshop in March 2015, led by Dr. Peter Stacey from the University of New Mexico, to train local citizen scientists in the use of the Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment. The assessment protocol uses the measurement of biological and hydrological indicators, which determine how well the stream is functioning to support a healthy ecosystem. It was the second workshop led by Dr. Stacey on Sonoita Creek and FOSC plans to sponsor more in the future. Their goals are to have a qualified cadre of citizen scientists regularly monitoring reaches of Sonoita Creek and using the data collected to support protection and restoration efforts.

FOSC has also recently begun working on the impact of grazing on public and private lands in the watershed. Arizona has nine statutes regarding open range grazing. Armstrong suggests that many of these statutes and the regulations that implement them are out of date. They were designed to encourage the migration of people to the west when both land and water seemed limitless.

The major public land holders within the Sonoita Creek watershed are the US Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, Arizona State Land Department (which manages State Trust Lands for income to support K-12 education). There are also several privately owned cattle ranches. All the public lands in the watershed have been leased for cattle grazing for decades. There is no oversight required and no funds allocated to conserve natural resources or forage quality on the public lands. Friends of Sonoita Creek hopes to work collaboratively with local ranchers and public land managers to identify and implement strategies that can reduce the impacts of grazing on Sonoita Creek.

There are currently about 60 active FOSC members, most from Sonoita, Patagonia, Nogales, and Rio Rico; but also places like Massachusetts, Oregon, and South Dakota. New members and volunteers are always welcome. Annual membership dues start at $15. There are volunteer opportunities for stream monitoring, developing materials and participating in “the FOSC traveling road show” educational presentations, and supporting outreach and advocacy efforts. Check out their website: www.sonoitacreek.org.
An Impromptu Isakson Reunion
By Donna Reibslager

About three weeks ago, Mayor Ike Isakson got a call from North Dakota. "We're coming down," said one of his brothers. "When?" said Ike. "Tomorrow."

The "we" referred to Ike's four brothers and their wives, and his two sisters, all of whom live in North Dakota, where Ike and his siblings were born and raised. The ten of them arrived in Patagonia shortly thereafter, and spent the next four days with Ike, who hadn't seen them since their parents passed away in 2008.

Ike's brother, Zeke, is the eldest, followed by Ike, then George, Jim, Penny, and twins Peggy and Paul. Ike says they enjoyed reminiscing about their childhood together, in the small town of Mohall where their father owned a grocery store. Back then, the children helped out at the store—stocking, cashiering, sweeping up and making deliveries, and in the summer, the family stayed at a place down by the river, where the kids spent their days fishing and tooling around on a motor boat.

As they grew up, they all found homes in North Dakota—all except Ike. He joined the Navy at 17, married, and returned with his wife to her home in Tucson when he got out. A week after arriving, he got himself a job with the phone company, where he worked by turns as a data tech, a splicer, and a manager, until he retired.

Ike, who has four children from previous marriages, moved to Patagonia in 1979. It was there that he met his wife Diane, to whom he's been married for 22 years.

His brothers and sisters, who have been to Patagonia before, spent an afternoon at the Sonoita Wineries and drove up to Tucson to visit the casino.

But, says Ike, "we spent most of the time just sitting around and getting caught up. It was a great visit."

Get Ready to Luau

It's Back!
The Sidewalk Hawaiian Shirt Sale
will be held on
May 1-3 and
May 6-9
Beginning at 9 a.m. in front of Global Arts Gallery. All proceeds go to KPUP radio station.
County Supervisors To Step In After Four Fire Board Members Resign

Tension, hostility and controversy continue to hound the Fire Board at the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District. Anthony Berry and Jerry Bianchi had both resigned from the board by the end of March. Hostility was cited as the reason as the Board and the public contested over the Chief’s salary and the upcoming budget.

The three remaining members, Ron Izzo, Judy Neal and Jennifer Rinaldi, struggled to bring peace to the community as they attempted to deliberate District business. Adding to the fire storm was the resignation of Battalion Chief Kevin Venos. Chaplain Mike Wright pleaded for calm and helped form a community relations group to bring warring parties together outside of the District.

By April 14, the crisis deepened. Much to the surprise of the public and the Board, member Jennifer Rinaldi announced her resignation, citing personal and physical attacks. A Board of two members can not function.

On April 24, the Board met again. Without three members present, they could not conduct business. There was an urgent need to appoint at least one new person to fill Rinaldi’s position so they could have a quorum of three and conduct the pressing business of formulating a draft budget and appointing new members. So Mrs. Rinaldi was asked to return to the Board for a meeting scheduled after her resignation. But she refused. Public comment agreed saying that a non-member could not be involved in selecting their replacement.

Before Rinaldi’s resignation even became finalized, member Judy Neal resigned, citing continued controversy. Now the Board is down to one, Chairman Ron Izzo.

Applications for the many Board openings have been solicited. But without a quorum of three members the Board is unable to function and can not appoint any replacements. Under these conditions the Santa Cruz County Supervisors can step in and have several options to consider.

They can appoint an administrator to run the Board with the same responsibilities as the Board would have. Or they can appoint one or more replacements to fill the vacancies so the Board can resume their responsibilities on their own. They could even require former members to return long enough to make appointments. And they can order a Special Election this November.

County Supervisors To Step In After Four Fire Board Members Resign

Many Horses Trading Company, a well-known local gift shop specializing in Southwest Indian jewelry, reopened its doors this week with a gala party and reception.

Located in the former Sonoita Feed store at 3254 Highway 82 in Sonoita, the store features Native American hand-made gifts from Navajo, Zuni and Hopi craftsmen. Silver and copper jewelry fill the display cases and racks. The walls are covered with silver belts. An extensive collection of Navajo rugs provide a beautiful backdrop.

Longtime resident Jennifer Rinaldi has renovated the building, which was once a hardware store, and have redesigned the space to create an artistic Native American gift shop. Many Horses Trading Company, located at 3254 Highway 82 in Sonoita, specializes in Native American jewelry and hand-made gifts.

Many Horses Trading Company Returns

The long-awaited Centennial Horse Races and Kentucky Derby weekend is here. Sixteen races over two days give the handicapper lots of opportunities to play the horses. But how to begin?

Saturday morning, May 2, at 11 a.m. at the Fairgrounds there will be a clinic on how to wager on a race horse. Jennifer Hancock will be coming all the way from Texas to teach the clinic. She is part of the Wranglers Racing Aces organization and associated with the American Quarter Horse Association. She will be teaching what she calls the “Five easy steps to picking a winner.”

She will say (1) check the horse’s speed. The measurement of how fast a horse has run in previous races is called the “Q-Speed Figure.” It is often found in the racing forms. (2) Look for the leaders -- both the horses and the jockeys. See how they finished in previous races. (3) Watch the post parade, when the horses pass in front of the crowd on the

Learn How To Pick A Winner

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Fire Department Improves Address Recognition for Sonoita Residences

The SEFD has begun a program called "Area Familiarization " as part of their severity patrol effort. They will be patrolling the entire fire district this month and updating their maps which began in 2004. They will also be looking for houses that do not have their green and white address numbers posted on the property.

These green and white number signs are reflective and quickly identify the proper location for an emergency call. With many houses often up a single driveway or street in the area, valuable time can be lost if the emergency vehicle does not know exactly where to go to render life-saving assistance.

SEFD will alert residents who do not have the green and white house numbers visible. They need to get permission to provide the numbers, and once that permission is granted, SEFD will return with the numbers and will mount them close to the front of the particular house or structure at no cost.

Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf wants all houses to have these reflective house signs posted and encourages anyone needing them to call him at 520-455-5854.

To Pick A Winner

Horse racing is a pari-mutual sport, which means the odds will change based on how much money is being bet. Watch the monitor or the video boards to see the odds as the race ends. If you bet $2 on a horse to win and the odds are 10 to 1, your payoff will be $22.00. At 20 to 1 the payoff will be $42.00.

Good luck!

If you missed the 11 a.m. Saturday clinic, read this summary of the clinic, pick a winning horse and have fun. If everything else fails, do as Deborah Fellows, Race Chairman says, "Pick the gray".

Many Horses Trading Company Returns

The store is now open Thursday through Sunday and the public is encouraged to visit the Many Horses Trading Company in Sonoita again.

Liquor Licenses Approved Despite Opposition From Local Competition

Controversy in Sonoita is not limited to the fire district. Two local restaurants, both featured recently in the Patagonia Regional Times, encountered opposition from existing establishments when they applied for state liquor licenses.

The Vineyard Café of Sonoita and Chuck Wagon Grill & Ice Cream Parlor recently sought licensing to serve alcoholic beverages with their meals. The licenses were issued—but not without opposition from the competition.

Two local establishments in Sonoita, both of whom already have liquor licenses, objected to the two new eateries being allowed to serve alcohol with their meals. While these businesses support the dozen local wineries in the area—which they perceive as a boon to the local economy—they stated that allowing two new cafes to serve alcohol with their meals was a danger to the residents and would result in Sonoita becoming an "alcoholic-soaked crossroad."

After listening to their objections, The Santa Cruz County Supervisors nevertheless approved the applications and the two eateries are now serving alcohol.

The Vineyard Café serves only local wines and local beers with its menu in addition to baccanora which is distilled from agave in Sonora, Mexico. It's comparable to tequila. The Chuck Wagon carries Coors and Bud beers and also feature local wines. Selected spirits should be available by the horse races on May 2, at which time their outdoor patio will be open.

Jennifer Azevado of Vineyards Cafe
Zach Farley’s Homegrown Instruments

By Donna Reibslager

Zach Farley began making musical instruments about 13 years ago. That interest has led to his creation of an abundance of beautifully-made instruments. There are calimbas, mountain dulcimers, udo drums, water drums, flutes, gourd-tars (guitars) and a zachaphone (zylaphone) that can be played electronically. Many of these instruments are made from gourds of all sizes and shapes.

A native of Patagonia, Zach has been playing music since his high school days. Over the years, he’s played in a few local rock bands, and still likes to get together occasionally with other musicians. Often he can be seen strumming a guitar or ukelele on stage or on the sidelines at local events.

Zach says it was his job at High Spirit Flutes, where he works as a tuner and designer, that first inspired him to try making his own instruments. He grows the gourds that he uses at Harris Heritage Growers in Sonoita, and is expanding his crop to meet the demands of his enterprise, which he has named Homegrown Instruments. His pieces usually run from $30 to $200, and the smallest is an ocarina (shown above) which is a four-hole pocket-sized wind instrument. Last year, Zach began selling his wares at the Gourd Festival in Casa Grande. This year his entire inventory sold out at the festival, which was held in February.

For a look at the diverse selection of instruments he makes, visit his website at homegrow ninstrums.com, where you can also order a CD of his music. You may get a chance to hear him play some of these creations if you stop by for the reception and opening of his exhibit at the Gathering Grounds on May 7. The show will run through May.

LEFT: an ocarina, a simple four-hole wind instrument about 4 to 5 inches in diameter.

ABOVE: Zach demonstrates how to play water drums, which sit in water as they are played.

ABOVE: A harvest of dried gourds
When I was growing up, my favorite library was at 32nd Ave. and Geary. I rode my bike there after school and filled the basket with all the Dr. Doolittle books it would hold. Then I coasted home, mostly downhill, no hands. Dr. Doolittle books were dark red and there was a library shelf full of them. When I was in high school I graduated to the main library downtown, in the Civic Center. This was a serious library with marble steps. You didn’t just browse there; you filled out a request form and someone then disappeared into the hidden stacks to retrieve the book or magazine you had asked for. In college, the library was open from early morning until 11 p.m., and I remember students petitioning for it to be open all night. I think that didn’t happen before I graduated.

There was also a rental library in my neighborhood in a storefront next to the bus stop on the corner. I didn’t use that library and rarely saw anyone going in or out. The glazed doughnuts at the bakery next door were much more interesting. Libraries in those days were quiet. People used “library voices,” and no dogs were allowed. Needless to say, times have changed.

I had hoped to describe a typical day in the Patagonia Library but on reflection, I realize there is no such thing. Every day is different. Adults, kids, infants, dogs, visitors, residents, tourists come and go. People read newspapers, retrieve email, use computers, donate books, shop, visit, enjoy the garden, fax, copy, ask questions...and oh yes, borrow books, magazines, dvds, cds, and even share recipes. This past month Little Free Libraries have been on display, on their way to their various destinations here and in nearby communities.

The Friends of the Library hope to produce a state-of-the-library article from time to time and would welcome your thoughts. Read any good books lately? Please let us know.

A regular visitor of mine was recently diagnosed with a condition that I had never heard of—canine Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI). The symptoms were weight loss, diarrhea and a ravenous appetite.

Initial blood tests, examinations and other lab tests did not reveal the condition. It was necessary to be referred to a veterinary gastrointestinal specialist in order to determine the diagnosis and thus begin proper treatment.

EPI, also referred to as Pancreatic Hypoplasia or Pancreatic Acinar Atrophy (PAA), is a disease that causes poor digestion and compromised alimentary absorption, which, if left untreated, eventually lead to starvation. One of the major difficulties with this disease is the need for a prompt and accurate diagnosis.

Luckily, for my friend, Shelia—a boisterous little three-year old Red Heeler—her owners are very observant and are devoted to the utmost care of their charges, as is their veterinarian. Persistence was the key to getting to the bottom of this puzzling condition.

EPI is the inability of the pancreas to secrete digestive enzymes: amylase to digest starches, lipases to digest fats and proteases to digest protein. Without a steady supply of these enzymes to help break down and absorb nutrients, the body starves.

Since chronic loose stools are usually the first visible symptom in an EPI dog, most vets will prescribe an antibiotic to destroy what they suspect to be harmful intestinal bacteria. Owners are happy because the problem appears to go away, at least for a while. No one has any reason to investigate further, until the loose stools return or the dog starts losing weight and then the merry-go-round cycle begins. Vet visits become numerous and costly and one possible diagnosis after another is suggested. Expenses may include testing (and retesting) for giardia, coccidiosis and other parasitic diseases, X-rays, ultrasound, MRI, antibiotics and even surgery.

Now the good news! There is a specific blood test that measures the dog’s ability to produce digestive enzymes. The test is done following a fast of twelve to fifteen hours and costs about one hundred dollars. Once it is established that the dog has EPI, the disease can often be successfully treated and regulated. Enzyme supplementation is the first step, combined with prescription food. From there, trial and error may be necessary until the magic combination for that specific dog is discovered.

Originally this disease was found only in German Shepherds, then working dogs, and was considered hereditary. I recently met owners of a Black Labrador whose dog had this and have since learned that it is even showing up in some cross breeds.

I am happy to report that Shelia is much improved now that she is on her special diet and enzymes and her owners and I are much relieved to witness her progress. It was very frightening to see her losing so much weight and being so terribly hungry all the time before the enzymes kicked in and enabled her to digest her food and get sustenance again. She is now well on the way to returning to her rambunctious little redhead self!

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides "specialized animal care for all beings large or small." You can contact her at drown_cate@gmail.com
## WHAT'S GOING ON?

### community services

**Lunch for Seniors** - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Community Center. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Thursday Special!

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

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

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

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

### meetings

**The Patagonia Museum** - Regular meetings w/topics incl. local history; hwy. cleanups, & wkdays. For info, visit [www.thepatagoniamuseum.org](http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### events

**May 1-3 & 6-9 – Hawaiian Shirt Sale** - 9 a.m. in downtown Patagonia. For KPUP Luau. All proceeds support our radio station.

**May 2 – Trio Allegretto** - see page 21 for info.

**May 2 – Community Garden Open House** - 4 p.m. Refreshments. Martha: 520.394.2752

**May 2 – Movie at the Tin Shed Theater** - Grand Budapest Hotel. Doors 6 p.m. Movie 7 p.m.

**May 7 – Homegrown Instruments Exhibit by Zach Farley** - Opening Reception, 5 - 7 pm. At the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia.

**May 7 – Santa Cruz Singers** - Performing Gloria by Vivaldi. 7 p.m. at Lady of Angels Church, Sonoita. Call 520-394-9495 for information.

**May 8, 15, 29 – Musicians from Fort Huachuca** - Free outdoor concert presented by The Santa Cruz Foundation For the Performing Arts. 5 p.m., 348 Naugle, Patagonia. 520-394-0129.

**May 9 – KPUP Luau** - Annual Fundraiser dinner & dance; tickets $15, or $5 for dance only. 5 p.m. at Patagonia Plaza.

**May 9 – Friends of the Mountain Empire Benefit Concert** - 7 to 11 p.m. at the Hotel Congress in Tucson. Go to patagoniaalliance.org for info.

**May 11 – Charlotte’s Web** - Club Theater presentation. 10 a.m. for schools, 7 p.m. for community. Free admission at the Tin Shed Theater, Patagonia.

**May 16 – Mariachi Festival** - at Lake Patagonia State Park – see article on p. 27.

**May 31 – Hero Sunday** - 10 a.m. at The Sonoita Fairgrounds, to honor military veterans, safety & emergency personnel; picnic lunch, live music.

### special interests

**May 21 – Cyber Security** - Southern Arizona Republican Club meeting. Local F.B.I. agent will speak about Cyber Security and F.B.I. activities in our area. 7 p.m. at the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District. Public invited.

**Yoga for Seniors** - Mondays, 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. at Ecobody Acupuncture in the Patagonia Plaza, Patagonia. $10. (520) 559-1731.

**Santa Cruz County Writers** - Writers support group. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Patagonia Library, 10:30 a.m. (706) 614-6959

**Community Acupuncture Clinic** - Call Dr. Papin at (520) 559-1731.

**Santa Cruz Singers Rehearsals** - Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia. Call (520) 394-0129 for information.

**Hummingbird Monitoring Network Lecture** - by Susan Wethington, 3/21 at 11 a.m., Paton Center.

**Adult Art Classes** - at the Patagonia Art Center, Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.; Figure Drawing: first Thursdays of the month. 394-9369.

**Art Makers** - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays. Call Cassina @ 394-9369 for info.

**Adult hand-building ceramics classes** - Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. $65 Call 604-0300

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

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

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

**Open Tennis** - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 5 p.m., Sat. at 8 a.m., Call 394-2973 for info.


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

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**SEND YOUR EVENT, MEETING OR SPECIAL INTEREST INFO TO US AT prtevents@gmail.com DEADLINE: MAY 20**
Border Stories: A Patagonia Day of Action

On March 14 of this year, delegates from five border communities--Ajo, the Tohono O’odham Nation, Arivaca, Tubac, and Patagonia--met to discuss their experiences of living in the border region. They agreed that border militarization and its effects are a significant common thread that deserves further exploration from multiple perspectives. While ‘militarization’ and potentials for ‘demilitarization’ can be polarizing concepts, there is little doubt that the presence of checkpoints, extensive surveillance apparatus, and relentless patrols in neighborhoods and on public lands affect how residents experience a shared landscape and the perceived threats that this presence support.

The group agreed that a single Day of Action simultaneously celebrated in multiple border communities might be an effective means of not only calling attention to living conditions, but would enable members of communities along the border to unite through shared story. Voices within Patagonia have chosen to contribute to the dialogue by hosting an open Border Stories forum on Wednesday, May 27th for respectful sharing of ideas and experiences of life lived in the rich and challenging borderlands region. Speakers and facilitators will guide open discussion.

The primary goals of the forum are to empower local citizens to contribute to the ongoing dialogue of border life, have a hand in the construction of border realities, and give those potential realities voices and lives of their own through storytelling, artistic contributions, and vignettes. In the days leading up to the Patagonia Day of Action on May 27, KPUP will air logistics and stories. Anonymous and written, spoken and visual contributions of border life can be submitted by email to patagoniadayofaction.com. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the park in Patagonia.

Trio Allegretto Performance To Benefit Lochiel Schoolhouse

The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts presents Trio Allegretto in a concert to benefit the Patagonia Museum’s Lochiel Schoolhouse project. The trio, Dr. Pat Watrous, flute, Ann Weaver, viola, and Christina Wilhelm, piano will perform at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. A reception follows the concert. Hosted by Cheryl Toth at 62 Sonoita Drive in Patagonia, tickets are $30 each at the door. Seating is limited, contact German Quiroga, at 520-343-5641 or go to info@thepatagoniamuseum.org for information and reservations.

Elvis Crosses The Border on Wednesdays

According to Cecilia San Miguel, owner of the Velvet Elvis, the Patagonia town manager’s somewhat insistent requests that her restaurant be open more than four days a week finally led to her decision to introduce Mexican Fiesta Wednesdays, starting May 6th, with happy hour from 4 to 5 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Each Wednesday will feature fine cuisine from south of the border, prepared with many organics, culinary quality and innovation, all undeniable trademarks of the Velvet Elvis over the course of sixteen years. The menu will vary weekly-- from stuffed, roasted poblano peppers to scallops al ajillo and vegetarian entrees.

Enjoy live bolero music, fine Mexican cuisine, famous Elvis margaritas, Mexican beers, and agua frescas. Call (520) 604-0604 for more information. The Velvet Elvis is located at 292 Naugle Ave, in Patagonia.
April’s Lack Of Showers Brings Our Succulent Flowers

By Vince Pinto

April’s Lack Of Showers Brings Our Succulent Flowers

Here it comes folks. May is upon us and with it comes our yearly oven. Given the blessed relief of elevation we surely don’t suffer mercurial extremes as do Phoenix and Tucson. Still, hot is hot. Despite decent winter rains this year, soon the land will be mostly parched and desiccated. April was mostly dry as well, laying waste to my childhood maxim of “April showers bring May flowers.” This was a fitting paradigm on the East Coast, but certainly not here!

Instead, our drought months have created an evolutionary niche filled in part by the very plants that help characterize these arid lands. Many members of two plant families have evolved to take advantage of our soaring temperatures and perhaps a corresponding lack of competition for pollinators from other flowers. May and June are months dominated by the blossoms of the Cactaceae and the Asparagaceae. All cacti are succulents, as are many members of the asparagus family. Hence they can energetically and hydrologically afford to use their accounts of these precious resources during the months that tax most other plants beyond the ability to reproduce.

Among the cacti keep a keen eye peeled for the conspicuous flowers of prickly pears and their cousins, the chollas. The flowers of both plants.

The lion’s share of cacti species are pollinated by native bees. Unlike the foreign European honeybee, these species are mainly solitary. Foraging bees collect copious quantities of cholla and prickly pear pollen to feed their larvae, often in underground chambers. In fact, some cholla and prickly pear flowers emanate a scent reminiscent of damp earth, perhaps luring in the bees by mimicking the odor of their subterranean domiciles! Watch for our legion of bee species at the blooms of prickly pears, as well as those of cane and jumping chollas near Patagonia. Look long and hard, as so numerous and dense are the stamens, that some bees literally are engulfed by them, disappearing temporarily from sight! This is likely what the cacti have in mind, as the stamens are triggered to converge upon the bees as they brush against them.

Coinciding with this visual onslaught of cacti are the sexual antics of yuccas, beargrass, sotol and the agaves. Each of these genera has evolved a different means by which to attract reproductive partners. The yuccas - mountain, banana, and soaptree hereabouts - have a symbiotic relationship with yucca moths. There is one species of moth per species of yucca. So co-evolved are they that neither can exist without the other. The moths do not accidentally pollinate yucca blossoms, but rather do it “knowingly” - a rare example of active pollination. The female yucca moth purposefully places pollen previously pirated upon a pistil within whose ovary she’ll lay eggs.

Palmer and Parry’s agaves have gone to the other extreme. They roll out the red carpet for a myriad of pollinators including hummingbirds of several species, many insects, orioles, and nectar-feeding bats. Hence a flowering agave, soon to die in the aftermath of its passionate reproductive throes, throws an enormous pollinator party.

Sotol and beargrass go middle route, going the birds and luring legions of insects in to do the deed.

Seek all of these May and June specialty bloomers as you roam our haunts and marvel at how they thrive within the worst our climate has to offer.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run Raven’s Way Wild Journeys. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.
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Exploring Invasives and Non-Natives II

Passionflower and the Elder Grove

By Bethany Brandt

I was in the grove of elder and mesquite at the south end of town, assessing the Passiflora caerulea that has been climbing and engulfing the elders and Johnson grass in a blanket of green that turns brown and brittle in the sun when there is no rain. The beautiful blossoms of this passion flower vine can be used as an effective medicine for nervous conditions, but their beauty and usefulness don’t distract me from the knowledge that this plant acts as a fire ladder during the dry season. I am scouting the passion flower’s condition while playing a hand in the active management (with The Nature Conservancy’s support) of a piece of land nestled against the southwest edge of town where a wildfire would most definitely devastate all of Patagonia.

I was working my way through the grove, scouting the stands of passion flower, acquainting myself with its chosen home, and enjoying the patches of sun where the mesquite canopy and elder mid-story open to the sky. These openings are where the Johnson grass grows. I was slowly making my way through the woods, deliberate with my steps, cautious of snakes, when abruptly everything changed. The light became more fractured, the ground cover sparser. I stopped and began to look around, studying my surroundings with my five senses; using my body to collect information about my environment. It was quieter and there was less movement in this area. I saw trees, limbs broken and splintered. I shifted my gaze and saw more trees, adolescents, probably 10 to 30-years old, broken, snapped. Their remnants littered the ground and they were sprouting new green leaves at the sites of their wounds. My mind processed what my eyes, ears and skin had taken in. Filtering through the information, I could not come up with a cause for the destruction of this young elder grove. I kept walking, continuing to observe and gather information.

I was looking to my left, taking a step forward and turning my head back around when I saw it for the first time - the structure, a fort, a piece of human creation – and then I understood. All the information came together and I knew that these branches, trunks and limbs all purposefully stacked and woven together were the missing pieces of the elder grove. My mind went to the fire hazard that this structure of dead wood posed. My heart went to the elder grove and I could hear the snapping of wood fiber, the tearing of green bark and the opening of the unprotected inner tree to the outside world. I also admired the craftsmanship and creativity of the structure, built entirely by hand - no saw, hammer or nails. I gave credence to the natural curves and flow of the structure: the incorporation of already fallen trees, the ability to build upon what had occurred previously in time in this space. I experienced conflict, within myself, as I bore witness to a juxtaposition that is spoken of, referenced, accepted as truth but rarely acknowledged: the inevitability of a beginning and an end. There it was in front of me. I was standing in the place between the two and I understood what it is for the work of creation to be born from the act of destruction.

This piece is dedicated to the non-native plant medicine, Passiflora caerulea, and the structure on Nature Conservancy property that is a very real fire hazard and will be removed on April 28.
Robert Lenon was an Arizona-based mining engineer. A graduate of the Department of Mining and Geological Engineering at the University of Arizona (1930), Lenon practiced as a mining engineer and surveyor for more than forty years. An active supporter of the Arizona Historical Society, he published two volumes of memoirs documenting his years in the Arizona mining industry.

The Robert Lenon Map Collection contains maps related to ore and mineral mining in the Sonoran desert region of southern Arizona and northern Mexico from the Arizona territorial period of the 1800s to the 1960s. It includes historical maps of the region, such as an 1880 Nogales city block map by Henry Flipper, and maps drawn by Lenon tracing Father Eusebio Kino’s route through Pimeria Alta in the 17th century.

The collection, which is housed at the Arizona Historical Society Library and Archives in Tucson, can be viewed on the Arizona Memory Project website, azmemory.azlibrary.gov. This digital collection represents just a small sample of the 9000 maps collected or created by Lenon, who died in 2008 at the age of 99.

Maps From the Arizona Mining Era
By Herman Quiroga

Maps of (top) the Ajo copper basin, (middle) mines in the Santa Rita Mountains, and (bottom) the Rio Colorado River.

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The endangered Mexican wolf, *Canis lupus baileyi*, has not been confirmed by US Fish & Wildlife as a resident of our area, though local people over the years have said they have seen and/or heard them. This wolf looks a lot like a very large coyote and may have more reddish-yellow or black fur. The tracks are larger than coyote tracks, measuring approximately 3.5” long by 3.25” wide. What is needed to prove the existence of Mexican wolves in our mountains is recent photographic evidence—photos taken within the last 5 years of one or more wolves in a recognizable local setting. If you have such a photo or other definitive evidence please email a copy along with pertinent information such as location, date, time of day, what the animal was doing, etc., to mowrytracking-team@gmail.com. The information and materials will be forwarded—anononymously if you prefer—to the appropriate staff at US Fish & Wildlife Service.

This obituary was written by Jennie Mac Walsh Ashcraft about three years before her death earlier this year. At her memorial service in Patagonia, a hand-written copy was in each program.

Jennie Mac Walsh was born on September 8, 1936. In those early days the baby was delivered at home by the doctor. It was election day so the poll workers went to her house and took the ballot so her mom, Rita Walsh, could vote. Jennie attended both grammar school and high school in Patagonia. She was very active in sports all of her school years. She was in 4-H where she learned how to sew and Home Economics where he learned sewing and cooking.

At first she was baptized as an infant into the Catholic Church then later switched to become a Mormon and was baptized on April 6, 1966 into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Jennie finished her junior year in high school then got married to Garland Hatfield. She had three boys from that marriage. Then she remarried to John Ashcraft when her children were very young and she’s been married to John for 53 years. They married on Dec. 1, 1961.

In Memory of
Jenny Ashcraft

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Patagonia Lake State Park will host the 19th Annual Mariachi Festival at Boulder Beach on Saturday, May 16. The day’s activities will include a wide variety of Southern Arizona Mariachi bands and dancers. Authentic Vendors will offer Mexican food, hot dogs, hamburgers, kettle corn and shaved ice. Visitors may also bring their own picnic basket and there will be a piñata for the kids at noon.

Celebrate Kids to Parks Day encourages families to get outdoors and visit parks, and promotes a more active lifestyle to combat the issues of childhood obesity and other diet-related children’s health conditions.

The park will have overflow parking available and a shuttle service to the event area. Visitors should arrive early for best parking. There is a park entry fee of $15 per vehicle for up to four adults (fee per additional adult is $3). Walk-in visitors pay $3. The park entrance station opens at 7 a.m.

For more information contact Patagonia Lake State Park at (520) 287-6965 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/PALA.

Electric campsites are available starting at $25 per night and non-electric campsites are available for $20 per night. Make a reservation to ensure a campsite. Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the Reservation Call Center at (520) 586-2283, which is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don’t forget to bring plenty of water, lawn chair, sunscreen and a hat.
Hats Off to The Class of 2015!

Lobos News concludes its tribute to our graduating class with these six profiles...

Dawn Novack
By Hector Lopez
Among the graduating senior class this year, Dawn Novack, a Patagonia resident, will be saying goodbye to the school and town where she has grown up. Dawn has attended Patagonia schools since she was in kindergarten. When she was younger, Dawn played a part in many projects involving Patagonia’s park and the local Tin Shed Theater. More recently, she has worked with Borderlands Restoration to construct water sheds at the high school.

After she graduates, Novack will enter the United States Marine Corps. She plans to take classes in law enforcement during her military training, and hopes to become a criminal investigator. When she has done her time with the military, she plans on attending Kaplan Online University to further pursue her career.

To this “all American” girl, physical fitness important. She regularly displays her love for her country with what she describes as her “amazing American flag flying high” that can often be seen as she is driving by in her truck. Self-described as “pretty hardcore,” Dawn Novack loves to do physical activities such as hiking, fishing, swimming and camping, or just anything that gives a good does of adrenaline.

When she leaves, Dawn says she will miss her friends that have helped her throughout her experiences in high school, her amazing teachers, and fellow seniors. Those who know her have seen her persistence and her unbreakable spirit. These traits, along with her claims for high admiration in faith, independence and knowledge, will carry this Lobo far in life in anything she chooses to do.

Grace McGuire
By Coy Newman
Creative, outgoing, and joyful are just some of the qualities that make Grace McGuire who she is. In an interview with Grace, I got to know the real her. Her favorite memories from high school were her freshman year on the cross country team and laughter with friends on the long bus rides home from chess meets. When asked who she will miss most from her high school career, she simply said, “Mr. Melanson and his shenanigans.”

Grace’s favorite part about her senior year is feeling the bond between her classmates almost like they share old memories like a family.

In her free time she enjoys horseback riding, hiking with the hiking club, and yoga. Throughout her high school career she participated in cross country and also played on the tennis team. When asked who her greatest inspiration is, Grace answered with joy, “Former Patagonia student, Victoria Calabrese and her mother.” Her favorite quote from high school is: “There is no exquisite beauty without some strangeness in the proportion.”

Grace plans to attend the University of Arizona to study Spanish.

Hector Lopez
“The Dr. WolfGang”
By Calvin Whitcoe
Hector Lopez lives and breathes journalism. At any time in the day you might find him with his nose in a book, writing with his immaculate penmanship, or asking logical, investigative questions. “Whenever I have time I like to read. When I don’t read, I write” Lopez said confidently. All of this work will definitely pay off, with Hector planning to go to Cochise College for his prerequisites and then to ASU for journalism.

At the age of three, Lopez moved to Arizona to live with his grandparents. He started going to Elgin Elementary School at age five, and then became a Lobo as a freshman. He has been howling ever since. One of his favorite high school memories was going to the Grand Canyon, where he became more (continued on following page)
comfortable with his classmates and solidified friendships.

One of the things that defines Hector is his passions, mainly wolves and the TV show *Dr. Who*. His favorite Dr. Who, Christopher Eccleston, inspires him by teaching Lopez that “when all else fails, succeed”. Hector admires how wolves have such compassion for each other. Humans don’t have much for each other. He says if a wolf dies, the whole pack mourns for each other, but when we hear about death on the news... nothing. Hector tries to model this compassion and work effort every day and make the world a better place.

Verena Miller
By Guadalupe G. Bueras

Only four years of high school and the Vibrant Verena Miller will be completing her last. The senior has played volleyball, tennis and chess throughout her high school years. When asked of her favorite high school memory she said passionately “My times at the Gathering Grounds mean so much to me, and also when traveling with my tennis team, having all of those memories in different places. This February Verena was awarded the student of the month for science, her favorite subject. For the first two years of high school, Verena attended Empire High School but she would have rather gone to Patagonia to be able to participate more in sports and extra-curricular activities. Although algebra 2 was her hardest subject, the math teacher, Mr. Melanson, influenced her most by teaching not just about math, but also about having a better work ethic.

When Verena leaves she is going join the United States Army Reserves and then major in bio-chemistry for medical research at the University of Arizona, while enjoying eating her Chipotle, watching Netflix, and having fun road trips back to Patagonia to visit her family.

Carlos Mingura will be dearly missed by his fellow students and his teachers. He has always brought joy and smiles to those around him and will go on to bring that same joy and happiness to each and every person who has the pleasure of knowing this amazing young man.
Laughter was shared April first among the community of Patagonia and out-of-town visitors at the annual spaghetti dinner/talent show. The town and visitors came together as one to show their support towards the senior class and admire all the talent in Patagonia. The dinner started at 5 p.m, but many were there early to get a good seat. The seniors were busy trying to get everyone served, while senior sponsor, Mrs. Hayes, was rounding up all the performers. The first to take the stage were in grades K-six. Fifth grader, Karen Novack, took third place with hula hoop skills. Another fifth grader, Tavania Padilla, stunned the crowd when she sang “Don’t Forget To Remember Me,” by Carrie Underwood. In first place was first grader, Natalie Cooper. She sang “Love Me Like You Mean It,” by Kelsea Ballerini.

The only adults to perform were our very own teachers, Matt and Luke Bentley. They had a lip sync sing off. The crowd then showed who was better by chanting at the end of the skit. Many contestants in the 7-12 grade categories were good singers. Danny Schrimpf and Carlos Mingura lip synced and danced with a doll and a leaf blower. They took third place. Carlos said, “I felt like Danny and I should have won first. We used love, passion and a leaf blower in our dance!” Senior boys, Andrew Goodnough, Greg Zapata, Jorge Martinez, and Jose Vasquez, performed a glow-in-the-dark dance, and took second. “It’s an honor to place in the Patagonia Union High School talent show. Feels like I won an Oscar,” said Greg Zapata. Well known singer, sophomore Sarita Crockett, said “I need to go back and track my steps. I honestly don’t know how I got first.”

Andrew wants to thank everyone who came and showed their amazing talents. Also he wants to give a special thanks to everyone who came out to support the senior class. The talent show was a huge success, and we hope for an even better one next year.

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

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

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

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

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

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
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394-2954;
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
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