How is Mining Activity Impacting Our Community?
See page 14
TOWN NEWS

Show Your Numbers
In order to insure that your house can quickly be located by the fire department, Mayor Isakson and the Patagonia Town Council require that all property owners conspicuously display the street number of their property so that it can be seen from the street. The numbers must be made of durable, reflective material and be taller than three inches.

No permit will be issued for any parcel, lot or building until the address is displayed in accordance with the stipulations of the ordinance.

The full ordinance is posted at the post office and the town hall where you can also pick up reflective numbers.

Be Ready For Survey
The Town of Patagonia, with the assistance of Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), is conducting a survey of randomly selected households throughout the town. The survey will establish the average income of the participants, which will be used to determine whether the town can apply for Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) money, to design and construct needed infrastructure upgrades.

In order to receive the required 75% response rate, responses are needed from everyone who is contacted. The information supplied by participants as to family size, income, and demographics is confidential, and will not be shared with any other agency.

The volunteer surveyors will begin going door-to-door in mid-April and complete by the end of June. If you have any questions, contact Bonnie Williams, CDBG Program Manager for SEAGO, at (520) 432-5301.

Council Member positions
There are three council member vacancies, to be filled in an election on August 30. Anyone who is interested in being considered for a position as town council member should complete a nomination packet. These will be available at the town hall beginning May 2. The completed packet must be handed in at the town hall no later than June 1.

Dark skies initiative
At a special work session on April 20, the Patagonia Town Council gave preliminary approval to a dark skies initiative that will add language to the current building code to define the amount of lighting permitted on new or remodeled structures in the town. The council also discussed and approved a draft budget for 2016-17 that includes a 2% salary increase for employees and a 13% increase in the rates for water and sewer. Both the budget and rate increase must be published and open for comment before final adoption.

Food Donations Needed for PYEC

Spring and summer are busy times at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center! Local youth are participating in a variety of exciting and hunger-producing activities (well, isn’t everything hunger-producing when you’re a teenager?) such as mountain biking, vegetable gardening, construction projects, empowerment groups, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects, and well, being a teenager. Unfortunately, summer is also a time when food donations to the center tend to slow down.

The center is hoping that community members will step up and donate food throughout the upcoming summer months. The best items to donate include fruits, vegetables, crackers, cheese, peanut butter and jelly, pasta, yogurt, cereals, and any type of snack food that teens might like.

The center is open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. You can drop off your food donations anytime they’re open.

Lopez Pool Hall
You may have noticed Jac Heiss working on the roof of Lopez Pool Hall recently. Many people who love the Lopez Pool Hall hoped that this was the beginning of a restoration, but Claire Thaemert, who owns the building, reports, “There are no plans for the building as it has no water, sewer, gas or electricity and no plans are in place to address that. The building has been used for storage and will continue to be used for that purpose for the foreseeable future. The work we have done has been merely to preserve as much of the historic adobe as possible, as it had been melting over the years, slowly at first and then more rapidly. We felt we had to do something before the return of the rainy season. We removed the loose plaster as well as the wooden floors and ceilings, which were termite ridden.”
Scenes From EarthFest 2016

On April 22, 23, and 24, Patagonia celebrated Earth Day with informative presentations, guided tours, nature walks, movies, and displays. Volunteers took on the task of providing an opportunity for recycling, collecting hazardous waste and electronics and hauling them away. The event was a great way to remind us of our obligation to take care of our planet and our habitat.

At Cady Hall, Ed Schaefer of Better Bytes, collected an array of electronic gear, which he generously takes to Tucson for recycling.

Cliff Hirsh and Nick Beauregard plant an Arizona sycamore at Paton Center on Saturday morning. “This is going to be here long after we’re gone,” said Cliff after advising onlookers about the best way to plant a tree.

Friends of Sonoita Creek displayed a model of the Sonoita stream. All you had to do was add water.

One great aspect of Earthfest is that we can get rid of hazardous waste and electronics. The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition volunteers were busy all morning, gathering paint cans, pouring used motor oil into barrels and sorting through a lot of smelly chemicals.

Bikers and hikers set off on their trip around town. Sponsored by the Montessori School, the event provided water and organic oranges to participants.
SMALL AFFORDABLE HOUSES

By Lynn Davison

It’s only 300 square feet plus a sleeping loft and a porch, but this tiny house offers a lot in a small space. Todd Lipton, its developer, wants to be a catalyst for creating very small, very green, affordable houses that are integrated into neighborhoods in towns throughout the southwest.

He chose Patagonia for his first tiny house because we are a small community with some population density; we have a need for affordable housing based on Santa Cruz County’s average income level; we are within 1.5 hours of major medical care; we can grow food here; and ultimately because Patagonia is just a “very special place.” The town council was pretty skeptical at the start. According to the tiny house’s builder, Kevin McKay, now that the house is almost finished, their opinions seem to be changing.

Lipton hopes the tiny houses will appeal to people who want to scale down but still be comfortable, or who have limited incomes but want a place of their own, or have chronic illnesses that require a simpler lifestyle. As a health and fitness professional and a cancer survivor, Lipton is on a mission to provide practical and healthy tiny house alternatives that work for a broad spectrum of people. Lipton does not envision a cookie-cutter design for his houses, nor does he plan to build developments consisting of only tiny houses. Clearly he is more interested in starting a trend than making a lot of money.

The house itself is pretty cool. It is stick-built with a stucco finish and asphalt roof. There is a full kitchen, a 3/4 bathroom, including small washing machine, bamboo floors, cathedral ceilings with a sleeping loft, and plenty of daylight. While connected to the grid, the house will be powered by a full solar set up. It’s a smart house so all functions can be managed by cell phone. The front porch is spacious and has two lovely benches built by McKay. The long and narrow lot allows for privacy and provides space for a green house and a chicken coop. These additions are part of Lipton’s vision for making the home a platform for a healthy, sustainable life. The tiny house took about three months to build, which does not include cleaning up the lot. Lipton was clear that the tiny house concept is his, but it “would never have happened (continued on page 5)
without McKay”...a local builder bringing both skill and local knowledge.

So how much does a tiny house cost? Excluding the land, this one will end up between $40,000 and $50,000. McKay says that’s about the same as a new small single-wide trailer. The financing comes from private sources interested in promoting the model. Bank financing may be a ways off, according to Lipton. He also hopes to form a non-profit corporation down the road a bit.

Lipton would like to build more tiny houses in Patagonia, but the land costs here are pretty high. His model calls for lots in the $18,000-$22,000 range. If he can find a suitable lot for that amount, he would jump on it. In the meantime this first house will be a demonstration model for his concept. He plans to hold workshops there and offer the place for short-term rental to allow folks to try out tiny house living. Future tiny houses in Patagonia or elsewhere will be available for rent or purchase. Rental costs would probably be around $500-600/month. Purchase prices would depend on the design and the lot cost, but likely somewhere in the $60,000 range.

Have you got a lot in town that may be right for the next tiny house? Do you want to know more about tiny houses? If so, you can contact Todd Lipton at randomactsofkindness@gmail.com or Kevin McKay at McKay810@q.com. In the meantime, take a walk to the south end of Dusquesne Street, right before it hits Costello, and take a look at number 446.
One windy afternoon in late March, the wind howled through Patagonia. The cardboard recycle bin was full, mostly of boxes that had never been broken down. Although it was obvious that no more cardboard could fit in the overflowing bin, people continued to throw stuff on top. It quickly blew away, getting hung up in the grove of weedy trees by Sonoita Creek.

The cardboard trash, clearly visible from the bridge, stayed there for weeks until a volunteer group of young people from the Youth Enrichment Center went into the thickets and pulled the cardboard out. They also picked up a lot of plastic and paper.

We all assume that adults are the caretakers of children. This cleanup proved otherwise.

Pictured at left are the young volunteers who went down the steep slope behind the recycle bins and cleaned up the litter (see photo above.).

Lobos Swing Into Action at Tucson Racquet Club

By Tod Bowden

On Saturday, April 16, the Patagonia Union High School (PUHS) tennis team traveled to the Tucson Racquet Club to participate in the 1A Small School Invitational Tournament. Participants included at least nine schools from all over Arizona with enrollments of 200 students or less.

Each school is permitted to enter two singles players and four doubles players from their boys and girls teams. PUHS entered Lily Clovesko-Wharton, Tessa Fiegke, Daniel Schrimpf, and Andrew Botz in singles. Gaby Bueras, Juliana Quiroga, Kylie Kueneman, Christina Novack, Juan Urias, and Cole McGuire were the doubles entries. The format of the tournament includes a consolation bracket, as well as the main bracket, which ensures that each player or team will have at least two matches during the event.

Six of PUHS participants were able to win at least one match. Gaby Bueras and Juliana Quiroga advanced to the finals of the consolation bracket. With his consistent play, senior, Daniel Schrimpf, received a third place medal in the main bracket. And, in one of the closest and most competitive matches of the day that kept the audience on the edge of their seats, junior, Lily Clovesko-Wharton, outlasted Antonia Maher of The Gregory School to win a first place medal in the main bracket. Even veteran bus driver, Mr. Ralph Padilla, who is just beginning to understand the game of tennis, admitted, “this was the first match that I really got excited about.”

All of the PUHS tennis team members enjoyed the environment and experience. I can say with some certainty that all of our players got a good night’s rest after the all day event.
Recently I discovered Doug Thaemert’s 2011 oral history on the Arizona Memory Project’s website, and concluded that a third installment is needed to do the story justice. Thaemert’s oral history helped me to understand the reasons for his move from the museum to Lopez Hall and how the business progressed from there.

Although he thoroughly enjoyed his work in the museum and was grateful for the support the Stradlings had given him to move to Patagonia and set up his shop there, after three years he felt he was working extraordinarily long hours with little to show for his efforts. Thus, again with assistance from the Stradlings in the form of generous payment terms for the building, Thaemert went out on his own with little more than a hope and a prayer.

With slim financial resources, he assembled a highly skilled team of individuals who took immense pride in their work. As a result, in his own words, business was soon going “gangbusters.” Orders for wagon work poured in from across the country—including national parks and Anheuser Busch—and led to many additional referrals. Thaemert was flattered by the caliber of clientele his team was attracting.

Richard Connolly had already come to the team in 1975 while the shop was still museum-based. After a stint as a car mechanic, he had taken a job restoring horse-drawn wagons for Dan Bates, a sculptor in Tucson who happened to have a penchant for collecting old wagons. His work for Bates evolved into a passion for working on wagons. This passion became obvious to Thaemert as the two became acquainted when Connolly needed Thaemert’s services to repair a set of wheels.

Thaemert offered him a job as carriagesmith and Connolly seized the opportunity.

In 1976, Thaemert met Lee Gordon, a skilled wheelwright, who was working at a lumber yard in Tucson. Impressed with his work on display at the yard, Thaemert convinced Gordon to come to Patagonia to work for him. Gordon became, and remained until his departure more than a decade later, so instrumental to the success of the business that Thaemert gave him prominent billing on the company’s business card.

In addition to Gordon and Connolly, the core members of the Southwest crew included Dick Volz and Sonny Showalter, local talents who specialized in woodworking but who worked in other aspects of the business as well.

Murphy Musick was drawn into the business during a visit to the town in early 1977. As he enjoyed a beer at the now-defunct Big Steer Bar, he met Thaemert and his crew doing the same. Thaemert needed someone to lay the adobe brick walls to expand his newly-acquired shop. Musick had no experience with adobe but was confident he could master it.

Thaemert soon had his greatly-expanded work space complete with paint room, forge... and Connolly's initials in the cement floor.

Thaemert was a meticulous researcher, an asset essential to museum-quality restoration, which quickly became the hallmark of the business. So insistent was Thaemert on his workers sticking to his exacting standards that the crew came to refer to their work as “Dougerizing” to describe the degree to which their work had to go beyond the ordinary.

The men reported for duty in the shop at 9 a.m. They worked long hours on many occasions and well into the night when deadlines needed to be met. A few beers after punching out were a frequent part of the routine, a well-deserved time to relax and strengthen the bonds of work and friendship that endure to this day.

One might think such demanding work would result in an all-work-no-play atmosphere in the shop, but the guys were expert pranksters as well as craftsmen. For example, the team cleverly rigged up a boot that swung down from the ceiling to give an unsuspecting visitor a little extra incentive to hurry out when it was time to leave the shop. Other pranks included blocking the window of Thaemert’s welding helmet with black craft paper and greasing his telephone. Gordon fondly tells of the time he modified one of Thaemert’s cans of black spray paint so that when he pressed the nozzle it sprayed on Thaemert instead of on the object he intended to paint.

Next month: “Building a Legacy”
Back in the late 1960s, Time/Life published a series of books called “Foods of the World.” If today’s foodies look back, they might mark these books as the beginning of our ongoing culinary revolution. If you subscribed, a pair of books came each month. The larger of the two was a full analysis of a region or country’s cuisine and culture with photos and a few recipes. The smaller was a spiral bound book of just the recipes.

At the time I lived in what I romantically recall as a garret apartment in Boston’s Back Bay. I had spent a year in Europe thanks to my grandfather who, when he died, left me a little savings account and by the time I was 21, it amounted to $4,000. I lived frugally and stayed with friends and worked a few times, but to think that I survived for a year with that amount of money is hard to believe today.

I was lucky in that my family had French friends who lived in Paris. Staying with them, I came to understand France’s devotion to food. Janine, the mother, went to the nearby farmer’s market almost every day. There, within a few blocks, were fresh fruits, meats, vegetables, seafood, bread, pastry, and so many cheeses! She would take the metro once a week to her favorite shop for fresh roasted coffee beans. Of course, she didn’t take a job outside of the home. Every day at lunch she cooked a big meal for her husband, Jean. He kept casks of vin ordinaire in their basement locker, so there was always red wine. After this repast, he would take a little nap and return to work in the middle of the afternoon.

Janine often took me food shopping with her and was happy to show me how she prepared amazing food in her small kitchen. As I recall, she never looked at a recipe.

This way of life was a revelation to me. Like most American families in the 60s, mine was basic when it came to food. My mother cooked dinner every night, but if she used a recipe it came from Betty Crocker.

So, back in the U.S., I was intrigued by the promise of “Foods of the World.” I can’t recall how many of this series I ended up with. I think when they got to China, I gave up and canceled my subscription. But really, in the late 60s, who would have ever thought of cooking Indian, Japanese or Chinese meals? The books opened up new worlds to people who liked to cook, but had few resources outside of Fanny Farmer and Betty Crocker.

Today foodies are captivated by every conceivable cuisine, the more expensive and exotic the better. “The Cooking of Provincial France” was the first of the paired Time/Life books. When they arrived, I remember feeling that a door had opened. I was determined to figure out how to cook food that tasted like what came out of Janine’s kitchen. I remember deciding that I should start by making a cheese soufflé. I went out and bought a white soufflé dish, splurged on a copper bowl and got my first whisk. I went to an expensive market and got the cheeses. I invited my neighbor to come share the results, and by some miracle, because soufflés are notoriously prone to collapse, I pulled a perfect creation out of the oven! It looked good and tasted heavenly, eaten with a green salad dressed with oil and vinegar and, of course, a glass of wine. That was almost exactly 50 years ago and I remember it like yesterday.

In the intervening decades, I parted with my copper bowl because beating eggs whites by hand is just not worth the effort. That soufflé dish is gone, replaced by others, and I sold all but one of the Time/Life books that took up too much space as I moved through life. That one little book, battered and stained, is the spiral bound recipe book for “The Cooking of Provincial France.” I still use it. On the front cover is a photograph of a perfect soufflé.
The Anointed Son of Godzilla

By Martin Levowitz

The Internet, these days, is full of heart-warming videos depicting inter-species adoration between a puppy and a turkey hen, a pig and a rhinoceros, a mongoose and a coot. A lot of us have turned to mawkish, sentimental stuff to give us solace in a world of humans bent on strife, mistreating one another over minor differences. "Do you not see?" these heart-warming vignettes seem to imply, "that we can all be friends if we just try!"

On that bright note, let's talk about the presidential fray. Although both top Republicans seem really odd to me, The Donald scares me less than his chief rival, Zombie Cruz. Nobody really knows -- including Trump himself, I think -- how much of Trump's loud shizz is just outrageous showmanship. He surely has an instinct -- a real gift -- for pandering to malcontents and mesmerizing journalists with his bizarre elan. It's imaginable that, if actually elected, he'd put aside some of his show-off crap and get on with the important business of wall-building and carpet-bombing. But that still leaves us with his frightful face, whose expressions run the gamut from arrogance, spite, and hatred, on the low end, to smug self-congratulation on the other low end. No normal, decent man could even have a face like that. He's Mussolini with a lame coiffure.

But, speaking of faces that give you the creeps, the most intriguing mug in this campaign belongs to Cruz. Ted's face is at odds with itself. Like those of Richard Nixon's nasty puss, the various parts of Cruz's face don't seem aware that they're on the same team. This is most disturbing and peculiar when he smiles, since even then there's something that suggests he'd like to cry. I'm almost certain Ted didn't get to cry much as a kid. His father is a callous, patriarchal martinet; the kind of father who would shout as he tans his son's hide, "Stop crying or I'll give you something REAL to cry about!"

Since YouTube videos abound, you owe it to yourself to check out Ted Cruz's Father, Rafael. Even more than his son, Rafael is a creep; an impressively, highly-articulate creep, even in English, his second language. The guy's a rabid True Believer/fundamentalist, who fumes that separating church and state is, very simply, wrong. Alloy that with the passionate jingoism "normal" among exiled Cubans like him, and you've got central casting's almost-perfect zealot: loud, arrogant, bullying, domineering, and irate; a really crazy, scary guy. Not one you'd want for a father, or as your President's father, either. Picture Tyrannosaurus with a cordless microphone.

The illness of all fundamentalists, no matter what their faith, is smug assurance that all other creeds are simply wrong; that those who share such other creeds are Goddamned infidels. Having this guy as a father would be like growing up under Joseph Stalin. The strain has clearly left its mark. You sense that Ted's been brutalized just trying to appease and please the thug whose son he is. The bloated sadness in Ted's face suggests that, far from being whole, he's more a weary puppet in the service of his dad; like a robotic external organ of sorts, sent out into the world to harvest souls, or at least votes. I'm not sure that a guy with so much emotional scar-tissue, especially in the domain of authority issues, is the guy whose finger we want on the famous nuclear-launch button; especially the finger of a religious zealot in an era whose foremost threat is zealots of some other faith.

And, finally, as for making fathers proud, have we not paid a gruesome price for Moron W's unwarranted take-down of Saddam, who, he felt, had insulted his dad? Two trillion dollars, and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. As for "Mission Accomplished," well, that was no sweat ~ if your mission was stirring up rancor and fear for the next three or four hundred years.

Beware of puppet presidents. As Satan Cheney was to Bush, so Father Rafael is to Ted Cruz. If he succeeds, The Inquisition wins ~ and we all lose.

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THE LAW OF SMALL THINGS
(common integrity dilemmas)

IV. The Truth About Lying
By Stuart Brody

A few weeks ago, at the spiritual gathering that takes place every Wednesday at St. John’s Church, I participated in a spirited discussion about the nature of honesty.

In my column, The Law of Small Things, I do not use the word honesty, but rather the Duty of Truthfulness. This led me to consider whether there is a difference between honesty and truthfulness.

Once in a while, you find yourself exaggerating events in your life. Maybe you inflate your personal best in a sporting event, or overstate the weight you just lost, or magnify the importance of your responsibilities at work. You’re not conscious of any wish to deceive. You just seem to get caught up in telling the story.

People who consider themselves as having integrity say these kinds of things all the time because they consider such small lies as unrelated to our integrity. We see no harm in it. Sometimes we manipulate the truth just to make our story more interesting. I think you may agree that many of our conversations do not carry great weight. They are simple building blocks of social interaction, much like the pavement on city streets, a means to reach our destination: relationship. It’s not something we associate with duty or necessarily need to.

Consider bluffing in poker. Is that lying? Or, shaving a few points off your golf score. In fact, it’s pretty much a given that we’re going to lie about some things, like the size of the fish we caught on a recent trip, just to get a laugh, which we usually do. From the standpoint of integrity, there is no breach in these utterances. Why? Because no one has a reasonable expectation that we are telling the truth so there is no duty of truthfulness to tell it.

But here’s the thing: when truth is depended upon, then one’s words sustain trust in a society’s institutions just as surely as steel girders bear the weight of a great building. We might laugh when someone describes the fish as “yay big,” but it’s hardly a laughing matter when the mightiest military in the world promotes deception as in: “Don’t ask, don’t tell.”

When President Bush insisted that he learned of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center after the first plane hit New York’s twin towers and that he saw footage of it, he was not speaking truthfully. There is no footage of the first plane hitting the towers and he did not learn of the attacks until his chief of staff informed him of them—after the second attack. What he said was not truthful, but it was not dishonest. He was merely mistaken.

In 2015, Brian Williams, the popular NBC news anchor saw his promising career cut short when he exaggerated his role in an attack on a helicopter convoy in Afghanistan. When the event originally occurred—ten years earlier—Williams was recorded calmly and accurately reporting events as he saw them first hand, in a helicopter trailing the one under fire. But over time, he began to describe the incident as if he were aboard the chopper under attack. He may have been deliberately exaggerating his role, or perhaps he actually believed his own distortion of the facts. But to the public, it was deception.

We drift, often unwittingly, along the border of truth and deception, and we are adept at gauging the value of telling the truth, and basing our willingness to deceive on the penalty for not telling it. Our own private practices, such as an seeking or writing an overly generous letter of recommendation, cheating a little on taxes, and little white lies are acts so commonplace that the expectation of truthfulness we normally associate with promises starts to erode.

Negative campaign advertising and other acts of ridicule, exaggeration and half-truths told by politicians also contribute to this erosion, because the electorate does not call them on it, so they continue unabated. And we are so bombarded by false promises from the advertising industry that we are no longer appalled by its lack of honesty.

Ours is a culture where avoiding embarrassment is a greater priority than truthfulness. As a consequence, we are losing sight of the role that honesty and truthfulness play in sustaining trust in our expectation of truth in others—and in ourselves.

Stu Brody is a student and teacher of philosophy, law, politics, and other fields related to personal decision-making. He is nearing completion on a book entitled: “The Law of Small Things: Integrity, Authenticity and Freedom in American Life” which examines misconceptions about the meaning of integrity and outlines how we can maintain a more consistent practice, by focusing on small things.
We’ve all heard BIG numbers associated with emergency transport costs, especially when a helicopter is involved. Well, the numbers are big. The top estimate I got when I called some of the local companies was $55,000. Around here, a more standard helicopter rescue would cost from $20,000 to $30,000 depending on where the patient was taken and what kind of medical equipment and personnel was required. These are not numbers to be taken lightly. People have been known to refuse a helicopter rescue because of the cost. Others have taken extra insurance, just in case.

When it comes to insurance, the very first thing anyone who has insurance should do is find out how much their own plan will cover if emergency transport is required. You may be surprised, as I was. I’m old enough to be covered by Medicare, and I was amazed to discover that 80% of any emergency rescue is covered. Still, 20% of $30,000 leaves you with a large bill to pay. So, I called HealthNet, with whom I have supplemental Medicaid insurance. They said I would only have to pay $375 (a "copay" in medical insurance jargon) for emergency transport of any kind.

Lately Patagonians have been getting solicitations in the mail from Air Med Care (800-793-0010), a company offering a membership that would, for just $65 a year, cover any costs of air transport not covered by a person’s existing insurance. The rescue service they do business with is Lifeline 3 in Nogales. This is a reasonable offer, but if Lifeline 3 is busy, the EMRs in Patagonia will call a helicopter company in Tubac or Sierra Vista, neither of which would honor your Air Med membership.

Diane Isakson of the Patagonia Fire Department, who helped me find a lot of this information, says if you request a specific company to come, first responders will try to make it happen, but she said there is no guarantee. Time is the most important thing in an emergency rescue.

You can also buy a membership in Lifenet 6, the Tubac company (insurance, OMNI Advantage, 855-877-2518), and Air Vac in Sierra Vista (insurance, PHI Cares, 8889-435-9744). Their yearly costs are all comparable, so for about $200 a year, you and your family would be covered for the three companies that serve Patagonia.

There is one other option that might work for some families. Lifeshield Alliance (855-896-9064) has a policy that costs $69.95 a year. For that they will cover $10,000 of the cost of a helicopter rescue by any company in the country.

It is also a fact that EMRs err on the side of caution. They cannot always be sure how serious a patient’s condition is. There may be internal bleeding. Perhaps there is an existing condition that the patient can’t tell them about. Lots of factors go into a local medical rescue, and flying someone to Tucson is often the safest course of action. It’s best to be prepared. Emergencies, by definition, happen when we least expect them.

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**Patagonia Paradox**

Right now
Through days and nights
Deep Dirt Farm is restoring the abused earth.
All night long earthworms crunch through compost,
Rocks stand stolid in the face of heavy rainfall,
People sleep under the stars and nurture the land with hoes and rakes,
Plants return with the promise of water and soil.
Wildlife flourishes, keeping life and death in an eternal harmony.
A few miles away, as the crow flies,
In another mountain range,
Arizona Mining is tearing the earth apart.
Polluting the air,
Using vital water to drill deep in the earth,
Lighting up the night, shattering the silence,
Unbalancing the birds and beasts, the bugs,
The lowly but wonderful worms.

— Ann Katzenbach
The Dog Ate My Homework And...

By Leslie Ware

My husband and I spent weeks choosing a name for our new English setter, who would be bird-hunting in Patagonia, where we spend the winter. We settled on Luna—as in Lunatic, we told ourselves, in case she’s a bit hyper. Soon enough, we realized that was the wrong name. Oh, she's hyper all right, as most puppies are. But her main flaw lies in her jaws. She chews everything. Which explains her more recent nickname: Sharknado. Lest you think our dog has some deep-seated psychosis...well, she may. But she doesn’t have separation anxiety. She misbehaves when we’re home and have simply turned our backs for a few minutes. I have become accustomed to the sound of my husband’s bellowing expletives, as he discovers yet another mangled household item. Here’s a partial list of the goodies Luna has chewed through during her first ten months on earth.

- a white stuffed bunny—stitched up once and re-chewed
- a pink stuffed bunny—ditto
- 3 black rubber Kong toys (“For Tough Chewers”—Ha!)
- a large hardcover book
- a small Norfolk Island pine Christmas tree
- Christmas ornaments on the above tree
- 3 Mexican carpets
- a tube of black acrylic paint
- a wood/laminate kitchen shelf
- a wooden dowel holding up another shelf
- several painted-wood kitchen cabinets
- a door jamb
- 2 chair legs
- 3 dog beds
- 4 sofa cushions
- a leather purse
- a pair of $200 glasses
- a cell phone charger cord
- a Merrill clog
- a backyard hose
- a detachable hose faucet
- a tennis ball
- a plastic pooper scooper
- a plastic cup for serving dog food
- a pair of boxer shorts
- a glove
- a shooting-glasses case
- a 25-year-old houseplant
- a small leather pouch holding mementos from around the world
- 1½ rosemary bushes (the only plant grown successfully in our yard)

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SCFPA Opera House Groundbreaking To Begin

By Ann Katzenbach

The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts is planning to break ground for its new performing arts center thanks to a named gift donation by John Henry Kendall. Kendall is the grandson of early pioneer, soldier and builder of the Patagonia Hotel, John Henry Cady. The donation will allow construction to begin while SCPAC continues to raise money.

The building will be named the Benderly-Kendall Opera House to reflect Kendall's gift and contribution to the community. On Saturday May 7, 2016, there will be an official ground-breaking ceremony for the new opera house at 348 Naugle Ave.

Christina Whilhelm writes, “The Opera House will be a fulfillment of a dream for a concert venue that will become the epicenter for the performing arts in Santa Cruz County, presenting programs of the highest caliber, featuring talented local musicians as well as internationally acclaimed performers.”
Deep Dirt Farm Gets Internet Funding Kickstart

By Heather Dodge

If ever there was a powerhouse of an environmental kickstarter, it’s Kate Tirion. With her husband and partner, Richard Connolly, and thousands of volunteers, she has been painstakingly developing a 34-acre sustainable permaculture farm in the steeply rolling Sonoran Desert landscape of Stevens Canyon in Patagonia. Her goal is to establish a working educational model of what we can do individually, communally and globally to live in concert with Earth and each other. She hopes to inspire and educate for social change so people are able to develop the skills to do these things themselves. That means learning, hands-on, how to create a resilient and regenerative world.

Much has been accomplished at Deep Dirt Farm with recycled and donated materials, coupled with innovation and perspiration. But implementing additional infrastructure and educational workshop and outreach programs needed a financial kick start, which took the form of internet crowd funding. Deep Dirt Farm Institute launched its first kickstarter.com campaign on January 22, 2016 and by January 30 had achieved and exceeded its initial goal of $2,500 to fund the seed storage roof extension. Additional campaigns will raise funds for additional projects.

Deep Dirt’s underground seed storage unit (an old shipping container) stores many native pollinator plant seeds as well as heirloom vegetable seeds grown at the farm. The extended roof structure will shade the exposed end of the container to maintain the best temperature range for long-term seed storage. This is just one of many of Deep Dirt’s eco-innovations that can be replicated around the world.

A tour of Deep Dirt Farm today reveals works of invention and resource conservation. As Tirion says, this took “many hands and few dollars.” It is a community undertaking that includes people from all over the world. The tiny Mulberry House at the top of a draw, for instance, was completed a year ago. A workshop group led by local artisan, Erasmo Lagunas, built it with adobe mud brick and repurposed waste.

Knowing the lay of the land is essential to managing water retention, infiltration, and flow in a dry, folded landscape subject to an annual three-month monsoon season. Tirian spent the first seven months developing a relationship with the site, learning how it came to be as it is, and determining how to put in a multifunction road that didn’t require constant maintenance. Aerial photos were key to understanding how to work with the terrain.

One of the best ways to retain and direct water flow is to build wire baskets known as gabions. Over time, groups of young people have built these heavy wire structures using rocks and urbanite as fill. The urbanite was once cracked pavement at the high school. In a major recycling effort, DM Engineering & Excavating transported the urbanite, saving the school a few thousand dollars in landfill and transport fees.

It’s not surprising that Deep Dirt’s water management methods and innovative erosion systems have caught the attention of the Town of Patagonia, itself situated at the bottom of the watershed. Tirion now serves on the town’s Flood and Flow Committee. She emphasizes that flood mitigation starts up at the 247 square mile watershed level, not the town. Structures need to be built upstream to reduce flooding downstream. By slowing surface flows, more water hydrates the soil, supporting groundwater storage throughout the watershed, rather than sweeping it through town. This also improves vegetation, including grasses that support ranching and wildlife, and makes the landscape better able to withstand fire.

Partnering with Borderlands Restoration, Wildlife Corridors and other supportive organizations as well as university departments and government agencies, Deep Dirt Farm Institute is on the leading edge of helping to create a global partnership with the planet that sustains us, but is now in a state of biological distress. The farm was recently awarded a $25,000 Fish & Wildlife grant to focus on increasing wildlife habitat, erosion control and water retention structures.

To arrange a tour, get involved as a volunteer, or to be a part of the Women Grow Food Group, contact Kate Tirion at ddfillc@gmail.com or call at 520-604-7654.

To learn more about Deep Dirt Farm Institute, visit its Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/DeepDirtFarmInstitute.
When you start to see Boart Longyear trucks in town, it means that somewhere in the mountains there is a mining operation underway. Lately a fair number of these specially equipped rigs have been plying a well-worn path between Patagonia and the land about ten miles out Harshaw Road where Forest Service Road 812 goes off towards Flux Canyon.

Boart Longyear is an international corporation that specializes in drilling hard rock. Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI, once known as Wildcat Silver) is doing exploratory drilling on land that they acquired from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, specifically the old Trench Mine/January Norton patent. Because the acreage is now private property, forest service road 812 to Flux Canyon is posted with “private property” signs and gated where it passes through AMI land. The new owners call this the “Taylor Deposit.” It is a section of the approximately 450 acres of old mining claims that AMI now owns in the Patagonia Mountains.

Harshaw Road runs through this land. Since it is a public thoroughfare, it cannot be closed. If you drive out there, you will see a lot of “No Trespassing” signs. The drilling pads are difficult to spot.

Earlier this winter AMI was drilling on the east side of the road, excavating a hillside beside Harshaw Creek to make drilling pads and roads. Their methods to prevent erosion on this project were acceptable to ADEQ, although to the untrained eye it looks like erosion is inevitable once the monsoon rains start (see front cover).

Now the action has moved to the west side of the road, and as of this writing, there appear to be four drilling rigs in operation. Apparently there will soon be a
They are working day and night. This constant drilling means that the job gets done in less time and costs less. The drilling will likely continue until enough samples are collected or the 15 million dollars allocated to Bright lights burn through the night. Cliff Hirsh, who lives nearby, has called the county to ask about light and noise ordinances and has been told that in Arizona, mining companies fueled generators provide electricity. Water comes from wells on the property. Potties must be maintained. All this activity and equipment require a growing network of roads and flattened work areas. Thus, trees are scoured and sliced, and wildlife loses habitat.

On their web site, AMI says, “We have the potential makings of a significant zinc/lead/silver deposit. All drill holes completed since we initiated the drill campaign in the fall of 2014 encountered relatively high grade sulfide mineralization over significant thicknesses.” That may be, but currently, the price of lead and zinc is low, and mining is a highly speculative activity. Meanwhile, every day, starting very early in the morning, Boart Longyear trucks, big rigs carrying stone, and trailers hauling construction material and heavy equipment go up and down Harshaw Road. Border Patrol uses the road night and day. The paved part of the road is cracked like a jigsaw puzzle and the shoulders are buckling. There are approximately 18 Boart Longyear employees and probably more to come when the next drilling rigs arrive. AMI requires that they find lodging in Patagonia. Brent Bowden explains that this means they will be spending their wages here, contributing to the town’s economy.

A newly constructed road that crosses Harshaw Creek
Cindy Matus-Moriss Receives National Award

Cynthia “Cindy” Matus Morris, school board member of the Patagonia School District and the Arizona School Boards Association, was honored with the Octaviano “Tony” Gonzalez Abrazo Award by the National School Boards Association’s National Hispanic Council (NHC). Morris has been a strong advocate for Latino students in her capacity as a school board member since 1989, and has held leadership positions and ultimately chaired the National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members.

She has also served as chair and vice chair of the NSBA Pacific Region and on the NSBA Board of Directors, and has devoted time and attention to national issues as a member of numerous NSBA committees.

In 2014, Morris was named the ASBA Barbara Robey Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. She served on the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors consecutively for two decades.

“Her passion and commitment to ensuring that all students receive access to quality education that prepares them to succeed is why she was selected as this year’s honoree,” said Jesus Rubalcava, ASBA Immediate Past President.

Morris was presented with the award at this month’s National School Boards Association’s Annual Conference held in Boston, MA. Since 1996, the NHC has honored individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the educational opportunities of Latino children through their time, energy and resources. The name of the award was suggested by then President Elect Octaviano “Tony” Gonzalez – “abrazo” in English meaning “hug or embrace” which is a gesture that Latinos often use to greet or say good-bye. During the NHC retreat last year, the board unanimously voted to change the name of the award to the Octaviano “Tony” Gonzalez award to honor the contributions that Mr. Gonzalez has made in paving the way for Latino school board members. The Arizona School Boards Association is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting elected local governance of public education and continuous improvement of student success by providing leadership and assistance to school district governing boards statewide. ASBA represents more than 1,000 school board members and more than 1 million Arizona children.

Death of a Foxy Lady

By Nancy Coyote

We found her on the driveway in the morning, looking like she was asleep. But no, our beautiful red-haired neighbor was dead. It looked like she just stopped running, lay down, and died.

Not a mark on her perfect body. Who or what had done this to our neighbor, the female gray fox we’d seen frolicking with her mate just three days earlier? We concluded she was probably accidentally poisoned.

The use of poison bait to control rodents and other mammals such as coyotes, has injured and killed thousands of wild animals and pets. Predator and scavenger birds and mammals like owls, hawks, vultures, foxes, mountain lions, raccoons, bobcats, skunks and coyotes that eat dead or dying rodents that have consumed these baits will also be poisoned. Wild birds and domestic animals (pets like dogs and cats) will also eat dead or dying rodents and unprotected bait. This is known as “secondary” or “non-target” poisoning.

The best way to control rodents and protect wildlife and pets is to use non-chemical means of control whenever possible. If rodenticides are used, it is important to protect both pets and wildlife by following the label directions of any rodent bait and only purchasing those that are legal for the pest you are trying to control. Because of documented hazards to wildlife, pets and children, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency implemented a nationwide ban on consumer use of products that do not comply with safety requirements in January 2015.

There has also been a documented increase in the number of strychnine-related wildlife deaths in recent years. Strychnine is only legally used to control pocket gophers and must be placed underground in gopher burrows. Strychnine should not be used to control mice, rats, ground squirrels, or any other animals. Any above-ground use of strychnine may lead to unintentional poisoning of wildlife and pets.

Arizona’s tradition of ranching and hunting has caused certain state and federal agencies to invest considerable time, energy, and taxpayer dollars in killing coyotes and mountain lions. Ironically, this decimation of coyotes meant that more jackrabbits got to live and reproduce and eat most of the cattle’s forage. A study once estimated that in one year this imbalance cost more than $150,000 in lost cattle production.

Rather than killing predators, people can make better use of good husbandry practices such as guard animals (trained dogs, donkeys, llamas), electronic light and sound devices, penning livestock at night, promptly removing any carcasses, and fencing appropriately. Scientific research shows that it makes more economic sense to implement long-term predator deterrents instead of killing coyotes and other predators each year.

Protect our wild neighbors, pets, and children from accidental and secondary poisoning. Use non-chemical pest control methods. If you must use pesticides, do so extremely carefully, follow all label directions, and obey all relevant laws. For instance, coyotes can only be captured or killed by a properly licensed (by AZ Game & Fish) person, or in defense of yourself or another person. Online resources: edu/factsheets/ecotox.html
MAY CALENDAR

MEETINGS

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., 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 Wed. at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hall.

Rotary Club - 1st Thurs., 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua Winery, 6 p.m. Call (520) 907-5829 for more info.

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

Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. & Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. 520 404-3490

The Woman’s Club - 2nd Thurs. at 1 p.m. at Cady Hall.

Community Youth Group—2nd and 4th Wed., 6-8 p.m. April 13 meeting at Sonoita/Elgin Fire Dept.

EVENTS

May 3, 6 p.m: Three classic short films at Tin Shed Theatre. Includes Buster Keaton in the 1920 silent “One Week” with music performed live by the PUHS Music Department. Free.

May 6: Free Concert - The Latino Bandits from the Ft. Huachuca Army Band, 7 p.m. at the Concert Haul, 348 Naugle Ave.

May 7: Groundbreaking Ceremony for the SCFPA Opera House, 2 p.m., 348 Naugle Ave.

May 7-8, 10 a.m: Derby Weekend & 101st Annual Sonoita Horse Races, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. See page 20 for details.

May 7, 5 p.m: 8th Annual KJPV Luau, Plaza de Patagonia. Dinner at 6 pm, $15; children under 10 half price; tickets for band only, $5.

May 8: Mother’s Day Concert - with the Trio Guadalajara, 3 p.m., Concert Hall, 348 Naugle

May 20 & 21: "Last Hurrah" Estate Sale and Garage Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. City-wide Sonoita sale with many vendors, food & music; Yakobian Building, Sonoita Crossroads


May 28: Free Concert - The Cannonball Combo, Jazz, 2 p.m., Concert Hall, Patagonia Park

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Stretch and Strengthen Class, Weds., 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Sonoita Bible Church. $7.

Drum Circle, Mons., 4-6 p.m. at Sonoita Crossroads building courtyard by Chuckwagon Grill, Free. No exp. reqd. 490-4991.

Bird Walks at The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve every Sat. @ 9 a.m. Meet at the visitor center. Nature Conservancy fees apply. Patagonia residents Free. 520-394-2400.

Melodica rehearsals, every Wed., 9:30 a.m., SCFPA office, 348 Naugle, Patagonia. New members welcome!

Santa Cruz Singers rehearsals, Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., SCFPA building, 348 Naugle

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

Art Makers - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays at the Pat. Creative Arts Ctr. Call 394-9369 for info.

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

Bikram Yoga - Patagonia; 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 Mon. at 9 a.m.; 520 732-0453.

Open Tennis - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4 p.m., Sat. at 9 a.m., Call 394-2973 for info.


COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. thru Fri. at the Patagonia Community Center.


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 Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.


May 28: Free Concert - The Cannonball Combo, Jazz, 2 p.m., Concert Hall, Patagonia Park

June 1: PUHS Swimming Pool Opens to Public; See June issue for more details.

June 5: SCFPA ALL STARS ; a fundraising concert featuring members of Tapestry Chamber music, Vox Kino, a Capella singers and Ensemble Melodica, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Angels church in Sonoita; Information: scfpapresents.org or call 520-394-0129

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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 Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
**HOUSING RENTALS**

**PATAGONIA - Large 1 BD. cottage for rent.** Off street parking, W/D, Dir. TV, Lg. private yard, Some utils included. 394-2080. Avail May 22.

1 BR 1 BA $750 util. included ; 3 BR 2 BA $1450 util. included. Call John 394-0148, or 360.317.4281

**BRIGHT, PRIVATE 1-BR/1-Ba VACATION RENTAL** in town. Kitchenette and courtyard. Nightly or weekly. 520-904-0877 or CasitaEncanta.com

**JACK AND JILL BEDROOMS AVAILABLE** w/ shared bathrm, $350/ mo. each. Seniors preferred. Short term rentals available. Call Don at 520-297-7065

**RENTAL HOMES** Contact Kathy O’Brian @Sonoita Realty 520 455-5381

3BD/2BA $650/mo. + utilities, year lease. Clean & bright mobile home, lg. porch, good location. Call Virginia 394-2121

**HELP WANTED**

Strong back? Able to transfer 200 pounds? Are you an experienced or certified care giver? Please call Patagonia Assisted Care Agency : 520-604-8179

**MISC.**

**SONOITA SELF STORAGE**

RENTALS 5x10, 10x10, 10x20; 520-455-9333 or 455-4641.

**JULIA GREEN VOICE AND PIANO STUDIO**

voice & piano lessons $45.00/45 mins . 505-350-8543 Patagonia 85624 www.juliagreenmusic.com

**NEED MORE ROOM?** Call Les’ Storage Units 520-988-0421 Patagonia, AZ.

**FOR RENT, LARGE, 1 BD COTTAGE.** W/D, Off street parking, Direct TV, Lg private yard. Some utils included. Furnished or not. Avail May 22. 394-2080

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**Ahoy, Pirates! Summer Art Camp’s Coming!**

The Patagonia Creative Arts Association 2016 Summer Art Camp starts June 6 and runs until June 30, (Monday- Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.). It culminates with a performance in the Town of Patagonia’s 4th of July parade. It will be hard to top last year’s jungle themed float but this year we plan on sailing away on a pirate ship. We will be looking for sharks, mermaids and pirates to help fill the ship. Students will be working with Tammy Quiroga in mixed media art, Martha Kelly in ceramics, Anita Clavesco-Wharton and Laura Wenzel in theater arts. Susan Corl will be helping us out in float design and costuming. We are looking forward to another grand entry in the parade and can’t wait to get started. Cost per child (ages 5-13) is $150.00 which includes 4 weeks of art/theater classes and daily snacks. Scholarships are available.

To register your child or to sponsor a child please call 520-394-9369 or email makeart1@msn.com.
www.LaFronteraAZ.com
Homes, Land & Ranch Properties throughout Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Lake Patagonia, Tubac & the extended environs of Santa Cruz County

RANCHO LA LUZ ~ 54 CALLE MANDARINA at LAKE PATAGONIA
Handsome 2,820sf Territorial on 41.24ac w/3Br/2.5Ba/Stdy/AZRm/Chef’s Kitch++
Wraparound porch; landscaping; animal facilities; solar panels; sweeping vista
& mountain views. A must-see property. TAR/MLS #21529135, $384,500

2961B LA CORONA just south of SONOITA
Seductive 1,669sf rammed earth cottage on 36.33 rolling, wooded acres. 2Br/1Ba/
AzRm, 2 patios & walled courtyard. Private & serene yet convenient~ w/one of the
most gorgeous settings in the region. TAR/MLS #21525637, $309,000

47 CASAS ARROYO ROAD in popular CASAS ARROYO de SONOITA
2,349sf SW casa w/2Br/2.5Ba/Study/2G. Wooded habitat; 2 FP’s; Saltillo firs;
walled patios; Hacienda-style windows; community swimming pool. Regional
class w/uncommon elegance & value. TAR/MLS #21501917, $238,500

99 MUSTANG TRAIL in the rolling hills of SONOITA
Gracious 2,798sf hilltop Sante Fe w/3Br/2.5Ba/Office/3G + Lndry & MudRm. Fenced
garden area; walled ctyard entry; cvd rear patio; high ceilings; qlt details t/o.
Breathtaking views, exceptional market value. TAR/MLS #21517906, $379,000
The horses will be off and running for another year at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. This year’s 101st annual horse races are set for May 7 and 8.

The Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo Association promises many new attractions and events along with a weekend of racing. There will be a free dance Saturday night from 4:30 to 8 p.m. with musical entertainment provided by Chuckwagon and the Wheels.

For the first time, entrance to the Turf Club will also be free. Racing fans will be able to watch the races, discuss handicaps and treat themselves to mint juleps in commemorative glasses. Margaritas will be available in the Paddock Saloon.

Other special events include the annual Ladies Hat Contest and, for the first time, there will be a drawing for a free Mother’s Day giveaway.

Saturday is Kentucky Derby Day. The annual race in Louisville will be televised locally with post time at 2:30 p.m. This two million dollar race for three-year-olds, is one-and-a-quarter miles. The favorites for this race are Nyquist, Exaggerator and Mohaymen.

Live racing will be starting every half hour both days, including several Winner Takes All races. The complete racing schedule will be printed in the free program available at the entrance gates. Visitors are encouraged to learn more about the history of racing at the Sonoita Fairgrounds by going to the website Elmorofoundation.org.

Still another new feature this year will be a ranch horse race after the regular races on Saturday. Local residents may enter their working horse for fun and bragging rights. Contact the fairgrounds for entrance information.

Entrance to the fairgrounds this year is $20 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Included in the fee is parking, entrance, an event program, and a free ride from your car to the entrance gates in a mule-drawn wagon.

More information about this year’s racing event is available at www.sonoita-fairgrounds.com or at 520-455-5553.

By John Fielding

SEFD To Provide In-Home Medical Support Services

The Sonoita-Elgin Fire District has received a government grant to start a new service called Community Integrated Paramedicine Program (CIPP). The goal is to fill gaps in medical care while supporting patient care plan consistency.

The plan is designed to link local patients to healthcare and other community resources through in-home support, and to thereby prevent or reduce unnecessary 911 calls.

CIPP personnel will be able to visit patients in their home to obtain and track their vital signs including blood sugar, weight, oxygen levels and heart rhythms. This new team can also make home visits to point out hazards that could increase the risk of falling, and environmental hazards.

Trained personnel will be providing support to in-house patients on managing their medications, and providing education on chronic diseases. They will also be providing referrals to all useful local community resources.

Local patients will be able to request a visit from these SEFD personnel after returning from an emergency transport to the hospital, in order to support home care instructions given to them from the Emergency Room discharge nurses. Patients may also request a visit after their regular in-home health care services have been discontinued or if they do not have access to other in-home services.

Chief Joseph DeWolf is proud to announce that the trained medical personnel appointed to this new service will be Captain Kathe Prenite, and medics Jade DeForest and Grace Estell. The program will start in July. More information is available at 520-455-5854.
The new Sonoita-Elgin wine season is off to a flying start. Sonoita Vineyards has already had their “Blessing of the Vines” ceremony and early festivals to start their year. More than 18 acres of vines are planted and beginning to grow, and 40 more acres are available in Wilcox. To keep the excitement going, the Sonoita Vineyards has introduced a new event called the “Sonoita Smooth Jazz Festival.” It’s scheduled for May 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will feature music and local wine. The Ron Holloway Entertainment Group is coming in and organizing the entire event.

Saturday, July 30 is the next big event at the Sonoita Vineyards called the “Harvestfest & Grape Stomp”. Visitors, both adults and children, will be able to take off their shoes and jump into wine barrels and stomp the grapes to their hearts’ content. Adults will be able to sample wines and food pairings, and then tour the winery.

November 12 will close out the harvest season for most growers this year. At that time all the local wineries will be invited back to the Sonoita Vineyards to display the fruits of their labor and introduce all their new wine offerings for the coming year.

Kief Manning of Kief-Joshua Vineyards in Elgin has started his new year with a successful “Southeast Arizona Wine Growers Festival.” There will also be a chili cook off. The event on April 16 and 17 drew several thousand wine aficionados to sample their local wines and listen to the live music. Kief has planned a summer-long series of live concerts every Saturday at 1 p.m. from May 28 to August 22. The growing season will end with their Harvest Festival on August 27. He forecasts a great growing season this year for his 18 acres of vines behind the tasting room. In fact he is so optimistic about the strength of the local industry that Kief is planting new vineyards in Wilcox for future expansion.

Flying Leap Vineyards in Elgin also has great expectations for the future of the business—they are adding ten thousand feet of new construction on their property, and will soon be opening their new distillery and event center. In the future they will be able to provide such local spirits as brandy, whiskey, gin and grappa. Flying Leap’s owners, who are all former parachute enthusiasts, say “the sky’s the limit!”
A Blizzard of Butterflies

While our Sky Island region is rightly famed as a world-class birding destination, it also lures a fair number of people seeking bountiful butterfly sightings. Given our strategic position as a biological crossroads, a wide variety of lepidopteron (butterflies and moths) grace our skies. Approximately 350 species have been recorded in Arizona, including ones that rival even an Elegant Trogon in beauty. Other butterflies seem like the equivalent of an LBJ or “little brown job” among the birds in that they are quite difficult to separate into species at a glance. Regardless of whether they are flashy or more mundane, butterflies certainly capture our imagination.

May holds the promise of encountering a wide variety of butterflies as the weather becomes consistently warm, the winds mostly dissipate, and a decent number of flowers offer nectar sources. Certainly look for lepidopteron at flowers, where they refuel themselves as they search for a mate - the sole and ultimate goal of all adult butterflies. Also peruse damp ground where they seek both moisture and salts. Incredibly, the males of some species are able to not only gather such salts, but also to pass them on to their offspring via their sperm! This serves as the ultimate nuptial gift, as natural selection dictates that survival of your offspring is the one and only biological imperative.

Also keep an eye open at wildlife scat, as some butterfly species garner nutrients via this sort of “poop-sickle.” Tree sap and rotting fruits are other sources of nutrients for various butterflies. As mentioned above, damp ground may attract various species to so-called butterfly “puddle parties.” Finally, you may witness a variety of species “hill-topping.” This is where some species travel to a local high point in order to find each other for mating. There you may also witness both intra and interspecific chases, as various males vie for females and resources.

Perhaps our largest, most flamboyant, and visible species in May is the Pipeline Swallowtail. As an adult this species has three layers of protection. Like most butterflies, its flight often describes an erratic path, necessitating a slick move on the part of a bird seeking its flesh. Second, even if the bird gets a hold of a Pipeline Swallowtail, it may well grab one of its fake heads - the tails that indeed get swallowed on such occasions. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this species consumes Aristolochia watsonii as a caterpillar. As with the famous Monarch-Milkweed relationship, the plant’s potent chemicals become incorporated into the body of the butterfly, rendering it a rather toxic meal.

Keep an eye open in our canyons for another stunning species - the Two-tailed Swallowtail. Our state butterfly feeds upon members of the citrus family as a caterpillar. Thus, the presence of citrus trees or a Narrowleaf hoptree often are a clue of this species presence. Its flight is relaxed, yet swift.

With velvet mesquites in their prime in May, you may well see an abundance of Marine Blues. These diminutive dazzlers can be found munching on mesquite as a caterpillar and gathering nectar as adults. Some Blues lead a bizarre life cycle. A number of species are attended by ants, who offer protection in return for consumption of the larvae’s sweet excrement. Other species have evolved chemical trickery that fools the ants into thinking that they are one of their own. The ants, thus duped, transport the caterpillar into their nest where the caterpillar preys on ant larva until it pupates into a butterfly without chemical camouflage and quickly flees the nest.

Other butterfly species to look for in May include: American Snout, Empress Leila, Southern Dogface, Gray Hairstreak, Queen, Arizona Sister, Mourning Cloak, Texan Crescent, Common Buckeye, and a myriad of Skippers. Regardless of whether you can identify a butterfly, their mere presence seems to offer beauty and relaxation beyond anything we humans may conspire to create. Enjoy the fabulous flutterers of May!

Vincent & Claudia Pinto run a variety of Nature Adventures through their conservation organization, Ravens Way Wild Journeys . ravensnatureschool.com

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**Feature Story News (www.FSN.com)**
**Monday thru Friday:** 5 min. news at 8 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m.
**Saturday:** 5 min. news at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.
**Sunday:** 5 min. news at 8 a.m.

**M O N D A Y:** 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Beale Street Caravan (blues show)
**T U E S D A Y:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Jazz and Blues with Fred Hanson
**W E D N E S D A Y:** 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Lars Marshall with Patagonia Montessori School
**T H U R S D A Y:** (Alternating Weeks) 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Lars Marshall with PUHS. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Graves and Gregory Show
**F R I D A Y:** 5 to 7 p.m.; Tara’s KPUP Happy Hour
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; hook’s Sunken Roadhouse
**S A T U R D A Y:** Noon to 1 p.m.; Etown
**S U N D A Y:** 6 to 8 p.m.; Acoustic Café. 8 to 10 p.m.; Folk Alley
I first encountered a Sand Bur shortly after moving to these parts in late summer. My dog, Lucy stepped into a colony of them and we agonized pulling them out. I know that Cenchrus spinifex is one of thousands of plants that make up our local botanical ecology. I know this, and a lot more, thanks to Jim Koweek’s just-published book, “Grassland Plant ID for Everyone.”

Some people know Jim as a mandolin player and the first owner of the Diamond JK nursery in Sonoita. He is also a self-taught botanist who has studied the plants of our local grasslands for years. This is a unique ecology, filled with grasses, trees, shrubs, cacti, and forbs. I had never heard of a forb, but it turns out that half the plants in this book fall into this category. Koweek calls them the "wild children of the grasslands." Learning about these small plants is just part of the fascination of this book.

Koweek describes this volume as “a ‘picture book,’” and indeed it is. The outstanding color photographs by Dale Armstrong, many with close-up insets, will help you identify more than 290 plants. This alone is worth the price of the book, but the factual material, mixed with Koweek’s wisdom and humor, make this a field guide to be enjoyed on many levels. When have you ever read a warning like this, for Jimsonweed “…you should avoid planting this plant if any children (or hippies) are around, as all parts are very poisonous?”

This is not the only warning about poisonous plants that are bad for people and livestock. You may one day be glad you have this book just to avoid some of the nastier stuff that grows around here. You will also learn what plants and blossoms birds and insects seek out and how they use plants as protection.

There are landscaping tips, information about frost and drought sensitivity, times of bloom, what kind of soil and light conditions different plants prefer, and lots of introductory material about invasive plants, how to propagate native plants yourself, and the finer points of identification.

As you leaf through the colorful, glossy pages of this book, you can learn the common names of all these plants (some of my favorites: Wait-a-Minute Bush, Careless Weed, Hall’s Panic) or exercise your brain and refer to these plants by their Latin names. It’s all a fun learning experience.

“Grassland Plant ID for Everyone – Except Folks That Take Boring Technical Stuff Too Seriously” by Jim Koweek is a gift to those of us who live in this high desert. Don’t leave home without it.

You can buy a copy in Sonoita at High Noon Feed and Tack and The Café (where Jim plays music on Thursday nights), or In Patagonia at Red Mountain Foods. Its also available on Amazon.

PAL Rummage Sale

Happy shoppers, Ruby Rosemary and Debra Brune were thrilled with their purchases at the PAL’s yard sale on April 16. Construction on new kennels for the town is already underway at the south end of town behind the treatment plant. PALS that it will take $10,000 to complete the project. If you want to help with this final funding effort, see Charlie Montoy at PIGS gas station.
It’s not every day that you find someone with such a strong passion for culinary arts, but senior Sabrina Mendoza definitely has obvious potential in this field. Sabrina, who describes herself as an “oddball,” has a long-term goal of having a prestigious title in the culinary industry, like “Head Pastry Chef.” With aspirations of either attending the highly looked upon International Culinary Center in Campbell, California or Pima Community College in Tucson, Sabrina has always had an interest and passion for baking. After graduating from culinary school, Sabrina plans to attend either the University of Arizona or Arizona State University to obtain a business management degree to eventually open up a bakery, cupcake shop, or generally just a business.

One of Mendoza’s greatest influences is her grandfather, George Kuan Hum, who is the type of person who started from nothing and transformed into a successful man. Hum, who immigrated to Nogales from China at about nine, didn’t know any English and had to start from scratch. About 23 years later he has owned a Circle-K and now owns and operates a RV park. Beyond the successes of his businesses, Sabrina can be compared to her grandfather because they have humongous hearts, are not selfish, and are very intelligent.

Sabrina really got into baking her junior year, when she baked about four times a week at home with her mom. After that, she really hasn’t been able to stop. She modestly said that she is a decent baker and has always had an interest and passion for baking. After graduating from culinary school, Sabrina plans to attend either the University of Arizona or Arizona State University to obtain a business management degree to eventually open up a bakery, cupcake shop, or generally just a business.

Sabrina’s Sweet Tooth:
Sabrina Mendoza
By Garrett Fish

Crisp mornings spent on the Santa Fe Ranch have prepared budding entrepreneur, Garrett Fish, for his future in agriculture. “There’s no other place I’d like to raise livestock,” Fish says about the 4,300 acre ranch he was raised on. Garrett’s daily interaction with agriculture has formed an inherent respect for the values that permeate through the land and the people that care for it.

At the age of five, Garrett joined the Clover Kids Club and continued to participate in 4-H activities until his graduation. He believes his involvement in 4-H, has helped him mature significantly. Garrett began raising livestock for show at the age of nine, and has raised a total of eight steer and six heifers. “I have my own cattle company, 95 Bar,” he comments casually.

“Wait, you have what?,” I ask, surprised. It’s uncommon for someone to be so accomplished at a young age. He continues on, oblivious to how impressed I am.

“Yeah, my dad had his group and my herd was expanding. So I decided to get a brand for myself, which was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

Garrett considers his father to be “a strong mentor,” because he is incredibly knowledgeable about the agricultural field. Dean Fish is the manager of the Santa Fe Ranch and active in his community. The apple must not fall far from the tree, because Garrett has become a leader at his school. He is both president of the senior class and President of the Patagonia Chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). The recent re-establishment of FFA in Patagonia has created an atmosphere of potential and pride. From freshmen to seniors, Garrett has encouraged those around him to value the importance of commitment and honor. Leadership roles may have shown Garrett the importance of humility and respect, but it is his natural sense of responsibility that has captured the admiration of his teachers and peers. “Garrett has been an incredible asset in the development and implementation of our agricultural program,” says Mr. Moore, PUHS Agricultural Science teacher.

Our livestock expert will be attending the University of Arizona this coming fall. There he will study Agribusiness economics and management. Garrett is passionate about helping the less privileged and has taken his own approach to the agriculture industry. “The main goal of agriculture is to feed the world, it’s not just America, but the entire world,” he says. The world will certainly become a more productive place, with people like Garrett Fish at the forefront of our agriculture industry.
Guadalupe Bueras, a lifelong resident of Patagonia, is ready to pack her bags and begin her journey into the field of law. Gabi will be attending Arizona State University and will be studying pre-law, eventually going to law school in hopes of becoming a lawyer. She is also a scholarship recipient for the Attainment Grant provided by ASU.

Throughout her high school years Gabi has definitely made a name for herself through sports. The 5’ 11” beauty has been a part of the PUHS volleyball team, softball team, tennis, chess, and not to mention the basketball team. She’s received several awards such as Athlete of the Year, Top Rebounder for three years, Miss Utility, Sportsman, and Most Improved. The all star has also made it to state three times throughout her basketball career. “Going to state was very special to me because of the fact that no one really expected it,” says Gabi. Basketball is life when it comes to Gabi. When Gabi is not on the courts, she is at home keeping up with the Clippers’ successes. Aside from being a total athlete, Miss Bueras has also been known for her 2016 homecoming princess royalty crowning.

Growing up in a small town, Gabi has made many friends, but is very close to her family. She explains that her mom and, at times, little sisters will be missed the most. One of her sisters, Natalie, stated how Gabi can’t leave her because she’s like her dad. After helping her mom raise her two younger sisters Gabi was inspired. “My main goal after being completely settled, is to be a single mother. I’m strong enough to do it and I know I don’t need anyone to raise it with me,” says Gabi. She also mentioned that her Spanish teacher, Miss Gomez, will always be her favorite teacher at Patagonia. “It’s actually pretty amazing how close of a relationship I have had with her being that she’s only been working at the school for a year. She’s a beautiful person and has a motherly vibe to her,” says Gabi.

Gabi has had a list of many accomplishments throughout her life. The soon- to- be Sun Devil is ready to expand her list and is very excited to see what the future holds for her. Gabi believes: “Always follow your dreams and never get discouraged even when the odds are against you.”

Contributed by the Patagonia Union High School Journalism Class
H. Paul Smith, long-time resident of Patagonia passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on April 5, 2016.

Services for Paul were held on April 15 at the Valley of the Sun Mortuary, 10940 E. Chandler Heights Road, Chandler, Arizona, and burial followed at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Cave Creek, AZ.

Paul is survived by two daughters, Karen and Linda Smith and two grandsons, Doug and Joden.

Paul was born in Wichita, Kansas on October 27, 1924 and came to Arizona as a small child. He was educated in Phoenix and loved law enforcement. He was a Pima County, AZ deputy, Patagonia, AZ town marshal, and a U.S. Marshal in San Francisco, CA. He also served with the Phoenix Fire Department and was an elected official in Santa Cruz County, AZ for four terms. Paul was a WWII Veteran and was very proud of being a Marine above all. He was a member of the VFW and loved his colleagues.

Paul loved to recite poetry and some of his favorites were: “Richard Cory,” “Abou Ben Adhem, Invictus,” “Gunga Din,” “An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog,” “The Raven,” “Taps,” “Shooting of Dan McGrew,” “The Cremation of Sam McGee,” and many others. His favorite song was “My Way” by Frank Sinatra.

Paul had a great sense of humor and loved to tell jokes and stories. He was a brilliant man and had a photogenic mind. He was a member of The Mensa High IQ Society.

He loved Patagonia and the many friends he had here.

A memorial for Paul will be held in Patagonia in the near future for friends to celebrate his life.

Jason Schreiber’s music elective at the high school has taken on a unique challenge. They are writing the musical score for a 20-minute silent film starring Buster Keaton. Silent films always had live musical accompaniment, usually just a versatile keyboard player who improvised as the film unfolded. The goal of this undertaking is to have a score ready to play that coincides with the action of the film, AND to play that score with a variety of instruments.

At a recent rehearsal, it was evident what a complex undertaking this is. The music elective includes students who play piano, guitar, mandolin, several kinds of drum, xylophone, and accordion. Some of them are skilled at reading music. Others are learning. They’ve divided the film into sections and different groups have composed music to fit. Then all the parts need to be combined.

The film, that they’ve watched several times is about a just-married couple who buy a house that comes as a kit. “In Just One Week” is how long they are told it will take to build their house. There is plenty of room for comedy in this story, and Buster Keaton, for those who are old enough to know or remember, was a master at expressing himself with his face and his movements. The film will be fun to watch. The musical score will represent serious work on the part of students. Come along to see and hear how this challenging experiment turns out.

The silent Buster Keaton film, “In Just One Week,” will be screened at the Tin Shed on May 3 at 6 p.m.

Left to right: Sophomore Juan Urias, Freshman Brayden Johnson and Sophomore Milo DeLara
Riding the AZ Trail to Benefit Women and Family Shelter Services by Ann Katzenbach

Tiki Barber visited Patagonia early in April. Not the football player. No, this Tiki Barber is a horse, a handsome Arabian with an impressive lineage. He came with Carol Fontana, an endurance rider who is hoping to ride Tiki Barber from Mexico to Utah on the Arizona Trail in one continuous journey. There will be days of rest along the way, but if they pull this off, it will be first horse and rider passage of the trail.

They came off the first leg the morning of April 8, having started early from the Mexican border. There in the parking lot out on Harshaw Road was a horse trailer with plenty of hay and water for Tiki. Fontana was excited about this first passage, and not deterred by the hazards of the trail which included a very steep, rocky decent that she said was challenging. (Maybe she said, “terrifying,” which seems more appropriate to how she and others have described this nasty slope.) I told her I had heard that it was one of the worst parts of the whole trail and she seemed relieved, but I am sure there are going to be many challenging ups and downs as she and Tiki journey north.

Fontana is undertaking this long trail ride as a fundraiser for Prescott Area Shelter Services. She lives in Prescott and says, “Of course, there are many good causes, but PASS is unique. It is the only emergency and transitional housing shelter for women and families in all of Yavapai County. When I learned of the great need and its tenuous financing without the benefit of government grants, I had to find a way to help.”

People are pledging money for each mile that Fontana and Tiki Barber ride, and Tiki is writing a blog that tells of the journey from his special point of view. Here’s an excerpt.

“We will leave bright and early on Thursday morning, March 31. We will go down to Ft. Huachuca (hwa-choo-ka) near the Mexican border. It is a U.S. Army base, and was once the home of the famous “Buffalo Soldiers” who were an African-American army unit that guarded the border with Mexico. If you say “Huachuca” very fast, it sounds like you are sneezing! The word “huachuca” means ‘thunder’ in the Apache language.” The blog is meant to appeal to young people, and is fun to read. You can find it at saddleupaz.us. This site will also keep people updated on the progress of the trip and gives more information about Fontana’s outstanding record as a rider.

The plan is to spend three months getting to Utah. Fontana and her team have studied the trail carefully and think she and Tiki Barber can do the whole trip by the end of June.

Young Herpetologist Plans Global Learning Trip by Heather Dodge

Those who attended last year’s Snake Symposium at Cady Hall will recall Karina Hilliard, self-trained herpetologist, who taught us all about snakes. She has also worked with local groups tracking jaguars, and has helped reintroduce nearly extinct frog species. She is now a full time student working on her BA in conservation biology.

This summer she is headed to Asia to volunteer in the conservation efforts of several groups, starting in Bangladesh, where she will work with the Bangladesh Python Project.

Next she is off to the Boon Lott Elephant Sanctuary in Thailand, where she will work hands-on with the animals, gathering food for the elephants, bathing them and other odd jobs. Karina explains, “Elephants were once used in logging, but now that it’s illegal, many are being used to amuse tourists. These elephants are not always in the best care, and the sanctuary wants to educate and help the mahouts to better tend to their elephants.”

Her last stop is Borneo where she will visit with orangutans who are learning to live in the wild after having been orphaned and raised by humans. Karina has learned that orangutans and other species on the island are losing their habitats to the palm oil industry and are highly endangered and facing possible extinction.

Her overriding goal on this trip is to learn and help spread the word about some of the most endangered species and how habitat destruction threatens their existence.

To raise funds for her conservation-inspired journey, a gofundme.com account has been set up at www.gofundme.com/asiaconservation.

Karina’s funding goal is $3,000. Help her spread the word about these threatened animals and what others can do to help them.
$899,000

SOUTHWESTERN CONTEMPORARY
MLS # 21606478  Almost 80 acres!
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MLS # 21505546  4.96 acres
Unsurpassed views, 2BR/2ba Hacienda close to historic Patagonia. Private, large porch, trees, stone FP, high beamed ceilings. CAROL FORD 520 604-0162

$1,350,000

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